



# PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



## Class of 2021 Embraces Next Steps

Pine-Richland High School Class of 2021 graduate Lakshmi Natesan hugs a classmate following commencement exercises. Graduates are embracing the next steps thanks to a supportive community of parents, staff, and students.

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

## Greetings to the Pine-Richland Community!

The annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future at Pine-Richland. Over the past 16 months, our country - and world - have faced one of the most significant challenges to daily life. The global pandemic has impacted so many people both directly and indirectly. As the cases decline and conditions improve, we are so thankful for the healthcare professionals and frontline workers who have supported our communities. Our thoughts are with all those who have experienced loss.

The pandemic also contributed to **one of the most unusual periods in educational history in the United States**. As understanding of the virus and public health guidance continued to evolve, school systems adapted to these challenges in different ways. **We are so proud and thankful for the teamwork and collaboration demonstrated by our students, staff, and community.** While perspectives on the pandemic differed at times,

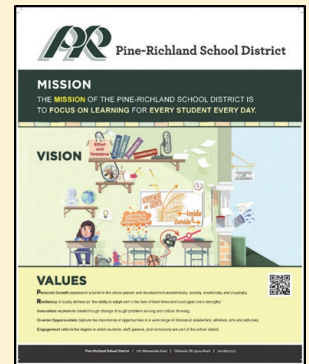
we were able to design, implement and adapt an educational model that was grounded in the three key drivers of health/safety, learning effectiveness, and flexibility. We are thankful for the 43 members of the Healthcare Leadership Council for ongoing guidance and support. We are thankful that the approach at PRSD allowed continuity in learning and engagement in co- and extracurricular activities throughout the year. We did not experience disruptions through school closure or widespread quarantine of students or staff. **The year was a significant challenge. It was also a powerful example of teamwork, innovation, and resiliency.** As we learn from the past 16 months, we are considering how these many lessons will help us transform the future of learning at Pine-Richland.

**We offer specific and special congratulations to students in the Class of 2021 and their families.** You have experienced a finish to 13 years of your K - 12 education in a way that is different from what prior graduates in our history have accomplished. There have been moments of challenge, moments of sacrifice, and moments of celebration. In the vision image above, **it is our district's aspiration that your experiences - throughout all the years at Pine-Richland - prepare you for the next step in your journey.** Your experiences through these years and during the past 16 months have helped equip you for the challenges and opportunities of the future. Regardless of your next step, you have developed the knowledge, skill, personal qualities/characteristics, and understanding of health/wellness that are vital to your future. These four areas serve as the PR Portrait of a Graduate. **You are ready to make your mark on the world!**

We hope that the summer provides opportunities for all to relax, rest, and recharge. We look forward to the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your continued support of the Pine-Richland School District.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D., Superintendent



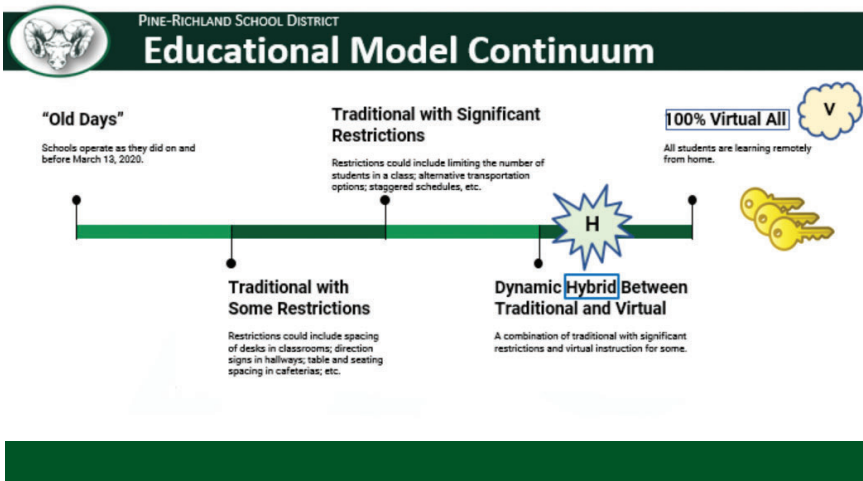
## Contents

- 3 Strategic Plan
- 7 District Updates
- 11 Staff Notes & Accomplishments
- 15 Academic Achievement Report
- 18 Student Spotlight
- 31 Athletic Accomplishments
- 44 Athletic Hall of Fame
- 45 Alumni Spotlight
- 46 Spotlight on Seniors
- 48 Student Voice
- 49 Budget & Board Update
- 52 Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund
- 54 Annual Notices

## [DID YOU KNOW THAT...?]

- > **U.S. News & World Report** ranked **Pine-Richland High School** fifth in Allegheny County, sixth in the region, and 25th in the state in its "Top High School" rankings for 2021. In addition, the report ranks PRHS at 853 out of 24,000 public schools across the U.S. Criteria used include state math and reading scores, graduation rates, and the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work using advanced placement exam data as a benchmark.
- > **The Pittsburgh Business Times** ranked **Pine-Richland School District** eighth in the region based on examining 10 years of scores from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments and Keystone exams in its "Decade of Excellence" rankings. The district ranked eighth in its annual rankings in 2020. The local ranking includes schools from Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. Out of about 500 school districts in Pennsylvania, PRSD ranked 19th for the decade and 14th in 2020 (Top 3%).
- > **Hance Elementary School** was named a **U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School**, one of only three schools across the United States in 2021. In 2019, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School earned the special distinction, and Wexford Elementary School earned the title in 2018.

## Educational Program & Continuum (During the Pandemic)



While communications and planning began in February 2020, the district continued to use three key drivers to design and improve the educational model during the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year:

- > Health & Safety
- > Effectiveness of Learning Academically, Socially, & Emotionally
- > Flexibility for Students, Families, & Staff

The PRSD Healthcare Leadership Council was formed in June of 2020 to help inform throughout this critical initiative. Comprising of 43 members including community-based healthcare experts, the council has helped the

**THE PRSD EDUCATIONAL MODEL CONTINUUM PROVIDED CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION, FLEXIBILITY, AND RESPONSIVENESS TO CHANGING PANDEMIC CONDITIONS.**

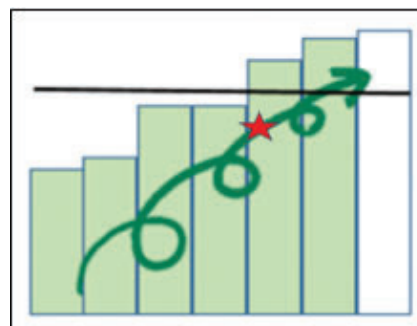
leadership team refine plans that were aligned with public health guidelines. The concept of a continuum has been used to illustrate the hybrid model and virtual-for-all contingency.

A comprehensive approach to communication with an evidence-based rationale for decision-making was implemented. In March, a transition process was started to shift left on the continuum and provide increased opportunities for in-person learning in grades seven through 12. Students in kindergarten through third grade had the option of full in-person learning throughout the year. The district provided an update on PRSD-specific cases of students and/or staff each weekday. The health services department provided excellent levels of support and coordination as the pandemic response team worked with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). You can review more communication and more about the PR Healthcare Leadership Council via [www.pinerichland.org/continuitylearning](http://www.pinerichland.org/continuitylearning).

## Transforming-the-Future Educational Models (Post Pandemic)



In public education and at Pine-Richland specifically, the district responded to the pandemic with a balance of systems thinking and agility. This challenge has provided the generational opportunity for innovation and transformation. In the revised image below, you can see the pandemic as the "red star" event that stimulated breakthrough change and innovation. The Transforming-the-Future Leadership Council established as a group of approximately 50 representative members of the school and community (e.g., teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, technology coaches, students, parents, etc.). In recent years, the district has formed various leadership councils to help address the greatest opportunities and challenges. Similar to the already established councils at Pine-Richland, this representative group of stakeholders is helping to serve as a "think tank and sounding board" for the future transformation of educational programs and services. During the school year, the focus was on the 2021-2022 educational model. The council has now been able to shift focus to the fall of 2022 and beyond. The district is committed to offering both the traditional in-person experience for 2020-2021 and a full virtual, K-12 option for interested families. Families were asked to "select and stay" with their preferred model. For more information on the "Transformation of the Future," visit [www.pinerichland.org/transformingfuture](http://www.pinerichland.org/transformingfuture).



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## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INCLUDING SENIOR SANDRINE MBONAMPEKA SHARED THEIR FAVORITE STORIES HIGHLIGHTING DIVERSITY AND CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES WITH YOUNGER STUDENTS.



PEER-TO-PEER HOSTS AN ANNUAL COLOR RUN. THE STUDENT-LED GROUP STRIVES TO BREAK DOWN SOCIAL BARRIERS BY PROMOTING RESPECT FOR ALL.



"HANDPRINTS HEAL FOOTPRINTS" IS A FRAMEWORK THAT CAN BE USED TO CREATE MORE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS. STAFF MEMBERS CREATED HANDPRINTS TO EXEMPLIFY THE CONCEPT. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE BLACK STUDENT UNION ALSO PURCHASED MULTICULTURAL CRAYONS FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

### PR Looking to Connect with All Residents

Pine-Richland School District is trying to reach more members of the community, specifically residents who may not have children in the district. We are also looking to connect with residents who own businesses in Pine-Richland. To connect, please visit [www.pinerichland.org/residents](http://www.pinerichland.org/residents) to complete a short questionnaire so we know where we can reach you via email with pertinent information.

### District Offers Paperless Option

While the Pine-Richland School District has curbed the use of paper through the years, the annual report is the only document mailed to the community. The document provides residents with a snapshot of the budget, academic achievement report, and positive achievements earned by students and staff. If you would like to be removed from the annual report mailing list for further savings, please take a few minutes to submit your information by visiting [www.pinerichland.org/paperless](http://www.pinerichland.org/paperless).

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a key strategic initiative linked to safety and school culture. The goal of this work is to achieve the district's mission through a safe, inclusive environment where our similarities and differences are celebrated and barriers to achievement and growth are removed for every student.

For clarity, it is important to understand how our district is defining the key terms:

**Diversity** = all the ways in which people differ.

**Equity** = fair treatment, access, and elimination of barriers.

**Inclusion** = engaging and respecting individuals in all groups so everyone can participate, feel welcomed, and valued.

A DEI Leadership Council was established to help guide our efforts. The council includes students, parents, staff, board, and community members. Additionally, staff awareness was addressed through professional development, building-based DEI teams, and in-depth program review recommendations related to DEI.

As PR enters into the 2021-2022 school year, the DEI Leadership Council will continue to work with staff to identify appropriate next steps, and the community will receive frequent updates in an effort to keep everyone informed.

## In-Depth Program Review Implementation Phase

Building administrators, senior leadership team members, Academic Leadership Council members, and teachers are implementing the recommendations from the in-depth program reviews at right.

Each department is monitoring the implementation process through shared action plans.

The district is continuing to engage the ALC members, principals, and teachers across each department who amplify the impact of the work, which allows for the integration of work to be best coordinated for each recommendation with transcending impact. This work will continue into the following school year.

- > Science (2016-17)
- > Health/PE (2016-17)
- > Mathematics (2017-18)
- > Business/Computer Science (2017-18)
- > Social Studies (2018-19)
- > Gifted and/or Highly Achieving (2018-19)
- > Music (2019-20)
- > Library (2019-20)
- > English Language Arts (2019-20)

## Budget Awareness and Future-Focused Financial Planning

The development and implementation of long-range financial strategies have been an area of ongoing study and action for the school board and administration for many years. However, the pandemic has economic implications for both the short and long-term planning horizon. Consistent with the district's annual approach, the organization is focused on an analysis of the key drivers for revenue and expenditure (e.g., staffing levels, debt service, transportation, capital funding, technology, and curricular supplies). District operational efficiency results continue to reflect a strong return-on-investment for the educational program at

Pine-Richland. The district will continue to adjust its systematic and integrated approach to short and long-term expenditures, which are grounded in the mission/vision/values and strategic plan. A continued focus exists on strategic decision-making to ensure a strong financial position currently and in future years.



## Schools Recognized by PA Healthy Schools PA



**HANCE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND STAFF TAKE PART IN THE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL "PLANT DAY" CELEBRATION BY PLANTING BULBS INTO THE GROUND IN FRONT OF THE HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING.**

The U.S. Department of Education announced on April 27, 2021, that Hance Elementary School is among the 2021 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees. Hance Elementary was nominated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. A report

was submitted to discuss the various areas of focus in regard to green initiatives at Hance Elementary.

A few highlights of the report related to sustainability and environmental initiatives including extensive celebrations surrounding Earth Day. Hance Elementary celebrates Earth Day with a variety of activities including a waste-free lunch day as well as virtual field trips to help students learn about various environments and the animals that live there. Students created Earth Day posters most recently. Additional activities included a rainbow scavenger hunt and the creation of a giant earth day mural around the outdoor track to promote positive messages of how to help create sustainability at school.

"Over the past three years, we have worked at integrating green initiatives as part of our daily operations at Hance Elementary," said Dr. Greta Kuzilla, principal at Hance. "A committee of staff and parents worked to identify areas of opportunity and improve them over time. We are extremely proud of our green initiatives including waste-free lunch days, outdoor classroom, walking track, our Recycle and Upcycle Fashion Show, and plant walls in the front of the building. These collaborative efforts between home and school have made a huge difference in the building and have motivated our students to want to help keep the Earth beautiful. This honor is only the beginning of our green initiative journey as we hope to continue to improve our building's sustainability and educate our students on these important topics."

In addition, Hance and Eden Hall Upper Elementary schools were recognized during the Women for a Healthy Environment's Healthy Schools PA Summit on Dec. 3, 2020. Summit experts covered topics ranging from public health decision-making in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of indoor air quality as infection prevention, national advocacy for healthy and green schools, teaching public health in the classroom, best practices for school nurses, and youth civic engagement.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School was named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award honoree in 2019 and Wexford Elementary School in 2018.

## Primary Schools Redistrict for 2021-2022 Hance, Richland & Wexford



During the development of the 2019-2023 strategic plan, the district identified a need to conduct an updated demographic study given the increasing trend in enrollment within the Wexford Elementary School zone. A new study was conducted in the 2019-2020 school year to provide updated information about the 10-year enrollment projection. While the overall enrollment of the district has remained stable for the last 10 years and is projected to remain stable for the next 10 years, the district has seen significant enrollment increases in the west (Township of Pine), while the enrollment in the east (Richland Township) has been declining over time.

Given these new projections and a list of established decision-making criteria, which the administration and board decided in the spring of 2020, third-party demographers (Thomas & Williamson and Davis Demographics) developed two viable redistricting scenarios for consideration of the administration and school board. After a Town Hall and board discussion, Scenario B was recommended and approved for implementation. Starting in December 2020, the

focus shifted to logistics and strategic planning for the transition of impacted students to their newly assigned Pine-Richland elementary school. Senior Leadership Team members, primary principals and counselors, and key partners (e.g. Student Transportation of America) collaborated and created action plans and benchmarks for key item completion. STA has redesigned their primary school routes and drivers tested their routes in January.

Multiple building level communications and activities were implemented to support the successful transition of impacted students to their new school, including video introductions of key staff members, scavenger hunts at the new building, and the completion of an "All About Me" activity to help school personnel, including principals and counselors, select buddies for the students at their new school based on common interests. Through the annual staffing process, the district identified those staff members who will be transferring buildings to support the students. These staff members had transition support and the opportunity to connect with their colleagues at the welcoming school to facilitate team building.



## SapphireK12

Initial support from the SapphireK12 team has been positive. The selected system has enabled different uses for the district. Over 7,600 users (students and/or guardians) have logged in to view student bus assignments, class schedules, homerooms, and complete forms. Year-to-date, over 5,000 forms have been completed and submitted electronically at the high school level. In years past, these forms were completed on paper. The district will continue to evaluate data processes and the integration of the Sapphire system into workflows. The SIS administration team is refining the online process and workflow for the student registration process with the intent to allow parents/guardians to electronically enroll any time throughout the year. Additionally, the system has been used to organize feedback from families that can be tied to a student record.

## Student Information & Financial Software System Evaluation

The Student Information System (SIS) and Financial Software System form a backbone for day-to-day operations within the district. Following a detailed project migration plan by the technology department and the human resources/business office, both new systems - SapphireK12 (SIS) and Tyler InfiniteVisions (FIS) - went live on July 1, 2020. Feedback from stakeholders will drive continuous improvements in the years ahead.

## Tyler InfiniteVisions

Throughout the summer, the business office ran two parallel systems. The former system, eFinance, was used through March 31, 2021, to close out audit entries and accruals and complete calendar year 2020 W2 processing and reporting. The human resources/business office staff have been taking additional courses in specialized processes throughout the year. Configuration sessions were scheduled for fiscal year-end processing. In addition, the human resources department will be scheduling additional sessions to build additional workflows and configurations to assist in streamlining the processes for reporting of full-time equivalents, new hire data entry, and position control.

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## Pine Richland Is Recognized for Pursuing Excellence

Pine-Richland School District was one of only five organizations to receive the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence (MAAPE) Award for 2020. The five organizations receiving a 2020 MAAPE Award include:

- > Eden Autism – Princeton, NJ (Education)
- > Highmark Health IT – Pittsburgh, PA (Service)
- > Penn Medicine Department of Radiation Oncology – Philadelphia, PA (Healthcare)
- > **Pine-Richland School District – Gibsonia, PA (Education)**
- > UPMC Western Maryland – Cumberland, MD (Healthcare)

MAAPE, a 501(c)3 organization serving Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania is focused on helping organizations achieve improved levels of performance by identifying and recognizing role-model organizations and sharing best practices and strategies. MAAPE is one of 31 state and regional Baldrige-based award programs across the country. The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recognizes exemplary U.S. organizations and businesses that demonstrate an “unceasing drive for innovative solutions to complex challenges, visionary leadership, and operational excellence.” The Baldrige Award is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive.

