

PARKLAND NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

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Foundation Update
...AND MUCH MORE!



HOMEcoming IS A DOUBLE TIE!

Queens are

Camryn Johns & Gabby Gavirati

Kings are

Connor Johns & Zander Blickley

DAY OF NURSING

ST. LUKE'S HOSTS DAY FOR BIOMED STUDENTS



Above: Vice President of Patient Care Services, Christina Zelko Bennick, speaks to the students about the benefits of the nursing profession. Below: Students work with live patient "actors" who were hired by St. Luke's staff to provide real-life, hands-on training exercises similar to those taught in nursing school.

Parkland High School Biomedical Science teachers and St. Luke's leadership coordinated a full day of nursing career exploration for 75 students who are taking one of four classes that Parkland High School offers in the nationally accredited Project Lead the Way® Biomedical Science Program, a flagship Parkland program that offers hands-on training for students interested in studying science after high school.

The Day of Nursing took place onsite at St. Luke's Sacred Heart campus and kicked off with a panel presentation consisting of nine nurses who all work in different settings. Student teams visited stations that offered practice of nursing skills that included wound care, patient transfer, CPR, EKG, elder care, critical care, personal protective equipment and use of a stethoscope to determine if heart sounds were normal or not. Students also explored a "room of errors" that featured high-tech mannequins attached to monitors.

When students entered the lab, they had just a few minutes to determine what was wrong by spotting as many problems as they could as a team. The workshop concluded with Lisa Storck, DNP, RN, Program Director, School of Nursing, giving an overview of how to become a nurse, the various types of nurses, St. Luke's nurse internship program as well as professional development opportunities that can lead to career advancement and expertise.