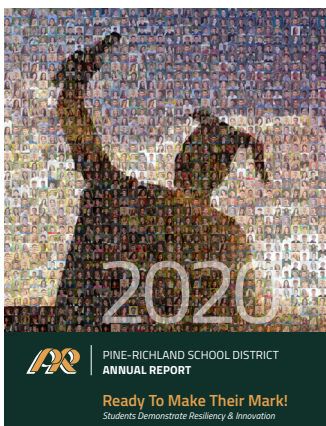
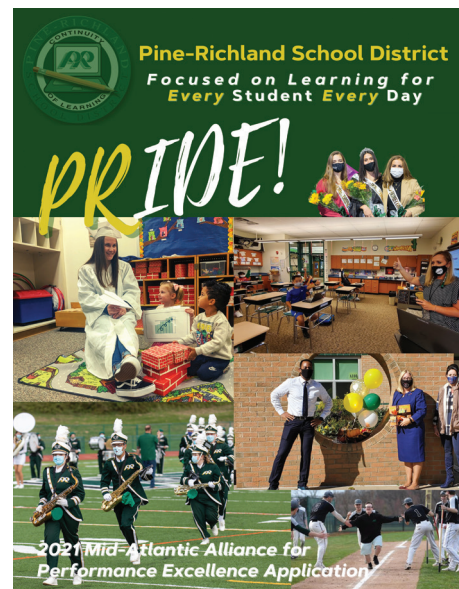
MAAPE applicants, including Pine-Richland, were evaluated in several areas defined by the Baldrige Criteria: leadership, strategy, customers, workforce, operations, and results, plus the category of measurement, analysis and knowledge management.

“The pursuit of excellence is a major category within the Pine-Richland Strategic Plan. It is grounded in the continuous improvement mindset. By participating in MAAPE, we are able to gain insight into strengths and opportunities for improvement,” said Dr. Brian R. Miller, PRSD superintendent. “Although the recognition is an important reflection of our district, commitment to the journey of organizational growth is the most critical part. Through these efforts, we are better positioned to achieve our mission for students and families.”

Pine-Richland was recognized at MAAPE’s 15th Annual Conference on November 12, 2020. Pine-Richland Superintendent Brian R. Miller, Ed.D., and serves on the board of examiners for the 2021 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Dr. Miller is a senior examiner who has served for nine years. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Kristen Justus, Ph.D., has served as an examiner as well. PR Director of Communications Rachel Hathhorn and Hance Elementary School Principal Greta Kuzilla, Ed.D., have served as MAAPE examiners.

In January 2021, Dr. Miller, Dr. Justus, and Ms. Hathhorn presented a webinar entitled “Pursuit of Excellence: Leadership by Compass & Map” to participating MAAPE organizations.

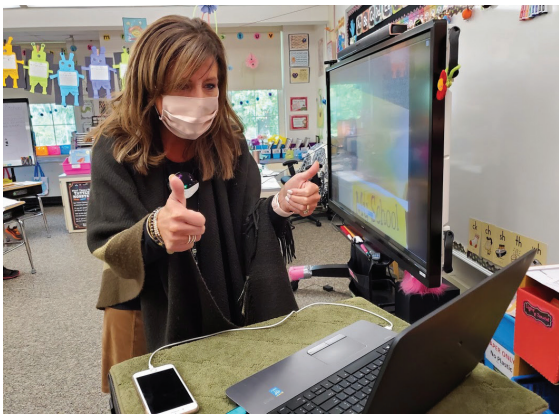
The district also submitted an application to the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence program for 2021.



## District Earns National Communication Awards

The National School Public Relations Association awarded Pine-Richland School District an Award of Excellence for its 2020 Annual Report. Only one other district in Pennsylvania earned the award among the 16 awarded across the United States. The district also earned an NSPRA Honorable Mention for the PRSD K-3 eBlasts and PA School Public Relations Award of Merit for graphic design for the annual report and for crisis communication management.

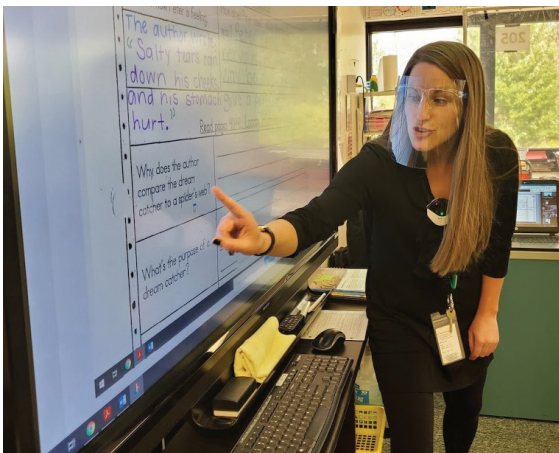
## Technology Takes Center Stage During Pandemic



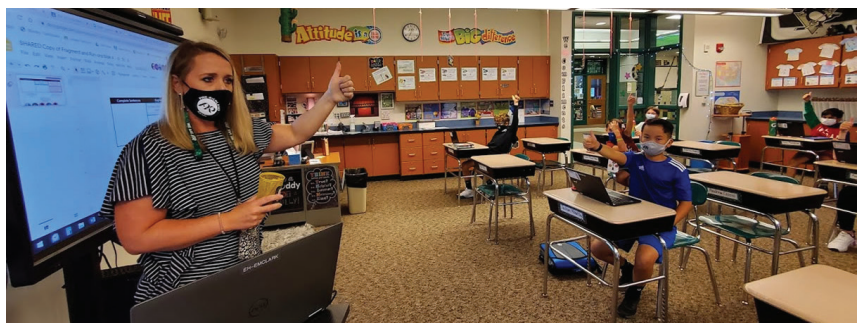
HANCE ELEMENTARY FIRST-GRADE TEACHER ERIN PRITCHARD GIVES A THUMBS UP TO STUDENTS WHO LOG IN VIRTUALLY TO THE CLASSROOM.



WEXFORD ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN TEACHER RACHEL SEPTAK ENGAGES STUDENTS IN A LESSON ABOUT THE USE OF A CALENDAR. YOU CAN SEE A DOCUMENT CAMERA IN THE FOREFRONT.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY THIRD-GRADE TEACHER BRITTANY BOSS IS HELPING STUDENTS BREAK DOWN COMPLEX TEXT IN THEIR READING LESSON THROUGH THE USE OF THE INTERACTIVE BOARD AND AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM THAT CAN BE SEEN AROUND HER NECK.



EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY FIFTH-GRADE TEACHER ERIN CLARK CHECKS FOR UNDERSTANDING DURING A LESSON. STUDENTS COLLABORATE THROUGH A SHARED GOOGLE SLIDE VIA THEIR EMAILS.

The pandemic made technology a priority. As a result, the district focused on ensuring teachers and students had the tools to seamlessly log on during the virtual learning educational model. Some of the changes included:

- The ongoing upgrade of classroom display technologies, computers/tablets, and a five-year asset refresh cycle.
- A one-to-one deployment in a weekend with increased support around telework and virtual learning. The deployment enabled distance learning at the K-6 level. The district has provided one Chromebook or iPad for every student and any student in grades 7-12 who has requested a device for learning was provided one.
- The addition of 300 classroom amplification systems to ensure students who were in the classroom and students who were logged on virtually could hear instruction clearly. The system allows a staff member to use a regular speaking voice and still be heard clearly by all students. This technology works with both face coverings and/or face shields. Staff members wear a pendant microphone that works in conjunction with a speaker.
- Addition of document cameras that allow teachers to display documents and objects for the entire classroom of in-person or virtual students. These devices can be connected to interactive display boards, computers, etc.
- The shift to more online learning resources including Google Apps to younger students and GoGuardian to ensure students are engaged in work.
- The increased focus on cybersecurity, improved content filtering, and transparency.



## District Outlines Long-Term Approach for Facilities

The district carefully decides financial planning using a deliberate and long-term approach. All decisions are reached after considering factors such as operating budget, operational efficiency measures, debt, capital expenditure needs, enrollment trends, facility capacity analyses, Pennsylvania Public School Employees Retirement System, etc. All maintenance and improvement projects within the district are meticulously considered under a 10-year plan that supports the district's value of providing diverse opportunities for all students.

This year, the district improved upon both the stadium and the RAM Cage, which was named by the students. New matching turf was installed on the stadium field and the Ram Cage, which supports common experiences in preparing for competition for all sports. These fields can be used for physical education, athletic team practices, summer band camp, youth camps, etc. At the RAM Cage, new matching LED lights were installed to match those that were previously installed at the stadium. These help to improve visibility, limit the scope of lit areas, and are more energy-efficient. This field can be used nearly year-round for practices, competitions, classes, etc.

Some of the other latest/planned projects include:

- > Improvements to the main and green gymnasiums at the high school
- > Paving at the middle school and high school campuses
- > Roof completion at the high school and stadium
- > Middle school front entrance cleaning and painting
- > Library refresh projects
- > A new swimming pool scoreboard and timing system
- > Improved restroom floors in the pool area
- > High School tennis court resurfacing



PRHS STADIUM



RAM CAGE

## SETTING UP A FOOD SERVICES ACCOUNT

Please note that a free online account can be set up at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com) to monitor student balances and to request automatic low-balance email reminders. If paying by check, please provide student name and student ID number. Checks should be written out to Pine-Richland Cafeteria Fund (PRCF) and mailed to the PR Food Services Department, which is located at 702 Warrendale Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044. If you would like to place any restrictions on your student's meal accounts, please contact the food service department at **724-625-3550**.

## IS YOUR PASSION FOOD & WELLNESS?

Please consider contacting Sodexo Food Services Manager Diane Bucknum at **724-625-3550** to serve on the Pine-Richland Food Service Advisory and Wellness Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide information about food services at Pine-Richland and to gather feedback and suggestions from the larger community to share with the food service management team. The committee also addresses the wellness needs of the students, which include nutrition, activities, and/or mental health. The committee is made up of administrators, board members, teachers, parents, and students. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in discussions regarding menu planning, food products, nutrition, and needs associated with the sustainability of food service to serve the needs of the community.

## Sodexo Continues to Offer Free Meal Service

During the 2020-2021 school year, Sodexo provided meal service to Pine-Richland students in the cafeteria or through pick-up meal service.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the continuation of the Child Nutrition nationwide waiver for the 2021-2022 school year. This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. USDA Food & Nutrition Services is also extending this flexibility to the NSLP Seamless Summer Option for the duration of this waiver, which expires in June of 2022.

When students return on August 31, 2021, meals will continue to be of no cost to families. Students will need to take a full meal to benefit from this program. This will include breakfast or lunch.

If your child chooses alternate options or does not take a full meal, please review the chart to the right to see the costs.

### 2021-2022 PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEAL PRICES

LUNCH	PAID/REDUCED/FREE K-6	PAID/REDUCED/FREE 7-12
FIRST MEAL	\$0	\$0
SECOND MEAL	\$2.50	\$2.75
ENTRÉE ONLY	\$2.25	\$2.50
MILK	\$.50	\$.50
SNACKS	\$.50-\$2.50	\$.50-\$2.50

BREAKFAST	PAID/REDUCED/FREE K-6	PAID/REDUCED/FREE 7-12
FIRST MEAL	\$0	\$0
SECOND MEAL	\$1.30	\$1.30
ENTRÉE ONLY	\$1.00	\$1.00
MILK	\$.50	\$.50
SNACKS	None Available	\$.50-\$2.50



(L-R) SOPHOMORE EVE FIALA AND SENIOR LEENA AHMED ENJOY LUNCH IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY. THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE CREATIVE SPACES PRINCIPALS CAME UP WITH FOR ENSURING SOCIAL DISTANCING DURING THE PANDEMIC.



FOOD SERVICES EMPLOYEE CARRIE CONTI PROVIDES AN EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENT WITH A GRAB-AND-GO LUNCH.



WEXFORD ELEMENTARY FIRST-GRADER J.D. GOSSAIN FINISHES UP LUNCH IN THE CAFETERIA.



PRHS SODEXO MANAGER DIANE BUCKNUM AND FOOD SERVICES EMPLOYEES JOANNE KURTA AND TOM MURRIN (BACK), DISCUSS MEAL PICKUP FOR STUDENTS STUDYING VIRTUALLY.

# STAFF NOTES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## District Welcomes New Employees

### DISTRICT & ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

During the 2020-2021 school year, Pine-Richland School District welcomed new faces to the administrative team including Brian Glickman as director of human resources; Rebecca Powell as administrative support at the central offices; and Brandon Pierce as a communications intern. T.J. Salopek moved from serving as an assistant principal at the high school to the athletic office as director of athletics.

Also joining the team is Officer Brad Nowosielski. He is working with district safety and security coordinators Parker Freshwater and Andrew Petyak. Officer Brad has been working for the Northern Regional Police Department for the past three years.

### PINE-RICHLAND HIGH & PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

At the high school level, Pine-Richland High School welcomed custodians Brian Cieslak, Sonny Fleegeer, and Nicole Szymanowski, along with paraprofessionals Hannah Hart, Bria Schneiderlochner, and Brooke Turnbull, maintenance technician Kirk Hefren, attendance secretary Michelle Silberman, and teachers Lauren Bittner, April Dull, and Erin Caplan.

At Pine-Richland Middle School, the team welcomed custodians Dave Lane and John Johnston, along with paraprofessional Billie Boyd and counselor Michael Rose.



**MR. BRIAN GLICKMAN**  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES



**MR. BRAD NOWOSIELSKI**  
RESOURCE OFFICER



**MRS. REBECCA POWELL**  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/  
RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST



**MR. T.J. SALOPEK**  
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

### EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School welcomed teacher Kristy DeRaimo and paraprofessionals Amber Corpa De La Fuente, Nancy Joyce, Kerri Lutz, and Ante Mesin. The team also welcomed custodians William Harper Jr., Jacob Tissue, and David Wagner.

### HANCE, RICHLAND & WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Hance Elementary School welcomed teacher Holly Wetherholt and secretaries JoLynn Burk and Kaytlyn Snee. At Richland Elementary School, the team welcomed custodian Philip Hess, paraprofessionals Meghana Nayak, Analise Handerhan; and Erica Czachowski, along with cafeteria/kindergarten aides Katelynn Furda, Amy Mathieu, and Regina Skwortz; and teacher Katie Laslavic. At Wexford Elementary School, the district welcomed teacher Kelly Heckert and cafeteria/kindergarten aide Rennae Capizzi.

## Board & Administration Honor Retirees



**SAMUEL BARTLEY**



**SUE BARTLEY**



**JEANETTE BURGESS**



**JOHN DOLPHIN**



**MARY JEAN DYER**



**JOHN DYER**



**DONNA FAUX**



**PATRICIA HEALY**



**KATHERINE HEILMAN**



**THOMAS JOYCE**



**ALISON MONK**



**WILLIAM PINKLE**



**CAROLYN TALERICO**



**MARGARET TYNES**



**DIANA WERKMEISTER**

Pine-Richland School District recognized those who retired this past school year. In June, the district recognized employees who retired at the end of the second semester, who incredibly logged more than 157 years while serving the district. From the high school, English language arts teacher John Dolphin, French teacher Thomas Joyce, and math teacher Margaret Tynes both retired this year. From Hance Elementary, first-grade teacher Katherine Heilman retired. From Richland Elementary, the district bid farewell to reading specialist Donna Faux and teacher Alison Monk. From Wexford Elementary, the district said goodbye to paraprofessional Patricia Healy.

In January of 2021, Pine-Richland recognized eight employees who served a combined 162 years in the district. Retirees from Pine-Richland High School included custodian and grounds crew member John Dyer, secretary Mary Jean Dyer, and paraprofessional Diana Werkmeister. From Pine-Richland Middle School, retirees included teachers Sue Bartley and Jeanette Burgess, and paraprofessional Carolyn Talerico. Retirees from Eden Hall Upper Elementary School included paraprofessional Samuel Bartley and custodian William Pinkle.

The Pine-Richland School District is so appreciative of each retiree, who dedicated his or her time and talent to serve the students of Pine-Richland School District.

## Community Members Step Up to Volunteer

### INDEPENDENT VOLUNTEERS MAKE WAY INTO CLASSROOM

As the district returned to a hybrid educational model this year, several volunteers helped to assist in providing coverage in the classroom. The district is appreciative of independent volunteers Zunaira Adeel, Nicole Cugliari, Lori Guiffre, Robin Jamison, Kari Jones, Marlena Kozminski, Christine Misback, Stephanie Roccia, Kasia Swope, Jennifer Taormina Gross, Nichole Thel, and Tara Yanni.

### EXPERTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, & STUDENTS PROVIDE INSIGHT

The district convened leadership councils to provide insight into major initiatives including the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Council and the Healthcare Leadership Council. In addition to many staff members and administrators, the healthcare leadership council was made up of medical and public health experts, including Dr. Domenic Mantella, PRSD school physician; Dr. Amy Cashdollar, chief operating officer (Allegheny Health Network); Erin Colvin, CRNP (Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh); Dr. Vaughn Cooper, professor of microbiology molecular genetics (Pitt) and co-founder of Microbial Genome Sequencing Center; Renee Dixon, RN (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center); Dr. Tony Farah, executive vice president and chief medical/clinical transformation officer (HH); Dr. Catherine Hrach, emergency physician (Butler Health System); Dr. Jenene Hunkele, senior medical science liaison (Alexion); Dr. Allan Klapper, chief executive officer (AHN); Dr. Brook McHugh, pediatrician (AHN); Dr. Tyler Quinn, research physiologist (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health); and Dr. Ryan Shields, infectious diseases pharmacist/associate professor of medicine (Pitt/UPMC). In addition, Student Government Executive Board President Zeyad Amr and PRHS Class of 2021 President Gabrielle Stone served on the council. Board vice president Christine Misback also served on the council.

Many staff members and administrators also served on the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Leadership Council. Community members and parents included Hetal Dhagat, Carla Gathers, Rashard Gathers, Susan Hong-Bang, Tanisha Lydic, Meredith Mestre, Dr. Russell Patterson, Michelle Plowey, Sofya Stearns, Darrell Smalley, along with students, who included seniors Zeyad Amr, Danielle Bryant, Alexander Lachimia, and Andrew Siegal. School board representatives included Treasurer Marc Casciani, President Peter Lyons, Dr. Carla Meyer, director, and Mrs. Kasia Swope, director.

Participating in the Transforming-the-Future Leadership Council included: Hance Elementary second-graders Kayla Russell and Jack DeVore; Eden Hall Upper fifth-graders Katherine Lennie, Owen Tan, and Linus Daniels; Pine-Richland Middle School seventh-grader Annabella Orlando; and sophomore Kaili Doctor. Community members and parents included Keri Mowry Kastner, Judy Eugenio-Adleff, Jennifer Lennie, Meredith Miller-Mestre, Stephanie Hurt, and Yolande Doctor.

You can see which staff members and administrators served on leadership councils by visiting:

[www.pinerichland.org/continuitylearning](http://www.pinerichland.org/continuitylearning)

[www.pinerichland.org/diversityequityinclusion](http://www.pinerichland.org/diversityequityinclusion)

[www.pinerichland.org/transformingfuture](http://www.pinerichland.org/transformingfuture)

## PR Bus Driver Earns Champion of Learning Award



**BUS DRIVER GLYNN NEWCAMP EARNS THE 2020 CHAMPIONS OF LEARNING AWARD.**

Bus driver Glynn Newcamp earned the 2020 Champions of Learning Award from the Consortium for Public Education in the School Staff category. Mr. Newcamp, who drives a bus for Student Transportation of America, the transportation provider for Pine-Richland School District, transports

children from Eden Hall Upper Elementary, Richland Elementary, and Pine-Richland High School/Pine-Richland Middle School. He was recognized during a program sponsored by the Consortium for Public Education and the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

## Director Earns Renewal Status as a PA Registered School Business Administrator

Pine-Richland School District Director of Finance and Operational Services Dana Kirk has been granted a renewal of her status as a Pennsylvania Registered School Business Administrator for four years. To earn the renewal by the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Offices (PASBO), a school business official must meet high personal, ethical, and professional standards established for the registration program. These include formal education, experience, and continuing education. PASBO is the state professional association of school business officials whose responsibilities include the business and service functions of public and non-public schools. Mrs. Kirk has been an integral part of the Pine-Richland School District since 2003.



**DANA KIRK**

## Teacher Earns Finalist Status in Presidential Awards Program

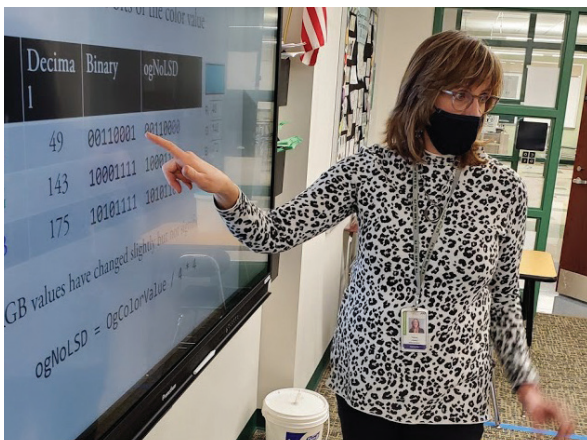


PRHS BIOLOGY TEACHER DARREN MYZAK IS A FINALIST IN THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING.

Pine-Richland High School biology teacher Darren Myzak is a finalist in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Only three state-level finalists were named. A national review board will select one math and one science teacher from each state. Final results will be announced in August. The PAEMST is one of the highest honors specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching.

## Teacher Earns Award from RIT as Part of Scholar Program

2017 PRHS Graduate Ingrida Ivaska is being named an Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar for completing at least 83 credit hours of studying and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.85 for all work completed at the Rochester Institute of Technology as of the previous spring term. As part of the recognition program, the scholars have the opportunity to identify a high school or community college teacher who has profoundly influenced their academic development and has been an inspiration in their lives. Ingrida selected Pine-Richland High School teacher Valerie Klosky as her honoree. As part of the recognition, Mrs. Klosky, along with Ingrida, were honored during a virtual celebration of the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Awards on March 18, 2021. Incredibly, this is the second time Mrs. Klosky earned the honor. 2012 PRHS graduate Evan Klei also recognized her for being an inspiration.



PRHS TEACHER VALERIE KLOSKY EARNS SECOND RECOGNITION IN THE RIT SCHOLAR PROGRAM.

## Teacher Named an All-Star Teacher



The Pittsburgh Pirates honored Eden Hall Upper Elementary art teacher Katelyn Tronetti via a video call on May 13, 2021. She was named an All-Star Teacher. Pirates Charities and Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Principal Steven Smith surprised her with the honor. She earned \$1,000, a treasure chest full of items from the Pirates, a \$100 visa gift card, and a custom Pittsburgh Pirates jersey. She was recognized at the game on July 18, 2021.

THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES NAME EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY ART TEACHER KATELYN TRONETTI AN ALL-STAR TEACHER.

## LIBRARIANS LEADING

## Conference Presenters

Pine-Richland librarians took an active role in leadership and learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Pine-Richland Middle School librarian Kristen Rowe was a co-presenter for a session entitled "Unite! Collaborate! Affiliate!" at the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association. The session focused on the benefits of local librarians organizing to become affiliate groups of PSLA.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School librarian Beth Shenefiel was a co-presenter for the third and final training module for "the Model Curriculum for Learners in PA School Libraries, Developing & Implementing a K-12 Information Literacy Curriculum for Your District." The session's goal was to show strategies for developing district-wide information and digital literacy curriculum for grades PK-12 that align with academic standards and competencies.

Ms. Rowe also led a discussion on "Improving Library Spaces" at the Western Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Steering Committee. Mrs. Shenefiel led a discussion entitled "Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You" book discussion.

Principal Kelly Gustafson will be one of the panel presenters at the American Association of School Librarians. She will join superintendents and principals from across the country for an engaging and interactive conversation on how administrators can empower a school librarian's leadership role to impact all learners on Oct. 22, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

## LIBRARIANS LEARNING

## Model Library Curriculum Training

In the summer of 2020, district librarians attended two virtual training modules focused on implementing The Model Curriculum for Learners in PA School Libraries. Mrs. Shenefiel was part of the team that developed and implemented the training as part of a 2019-2020 Leadership Academy.

## Leadership Academy

District Librarians were also accepted to be participants in spring training surrounding themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Two learning models were offered: Equity in Action: Fostering an Antiracist Library Culture, and Equity in Action: Building Diverse Collections. Wexford Elementary librarian Andrea Clarkson, Richland Elementary librarian Andrew Hovanec, Hance Elementary librarian Kevin McKinney, and Pine-Richland High School librarian Brent Pollack were accepted into the leadership academy. Ms. Rowe and Mrs. Shenefiel were participants and team mentors as part of their involvement in the institute.

## Leadership Institute

Ms. Rowe and Mrs. Shenefiel were accepted into PSLA's Leadership Institute for School Librarians. The 2020-2021 Institute was funded by a Library Services & Technology Act grant focused on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and provided professional development, training, and strategic planning to advance EDI in school libraries.

## LIBRARIANS PARTNERING



AUTHOR LOIS LOWRY MAKES A VIRTUAL VISIT TO PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL.

importance of school librarians being instrumental in building strong, positive relationships with their principals and how that relationship can be mutually beneficial.

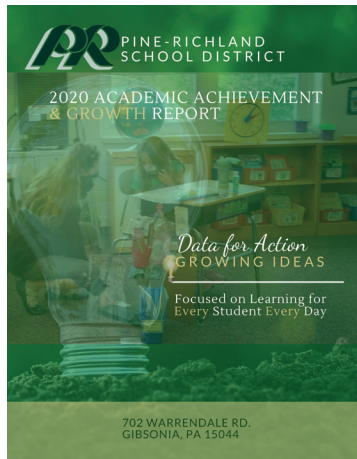
- > Ms. Kristen Rowe partnered with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Words and Pictures series to bring author Lois Lowry to the school for a virtual visit with students.
- > Wexford librarian Andrea Clarkson partnered with Northern Tier Library in a library card sign-up campaign. This partnership resulted in 395 people, including students, siblings, and parents, registering for public library cards. All three primary librarians have since begun a summer campaign to register kindergarten students for public library cards.

## Core Values in School Librarianship

> Principal Kelly Gustafson and Mrs. Shenefiel collaborated to contribute a chapter to the recently published professional book entitled *Core Values in School Librarianship: Responding with Commitment and Courage*. The book, which was edited by Judi Moreillon and published by ABC-CLIO, offers pre-service, newly practicing, and seasoned school librarians various opportunities for reflection as well as inspiring strategies for enacting the four core values of the profession. Mrs. Gustafson's and Mrs. Shenefiel's chapter, entitled "Principal-Librarian Partnership: Principals Are Our Most Important Allies," focuses on the

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & GROWTH REPORT

## District Presents Eighth Annual Academic Achievement & Growth Report



The mission of the Pine-Richland School District is to focus on learning for every student every day. The vision at PRSD emphasizes the fact that learning is reflected in both achievement and growth. In the eighth year of the Academic Achievement & Growth Report, the format and structure of this report have been refined each year to provide descriptive statistics and analyses across a series of standardized assessments.

Within the Baldrige Performance Excellence framework, "LeTCI" is used as an acronym to describe evaluation factors for reviewing results (i.e., Levels, Trends, Comparisons, and Integration). The district has again utilized those factors in evaluating the results. Various types of PSSA and School Performance Profile comparisons with high performing schools and school districts are included this year. The district plans to further strengthen this approach in future years for the other assessments.

The emphasis on both process and results is captured in the image to the far right. As an improvement this year, the amount of time spent producing an exhaustive library of individual assessment results tables was streamlined to provide dense summary information by assessment type. The tables include levels of achievement and growth, benchmark comparisons, and trends over time where a minimum of three years' data exists. The presentation designed to accompany the report focuses on the integration of assessment data within the PRSD Model for Teaching and Learning and the entire learning system as pictured and explained below, through specific vignettes.

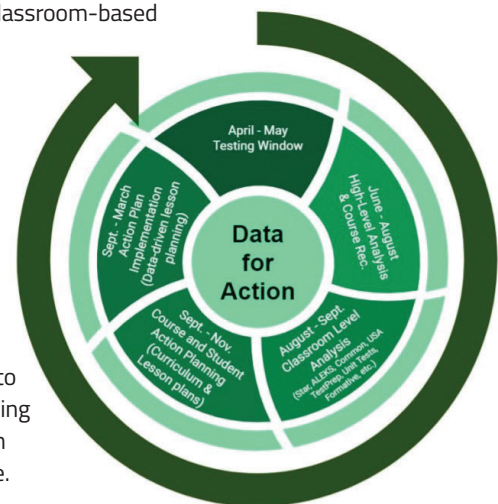
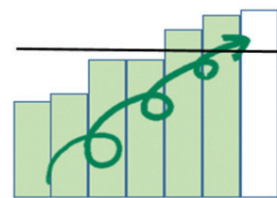
The district is focusing on process and results. Building principals, assistant principals, Academic Leadership Council Members, and K-12 classroom teachers have been actively engaged in the development of the reports annually. The district has been intentional in celebrating strengths and identifying opportunities for improvement. The results in the report are directly integrated with other strategic initiatives related to the model for teaching and learning, in-depth program review, curriculum review process, and instructional strategies focus.

Short-term and long-term goals of the strategic plan influence the educational program for students and the learning results. Within the strengths, the district is working to highlight areas of success and effective instructional integration within programming and have lifted them up through the vignettes, as shared by district educators engaged in the direct work. The district has been intentional in communicating this knowledge and key learning across the organization through the PR Academic Leadership Council, principals, and grade level/departmental teams to continue the district's focus on success and iterations of improvement.

Given the impact of the pandemic, all state-based standardized testing for the PSSA and Keystone were halted in 2020. Consequently, the data represented in the report are reflective of data from the 2018-2019 school year for those assessments, with updates being made only for the SAT, ACT, and AP exams. As a result, there are not updated results for student achievement and growth reflected on the PA Future Ready Index either. Exams resumed in 2021. Those results will be shared as they are made available. For a complete look at the PRSD Academic Growth & Achievement Report, visit [www.pinerichland.org/academicreport](http://www.pinerichland.org/academicreport).

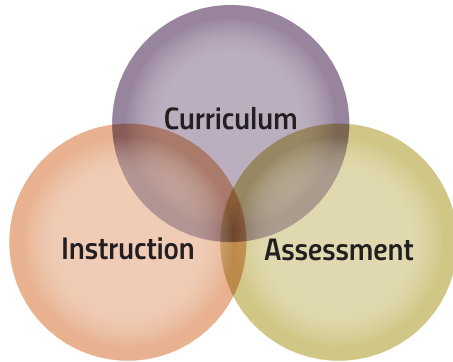
As a disclaimer to all who review the report, it is important to note the narrow focus on standardized achievement test results (i.e., PSSA, Keystone Exams, SAT, ACT, and AP). These are important and high-stakes assessments. However, we also know that measures of school effectiveness and learning are far more comprehensive than the information in the report. Those measures include a holistic look at our schools and students, such as classroom-based assessments; school climate; participation in extra- and co-curricular activities; graduation rates; attendance; discipline; post-secondary readiness; social-emotional development; wellness; and more.

Our focal question continues to be "How do we focus on academic learning for every student every day?" The image to the right illustrates the PR learning system, and how the district can focus on making data actionable.



### CURRICULUM REFINEMENT

## MODEL FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



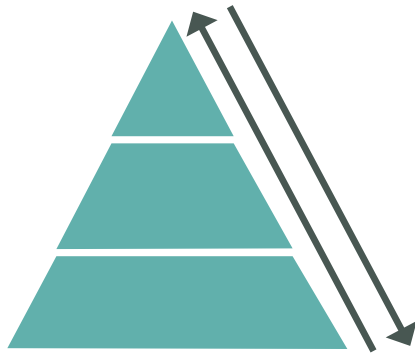
### Some of the report's key highlights include:

- > Focused attention on using data to support student learning
- > Streamlined reporting of key measures
- > Addition of top decile reporting for SAT and ACT results
- > Lack of PSSA and Keystone data DOES NOT equate to lack of data for action

### Areas of focus include continuing to:

- > Examine and revise curriculum, assessment, and instruction at all grade levels
- > Integrate regular, collaborative data analysis to replicate best practices among teachers
- > Align and ensure the effectiveness of Multi-Tier System of Support interventions to meet unique student needs
- > Establish a systematic approach and consistent implementation of curricular resources and instructional strategies

## MULTI-TIER SYSTEM OF SUPPORT



- > ELA and Math Decision Trees
- > Research-Based Interventions

## CONTINUUM OF SERVICES



- > Special Education
- > Gifted Education
- > Other Programming

## AP Results and Findings



### 2020 AP TEST SCORECARD\*

Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	# Students Scoring 3+
2020	458	971	371
2019	515	1028	376
2018	523	1024	376
2017	504	983	349

- > Advanced Placement (AP) exams were taken online for the first time in 2020 due to the pandemic. Fewer Pine-Richland students participated as a result of the pandemic's impact, but the percentage of students scoring a 3 or greater increased.
- > For 2020, Pine-Richland student scores averaged above 4.00 in four courses: Calculus BC (4.09), Computer Science A (4.73), European History (4.08), and Statistics (4.26). Average scores in US History rose from 2.77 to 3.61.
- > Pine-Richland students took AP exams in 21 different courses during the 2019 and 2020 school years. Of those 21 courses, average scores increased in 14 courses (67%).

\* PRHS Class of 2021 results unavailable at production time.

### Nominate a Teacher

Recognize a deserving teacher by visiting [www.pinerichland.org/teacherawards](http://www.pinerichland.org/teacherawards). Nominations are being accepted now for the PA Teacher of the Year program.



## SAT & ACT Results and Findings

- > PRSD students outperformed test-takers in Pennsylvania and globally on the SAT in 2020.
- > Participation rates for Pine-Richland students have decreased slightly each year over the past three years on the ACT. This likely aligns with the requirements for admission from popular colleges and universities.
- > ACT Composite scores for both PR male and female students are higher than state and national averages.
- > The impact of the pandemic on participation was more evident in 2020 given canceled test sessions.
- > Pine-Richland students outperformed Pennsylvania and United States students in all subject areas over the past eight years on the ACT.
- > ACT composite, English, science, and reading mean scores for Pine-Richland students increased slightly for the class of 2020. There was a slight decrease in mathematics.
- > PRSD is performing slightly below the PA Top Decile Scores in all categories on the ACT. The top decile is a more relevant and challenging comparator group for PR.



### 2020 SAT SCORECARD\*

Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.

2020	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Pine-Richland	589	596
Pennsylvania	543	534
All Test Takers	528	523

\*Due to the pandemic, the number of students testing declined in 2020.



### 2020 ACT SCORECARD\*

(Maximum score is 36.)

Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.

2020	Math	Reading	English	Science	Composite
Pine-Richland	25	26	26	25	26
Pennsylvania	23	24	23	23	24
United States	20	21	20	21	21

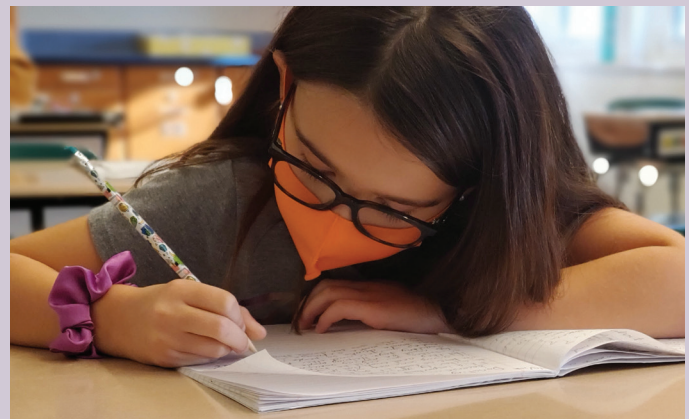
\*Due to the pandemic, the number of students testing declined in 2020.

## Future Ready Index

The Pennsylvania Department of Education utilizes the Future Ready PA Index as a method of evaluating schools more holistically than the School Performance Profile alone, utilizing a “dashboard model to highlight how schools are performing and showing progress on multiple measures.”