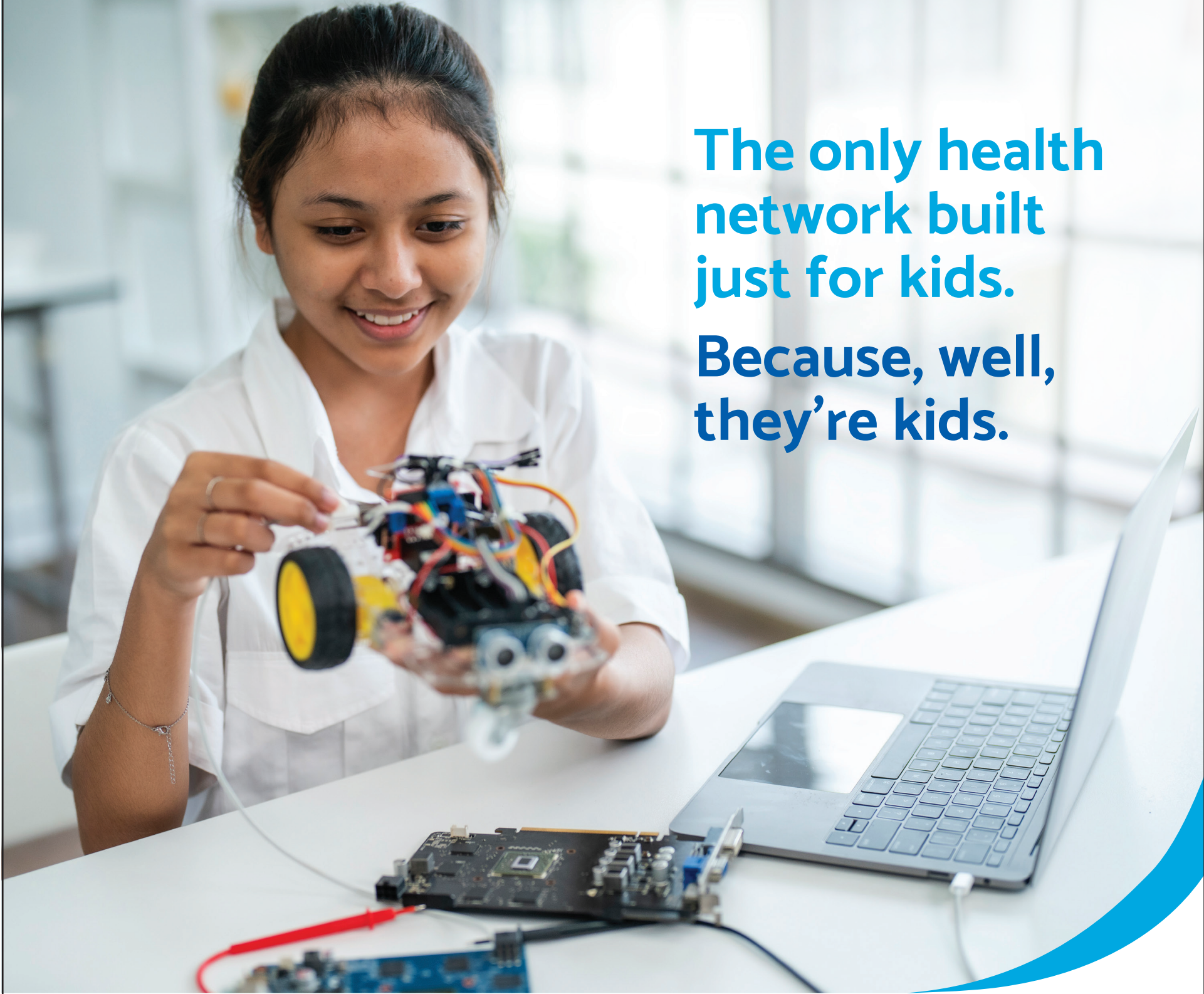


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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parkland Community,

Welcome 2024! We have enjoyed a great school year to date and we are excited for what is to come.

If you came out to the Harlem Wizards, a fall stage show or enjoyed one of our many winter concerts, I hope you will plan to visit us for another event in 2024. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 16th, as we will be hosting our 2nd Annual Community Resource Fair and Health Symposium that will also include a New Parkland Parent Social. Our entire community is invited to meet agencies that can help during emergencies. People can also mingle with recreational organizations to learn about youth activities that are offered across our region.

Parkland is growing and we have been doing a lot of planning for the future. We spent almost the entire year of 2023

studying options to plan for growth that is predicted for the coming decade. We want to be fiscally responsible in planning and also maintain the buildings that we currently have. After thoroughly considering numerous options outlined by the RPLS architect feasibility study team, we have decided to build an addition at Parkland High School and renovate and expand Orefield Middle School. Advantages to this plan are a quick timeline to complete space that will handle increased enrollment since we will be building on property that we already own. Also, the cost to improve Parkland High School and Orefield Middle School will be far less than new construction projects. The first phase of expansion will occur at Parkland High School. Alloy5 has been chosen as the architect to tackle the design plan and we look forward to sharing what they come forward with in 2024. We are also in the midst of constructing an Operations Center that is housed behind Orefield Middle School on Stadium Drive. The new building will allow us to relocate the offices that are currently in the Troxell Building and some offices from the Administration Center. The building scope was recently expanded and will be approximately 52,000 square feet and will include office, storage and workshop areas for the Facilities/Maintenance/Custodial, Food Services, Student Services and Technology Departments. We anticipate a December 2024 completion date. Finally, I am happy to announce that extensive renovations at Schnecksville Elementary School are complete. You can see a picture from our ribbon cutting celebration to the right. The background includes the new outdoor learning courtyard and the preserved main entrance from the original building that was constructed in 1930.



Above: Schnecksville Elementary School renovation and addition ribbon cutting ceremony was enjoyed by many, including their shark mascot!

On the school safety and security front, we are pleased to announce an upgrade to our security cameras across the District to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) technology that can detect when a person is carrying a gun or other weapon on campus. Viewing this as an extension of our security team, the new technology monitors our cameras day and night for the threat of a brandished gun within camera views.

In November, Parkland was pleased to host a Senate Education Committee hearing where I testified about how unfunded mandates affect our school budget and in return, our local taxpayers. Ultimately, unfunded and underfunded mandates significantly diminish the ability of school districts to provide the necessary resources to create sustainable instructional opportunities for students. According to the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) Education 2021 Deficit Worksheet, the cumulative effect of unfunded and underfunded mandates leaves more than a \$20 million deficit over a 10-year period here in Parkland. We are therefore left with the difficult decision of property tax increases and/or reduction of valuable programming for children. While I spoke about many areas of concern and offered ideas that would save local tax dollars, I will share two examples below:

Transportation - School Districts that transport students to and from school are also required to transport non-public school and charter school students within the district and within a 10-mile radius of the school district border. Transportation must take place in accordance with the non-public or charter school schedule regardless of whether or not the home district is in session. This amounts to a significant additional cost for Parkland. Parkland consists of 72 square miles and borders several municipalities and counties. Our school buses provide service to 44 non-public and charter schools within the 10 mile radius. Only 3 of those schools actually reside in the Parkland School District. In 2022-2023, Parkland spent roughly \$7.7 million for transportation services for 9,911 students, or about \$780 per student. For those non-public and charter school students (618 students), Parkland spent roughly \$2,600 per student for those within 5 miles of the school district border and about \$7,500 per student within 5-10 miles of the school district border. In essence, eliminating this mandate would save Parkland School District about \$2.2 million annually. If the requirement was reduced to 5 miles, Parkland School District would save about \$886,000 annually. We are not advocating to remove the requirement, however a full reimbursement for the school district would have a significant impact on the Parkland School District budget and Parkland residents.

Cyber Charter School Tuition Formula - By far the largest mandate impacting school districts across the Commonwealth are charter schools, specifically cyber charter schools. School districts are required to make tuition payments to charter and cyber charter schools for each of their resident students enrolled. The current formula requires school districts to pay a tuition rate calculated based on the home school costs, not for that of the Charter. There is little accountability or transparency in regard to the funding mechanism. In Parkland, during the 10-year period from 2013-14 through 2022-23, Cyber Charter School enrollment increased by 221 students, or 124%. During that same period, the total Cyber Charter Tuition increased by \$4.9M, or 241%, as a result of more students enrolled in Cyber Charter schools and the Cyber Charter Tuition rates increasing during the 10-year period. Cyber Charter Tuition costs represented 1.5% of the District's total expenditures in 2013-14 and 3.2% of 2022-23 budgeted expenditures. From the period 2013-14 to 2022-23, Special Education Cyber Charter School enrollment increased by 50 students, or 152%.

In closing, I am happy to share the good news that Parkland was able to acquire land next to Cetronia Elementary School. While there are no set plans for the property, it does allow Parkland to consider expansion of the Cetronia Elementary school property for future use and has eliminated the neighborhood concern for the proposed land use that was voiced at several of our School Board meetings last year.

On behalf of all of us here in Parkland, I wish you a wonderful 2024!

Mark J. Madson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
#ParklandPride



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BUILDING THE TEACHER PIPELINE FROM WITHIN

LCTI OFFERS NEW FUTURE EDUCATOR TRACK



Mai Kavachery and Amara Baker stand above on a site visit to Orefield Middle School. They are seen teaching young students in the pictures below.

Other plans for the future of the program include developing a mentorship program for the students that will involve certified teachers. LCTI is also interested in competing in an Educators Rising Career and Technical Student Organization competition that would require writing and designing a lesson plan, writing and presenting a book, and writing about the moment a person decided they wanted to be a teacher. PHS Teacher and Future Educators of America Club Advisor Julie Wood has served as a guest speaker to the program and has also invited Ms. Khanuja to introduce the program to club members. She is helping to spread the word to students about its existence along with PHS counselors.

Both Mai and Amara agree that the best part of the program has been witnessing a lot of teachers who are really passionate about their jobs and how much they care about students. Mai is thrilled to be taking college-level courses that will enable her to become a teacher faster and less expensive than if she did not participate in this program. She is receiving college credits at no cost since her enrollment at LCTI offers free dual enrollment credits with LCCC. She said that getting to meet ESL teachers who have discussed their career pathways has been helpful. Amara is enrolled in college courses full-time while finishing her high school diploma. She stated that she loves helping Ms. Khanuja with her 9th grade English class and interacting with her students. Through observations done at many schools this year, she can see herself loving various areas of education across middle and high school.

Parkland is not immune to the teacher shortage concerns that run rampant across the state. Human Resources Director Pam Kelly has been utilizing a Parkland Education Foundation grant for the last few years to help foster conversations between teachers and students about careers in education. She organizes student and teacher lunch-and-learn sessions that enable students to listen and learn from Parkland teachers who are eager to share the benefits of the profession. She stated, "The LCTI program is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore teaching. I hope we see these two very impressive students back in a few years looking to return to Parkland as educators."

To apply to the Future Educators Program for the 2024-25 School Year, visit LCTI's website at <https://www.lcti.org/apply/> and click on Teacher Education. The application opens January 1st with a priority deadline of March 1st.