While the data was not updated due to the pandemic (lack of standardized assessments), the dashboard elements were designed to reflect reporting that:

- > Increases an emphasis on student growth measures, which incentivizes a focus on all learners and is less sensitive to demographic variables.
- > Measures English language acquisition among EL students, not simply performance on a test of grade-level ELA standards.
- > Incentivizes career awareness instruction beginning at the elementary level.
- > Addresses the issue of unequal weighting of content areas in the current School Performance Profile.
- > Provides indicators of student success after graduation.
- > Increases the emphasis on student access to course offerings such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, college credit, and Career Technical Education programs of study.



EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY FIFTH-GRADER ALENA JARAS CONCENTRATES AS SHE PRACTICES WRITING SIMPLE, COMPOUND, AND COMPLEX SENTENCES.

- > Allows local educational agencies to include locally-selected reading assessments (Grade 3) and math assessments (Grade 7) as additional snapshots of student progress.
- > Incentivizes schools to offer career pathways that culminate in high-value, industry-recognized credentials.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Academic Excellence



**BRENDAN ANDERSEN**  
FINALIST



**JOHN FABER**  
FINALIST



**JOSHUA PAZIN**  
FINALIST



**REBECCA PENG**  
FINALIST



**SAMUEL STELLA**  
FINALIST



**BENJAMIN CARNOVALE**  
COMMENDED



**LYDIA FRANCIS**  
COMMENDED



**GREGORY GILMOUR**  
COMMENDED



**MALINI HARINATH**  
COMMENDED



**RORI HOLM**  
COMMENDED



**EVAN JACKSON**  
COMMENDED



**JINWON JANG**  
COMMENDED



**CONNOR JOHNSON**  
COMMENDED



**CATHERINE LEE**  
COMMENDED



**KAREEM MOHSEN**  
COMMENDED



**MAX ROMANO**  
COMMENDED



**WILL SANGPACHATANARU**  
COMMENDED



**MICHAEL TAMBURRI**  
COMMENDED



**ABIGAIL TURNER**  
COMMENDED



**VICTOR WILLIAMS**  
COMMENDED



**JOSEPH WOODROW**  
COMMENDED

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is recognizing seniors Brendan Andersen, John Faber, Joshua Pazin, Rebecca Peng, and Samuel Stella for earning finalist status in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Corporation program. The students were named semifinalists on September 9, 2020.

In addition, seniors Benjamin Carnovale, Lydia Francis, Gregory Gilmour, Malini Harinath, Rori Holm, Evan Jackson, Jinwon Jang, Connor Johnson, Catherine Lee, Kareem Mohsen, Max Romano, Will Sangpachatanaru, Michael Tamburri, Abigail Turner, Victor Williams, and Joseph Woodrow were named commended students on September 21, 2020. These students were among 16,000 semifinalists in the United States. They were recognized for their work on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. In all, 21 seniors were recognized at PRHS.

Pine-Richland High School is recognizing seven graduates for being named 2020 National Advanced

Placement (AP) Scholars based on their performance on AP exams given during the 2019–2020 school year. To qualify for the National AP Scholars Award, students must earn an average score of four or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken and must have taken eight or more exams. The latest round of national honorees include 2020 PRHS graduates Erin Ahearn, Jack Caronovale, Max Farino, Daniel Krill, Aranya, Krishnan, Benjamin Solomon, and Justin Waltrip. In all, 183 PRHS students earned some sort of distinction for 2020. Some universities and colleges will grant credit for students earning a three or higher depending on the institution. In 2019, 13 students earned the national distinction and included Amalendu Bokil, Tom Fest, Luke Francis, Devin Golla, Daniel Krill, Jordan Labuda, Martha Lacek, Bailey Mohri, Umayal Natesan, Justin Waltrip, Abigail Waryanka, Lucas Zak, and Kevin Zou. Daniel Krill and Justin Waltrip earned the status in 2019 and maintained it in 2020. Data for 2020–2021 will be available in the fall.

## Top Three

Pine-Richland High School hosted graduation for the Class of 2021 on June 11, 2021. In all, 381 seniors became graduates. Senior Jinwon Jang was named valedictorian and seniors Rebecca Peng and Benjamin Carnovale were named the salutatorian and tertiary respectively. This year, the PRHS Guidance Office processed 14,335 documents and sent 2,747 teacher letters of recommendation for the Class of 2021. The PRHS Class of 2021 earned \$10,697,552 in scholarships.

(L-R) SENIORS BENJAMIN CARNOVALE (TERTIARY), REBECCA PENG (SALUTATORIAN), AND JINWON JANG (VALEDICTORIAN) PREPARE TO ACCEPT THEIR DIPLOMAS AT GRADUATION.



MIA BAKER



HOLLY EBNER



MALINI HARINATH



AMBER HONICK



REBECCA PENG



ANOUSHKA RAJEEV



MAX ROMANO



SAMUEL STELLA

Senior Mia Baker received a perfect score on the ACT Reading. Senior Holly Ebner received a perfect score on the ACT Reading. Senior Malini Harinath received a perfect score on the ACT Reading, ACT English, and ACT Science. Senior Amber Honick received a perfect score on the ACT Science and ACT English. Senior Rebecca Peng received a perfect score

on the ACT Reading, ACT English, ACT Science, ACT Composite, and SAT Math. Senior Anoushka Rajeev received a perfect score on the SAT Math. Senior Max Romano received a perfect score on the ACT Science, ACT English, and ACT Reading. Senior Samuel Stella received a perfect score on the SAT US History.



KIRSTEN CHILCOAT

Senior Kirsten Chilcoat has been selected as a 2021 National Honor Society Scholar. Kirsten was chosen from nearly 10,000 applicants. Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership, and character and will receive money to use toward higher education. The scholarship program is supported by the parent organization of the NHS, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).



REBECCA PENG

Senior Rebecca Peng was named one of more than 4,500 candidates in the 2021 US Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools this year. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors.

Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in community and school activities.

## Arts & Music



TOP TO BOTTOM: JUNIORS KATARINA HUDOCK AND LOGAN KRUSHINSKI AND SENIOR VICTOR WILLIAMS EARN NOMINATIONS IN THE 2021 GENE KELLY AWARDS PROGRAM.

PRHS earned three nominations in the annual Gene Kelly Awards program including:

**Best Actor Nomination:** Junior Logan Krushinski

**Best Supporting Actress Nomination:** Junior Katarina Hudock

**Best Supporting Actor Nomination:** Senior Victor Williams

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Pine-Richland High School students earned top awards in the 2021 Scholastic Art Awards Program including one American Visions Best of Show award, eight Gold Key awards, 20 Silver Key awards, and 31 honorable mention awards for individual works. In all, students from 43 school districts entered their art portfolios and individual works in the Western Pennsylvania Regional Scholastic Art Competition. Topping the list is the portfolio competition, which requires six works of art. Within the sculpture category, senior Hailey Rihn earned a Gold Portfolio Award for her work entitled "Detail Creates Magic" and a Gold Portfolio Award in the mixed-media category for her work entitled "Magic Life." Hailey also earned a Gold Key Award for her sculpture "Cupcake Favorites." Incredibly, she also earned the American Visions Best of Show Nominee Award for the same piece. She also earned Gold Key Awards for her mixed-media pieces "Magical View" and "Ride in the Sky." Senior Thomas Catalano earned a Silver Key Portfolio for his work "A Spirit of Song," along with senior Grace Neff for her portfolio work entitled "Life with Masks." Honorable Mention Portfolio winners include senior Hannah McNamara for "Internal Struggles" and senior Charlotte Menke for "Sisterhood." Charlotte also earned a Gold Award for her mixed-media piece entitled "Higher." Junior Joshua Yoon also earned two Gold Key Awards for his drawing/illustrations entitled "Trapped" and "Virus Angst." Silver individual award winners included seniors Xinyi Cynthia Chen (2), Paige Osborne (1), Hailey Rihn (4), Maria Weideman (1); juniors Paul Howell (2) and Joshua Yoon (2); and sophomores Kayla Karmanos (4) and Kate Lindrose (1). Individual Honorable Mention winners include seniors Thomas Catalano (1), Xinyi Cynthia Chen (2), Bayli Clack (2), Savannah Foote (1), Ella Karmanos (3), Charlotte Menke (1), Hailey Rihn (5), Savannah Ungor (1),



FAR LEFT TO RIGHT:  
THOMAS CATALANO,  
GRACE NEFF, AND  
HAILEY RIHN.

Maria Weideman (1); juniors Ayla Chandola (1), Geneva Doughty (1), Kaylan Eggert (1), Emma Hoffman (1), Joshua Yoon (2); and sophomore Kayla Karmanos (5). The winning portfolio and individual awards were submitted through sponsoring PRHS Art Teacher Ramon Riley. Sophomore Kate Lindrose's ("Eventually") and senior Hailey Rihn's Silver Key ("Tree of Life") awards were submitted through Teacher Mary Anne Andreassi and seniors Maria Weideman's Honorable Mention ("Falling") and Grace Neff's Honorable Mention ("My Ideal Kitchen") through sponsoring Teacher Vince Thearle. Each year, a panel of artists, art educators, and other art professionals judge thousands of submissions in the regional competition, which recognizes work in several categories including writing, film, sculpture, fashion design, photography, comic art, design, and more. Students earning the Best of Show Nominee Award and Gold Key Awards will have their work judged at the Scholastic National Awards competition in New York, NY.



(L-R) SENIOR ETHAN CHAN EARNS SPOTS AT THE PMEA DISTRICT AND REGIONAL BAND, AND JUNIOR AIDAN FRICK EARNS A SPOT AT THE PMEA ALL-STATE WIND ENSEMBLE.



PMEA ALL-STATE & DISTRICT CHOIR PARTICIPANTS

Three Pine-Richland High School students were selected to the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Choir, which was held on April 14-17, 2021. Seniors Kristen Donahoe and Victor Williams and junior Nora Russell were selected under the direction of Choral Director Lee Rickard. This is Nora's second time being selected to this choir. All three participated in PMEA District Choir along with seniors Daniel Martinez, Abigail Turner, and Rebekah Wojnar; juniors Lacey Duffy and Fiona Kortyna; and sophomores Paige Johnson and Brynn Surloff. Senior saxophonist Ethan Chan was selected to represent Pine-Richland in the PMEA District Band and Regional Band for 2021. In addition to districts and regionals, junior Aidan Frick, who plays the trombone, was selected for the PMEA All-State Wind Ensemble. This is Aidan's second year in a row as a PMEA All-State trombonist.

## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Pine-Richland High School cast and crew members brought the Disney stage adaptation of *High School Musical* to a screen near everyone. The virtual performance was filmed over several weeks and edited for a viewing experience like the PR community has never seen under the direction of stage director Sarah McGraw Krushinski and producer Kathy Morrissey during select weekends in June of 2021. Visit [www.pinerichland.org/musical](http://www.pinerichland.org/musical) for the entire listing of the production crew and cast list.

Due to the pandemic precautions, the PRHS musical opted to adopt a new, virtual format to present the musical to the public. Senior Hailey Rihn served as the student director of the musical and helped create a video version of the musical. She used different effects, was able to focus more on action scenes, and showcased everyone in a different way than they have in the past. All of these elements allowed for the audience to be brought into the story better than ever before.



(BACK ROW: L-R) PRINCIPAL CAST MEMBERS INCLUDED RODOLFO "DANIEL" MARTINEZ AND ABIGAIL TURNER, AND (MIDDLE ROW) MERCEDES FOSTER, EVAN JACKSON, CAROLINE DAWSON, JACK EXLINE, AND KATARINA HUDOCK, (FRONT ROW) VICTOR WILLIAMS, OLIVIA SCULLION, NOAH MOSKALA, LOGAN KRUSHINSKI, MAGGIE ALLWEIN, PATRICIA HOLMES, AND JACOB ROMEO.



PRHS STUDENTS PERFORM THE DISNEY STAGE ADAPTATION OF *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL*.



PRHS CAST MEMBERS PERFORM A SUCCESSFUL VIDEO STREAMING PRODUCTION OF *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL*.



SENIOR HAILEY RIHN HELPED CREATE A VIDEO VERSION OF THE MUSICAL.



LEFT: PRHS CUSTODIAN JAMES WOLFORD MAKES A GUEST APPEARANCE IN THE *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL* PRODUCTION BY HELPING SHARPAY AS PORTRAYED BY JUNIOR PATRICIA HOLMES.

FAR LEFT: THIS YEAR'S MUSICAL PRODUCTION RELIED HEAVILY ON THE SKILLS OF THE PRODUCTION CREW INCLUDING (BACK ROW: L-R) MAKAYLA ROY, NATHAN COTTRELL, KYLE STEPHENSON, AND HAILEY RIHN; (MIDDLE ROW: L-R) RILEY ALLMAN, CATHERINE MERIGLIANO, MACKENZIE ROY, SAMANTHA KATRUSKA, AND HALLE JACKS; (FRONT ROW: L-R) AND JORDAN BECKER, CARSON KOPP, AND ZACHARY BAIC.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! JR.



STUDENTS ARE SHOWN REHEARSING A SCENE FROM SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK LIVE! JR.

The Pine-Richland Middle School Drama Club hit the books with student cast members teaching history, grammar, and math through clever and tuneful songs in their production of *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.*, which aired via video through an on-demand stream May 21 - June 9, 2021. Pine-Richland Middle School was able to transition an entire musical from the stage to a streaming video production under the direction of director William Clack and producer Mary Lynn Dugan. The staff and students devised a multi-step shooting schedule and transformed the high school stage into one of the Pittsburgh region's largest chroma key studios. Some cast members were virtual and performed on green screens at home. The production was then stitched together. To see the entire cast and crew, visit [www.pinerichland.org/msmusical](http://www.pinerichland.org/msmusical).

RIGHT: STUDENTS REHEARSE SCENES.



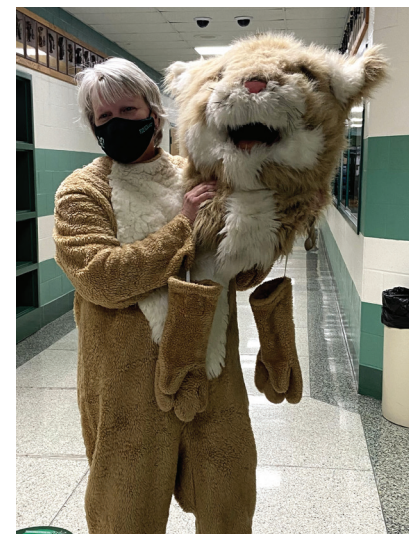
FAR RIGHT: STUDENTS INCORPORATE SOME HIGH JUMPS IN FRONT OF A CHROMA KEY SCREEN.



PROUDLY, 243 MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THE PRHS MARCHING BAND DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY

Junior Ayla Chandola was named winner of the 2021 Congressional Art Competition for Pennsylvania's 17th District hosted by Representative Conor Lamb for her computer generated and mixed media artwork "Nature's Power," produced under the direction of teacher Ramon Riley. Her work will be showcased in Washington, D.C.



FROM TIME TO TIME, ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF MEMBERS MAKE APPEARANCES IN MUSICALS. THIS YEAR, PRINCIPAL NANCY BOWMAN WAS A MASCOT IN DISNEY'S STAGE ADAPTATION OF HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL.

## Career Education

Five Pine-Richland High School students earned induction into the National Technical Honor Society for 2020-21. Congratulations to seniors Joseph Paluselli, Edward Walter, Brianna Vattimo-Williamson, Matthew Wojnar, and junior Seth Sudac who were enrolled in the A.W. Beattie Career Center. A.W. Beattie Career Center named PRHS seniors Brett Jones and Brianna Vattimo-Williamson; junior Jacob Mahafkey; sophomores Mara Hopf, Austin Kruljac, Sean Snyder, Jeffrey Tourney, and Kyriaki Tziouvannis as Students of the Month for 2021.



**SOPHOMORE JEFFREY TOURNEY IS SHOWN HERE WORKING ON A PROJECT AT A.W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER.**

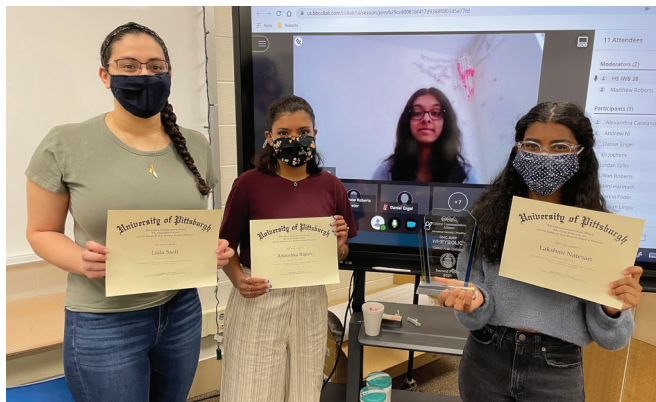
Sophomore Jeffrey Tourney won a gold medal for his HVAC Chapter Display at the SkillsUSA State Competition. Jeffrey then went on to compete in the 2021 SkillsUSA National competition, where he earned a bronze medal. He, along with two other students from Beattie Career Center, competed against students from across the country.

SkillsUSA is a collection of students, teachers, and industry professionals working together to promote a skilled workforce in America. This nonprofit organization aims to help students excel at their respective career paths in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations.



**JUNIOR GRAYDON SHERRON HELPS A TEAM EARN FIRST NATIONALLY IN A NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION.**

A.W. Beattie's four-person Carpentry and Building Construction team earned the national championship in the National Association of Home Builders Residential Construction Management Competition. The team was made up of four juniors at area schools including Pine-Richland High School junior Graydon Sherron. This is the first A.W. Beattie team to take home first place nationally in the competition after the career center's previous three teams placed fourth in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Graydon plans to attend Pennsylvania Technical College for Construction Management.