Amara Barker is a PHS student interested in studying to become an elementary teacher while Mai Kavachery is a PHS student interested in teaching English as a Second Language at the Middle or High School level. Both have had the opportunity to explore the world of teaching possibilities within Lehigh Career and Technical Institute's (LCTI) new Future Educators program that is being piloted this year under the direction of teacher Kathy Khanuja. Both students started out in LCTI's Early Childcare Program, but were tapped to be the first students in a program that dives deep into K-12 education, including learning about pedagogy and the ability to take dual enrollment courses at Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) that will ultimately put them closer to their goal of obtaining a teaching license.

In March, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced that career and technical education (CTE) entities could apply to create new programs to prepare students for careers in K-12 education in response to a looming teacher shortage across the Commonwealth. This program, authorized by PDE, aligns curriculum and standards for teacher training programs to federal guidelines and opens up new federal funding opportunities to schools that offer this career pathway. LCTI quickly sought to expand its Early Childcare program and the new funding pathway has allowed Ms. Khanuja to teach her regular English classes in the morning, and then spend her afternoons working with Amara and Mai, either by taking them to local districts to conduct observations, or helping the students work on career research and teaching pedagogy projects. Two days per week, the students go to LCCC to take dual enrollment courses that include Foundations of Education, Introduction to Special Education and Careers in Education.

While the program is currently only open to seniors, Director of Career & Technical Education Darin Van Norman is hopeful that the program will include more students in the coming years. "That way, our students will be able to take more credits towards an Associate Degree in Education which provides a foundation for continued study toward a bachelor's degree that is required for obtaining a teaching license for K-12 public schools in Pennsylvania."



IRONTON TURNS 100 YEARS OLD



Jesse and Casey Malore and their dad, Michael, explore school teacher tools of yesteryear, while teacher Ms. Brittany Greco staffs the exhibit. Below from left to right: old picture display, a quilt that was gifted to Ironton on its 75th Anniversary that features 5th grade drawings hangs in the library. pictures of Ironton through the years, yearbooks from years past, class picture archives. At right is a picture of the time capsule that was created to be opened on its 125th anniversary.



CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY 100th ANNIVERSARY to Ironton Elementary School who held a fantastic bash that celebrated the history of the school and welcomed more than 1,000 people to a ceremony and open house on September 28, 2023.

The entire school turned into a historical museum as people viewed yearbooks, photographs, architectural renderings of the building and newspaper articles from years past. The picture at left features students looking at school tools from yesteryear

including chalk, cassette tape recorder, rulers, chalkboard, computer headphones and more! Oh, how times have changed.

The centennial celebration featured remarks by Superintendent Dr. Mark Madson, School Board President Carol Facchiano, Principal Rob Holmes and former principals Lynette Smith and Richard Houck.

A gorgeous wooden time capsule was handmade by teachers Brian lobst and Darren Dravuschak from the middle school Technology Education Department. The capsule will be filled by current students and teachers with present day artifacts and instructions to open it on the 125th Year Anniversary. It is on display in the school library.

A self-guided tour included QR codes at each of 12 stops inside the school. The QR codes engaged visitors with trivia, fun facts and a wealth of historical information about the school and community. So many people helped make the day very special and we thank all of the staff, Jaiindl Farms, Alloy5 Architecture and the Ironton Elementary PTO for their help with the celebration.



NEW NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is new at SMS this year under the leadership of teacher Angelic Schneider, principal Jude Sandt and assistant principal Amanda Abdelall. The mission of NJHS is to elevate the school's commitment to the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship and help middle-level students develop the knowledge and skills to become well-rounded student leaders in their school, community and beyond. Eighth grade students at SMS were invited to apply to be part of the organization if they had a 4.0 GPA from sixth and seventh grade. Additionally, invited students were then required to submit an application indicating how they have demonstrated the fundamental principles of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship. Ninety-eight students qualified with GPA scores and eighty-five students were inducted into the society. High school students from the High School's National Honor Society participated in the induction ceremony and high school orchestra members played the procession. NJHS inductees are required to complete 10 hours of service to SMS via peer tutoring of 6th and 7th grade classes, setting up Student of the Month events, teacher appreciation activities, a breakfast event for an upcoming orchestra parent presentation and more.

NHS has been a long-standing service club at Parkland High School where there are currently 276 members. Once accepted, members work together to help tutor fellow students, participate in various charitable fundraisers, assist with several elementary school endeavors and maintain their own outstanding grades. NHS members are required to complete 10 hours of tutoring for high school and/or middle school students as well as participate in NHS-sponsored activities and/or School District-sponsored events.