**(L-R) SENIORS LAILA SAAH, ANOUSHKA RAJEEV, MALINI HARINATH (VIRTUALLY), AND LAKSHMI NATESAN PLACED SECOND IN AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MARKETING COMPETITION (NOT SHOWN: JUNIOR MILES BROWN).**

Five Pine-Richland High School students placed second in an International Business Marketing Competition. The Cultural Communications Alliance, along with GNC, sponsored this year's competition. The task was to market GNC's Wheyabolic product to the United Arab Emirates. Judges were GNC executives and University of Pittsburgh business professors. Students who competed must be enrolled in a world language class. The PRHS team included junior Miles Brown and seniors Anoushka Rajeev, Lakshmi Natesan, Laila Saah, and Malini Harinath. Teachers Kristin Hough and Dawn Herbst served as sponsors.



Pine-Richland High School senior Alexandria Catalano earned second place in the National Women in Construction (NWIC) Regional Design Drafting Competition. Alexandria earned a cash prize of \$800 from the NWIC and PJ Dick, both sponsors of the competition. Runners-up Megan Bujalski and Alexander Jacobs, both seniors, earned \$300 each through the same sponsors. The students participated under the direction of teacher Jeff Maple.

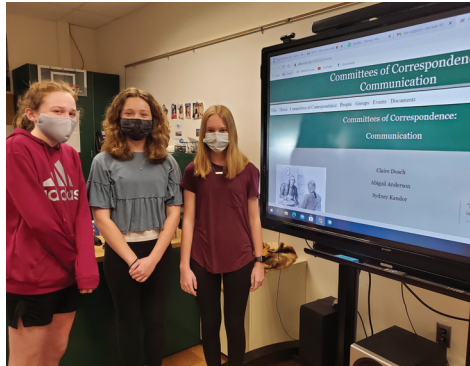
**(L-R) SENIORS ALEXANDER JACOBS (RUNNER UP), ALEXANDRIA CATALANO (2ND PLACE), AND MEGAN BUJALSKI (RUNNER UP) EARNED NATIONAL DRAFTING AWARDS.**

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## History, Foreign Language & Geography



(L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS SEAN BURK, WILLIAM TAMBURRI, AND ALLEN CHEN EARNED SECOND PLACE IN THE JUNIOR GROUP DOCUMENTARY IN THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PITTSBURGH COMPETITION.



(L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS SYDNEY KANDOR, CLAIRE DOSCH, AND ABIGAIL ANDERSON EARNED SECOND PLACE IN THE JUNIOR GROUP WEBSITE CATEGORY AT THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PITTSBURGH COMPETITION.



(L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS SANIKA DALVI AND AVA SPAGNOLLI EARNED FIRST PLACE IN THE JUNIOR GROUP EXHIBIT IN THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PITTSBURGH COMPETITION.



SENIOR MICHAEL ALLESSI



SENIOR ANTHONY HARTWICK



SENIOR JOSHUA REMBE



SENIOR VICTOR WILLIAMS



SOPHOMORE ELLA GIESECKE



SOPHOMORE KATHERINE YANNI

Hundreds of students throughout the region participated in the annual National History Day competition. Eight students from Pine-Richland Middle School and six from Pine-Richland High School placed at the regional competition, which was held virtually. Eighth-graders Sanika Dalvi and Ava Spagnolli earned first place in the junior group exhibit with their project entitled "Letters of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson." Eighth-graders Abigail Anderson, Claire Dosch, and Sydney Kandor earned second place in the junior group website category with their entry entitled "Committees of Correspondence: Communication." Eighth-graders Sean Burk, Allen Chen, and William Tamburri earned second place in the junior group documentary for their entry entitled "Communication in the Culper Spy Ring." All eight competed in the state competition May 7-10, 2021, under the direction of teachers Joseph Bailey and Keith Rentler. At the high school level, seniors Michael Alessi, Anthony Hartwick, Joshua Rembe, and Victor Williams earned first place in the senior group performance category for their project "It's 'Common Sense': How Communication Shapes Understanding." They moved on to the state competition under the direction of teacher Jason Goldsmith. Also, sophomores Ella Giesecke and Katherine Yanni earned third place in the senior group website category for their project entitled "Communication to the Government: Women's Rights Marches," under the direction of teacher Tim Ervin. GATE Coordinator and Social Studies teacher Cyndi Poole also oversaw participation.

Eighth-grader Ian Bowen and eleventh-grader Hwancun Ngarukiye earned gold medals for their performance on the National French Exam. Eleventh-graders Audrey DeKunder and Laura Krill both earned silver medals. Eighth-graders Eliza Lazzaro and Easson Molnar; ninth-grader Chloe Chiang; eleventh-graders Matthew Farmer and senior Jessica Czerski



(L-R) PINE-RICHLAND EIGHTH-GRADERS EASSON MOLNAR, IAN BOWEN, AND ELIZA LAZARRO EARN AWARDS ON THE NATIONAL FRENCH EXAM.

received honorable mentions for their scores and are ranked among other top students in the region and States. The students took the exam under the direction of teacher Dawn Herbst.

Several high school Spanish III students received silver medals in the Level 3 National Spanish Exam. They include junior Allison Andrews and sophomores Catrina Knox and Colin Zvejnieks. The students scored higher than 87% of the rest of the students in the United States. Junior Dalma Roman and sophomores Ella Giesecke, Kayla Karmanos, Charlotte Sander, and John Varghese all received honorable mention scores, which means that they scored above 50% of the rest of the students in the United States who took the exam. Students took the exam under the direction of Spanish teacher Kristen Hough. In total, roughly 55,000 students from all over the United States completed this exam in 2021.



(L-R) JOHN VARGHESE, DALMA ROMAN AND ELLA GIESECKE EARN RECOGNITION IN THE NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM.



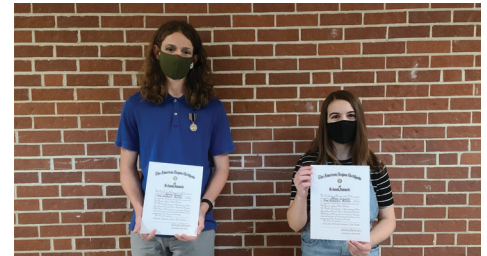
## Leadership

Pine-Richland Middle School presented eighth-grade awards to several students on June 2, 2021. Six students received the Pittsburgh Foundation award, which is an award funded by the Elva K. Williams Memorial Fund. These students were chosen for their kindness and consideration toward others. The winners included eighth-graders Elizabeth Brough, Heath Cwynar, Nadia Hines, Claire Dosch, Kendall Kirkland, and Michael Tunder. In addition, eighth-graders Eliza Lazzaro and Andrew Stewart earned the American Legion Leadership Award. This award is awarded to only two students in the eighth grade who demonstrate honor, courage, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service. The students each earned a medal and a certificate.



(L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS CLAIRE DOSCH, KENDALL KIRKLAND, HEATH CWYNAR, MICHAEL TUNDER, NADIA HINES, AND ELIZABETH BROUGH EARNED PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION AWARDS.

RIGHT: (L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS ANDREW STEWART AND ELIZA LAZZARO EARNED AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP AWARDS.



SENIOR CHARLOTTE MENKE



SENIOR KATRINA SCHWAB



SENIOR JOSHUA REMBE



JUNIOR NATHAN COTTRELL

PRHS senior Charlotte Menke was named a 2021 Girl Scout Humanitarian for creating a project that was exceptional in terms of sustainability and promoting the welfare of others. Charlotte earned this Girl Scout Gold Award for her Suicide Prevention & Mental Health: High School/Middle School Mentoring program. She demonstrated extraordinary leadership through her sustainable and measurable "Take Action" project. Through her work, she helped pair high school mentors with middle school students to create a support network. Only two seniors from all of the school districts in Allegheny County earned awards from Girls Scouts of Western Pennsylvania.

Additionally, senior Katrina Schwab won a Girl Scout of Distinction Honorable Mention for her Nest Box for Wood Ducks project. For her gold project, Katrina teamed up with the Latodami Nature Center of North Park to build habitats for wood ducks. She was tasked with instructing participants how to build wood duck boxes as well as



SENIOR JOSHUA REMBE HELPED TO ENCLOSE A ROOF ON THE OUTSIDE LEARNING CENTER AT HANCE ELEMENTARY.

educating all participants on the benefits that the boxes bring to wood ducks.

Senior Joshua Rembe also worked on the Rank of Eagle. He worked to enclose the roof of the outside learning area at Hance Elementary School to provide a shaded pavilion. In addition, junior Nathan Cottrell earned his Eagle Scout Award by building an e-Library for the patients at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. The library is complete with e-readers and e-books, which can be easily sanitized. Both the Eagle Scout and Gold Awards are the highest honors achieved through the Boys and Girls Scouts.

*The district is not automatically notified of high-ranking scout awards. To notify the district of scouting honors, email [rhathorn@pinerichland.org](mailto:rhathorn@pinerichland.org) to be placed on our PRSD Annual Report website at [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras).*



JUNIOR NORAH CARTER

Pine-Richland High School junior Norah Carter was selected to the Pennsylvania 4-H State Council, the highest level of youth leadership within the 4-H organization. Norah is the first youth ever selected from Allegheny County. She will serve as vice president of operations. Council members serve as role models in teaching their peers and younger members about leadership. Nora has participated in 4-H for nine years and earned the Gold Clover Award in 2019. She is currently working on the highest-level award, the Diamond Clover Service Award, and is expected to earn it in January of 2022.



JUNIOR HALEY KATZFEY

PR junior Haley Katzfey was named one of the TRIB Total Media's 2021 Elite Top 100 Outstanding Young Citizens. The TRIB awards this prestigious title to 100 junior or senior high school students who show exemplary character and leadership, goes above and beyond within the community, and excels in the classroom. Haley was also named a Top 10 medalist. In the community, Haley has been a leader at the Soles4Souls Shoe Drive, a youth ministry teacher and aide, a teen Leadership Project high school leader, and has volunteered for six mission trips.

## LEADERSHIP CONTINUED



**FOURTH-GRADER COOPER NINDL EARNS HONORARY POLICE OFFICER STATUS.**

On Monday, January 25, 2021, Northern Regional Police Department (NRPD) made fourth-grader Cooper Nindl, who has been undergoing cancer treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, an honorary police officer. Chief John Sicilia and NRPD police officers say Cooper is the first individual to be named an honorary police officer for their department. They heard about his battle and how tough and brave he is so it was only fitting that he was named an honorary officer. Cooper took the oath and was named an honorary officer. Officers gave the fourth-grader a real badge, five police Lego sets, and a Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski signed football. In addition to all the members of the police department, Cooper's family and friends, Superintendent Brian R. Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Kristen Justus, and Eden Hall Principal Steven Smith were on hand to capture the moment and show their support.



The Pine-Richland/Mars High School AF-JROTC earned top awards at the Parkersburg South Drill Meet in West Virginia on April 24, 2021. This was the only in-person drill meet for the PRHS/Mars cadets for this year. Chief Michael Gasparetto and Major Michael Morrison, who oversee the program, said they were extremely proud of the cadets. Results included:

- > 1st Place - Overall (The cadets' number one goal.)
- > 1st Place - JV Unarmed Drill Team commanded by sophomore cadet Emma Terpstra
- > 1st Place - JV Armed Drill Team commanded by sophomore cadet Logan Kusar
- > 1st Place - Varsity Unarmed Drill Team commanded by junior cadet Caitlin Howard
- > 1st Place - Uniform Inspection Team commanded by senior cadet Madison Howard
- > 2nd Place - Varsity Armed Drill Team commanded by senior cadet Madison Howard
- > 3rd Place - JV Color Guard commanded by sophomore cadet Logan Kusar

## Performance



**SIXTH-GRADER SIENA SMITH**

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth-grader Siena Smith placed in the top five in the state for the National American Miss Pageant. When the Pennsylvania State Pageant was canceled due to the pandemic, Siena had the option to wait until the following year or adapt to the event online. Siena competed virtually in September of 2020 by showcasing her talents with an interview, a resume, a personal introduction, and an essay describing her goals and accomplishments. Siena earned City Queen/Miss Pittsburgh title in her pre-teen division.

Fifth-grader Lola Schlafhauser was crowned Miss Pennsylvania Preteen on March 6, 2021, in Harrisburg. Lola competed in an interview process, community service project, and an on-stage introduction. Lola scored very well and received high praise from all of the judges, but most remarkably, won overall highest scoring on stage introduction for the entire pageant. Lola says that her teacher Kris Scheller is her hero and deserves a lot of praise for helping her reach this achievement. Lola's platform includes The Mary Claire Foundation. Lola also enjoys helping local food banks, animal shelters, and retirement communities.



**FIFTH-GRADER LOLA SCHLAFHAUSER**

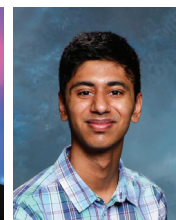
## Science & Technology

Pine-Richland High School junior Andrew Ni placed second in the biomedical and health science division of the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and first at the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) in biology for his immunotherapy project. He is the first student from Pine-Richland to place second in the international program. Andrew's award-winning immunotherapy project is an analysis of deep single-cell RNA sequencing of 11,022 T cells using unsupervised clustering and dimension reduction, trajectory, clonotype, and survival analysis found a new anti-tumor mechanism of Interleukin-33 that took advantage of the human immune system to kill cancer potentially increasing the average survival of melanoma patients' lives by 9.9 years. Andrew is researching a treatment that can help combat cancer. During the 2019-2020 academic year, Andrew was also named an ISEF Finalist for his Alzheimer's Disease Project.

Junior Amish Sethi also earned third place PRSEF in the senior medicine/health/microbiology division for his project entitled "Generation of Novel Drug Molecules with Specific Protein Targets Through a Graph Network and Custom Conditional Variational Autoencoder."



**JUNIOR ANDREW NI**

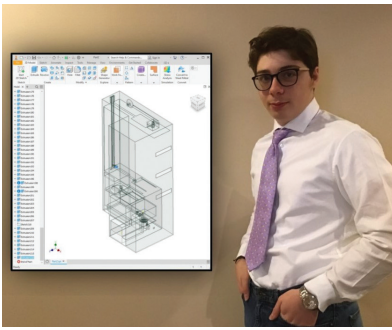


**JUNIOR AMISH SETHI**



**SOPHOMORE BREANNA FRANCHAK**

For that project, he earned sponsor awards from the Carnegie Mellon University Chapter of Sigma Xi and Mu Alpha Theta. Sophomore Breanna Franchak earned a sponsor award from the Allegheny County Medical Society Alliance for her project entitled "A Multi-Variable County Analysis for the Markers of Higher COVID-19 Case Rates in Pennsylvania."



**EIGHTH-GRADER ARIS KRALIOS PLACES SECOND IN THE ENGINEERING AND ROBOTICS CATEGORY.**



**(L-R) EIGHTH-GRADER SANIKA DALVI AND SEVENTH-GRADER ANUKTA ASHOK PLACED THIRD FOR THEIR APP THAT TRACKS STUDENT SNACK INTAKE CALLED "CELEBYTES."**



**(L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS MICHAEL TUNDER, NATHAN LEE, AND ALLEN CHEN FINISH A PROJECT ENTITLED "HOW COVID AFFECTED POLLUTION."**

From PRMS, eighth-grader Sanika Dalvi and seventh-grader Anukta Ashok placed third in the computer science category in the intermediate division for their group project entitled "CeleBytes." The two created an app that tracks a student's snack intake and motivates the user to make healthier choices. The app collects nutritional information and food labels, which helps calculate and track any weight gain or loss for each snack item being consumed. In the intermediate engineering/robotics category, eighth-grader Aris Kralios placed second for a segmented project entitled "Project Pebble." The project involved developing a plan designed to create an affordable, convenient machine that is capable of preparing a meal. The first portion of the project involves the completion of project references including designs, 3D models, recipes, and conditional algorithms, so that all necessary information is available during the second stage, assembling the machine as conveniently as possible. The U.S. Agency

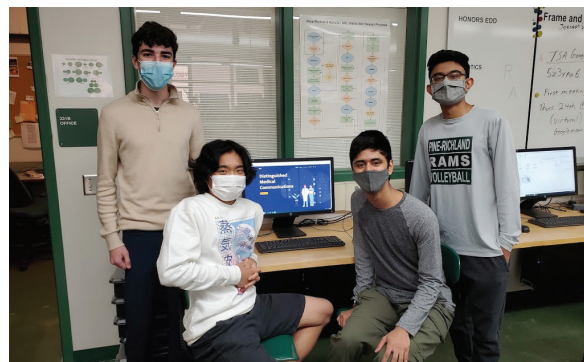
of International Development sponsors this award. Anukta, Aris, and Sanika were among the top 10% of the winners and have been nominated to apply for the Broadcom MASTERS, the nation's premier science and engineering competition for middle school students. Also, eighth-graders Allen Chen, Nathan Lee, and Michael Tunder completed a project entitled "How COVID Affected Pollution." While the team did not win an award, the project is very worthy of mention as the team focused on a relevant topic. The eighth-graders studied how the global pandemic helped the earth, rather than focusing on the negative effects of the virus. For example, they researched the lack of air travel that led to another decrease in carbon emissions with aircrafts being a large producer of carbon emissions in the travel industry. With the new virtual format, students were able to enjoy additional programming and interviews with STEM professionals.



A Pine-Richland High School Team placed third at a regional Battle Bots competition. Seniors Alec Conti, Dylan Serafini, Thomas Beam, Thanh Bui, Bhavesh Kaloya, and Joseph Woodrow built their battle bot under the guidance of teacher Evan Clark in the advanced robotics class offered at the high school. The students competed against other teams of students from other high schools in Western PA. Battle Bots is a competition where teams of students compete against each other using a robot that they designed, manufactured, and assembled beforehand.

**(L-R) JOSEPH WOODROW, DYLAN SERAFINI, ALEC CONTI, AND THANH BUI (NOT PICTURED: THOMAS BEAM AND BHAVESH KALOYA) PLACED THIRD AT A REGIONAL BATTLE BOTS COMPETITION.**

Two Pine-Richland High School teams earned awards at the Technology Student Association State Competition under the direction of teacher Evan Clark. Juniors John Brown, Nicholas Labuda, Jeffrey Ock, Amish Sethi, and Justin Puthenpurayil earned second place for website design and seventh place for their video game design. The team competed at regionals earning first for website design and second for video game design. The students created a website for medical conditions.



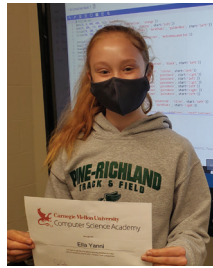
**(L-R) JUNIORS NICHOLAS LABUDA, JEFFREY OCK, AMISH SETHI, AND JUSTIN PUTHENPURAYIL EARN SECOND PLACE AT THE REGIONAL COMPETITION FOR THEIR WEBSITE DESIGN.**

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**SOPHOMORE  
SREYASHI MONDAL**

PRHS sophomore Sreyashi Mondal received a "Certificate of Excellence Sponsor Award" (Allegheny County Medical Society Alliance) at the Carnegie Science Center's Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair on March 24, 2021. Her project was entitled "A Multi-variable County Analysis for the Markers of Higher Covid-19 Case Rates in Pennsylvania."



**SEVENTH-GRADER ELLA YANNI**

Seventh-grader Ella Yanni earned third place in her Creative Task in the CSzero (CS0) CODE and STEM course that she has been involved in this school year. This is a 40-hour CODE and STEM course using Python. PRMS GATE Teacher Cecelia Kelly helps oversee participation in the program that is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Technical College and Carnegie Mellon University.



**(L-R) SOPHOMORES OWEN ANDERSON AND LUKE KASTNER ARE SHOWN HERE AS THEY COMPETED IN 2020. THE DUO EARNED AWARDS AT THE 2021 FIRST TECH CHALLENGE ROBOTICS PA TOURNAMENT.**

Two students earned an award at the 2020-21 FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Pennsylvania State Tournament on May 22, 2021. Sophomores Luke Kastner and Owen Anderson were part of the Mars Robotics Association team, which is a community-based association with students from eight different school districts across Western Pennsylvania. The team earned the Motivate Award (1st Place) and Connect Award (2nd Place). The Motivate Award is awarded to the team that best shows what it means to be a team and best shows the values of FIRST. The Connect Award is awarded to teams that best connect with their local science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) community.



**EIGHTH-GRADER PRISHA  
DARGAN**

Eighth-grader Prisha Dargan will participate in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League (FLL) World Festival Competition in August. Prisha's team, entitled NextGen Robotics, earned the first-place Director's Award at the 2021 FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Western Pennsylvania Championship virtually on February 21. Prisha said the team, which is made up of students from local schools, logged on virtually and operated the robot while judges watched via a video call. In all, there were 14 different missions that the team had to have the robot attempt. The team is headed to the World Festival in Detroit, MI, where team members will compete against the best teams from Europe and Asia. Students have dedicated more than 300 hours since June 2020 to build and program an autonomous robot to solve 14 missions in 2.5 minutes; design and create a prototype, modular, low-cost weight training system using professional CAD software and 3-D printers; and teach robotics and coding to local and international children.



**CARTER CATO**



**ALEXANDRIA KISOW**



**PATRICK DEMITRAS**

Students in the Pine-Richland High School Advanced Video and TV Production classes earned awards in the Digital Media Arts Consortium's Student Competition on May 6, 2021. PRHS winners included:

- > **Award of Excellence in Special Effects:** Junior James Delie
- > **Best in Category for Video As Art:** Juniors Carter Cato and Patrick Demitras.
- > **Award of Excellence in Digital Cinema:** Senior Bayli Clack
- > **Founders Award & Award of Excellence in Documentary:** Senior Alexandria Kisow
- > **Best in Category in Live Event:** PRTV Club



**SARAH HECKMAN**



**JOSHUA HORAN**

Six awards were given out in the 2021 Rammy Awards, which showcases and honors Pine-Richland School District's best staff, resident, and alumni filmmakers. This year's winners included:

- > **Best Cinematography, Best Directing (PRHS Division), Best Editing (PRHS Division), & Best In Show:** Senior Bayli Clack
- > **Best Editing (K-8 Division):** Richland Elementary Second-Grader Emma Dudkowski
- > **Best Directing (K-8 Division):** Richland Elementary Second-Grader Rowan Normandeau
- > **Best Acting:** Seniors Sarah Heckman & Joshua Horan
- > **Audience Choice:** Senior Alexandria Kisow

Engineering and technology teacher Aaron Koehler, PRTV Club sponsor, helps oversee student participation of the DMAC and Rammy award programs with assistance from PRTV Club advisors Steve Karpinski and William Clack.

Students from Pine-Richland earned a chance to participate in the World Odyssey of the Mind Competition in Orlando, FL, on June 11, 2021. The eighth-grade/ninth-grade team, made up of PRHS ninth-grade students Nicolai Ezolt, Avyukta Nagrath, Luke Ridgeway, and Connor Foote, and middle school eighth-grader Prisha Dargan, earned second place at the PA State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. The problem that they had to solve was called "OMer to the Rescue." They were tasked with making a vehicle that



PRMS STUDENTS KIMAYA MATAI, LUCA BOUDREAU, SOFIA DENT, DOMINIC DENT, NOAH EZOLT, AND SIDNEY RICE EARN FIRST PLACE AT THE STATE ODYSSEY OF THE MIND COMPETITION.

traveled without the use of human power, without the use of batteries, and that could travel both forward and backward. The second team earned first place at the state competition. The team is made up of Eden Hall Upper Elementary School sixth-graders Dominic Dent, Sofia Dent, Noah Ezolt, and Pine-Richland Middle School seventh-grader Kimaya Matai. PA Cyber School sixth-grader Luca Boudreau is also a team member. The problem they had to solve was called "OMer and the Beanstalk". Both teams are participating in the world competition. The students were coached by parent and non-profit STEAM Studio Owner Sarah Ezolt.

The Pine-Richland Middle School Team also advanced to the PA State Final Competition under the direction of PRMS GATE teacher Kathy Deal and parent coach Kristin Barcaskey. The PA Western Regional Competition was on March 6, 2021. The team finished in first place in their division for the spontaneous problem category. Seventh-grade team members included Conor Barcaskey, Aaron Farrar, Carlton Fogliani, Mateen Hasan, Logan Keegan, and Joel Neuhart.



(L-R) SEVENTH-GRADERS AARON FARRAR, CONOR BARCASKEY, LOGAN KEEGAN, CARLTON FOGLIANI, MATEEN HASAN, AND JOEL NEUHART ADVANCE TO THE PA STATE FINAL ODYSSEY OF THE MIND COMPETITION.



(L-R) LUKE RIDGWAY, PRISHA DARGAN, AVYUKTA NAGRATH, CONNOR FOOTE, AND NICOLAI EZOLT EARNED SECOND PLACE AT THE STATE ODYSSEY OF THE MIND COMPETITION.

### Submit Student Accomplishments

The district is not always aware of student accomplishments. If you feel that we missed an important national or state recognition, please email [rhathhorn@pinerichland.org](mailto:rhathhorn@pinerichland.org) with the details.

### Annual Report Extras

Visit [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras) for additional topics that missed the production deadline for the 2021 PRSD Annual Report.

Speech & Writing



THIRD-GRADER RIYA JHAMB

Wexford Elementary School third-grader Riya Jhamb is now a published author. The third-grader published a book entitled *Magic Alliances: Three Days Dark Magic* on Amazon. The paperback chronicles two friends and their quest to save the fairy queen Salamerine from the evil trolls.

The third-grader loves reading and is inspired by the books she reads. Her true motivation to write started with the story writing assignments given by her third-grade teacher Patricia Perine. She is currently working on her next book which is another exciting mystery adventure.



SENIOR MICHAEL ALLESSI



SENIOR JOSHUA PAZIN



SENIOR CHARLES RUDOLPH

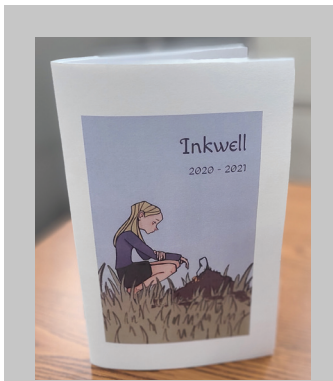


SENIOR VICTOR WILLIAMS



JUNIOR MILES BROWN

Seniors Michael Alessi, Joshua Pazin, Charles Rudolph, and Victor Williams, and junior Miles Brown were selected to compete among the "Top 64" teams in the 2020-21 International Public Policy Forum, under the direction of teacher Jeff Byko. This is the first and only contest that gives high school students around the world the opportunity to engage in written and oral debates on issues of public policy. This year's qualifying round involved submissions from more than 180 teams, representing schools in 18 countries and 25 U.S. states. Teams competed in single-elimination rounds regarding the topic: "Resolved: The benefits of artificial intelligence outweigh the harms."



2021 INKWELL LITERARY MAGAZINE

High School students successfully created the 2021 *Inkwell Literary Magazine*, which is a collection of poems, short stories, journals, and photos. Inkwell is Pine-Richland High School's annual literary magazine publication. Students in the Inkwell club promote, rate, select, and edit writing and photography submissions. High school English teacher Jessica Walker serves as the sponsor for Inkwell. Senior Jillian Kratz was the editor for this year's publication, while junior Rylee Schwierking served as junior editor.



JUNIOR ANDREW NI



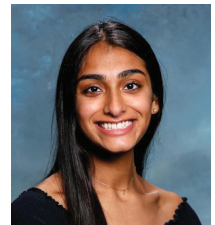
JUNIOR AMISH SETHI



SENIOR CATHERINE LEE



SOPHOMORE SREYASHI MONDAL



SOPHOMORE KESAR SAMPAT

The Pine-Richland Forensics Team won the state championship for medium-sized schools at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League's virtual state championship tournament under the direction of teacher Jeff Byko. The team also took the second-place award in debate. Individually, junior Miles Brown won the overall state championship in extemporaneous speaking. Juniors Andrew Ni and Amish Sethi earned second place in the state in public forum debate, and senior Catherine Lee earned second in the prose competition. Sophomore Sreyashi Mondal took third place in the state in persuasive speaking, and sophomore Kesar Sampat earned fourth in the state in informative speaking. Also earning awards for making it to semifinal rounds were senior Anoushka Rajeev in impromptu speaking and sophomore Korey Moore in commentary. Earning awards for making the

quarter final rounds in debate were seniors Drew Holm and Samuel Stella in public forum debate and senior Rebecca Peng in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Seniors Laila Saah and Rori Holm also placed tenth in the Public Forum Debate, while senior Tanya Babbar placed eleventh in poetry. In all, out of the team's 15 entries in the state tournament, 10 moved on to earn awards.

Members of the PRHS Debate Team placed in the top eight in the nation at the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) virtual tournament under the direction of teacher Jeff Byko. Juniors Amish Sethi and Andrew Ni made it to the quarterfinals of the NCFL's national tournament in Public Forum Debate. Junior Miles Brown also made it to the first elimination round in Extemporaneous Speaking, while Senior Shiv Chanan competed in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.



(L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS TAYLOR WAECKERLE, JUNE MCCUNE, AND PARKER SCOTT PUBLISH WORK.

Students were challenged in Teacher Jason Pucey's classroom to write letters to published poets as part of the "Dear Poet" project, sponsored by the Academy of American Poets this past spring. Recently, the academy announced that eighth-graders June McCune, Parker Scott, and Taylor Waeckerle were chosen to have their letters published.

# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Baseball

The Pine-Richland High School Boys Varsity Baseball Team finished the season with a 6-8 record. Senior Sean Connolly was named to the WPIAL All-Section Class 6A Section 1 First Team; senior Brian Komaromy to the WPIAL All-Section Class 6A Section 1 Second Team; and seniors Chase Vrabel, Joseph Woodrow, and Tanner Singh, junior Tyler Armstrong, and sophomore Jacob McGuire earned honorable mentions. Several seniors signed to play baseball in college including Thomas Beam (West Virginia University), Kyle Kimoto (University of Pittsburgh-Bradford Campus), Kyle Lenhart (Florida Institute of Technology), Gabriel Mustovic (West Virginia Wesleyan College), Chase Vrabel (Wilkes University), and Joseph Woodrow (Juniata College).



PRHS BASEBALL FINISHES THE SEASON 6-8.

PHOTO BY GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY.

## Basketball



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PRHS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM COMPETES IN THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

The Pine-Richland High School Boys Basketball Team made it to the WPIAL Final Championship Game but was stopped by Upper St. Clair on Friday, March 12, 2021, with a final score of 53-56. Senior Joseph Petcash and junior Luke Shanahan were selected to the WPIAL All-Section Class 6A Section 1 First Team. Junior Joseph Dudkowski was named to the WPIAL All-Section Class 6A Section 1 Second Team. Junior Andrew Alexander earned an honorable mention.

## ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Pine-Richland High School Girls Basketball Team played in the second round of WPIALs at Upper St. Clair on March 5, 2021. Upper St. Clair defeated PR with a final score of 39-63. Sophomore Kaili Doctor was named to the WPIAL All-Section Class 6A Section 1 Team.

**THE PRHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM COMPETES IN THE SECOND ROUND OF WPIALS.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Cheerleading

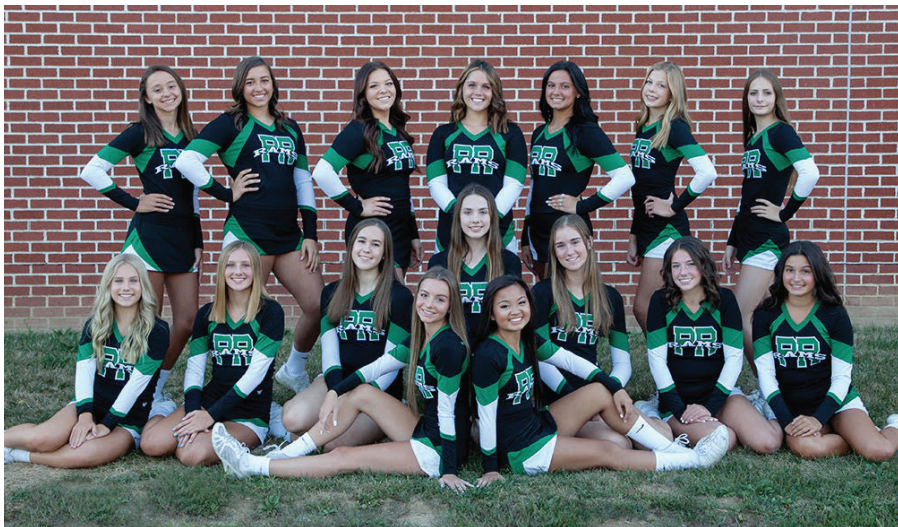


PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTRAITS BY SHARON

The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Cheerleading Competition Team had their first virtual competition of the season on January 16, 2021, under the direction of new head coach Travis Troya. Through this virtual competition, which served as the regional qualifier for UCA Nationals, the team qualified for the national competition. The team earned 12th overall at WPIALs on March 13, 2021. They placed seventh in the small varsity division category.

**PRHS GIRLS COMPETITION TEAM QUALIFIES FOR NATIONALS.**

The team also placed 13th at the Universal Cheerleaders Association National Competition, Division 1 Virtual. Team members include 12th-graders Lucille Koebnick and Taylor McWhirter; 11th-graders Abigail DeWick, Amanda Marburger, Carly Newport, Sarah Vigna; 10th-graders Emily Campbell, Lucy Kimmel, Sonja Stugart; and 9th-graders Brynn Cassidy, Kate Chrystal, Nina Didiano, Sophia Gierl, Chloe Montani, Ava Spacciapolli, and Lauren Wood. Senior Lucille Koebnick signed to cheer at the University of Central Florida, and senior Katrina Schwab will cheer at Davenport University.

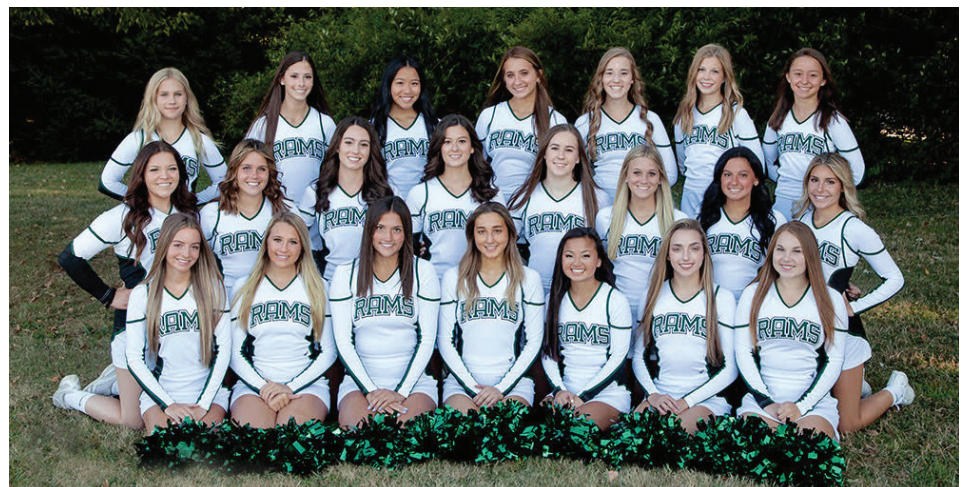


PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTRAITS BY SHARON

**MEMBERS OF THE PRHS SIDELINE CHEERLEADING SQUAD PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING FOOTBALL GAMES.**



## Crew



THE PR CREW TEAM PARTICIPATES IN ROWING COMPETITIONS.