From left to right are two newly inducted NJHS members: Ava Grogan and Sawyer Huber.

ARTWORKS ADULT ART CLASS OFFERINGS

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Register by 1/19/24 for Adult Art Classes

Classes begin in February

Register at www.parklandsd.org/art

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Parkland High School Theatre presents:



Wednesday, April 10 - 7 pm
Thursday, April 11 - 7 pm
Friday, April 12 - 7 pm
Saturday, April 13 - 7 pm
Sunday, April 14 - 3 pm

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea and is coming to the Parkland stage? Why, it's SpongeBob SquarePants! And now he's ready to ride the wave to Parkland High School to entertain and delight audiences in this brilliant, bright, and hilarious musical. Parkland High School is pleased to announce its upcoming production of *The SpongeBob Musical*.

Reserved tickets for *The SpongeBob Musical* will go on sale online on Monday, January 29, 2024, at noon.

Admission prices are \$15 for adults;
\$12 for students/children/seniors (65+)

Mark your calendar for January 29 and get your tickets online at www.showtix4u.com.

TEN PARKLAND STUDENTS NAMED

2024 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS



The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition that recognizes the 50,000 highest Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) scores in the nation out of approximately 1.5 million students who take the test each year. Of the 1.5 million entrants, approximately 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit® Scholarship Program as either Commended Students (about 34,000) or Semifinalists (the highest 16,000).

The following nine Parkland High School students were selected as Semifinalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. These scholastically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,600 Merit Scholarship awards worth \$33 million. They are pictured left to right from the top as follows:

YECHAN CHO is President of the Asian Language and Culture Club and the Tri-M Music Honors Society at Parkland High School. He also is the Vice President of the Orchestra. Yechan participates in the Parkland High School Math League, the Varsity Tennis Team, Future Business Leaders of America and National History Day. He is a Lehigh University High School Scholar and in his time at Parkland, participated in the PMEA State Orchestra and the National History Day State Conference. Yechan plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall and will major in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

LUCAS DEE is President of the Parkland High School Math Honor Society and the Interact Club, as well as Vice President of the Math League. He is also the Treasurer of the Tri-M Honors Society and the PHS Band and is a section leader in the band. At Parkland High School, Lucas participates in orchestra, honors orchestra, advanced honors orchestra, Strolling Strings and the Physics Club. Lucas is an AP Scholar with Distinction and was inducted into the National Honor Society, the French Honor Society, and the Science National Honor Society. In his spare time, Lucas is a volunteer at LVHN, Parkland CARES and The Kindness Project. He is undecided about where he will attend school in the fall, but plans to study pre-med as an Applied Math major.

THOMAS GILCHRIST is President and Captain of the Varsity Scholastic Scrimmage team at Parkland High School, as well as Editor-in-Chief of the Literary Magazine and Captain of the Varsity tennis team. While at Parkland, Tommy was inducted into the National Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the Science Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and the Social Studies Honor Society. He also participated in Physics Club and National History Day where he was a National Finalist. He won First Place in the Scholastic Scrimmage International 3-2-1 Competition and is a PBS39 Scholastic Scrimmage Tournament All-Star. In his spare time, Tommy enjoys filmmaking and playing the piano. He is a Lehigh University High School Scholar and a Moravian University Dean's Scholar. Tommy is an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown and a member of Moravian University's Baroque Ensemble. He will be attending Northwestern University next year.

QASIM MIRRANI is Vice President of Science Olympiad and the Math League at Parkland High School and previously was a representative for the Math Honor Society. He participates in Future Business Leaders of America, Computer Club, the Muslim Student Association, Scholastic Scrimmage, the Chess Club and the Table Tennis Club. Qasim is a member of National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society and the Math Honor Society. He won an AP Scholar with Distinction title and a Gold medal in the PA Media and Design Competition. Qasim was also a Top 10 Medalist at the PA Science Olympiad and a Top 5 Medalist at the Muslim Interscholastic Tournament. In his spare time, Qasim volunteers with the free clinic at the Muslim Association of the Lehigh Valley, St. Luke's Hospital, the Parkland Library Teen Advisory Board and the Muslim Youth Summer Camp. He is undecided about where he will attend school in the fall and plans to major in Chemistry.