The Pine-Richland Crew Team competed at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship on Dillon Lake in Ohio on May 8-9, 2021. The PR team finished with a bronze medal in the Novice 4+ category. Seniors Ethan Yoon and Alexandria Catalano; sophomore Jordan Arthur; and freshman Benjamin Pickels and Liam Francis were part of that team. The PR women's team that competed in the Junior 4+ event received a silver medal after the first round. PRHS senior Mira DeLisio; juniors Andi Harper, Sara Welsh, Jillian Bish; and sophomore Megan Finney were part of that team. All three boats also won the gold medal in their categories at the Pittsburgh Scholastic Sprints City Championship. The crew team also won nine medals at the Mercyhurst Prep Invitational Regatta in Erie, PA on May 15-16, 2021. At the competition, the Women's Varsity Doubles won bronze and

gold medals. The Women's Varsity 4+ won a gold medal. The Men's Novice 4+ boat won a silver medal. The Men's Varsity 4+ boat won a bronze and a gold medal. The Women's Novice 4+ boat brought home a bronze medal. The Women's Junior Varsity 4+ boat won a gold medal. The Men's varsity 8+ also won a gold medal. Senior coxswain Alexandria Catalano will serve as coxswain for the Duquesne University Women's Rowing Team this fall. Senior Shana Peck will row for Lafayette College.

PR Crew had a very successful regatta in Erie. The PR Crew boats brought home nine medals. Congrats to Women's Varsity Doubles with Bronze and Gold medals, Women's Varsity 4+ Gold medal, Men's Novice 4+ Silver, Men's Varsity 4+ Bronze and Gold, Women's Novice 4+ Bronze, Women's Junior Varsity 4+ Gold, and Men's Varsity 8+ Gold.

## Cross Country



PRHS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



PRHS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

The Pine-Richland High School Cross Country Team participated in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championships in Hershey on November 7, 2020. In the girls races, eleventh-grade Meredith Price finished 10th overall, for which she earned a medal. Ninth-grader Angelina Hunkele finished 25th overall. She won a medal as well.

In the boys race, 12th-grader Victor Williams finished 29th overall. All three had the highest finishes at states since 1998 when Pine-Richland moved up to the large AAA classification. The same three athletes competed at WPIALs. At the competition, Meredith Price finished in fourth place, Angelina Hunkele finished in 11th place, and senior Victor Williams finished in 11th place.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Fencing

The Pine-Richland Fencing Team went 100% virtual this year. The team took the opportunity to focus more on strategy and technique, as opposed to the usual conditioning and footwork-focused practices in the gym. Students learned the different targets and parries. They studied the strategy circle, which teaches students possible next actions to implement based on what the opponent is doing. Team members also watched a live feed of NCAA Fencing Championships from Penn State.

## Field Hockey



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

PRHS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM CAPTURES THE WPIAL CLASS 3A FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The PRHS Field Hockey team was undefeated and named AAA Section Champion for the second year in a row. The Rams captured the WPIAL Class 3A Field Hockey Championship Title. This is the Rams' second consecutive WPIAL title and third within the past four years. The team was also named a State All-Academic Team. The team competed in the PIAA semifinals on November 17, 2020, and was stopped by Central Dauphin 0-5. Junior Rylie Wollerton was named Post-Gazette Player of the Year as well as being named WPIAL AAA All-Star player along with seniors Elaina Camino and Ella Rottinghaus. Junior Natalie Loftus and junior Sadie Baratk were named honorable mentions. Players Sadie Baratk, Elaina Camino, Danielle Deer, Fiona Kortyna, Laura Krill, Jordan Landreneau, Edie Lapinski, Natalie Loftus, Rylie Kirby, Grace Merlack, Emma Westerhoff, Rylie Wollerton, and Mary Wymard were named to the State All-Academic Team. Players Sadie Baratk, Elaina Camino, Riley Kirby, Fiona

Kortyna, Laura Krill, Jordan Landreneau, Natalie Loftus, Grace Merlack, and Rylie Wollerton were named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) High School National Academic Squad. Sadie Baratk, Elaina Camino, Riley Kirby, Laura Krill, and Natalie Loftus were also recognized as NFHCA High School Scholar of Distinction. Seniors Elaina Camino and Ella Rottinghaus were named to the NFHCA inaugural High School Impact Senior Team. Junior Fiona Kortyna and sophomore Danielle Deer were also named USA Field Hockey National Indoor Tournament Pool Champions. Rylie Wollerton was selected to compete in the USAFH Next National Championship, a selective Olympic Development program. USA Field Hockey selected her to participate in the Stars and Stripes Game, an elite all-star game, and to attend the Rise Selection Camp. Senior Ella Rottinghaus signed to play field hockey at Boston University.

## Football



PHOTO BY PHOTO STITCHING BY GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PRHS FOOTBALL EARNED THE PIAA CLASS 5A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The Pine-Richland High School Football Team earned the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class 5A Football Championship Title. They beat Erie Cathedral Prep 48-7 at Hersheypark Stadium on November 27, 2020. The Rams finished the season 11-0 earning its second state title in program history. Seniors Spencer King, Harrison Hayes, and Cole Spencer and junior Brooks Eastburn were named to the Northeast Conference First Team Offense. Seniors Miguel Jackson, Luke Miller, Samuel Neill, and Caden Schweiger and juniors Jacob

Domer and Jeremiah Hasley were named to the Northeast Conference First Team Defense with Eric Kasperowicz being named Northeast Conference Coach of the Year. Sophomore Isaiah Kerns, junior Alex Gochis, and seniors Jordan Burns and Anthony Nicassio were named to the Northeast Conference Second Team Offense. Junior Connor Lenz was named to the Northeast Conference Second Team Defense. Seniors John Swisher (Offense), Charles Mills (Defense), and senior Cole Schurman (Defense) earned honorable mentions.

Senior Cole Spencer was named the inaugural recipient of the inaugural Willie Thrower Memorial Award as the top quarterback in Southwestern Pennsylvania for the 2020-21 Football season as voted on by a panel of high school football coaches, sports broadcasters, and sportswriters. He earned the Trib High School Sports Network Athlete of the Year award.

Seniors Harrison Hayes (Liberty University), Miguel Jackson (University of North Carolina Charlotte), Luke Miller (Kent State University), Eli Jochem (Indiana University), Samuel Neill (Duquesne University), Anthony Nicassio (Lock Haven University), Caden Schweiger (Furman University), and Zachary Waryanka (John Carroll University) signed to play college football. Senior Charles Mill signed to play both football and hockey at Elon University.



SENIOR COLE SPENCER EARNS THE INAUGURAL WILLIE THROWER MEMORIAL AWARD.

## Golf



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2020-2021 PRHS BOYS GOLF TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2020-2021 PRHS GIRLS GOLF TEAM

Pine-Richland High School senior Mark Terchick qualified for the WPIAL AAA Boys Individual Golf Finals and placed 29th. Senior Nicholas Piper served as an alternate. Senior Samuel Perry scored a 39 to lead Pine-Richland to a 196-215 Section 3-AAA boys golf win over Butler High School at the Butler Country Club on September 1, 2020. The PRHS Boys Varsity Golf Team placed fourth in the WPIAL Team Semifinals. The team was also named Section Champions for the fourth year in a row by finishing the year with a 13-3 record.

The PRHS Girls Golf Team had a busy season of 11 games and worked on developing the team throughout the 2020-2021 season.

# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Gymnastics

The Pine-Richland High School Gymnastics team competed at WPIALS at Moon Area High School on February 26, 2021, and placed sixth. The team finished the season second in its section. Team members include seniors Madison Abbate, Sydney Jones, and Emily Yowan; juniors Samantha Alexander, Mackenzie Koenig, and Jessica Stella; sophomores Kyleigh Hughes, Avery Kline, Jenna Learish, Ava Romano, Megan Sharp, and Sonja Stugart; and ninth-grader Grace McDermott. Junior Samantha Alexander earned a 2020-2021 Most Positive Athlete in Western PA Award.



2020-2021 PRHS GYMNASTICS TEAM

## Hockey



The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Hockey Team made it to the AAA Penguins Cup Semifinals and was defeated by Mt. Lebanon. Seniors Benjamin Carnovale and Griffin Roth earned 2021 PIHL scholarships. Seniors Dominic Desjardins, Charles Mill, Connor Salsbury, Liam Varnecky and juniors Alex Erlain, Carson Kalpakis, and Esai Morse were named 2021 PIHL All-Stars.

PHOTO COURTESY GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

2020-2021 PRHS VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM



Varsity Hockey players collect and distribute food for the Inspired Hearts and Hands program that benefited those in need in the community.



The Pine-Richland High School Junior Varsity Hockey team won the PIHL Tier 1 Championship on April 21, 2021, beating Peters Township with a score of 3-2. Goals were scored by junior Michael Mengine and sophomores Daniel Muldoon and Haden Snyder.

THE PRHS JV HOCKEY TEAM EARNED THE PIHL TIER 1 CHAMPIONSHIP.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PRHS VARSITY INLINE HOCKEY TEAM EARNS A SILVER MEDAL IN THE TIER I VARSITY DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ROLLER HOCKEY LEAGUE.

The PRHS Varsity Inline Hockey Team earned a silver medal in the Tier I Varsity Division of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Roller Hockey League. This is the third year in a row that the PRHS Varsity Men's Hockey Team competed in the championship.



THE PRMS INLINE TEAM EARNS A SILVER MEDAL VARSITY DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ROLLER HOCKEY LEAGUE.

The middle school team earned a medal in the Tier 2 Middle School division of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Roller Hockey League.

## Skating



PRHS SENIOR VICTOR WILLIAMS, SHOWN HERE WITH HIS SISTER CAROLYN, A JUNIOR, EARNS RECOGNITION FROM U.S. FIGURE SKATING.

Pine-Richland senior Victor Williams was awarded the Gold Level Graduating Seniors Award from the U.S. Figure Skating 2021 Graduating Seniors Program. The U.S. Figure Skating Graduating Seniors Award recognizes the hard work of student-athletes who have participated in figure skating throughout high school; awards are given at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze level based on a skater's level of competitive achievement in high school. Selection for this award speaks to a skater's continued commitment to succeeding in their athletic and academic endeavors.

# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Lacrosse

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY



THE PRHS BOYS LACROSSE TEAM PLAYS IN THE WPIALS.

The Pine-Richland Boys Lacrosse finished 6-4 this season and was stopped in the second round of the WPIAL playoffs. Senior Owen Martin will be playing lacrosse at Westminster College. Senior Tyler Rippole will be playing lacrosse at Allegheny College.

The Pine-Richland Girls Lacrosse team finished the season with a 7-3 record and reached the second round of the WPIAL playoffs. The PRHS Girls Lacrosse team had four players selected to be on the 2021 Western PA US Lacrosse National Tournament Team. Each spring, Western PA Girls Lacrosse holds a tryout in Pittsburgh to select 21 players in the area to represent Western PA. Those selected then compete against other states at the national tournament held

over Labor Day weekend. Each school can send up to five players to attend the tryout. In 2021, juniors Erica Hudock and Zoe Katres; and sophomores Mary Dziubek and Caroline Gentile were selected to this team. These players were coached by Brittany Adams, Shannon Lynch, Madison Kurlandski, Kaelin Clogan, and Natalie Kang. Haleigh and sophomore Caroline Gentile were named to the 2021 AAA First Team All-Section. Seniors Mia Petzuk and Katelyn Terchick along with junior Zoe Katres were named to the Second Team All-Section. Senior Haleigh Albrecht also earned All-WPIAL for WPIAL Class 3A. Haleigh signed to play lacrosse at Lafayette College, and senior Abigail Turner signed to play lacrosse at Swarthmore College.



THE PRHS GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM PLAYS IN THE WPIALS.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

## Soccer



PRHS BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM



PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Pine-Richland High School Varsity Boys Soccer went 4-8-1 during the 2020-2021 season. Senior Will Sangpachatanaruk was named to the WPIAL All-Section First Team and All-WPIAL. Will signed to play soccer at Johns Hopkins University this fall.

Pine-Richland Girls Soccer made a bid for a WPIAL Championship. While they lost 0-1 against Moon Area in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs, they had a terrific season going 6-6-1. Varsity sophomore Ava Boyd was invited to the US Youth National Team

Regional Training Center hosted in New Jersey in May. Ava was also named with senior Megan Donnelly to the All-WPIAL Women's Soccer Team. Ava and senior Katherine Rishel were also named to the Big 56 First Team and Megan Donnelly was named to the Big 56 Second Team. Senior Katharine Kelly and sophomore Manon Prokesch were honorable mentions.

Senior Katherine Rishel (Case Western Reserve University) and Megan Donnelly (Villanova University) signed to play soccer at college.

## Softball



PRHS GIRLS JV/VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAME ON PHOTOGRAPHY

The Pine-Richland High School Girls Varsity Softball Team completed their season with a 6-6 record. The team competed in the WPIAL quarterfinals on May 19, 2021, defeating Mt. Lebanon 6-1. This is the first time in nearly 20 years that the PR softball team has won a game in the WPIAL playoffs. The team lost 9-0 in the semifinals against the eventual WPIAL champions Bethel Park. Seniors Leah Hartzberg and Anna Heckman along with junior Gabriella Aughton were named to the WPIAL First Team, and juniors Alexia Brown and Natalie Zentz were named honorable mentions. Gary Sheppard was named AAA Coach of the Year.

# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Swimming & Diving

The Pine-Richland High School Swim Team participated in the WPIAL Swimming Championships at Upper St. Clair High School March 6-7, 2021. The boys finished in 14th place and the girls finished in 18th place. Sophomore Delaney Allen finished fourth in the Girls 50-Yard Freestyle. Delaney also finished 14th in the Girls 100-Yard Freestyle. Sophomore Elizabeth Shaffer finished 16th in the Girls 100-Yard Breaststroke. Junior Trent Vacula placed sixth in the Boys 200-Yard Individual Medley, and sophomore Matthew Carper placed 15th. Matthew also placed sixth in the Boys 100-Yard Breaststroke with a seed time of 1:00.22 and final time of 58.86, breaking a PR record. Additionally, Trent placed seventh in the Boys 500-Yard Freestyle. Sophomore Justin Bogacz placed 10th in the Boys 100-Yard Butterfly. Juniors Trent Vacula and William Laubacher and sophomores Matthew Carper and Justin Bogacz finished 10th in the Boys 200-Yard Medley Relay with a seed time of 1:40.44 and final time of 1:38.82, breaking a PR record.



2020-2021 PRHS SWIMMING & DIVING TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Tennis

The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Boys Tennis Team beat Penn Trafford 4-1 in the first round of the WPIAL Playoffs on May 5, 2021. The team was stopped in the second round of WPIALs on May 6, 2021.



2020-2021 PRHS BOYS VARSITY TENNIS TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF L.A. PHOTOS



2020-2021 GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF L.A. PHOTOS

The PRHS Varsity Girls Tennis season was very successful. The team was undefeated in section play, as well as being 10-2 throughout all matches this season. Additionally, the players won both section singles and section doubles, as well as having a WPIAL singles finalist, WPIAL doubles quarterfinalists, and progressing to Team WPIAL Semifinals. Sophomore Elaine Qian placed second in the WPIAL finals. On Oct. 1, 2020, PRHS doubles players Katelyn Terchick and Elizabeth Stokes, seniors, competed in the WPIAL Doubles Tennis Championship, placing second.



## Track & Field

PR Track and Field athletes competed at WPIALs on May 19, 2021. The athletes traveled to Slippery Rock to compete against other individual WPIAL qualifiers from surrounding school districts. Senior Meredith Price, junior Elizabeth Hunkele, sophomore Natalie McLean, and ninth-grader Angelina Hunkele earned the team a gold medal in the 4x800 meters breaking a school record (9:27.32). Alternates were juniors C.J. Williams and Audrey DeKunder. Meredith earned second in the 3200 meters breaking a school record (10:59.10), and Angelina earned third (#2 All-Time for PR).

Sophomore Gianna Rotelli earned second in the javelin (#4 All-Time for PR/122 feet and two inches). Senior Ella Rottinghous earned fourth place in the 400 meters with Natalie placing fifth in the 1600 meters. Senior Malaikah Kazi placed fifth in the 100-meter hurdles and eighth in the 300-meter hurdles. Senior Victor Williams placed fourth in the 800 meters, and sophomore Nick Hartwick placed seventh in the 200 meters. Freshman Nicholas Hartwick, sophomore Bradford Gelly, junior Alex Gochis, and senior Eli Jochem placed sixth in the 4x100 meters, and sophomore Nicholas King, and seniors Joshua Imhoff, Anthony Nicassio, and Victor Williams placed eighth in the 4x400 team. Bradford and senior Andrew Koenig were named alternates to the 4x400.



SENIOR DANIELLE BRYANT IS NAMED THE 2021 WPIAL JAMES COLLINS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.

Senior Danielle Bryant, who signed with Duke for track and field and will study law, was also named a 2021 WPIAL/James Collins Scholar-Athlete of the Year.



## FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION

Seventh through 12th-grade students can register for sports. For 2021-2022, families should only use the Healthy Roster to register for each sport season. Families will also submit Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and Allegheny Health Network (AHN) paperwork. Healthy Roster is an efficient "one-stop-shop" for families. Families should submit by the following deadlines each year.

- > Fall Sports Registration - July 30
- > Winter Sports Registration - November 12
- > Spring Sports Registration - February 25

***\*For 2021-2022, all physicals must be dated after June 1, 2021, and need to be completed/submitted prior to the official start of practice.***

# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Ultimate Frisbee



The Pine-Richland Girls Ultimate Frisbee Team participated in practices and a scrimmage. The PRHS Boys and Girls Ultimate Frisbee teams did not participate in tournaments due to the pandemic.

## Volleyball

The Pine-Richland High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team defeated Upper St. Clair in the first round of the WPIAL championships and were stopped by Oakland Catholic on October 31, 2020. Junior Sophie Catalano and sophomore Kaili Doctor were named to the 2020 Girls Volleyball Class 4A All-Section First Team. Junior MaKenzie Nelson and senior Makayla Roy were named honorable mentions.

The PR Boys Volleyball team had a rebuilding year since there were only two returning players this year.



# Wrestling

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY



**PRHS VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM**

Pine-Richland High School senior Cole Spencer (160 lbs.) earned third at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Wrestling Championships on March 13, 2021, and earned first at the Western PA Interscholastic Athletic League Championships. Junior Kelin Laffey and sophomore Anthony Ferraro placed fourth at WPIALs. The PRHS Wrestling team finished eighth in the WPIAL tournament this year.

Senior Cole Spencer represented Pine-Richland High School and Western Pennsylvania, along with his coaches Caleb Kolb and Rob Hunt, in the 47th annual Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic on April 2, 2021.