ESHAAN PATEL is Captain of the Varsity Debate Team at Parkland High School and is President of the Young Scientist Science Fair, President of the Future Business Leaders of America, President of the Investing and Entrepreneurship Club and President of the UNICEF Club. He is also Vice President of the Computer Club and Secretary of the Math League. While at Parkland, Eshaan participated in National History Day and the Science Olympiad. He was also inducted in the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, the National Science Honor Society, and the National Social Studies Honor Society. Eshaan is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a National History Day State Medalist and a Lehigh University High School Scholar. In his spare time, he is a TEDx Talk speaker. Eshaan is undecided about where he will attend school in the fall and plans to double major in Mathematics and Computer Science.

JOSEPH PENG is the Scholastic Scrimmage President and participates in Esports, Dungeons and Dragons, the Take a Break Club and the Red Cross Club at Parkland High School. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a Lehigh University High School Scholar and placed third in the National History Day competition. Joseph plans to attend either Duquesne University or Brigham Young University and plans to major in Game Development.

ALEXANDER SACCONI is Vice President of Scholastic Scrimmage and is the Secretary for the Math Honor Society, German Club and the Math League at Parkland High School. He also participates in Future Business Leaders of America and the Computer Club. Alexander was inducted into the National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, the National Social Studies Honor Society and the German Honor Society. He participated in Scholastic Scrimmage and was a Junior Varsity Quarterfinalist in the National Academic Championship, as well as placed first nationally in the 2023 3-2-1 Competition and placed third nationally in the 2022 3-2-1 competition. Alexander also placed second at states for the PA Future Business Leaders of America competition in the Coding & Programming category and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Ideally, he would like to attend Cornell University in the fall and study Computer Science.

BRYNN SUHOCKI is President of the Orchestra and is the Secretary for the Tri-M Honors Society. At Parkland High School, she participates in Strolling Strings and the Interact Club. Brynn also participated in the PMEA District 10 orchestra and the OMEA Region 5 orchestra. In her spare time, Brynn is a fencer and works as a lab aide at St. Luke's Hospital. She is undecided about where she will attend school in the fall and plans to major in Biomedical Engineering.

RISHAB YANALA is President of the Tedx Club at Parkland High School. He also participates in Scholastic Scrimmage, the Strolling Strings, the Science Fair Club, National History Day Club and Future Business Leaders of America. While at Parkland, Rishab was inducted into the National Honor Society, the English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the Science Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. He is a Lehigh University High School Scholar, a Coca-Cola Scholarship Semi-Finalist, and a Future Business Leaders of America National Finalist. Rishab also won the DaVinci STEAM Student Scholarship Award. He is undecided about where he will go to school in the fall and plans on majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

Note: One student chose not to have his recognition publicized.

SO MANY REASONS TO BE PARKLAND PROUD



**Congratulations to
the PA Wrestling Coaches
Association AAA Jr. High
Wrestling Coach of the
Year:
Carlos Montes of OMS!**



**Congratulations to
MaxPreps
Pennsylvania Girls'
Volleyball
Player of the Year:
Maggie Smith!**

SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION

Each December, the School Board holds a reorganization meeting. At the meeting, Carol Facchiano was re-elected as School Board President and Marissa Ziegler was re-elected as School Board Vice President. Christopher Pirrotta and David Ellowitch have joined the School Board. We thank Patrick Foosse and Bob Bold for their years of service as their last meeting was in November.



Carol Facchiano



Marissa Ziegler



Chris Pirrotta



David Ellowitch

TEACHERS WHO INSPIRED CAREERS OF FORMER STUDENTS RECEIVE HEARTWARMING SURPRISE

We love to hear from graduates - especially when they convey that a Parkland teacher inspired their success! Check out the stories below that make us burst with Parkland Pride.



PHS chemistry teacher Ms. Munson
with Hannah Fritz.

At a recent Parkland staff vaccine clinic, Parkland chemistry teacher Amy Munson received a wonderful surprise. The pharmacist who gave her flu shot was a former PHS student named Hannah Fritz. Hannah waited patiently all morning for Mrs. Munson to come to the clinic. She enthusiastically thanked her former teacher, telling her she was the reason she went to pharmacy school! In Ms. Fritz's words, "it was a full circle moment vaccinating my former teacher who inspired a love of science in me to attend pharmacy school!"



Earth science teacher Mr. Rozycki
with Logan Laybourn.

Parkland bus driver Stephanie Fernandes felt compelled to share this story after driving students to a field trip at Hickory Run State Park. There, she was waiting in the welcome center when a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources agent walked up to the bus and asked her if her group was with the Parkland School District in Allentown. She replied, "yes" and the young man went on to tell her that he was a graduate from Parkland High School and he went on this same field trip years ago. The ranger asked if earth science teacher Mr. Rozycki was there and when she replied that he was, his face lit up. The former student is Logan Laybourn and he was delighted to share with Mr. Rozycki that it was his teacher's love of science and conservation that sparked his interest in the field and inspired him to become employed at a state park.



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IT'S TIME FOR KINDERGARTEN & NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION



IF YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO IS TURNING 5 YEARS OLD PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN. Similarly, if you have a child who is enrolled in a private Kindergarten program who you are planning to enroll for the first time in Parkland Schools for 1st grade, **PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOW** to begin the registration process and reserve an appointment for your school's in-person WELCOME event. The following chart includes the contact information for our nine elementary schools and their respective in-person events.

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN/ ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WELCOME EVENT DATES

DATE	SCHOOL	PHONE	EMAIL
March 6	Cetronia	610-351-5860	webberm@parklandsd.org
March 7	Fogelsville	610-351-5800	talhelmb@parklandsd.org
March 7	Kernsville	610-351-5840	bronzol@parklandsd.org
March 13	Fred J. Jaindl	610-351-5880	stimpfles@parklandsd.org
March 13	Kratzer	610-351-5820	carlj@parklandsd.org
March 14	Ironton	610-351-5810	heaterc@parklandsd.org
March 14	Schnecksville	610-351-5830	shortsl@parklandsd.org
March 20	Veterans Memorial	610-351-5910	hertzm@parklandsd.org
March 21	Parkway Manor	610-351-5850	nunns@parklandsd.org

INCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL

SCHOOL	PHONE
Orefield	610-351-5900 x61662
Springhouse	610-351-5900 x65510

INCOMING PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTACT PHS

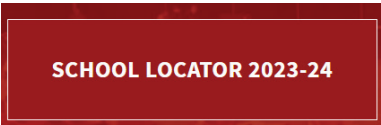
NAMES	PHONE	EMAIL
Last Names A-LAK	610-351-5610 x73432	jamesc@parklandsd.org
Last Names LAL - Z	610-351-5610 x73433	ciciliotk@parklandsd.org

Registration for incoming high school students for a Fall 2024 start who are NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN PARKLAND SCHOOLS is scheduled for February 21 and 22, 2024. The evening registration includes virtual appointments with guidance counselors to help students make course selections.

WHICH SCHOOL WILL MY CHILD ATTEND?

Find your home on our SCHOOL LOCATOR TOOL to view your school for Fall.

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Two convenient locations in Neffs and Walnutport. 610.767.3875

SHARING THE HOLIDAYS WITH OUR LOCAL HEROES

Some lucky students were able to go holiday shopping for their families with help from our local police forces thanks to our collaboration with South Whitehall Police, Upper Macungie Police, State Police, Target, Dorney Park and Mission BBQ. It was wonderful helping to make some wishes come true together with local volunteers from the Parkland Education Foundation and Parkland CARES Food Pantry who assisted the children and police in wrapping their gifts. Heroes for the Holidays fosters strong community relationships and is funded by South Whitehall Township, Upper Macungie Township, the Parkland Education Foundation, Target, Dorney Park and local donors.



THE REGION'S VARSITY TEAM IN SPORTS MEDICINE.

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Parkland School District
Education Foundation
PreServing Excellence. Building a Dream

Lisa Ervin
Executive Director, Parkland Education Foundation
ervinl@parklandsd.org
610-351-5572
www.parklandsd.org/foundation

4TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING RAISES \$40,000

We are thankful for the community support at our 4th annual golf tournament at Brookside Country Club. It was a sold out event again this year with 116 golfers. We were able to raise more than \$40k to support our programs. This is a fun event that brings our community together raising money for education.



EMPLOYEE GIVING REMAINS TOP IN STATE

We are thankful for our staff who helped us to have one of the best Education Foundation employee giving programs in Pennsylvania. Our employees gave close to \$40k out of their paycheck this past year to support the Parkland Education Foundation. These dollars mean so much to us. Our teachers and staff already give so much to help our students reach their potential and their amazing donations are another reminder of their commitment to our Parkland community and their belief in the benefit the Education Foundation can provide.

Whether you went to Parkland, have kids that go to one of the Parkland schools, or are a member of the greater Parkland community, we are all one team. We are thankful for you and your support of our programs. We are all responsible for creating the world we wish to live in. Let's continue to work together to be Parkland Proud. If you want to get involved or learn more about investing in education, please contact Lisa Ervin at ervinl@parklandsd.org or 610-351-5572.

THE FOUNDATION IS **THANKFUL**



At the Parkland Education Foundation, as we reflect upon 2023, we are thankful for the amazing year we just had. We live in a community that understands the power of investing in public education. We awarded 105 grants for the 2023-2024 school year totaling more than \$207,000. This is the most we have ever awarded in grants in a single year. We are thankful to be able to create these tremendous opportunities for our staff and students.

HYDROPONIC FORK FARMS TEACH MORE THAN SCIENCE

Fork Farms is leading a movement to close the gap between people and the nourishment they depend on. Each middle school received an indoor vertical garden "fork farm" that allows students to participate in authentic problem solving and STEM-based learning experiences while growing fresh, local food. The students have been learning about important science concepts like PH and photosynthesis in a hands-on way as they tend to the hydroponic garden. They are also helping families in need. Both middle schools distributed fresh lettuce in weekly snack packs as part of the Parkland REACH program that aids families struggling with food insecurity. They were excited to be able to add fresh food to the weekly snack pack. The fork farms will continue to produce more than 375 plants each month.



FOOTBALL TAILGATE BRINGS FUN TO FIELD

We are thankful that we were able to hold a football tailgate this past fall. More than 100 people came to cheer on the Trojans, enjoying a party-like atmosphere right behind the end zone!



HELPING TO
CREATE A
BRIGHTER
TOMORROW



The Parkland Education Foundation thanks its partners in Education.



Working together to be the difference in the lives of Parkland students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE TIME IS NOW TO REGISTER FOR Fall 2024 KINDERGARTEN - see page 9 for details

January 2	Virtual Parent Meeting Regarding Course Selection for Class of 2025, 2026 and 2027 - Link sent by Mr. Davidson
January 4	In-Person Parent Meeting Regarding Course Selection at PHS, Class of 2028, Parkland High School Auditorium, 7 PM
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
January 19	Early Dismissal Day - PHS, SMS, OMS dismiss at 11 AM, Elementary Schools dismiss at 11:45 AM
February 12 - 23	District-wide Food Drive
February 16 - 19	President's Day Holiday - No School
March 8	Professional Development Day - No School
March 16	Community Resource Fair, Health Symposium and New Parkland Parent Social, Parkland High School, 9 AM - 12 Noon
April 10 - 14	PHS Presents the Spring Musical "Spongebob." Tickets on sale January 29th at www.showtix4u.com




**Feeding School Kids
2024 Campaign**

PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE GIANT FEEDING SCHOOL KIDS INITIATIVE!

When you shop at your local Giant grocery store from January 1st-March 31st you can round up at the register to support Parkland's efforts to eliminate hunger for our students. These funds go directly to feeding students and their families in our community.

You can also drop off donations at the Parkland Administration Center! We are located at 1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown and are open 8 AM-4 PM, Monday-Friday.

GIANT

Donations Needed

- ✓ Applesauce Pouches
- ✓ Peanut Butter (Plastic Jar)
- ✓ Box Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ Jelly (Plastic Jar)
- ✓ Oatmeal Cups/Packets
- ✓ Ramen
- ✓ Cereal Boxes/Cups
- ✓ Individual Snacks (cookies, Rice Krispie bars, fruit snacks, ect.)
- ✓ Granola Bars



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NONDISCRIMINATION IN PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY

In accordance with TITLE VI, TITLE IX, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Parkland School District does not discriminate either in the educational or vocational programs and activities which it operates or in the employment of personnel, on the basis of sex, handicap, disability, race, color, national origin, age, or religion. If you are physically or mentally disabled, visually or hearing impaired, you may qualify for special services/instruction/equipment modifications so you can successfully complete the education program or participate in activities. All inquiries concerning this policy/questions regarding specific programs, services, and facilities for the disabled should be directed to the District Equal Rights Officer, Assistant Superintendent, Parkland School District, 1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA at (610) 351-5505.

**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PUBLICATION,
PLEASE CALL (610) 351-5630.**