After receiving the inaugural Willie Thrower Memorial Award as the top quarterback in Southwestern Pennsylvania for the 2020-21 Football season on April 10, 2021, senior Cole Spencer immediately weighed in and wrestled soon after in the All-Star

event called Redemption hosted by PA Power. He won that match by a major decision 9-1.

Senior Cole Spencer signed to wrestle at the University of Pennsylvania this fall.



**EIGHTH-GRADER VAUGHN SPENCER EARNS THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND IS NAMED AN ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLER.**

Pine-Richland Middle School eighth-grader Vaughn Spencer (168 lbs) earned the National High School Coaches Association National Middle School Wrestling Championship on April 25, 2021, at Virginia Beach, Va. Vaughn, like his older brother Cole, became a Middle School National Champion and All-American. In addition, sophomore Anthony Ferraro, who was also named an All-American, earned a fourth-place national title (113 lbs). At the Ohio Tournament of Champions, eighth-grader Dominic earned a second-place title (114 lbs). Eighth-graders Dominic Ferraro and Maclane Miller both participated narrowly losing to the runner-up in the state junior high competition.



**EIGHTH-GRADER DOMINIC FERRARO EARNS SECOND PLACE AT THE OHIO TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS.**



**SOPHOMORE ANTHONY FERRARO, WHO IS NAMED AN ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLER, EARNS FOURTH-PLACE AT A NATIONAL COMPETITION.**

# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020 INDUCTEES



SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020 POSE FOR A PHOTOGRAPH

The Pine-Richland Athletic Hall of Fame Committee announced the second annual Athletic Hall of Fame Class of Inductees. The Pine-Richland Athletic Hall of Fame honors and recognizes those associated with Pine-Richland athletics who have experienced significant accomplishments in their chosen sport or sports. Members of the second annual class of 2020 were inducted prior to the PRHS football game on Oct. 16, 2020, and included the following inductees:

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

### AYLMER GIRDWOOD



The late Mr. Aylmer Girdwood was hired in 1956 as a biology teacher and served as the head football coach of the Rams for two years starting in 1962. He retired in 1982. He was the recreation director for the Pine-Richland Youth Foundation and a scoutmaster for a local Boy Scouts of America Troop in Gibsonia. He is posthumously being inducted into the category of community contributor due to his exemplary community service and his positive influence on the athletes and youth of Pine-Richland.

### BRETT WARREN



2002 graduate Brett Warren was a three-time WPIAL Champion in the sport of boys tennis. He won the WPIAL Individual Singles Tennis Championship in 1999, 2000, and 2002. He was PIAA State Champion in 2002. He was a seven-time finalist at both the WPIAL and State level throughout his career as a Ram. He also won four boys individual singles county titles as well.

### ROBERT MCDONOUGH



The late Robert McDonough began his teaching career at Richland High School in 1957. He started coaching both boys and girls cross country in 1972 for 16 seasons until his retirement in 1989. During his leadership, the girls cross country teams were WPIAL Class AA Champions in 1981, 1984, 1986, 1987, and 1988. The girls cross country team also won the state PIAA championships in 1988, the first-ever state PIAA championship in Richland school history.

### KRISTEN WISSE



1998 graduate Kristen Wisse was the true definition of the term tri-athlete. She competed in three sports for the Rams - girls soccer, girls basketball, and girls track and field. Throughout her career as a RAM, she earned 12 varsity letters. She was the first basketball player male or female to score 1,000 points (1,145 total), Ms. Wisse ranks in the top 10 all-time in the WPIAL girls soccer for goals scored in a career (133) and at one time held the school record for the girls 800 meters.

### 1988 CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



LED BY HEAD COACH BOB MCDONOUGH, THE 1988 PINE-RICHLAND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM WAS THE FIRST TEAM IN THE SCHOOL HISTORY TO EVER WIN A PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. SENIOR MEMBERS OF THAT TEAM ALSO WON BOTH THE SECTION AND WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1986, 1987, AND 1988.

### CARRIE WALKER

2000 graduate Carrie Walker led the Pine-Richland girls basketball team to the WPIAL Championship game in 1998. At one time she was the Pine-Richland all-time leading scorer with more than 1,800 points, a record that stood for 17 years. During her career, she was a member of the Post-Gazette "Fab 5." She played collegiately at the Division 1 level and professionally in Europe after her high-school career.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST POINT

NATE LUKEZ

Pine-Richland High School Class of 2020 graduate Nate Lukez is being recognized at West Point for having the highest QPA in 2021. Nate said he would like to thank Pine-Richland wrestling for helping him reach this achievement. Nate wrestles at West Point and had a career record 129 - 29 (PIAA AAA) and was a 3x Team Captain.

2020

1974 Richland High School Alumna Kathy Strauss is one of the lab specialists who worked with researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine on a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine trial. Most recently, she was featured in an article in Rolling Stone. She is published in the Clinical Biochemistry Journal, as well as other articles as a supporting author. In addition to her work in science, she is a working artist. She earned a bachelor's degree in art with a concentration in biology from Westminster College and earned a minor degree in mathematics from the University of Maryland University College.

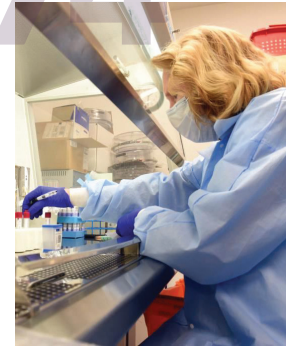


PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

KATHY STRAUSS

PRHS Class of 2018 graduate Mark Farino was awarded the 2021 Goldwater Scholar Award from the University of Pittsburgh. Mark, who is currently majoring in physics and mathematics and a minor in French, was one of 410 students chosen across the U.S for this award. Mark is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Philosophy degree from Pitt's Honors College. Mark plans to continue with graduate study in physics and aspires to a career in teaching and researching particle physics.



MARK FARINO

2018

2017



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

HUNTER BAXTER

PRHS Class of 2017 graduate Hunter Baxter was inducted into the University of Maryland Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Sigma Circle in December of 2020. ODK is a nationally recognized leadership honor society. The University of Maryland Sigma Circle acknowledges students and faculty who have contributed to the campus by highlighting leadership and bringing together all phases of collegiate life. The members of ODK are responsible for maintaining a high standard of efficiency in five areas of collegiate activities: scholarship; athletics; campus or community service, social and religious activities, and campus government; journalism, speech, and the mass media; and the creative and performing arts. He gave the commencement speech at the University of Maryland, representing all of the student athletes at the athlete commencement ceremony. At the ceremony, he was also awarded the M-Club Post-Graduate Scholarship, The NCAA BIG 10 Post-Graduate Scholarship, and was announced as obtaining the highest GPA on the Wrestling Team and Academic All BIG 10.



PHOTO COURTESY RIT

INGRIDA IVASKA

PRHS Class of 2017 graduate Ingrida Ivaska was named an Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar for completing at least 83 credit hours of studying and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.85 for all work completed at the university as of the previous spring term.

As part of the recognition program, the scholars had the opportunity to identify a high school or community college teacher who had profoundly influenced their academic development and had been an inspiration in their lives. Ingrida selected Pine-Richland High School Teacher Valerie Klosky as her honoree.



MEGAN MONFREDI

PRHS Class of 2017 graduate Megan Monfredi was selected for an internship with Special Olympics Kentucky in Lexington, KY. In addition, she was named to the 2020 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Gymnastics Community Service Team becoming the 14th athlete in the University of Kentucky's history to earn the distinction. Since 1999, the SEC Community Service Team has served to highlight competitors from each school who give back to their respective communities in superior service efforts. Megan has recorded the second-most career community service hours on the Kentucky gymnastics team despite only being a junior. Megan's gymnastic career at the University of Kentucky has been stellar. Megan continued her career as a walk-on athlete to the University of Kentucky gymnastics team in the fall of 2017. Kentucky is a premier gymnastics program finishing 12th, 9th, and 13th nationally while Megan has been at Kentucky. In 2020 Kentucky finished in 10th place overall for Floor Exercises. Megan, a psychology major with a minor in coaching, plans to attend graduate school for sports Psychology. Megan has made the SEC honor roll every year, has made the dean's list several times, and finished up her last semester with a 4.0. Megan capped off her junior year by being inducted into the Frank G. Ham Society of Character.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

## 2020-2021 Celebrations

The Pine-Richland High School Class of 2021 made 2020-2021 memorable. From homecoming to graduation, here is a peek at some of the events that took place during the school year.



# SENIOR CELEBRATION



# SADIE HAWKINS



# COLOR RUN



# HOMECOMING



# GRADUATION



## Students Provide Valuable Insight by Participating in Leadership Councils



SENIOR ZEYAD AMR



SENIOR GABRIELLE STONE



SENIOR DANIELLE BRYANT



FIFTH-GRADER OWEN TAN



SEVENTH-GRADER ANABELLA ORLANDO

Pine-Richland students have the opportunity to participate in forums on various topics by participating in leadership councils throughout the school year. The superintendent, assistant superintendents, and principals provide regular opportunities for students to provide feedback. In addition, the students also participate in discussion on specific topics.

For example, senior Zeyad Amr participated in the PR Healthcare Leadership Council throughout 2020-2021.

*"A lot of the time, students do not realize how much discussion and decision making goes into the organization of a school year, especially a school year as crazy as this year, so it was very eye-opening seeing these decisions being made and being a part of the team that helped make some of these important resolutions," said Zeyad.*

Senior Gabrielle Stone, who also participated in the Healthcare Leadership Council, says she was grateful to have been selected to serve.

*"It was incredible to witness several Pine-Richland community members come together to combat the challenges presented by COVID-19 in schools," she said. "I gained insight into the various aspects of our community (transportation, athletics, clubs, etc.) that had to be taken into account while forming the hybrid model."*

Pine-Richland High School senior Danielle Bryant has been participating in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership Council and says she has learned how her own experiences and voice can be heard as well as listening and taking notes from people who have experienced something different.

*"Students do have the ability to participate in these important discussions, which allows for youth voice to be incorporated," said Danielle. "Students bring their own experiences and perspective."*

Eden Hall Upper Elementary fifth-grader Owen Tan was able to exert his perspective while serving on the Transforming the Future Leadership group.

*"Whenever I have an opinion, I speak up, and they listen to me," Owen said. "I feel included. I learn how people come up with ideas and try to make the school better."*

Annabella Orlando also served on the Transforming-the-Future Leadership Group and says by participating she understands more.

*"The experience of serving a leadership group with staff administrators and other students is really helpful," said Annabella. "Not only does it help me better understand what is going on but I also feel more responsible when invited to help out with these kinds of things. I am learning how much work all of our teachers put in to help our district and students succeed. I think it's important for students to participate in these kinds of things because we can help give input on our side of what's going on. I really like the plan for 2021-2022 virtual school option."*



# BUDGET & BOARD UPDATE

## Message from the School Board

Since the beginning of the pandemic more than a year ago, the success of our response as a school district has relied upon the input, expertise, cooperation, and financial support of the residents of Pine-Richland. You offered support, understanding, positive comments, constructive feedback, criticisms, and solutions to the challenges we faced together. You trusted that our teachers, para-educators, secretaries, custodians, coaches, administrators and school board were working together in the best interest of our children. You transformed your homes into classrooms, your cars into school buses, and kept our students safe by emphasizing the big three.

Through your tax dollars, you provided material support for over 500 employees and 4,500 students:

- > 250 new classroom voice amplification systems
- > 1,100+ new student Chromebooks
- > Sustained capital investment in our technology infrastructure, without which our hybrid and virtual models would not have been possible
- > Two additional weeks of time for teachers to learn new technologies and prepare entirely new lessons
- > 14 long-term and 25 daily substitute teachers hired to increase social distancing, cover absences, and help to create the Pine-Richland Virtual Academy
- > Free breakfast and lunch for any child in the district (funded with federal tax dollars).

Without your support, our success this year in the continuity of education for our students would not have been possible. Because of your investments in this district, we see the silver linings – positive and sustainable transformation – in how we fulfill our mission. Our students and teachers have acquired a vast array of new technical skills and resources at a pace and scale that would have been unimaginable just a year ago. These are not just critical life and job skills, but critical opportunities that have provided pathways to more collaborative learning, increased differentiation in our “classrooms,” a PR Virtual Academy Plus option, and a better focus on every student every day.

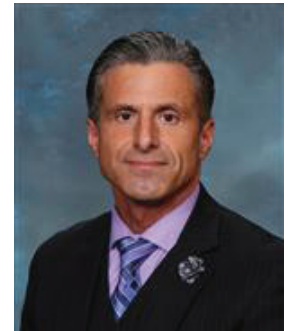
We continue to work with the community and the administration to help guide the district in 2021. With the efforts and support of Pine-Richland families like your own, we look forward to a better and brighter future in the next school year and are grateful for your support which has helped move us forward.



MR. PETER LYONS  
BOARD PRESIDENT



MS. CHRISTINE MISBACK  
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT



MR. MARC CASCIANI  
BOARD TREASURER



MR. GREG DITULLIO  
DIRECTOR



MRS. AMY HAYDEN  
DIRECTOR



DR. MATTHEW MEHALIK  
DIRECTOR



DR. CARLA MEYER  
DIRECTOR



MR. MATTHEW MOYE  
DIRECTOR



MRS. KATARZYNA SWOPE  
DIRECTOR

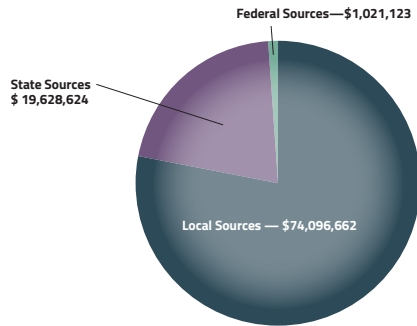


## Follow the PR School Board

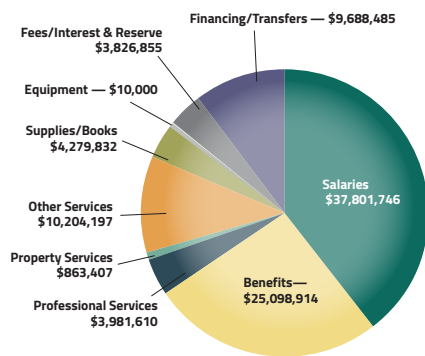
Community members should check the website at [www.pinerichland.org/board](http://www.pinerichland.org/board). You will find a link to BoardDocs, the site that contains board agendas, agenda items, and more. All meetings will be held in the Pine-Richland Central Offices DeWitt Blank Conference Room at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise on the website.

## Board Approves Budget for 2021-2022 with No Tax Increase

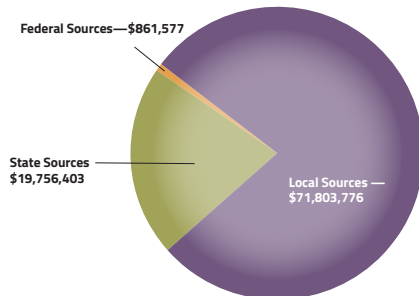
2021-2022 Budgeted Revenue



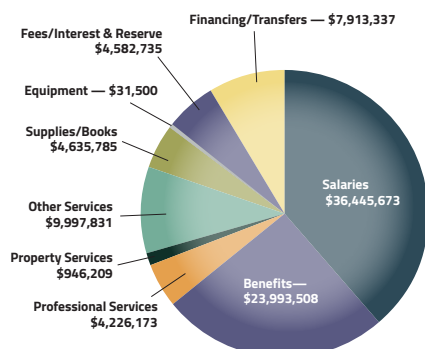
2021-2022 Budgeted Expenditures



2020-2021 Budgeted Revenue



2020-2021 Budgeted Expenditures



The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2021-2022 school year with total expenditures of \$95,755,046 and total revenues of \$94,746,409 with utilization of fund balance for capital improvements in the amount of \$1,008,637. The board maintained the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2021-2022 with no increase:

- > Real Estate Tax rate of 19.5867 mills (no increase)
- > Earned Income Tax of 0.5 percent
- > Act 511 Per Capita Tax of \$5 for individuals age 18 and older
- > Pennsylvania School Code Per Capita Tax of \$5 for individuals age 18 & older

### COST-SAVING MEASURES

The district has addressed the financial climate and has looked at several alternative revenue sources and cost-saving measures for the past several years. Some of them included:

Energy Curtailment Program	Rebates & Commissions
Facility Rental Agreements	Advertisements
Grants & Donations	Student Activity Fees
Parking Fees	

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the district refunded two bond issues which provided over \$10.5 million in savings over the remaining life of the bond issues. The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for additional refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible.

### INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- > The board approved the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution for the upcoming tax year. The resolution provides for property tax reduction through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion," which is provided by the state gaming industry/casinos. Residents should have an application on file with Allegheny County indicating the house they live in is their homestead. They will also receive a reduction in assessed value for their school tax. Each approved homestead will receive a real estate tax reduction in the amount of \$177.01.

- > In January 2021, the board approved a property tax rebate program for all qualifying senior citizens, widows, and widowers for the 2020 calendar year. The application reflected a due date of June 30, 2021. If the filer meets the criteria, he or she could see anywhere from \$250 - \$650 in tax rebates.

### BUDGET BALANCING ACT IMPACTED BY VARIABLES

As you know, balancing the budget can be extremely difficult. Some of the variables that factor into the district's budget include:

**Salaries & Wages** – Personnel costs for administration, faculty & support staff represent 66% of total annual budgeted expenditures. These expenditures are established by collective bargaining agreements and compensation plans.

**Employer Benefit Costs** – The district's employer contribution rate for the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) will increase to 34.94% of salary costs from 34.51% in 2020-2021. That translates to about \$577,778 (or \$290,000 in increased costs to the district after receiving state funding for retirement contributions) in the 2021-2022 budget. This rate is set by the PSERS Board of Trustees and mandated by state legislation.

**Premium Costs** – Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium medical premium costs will increase by 5% for covered employees. Dental insurance premiums will be held with no increase, and vision insurance premiums will increase by 7%. Overall group health insurance expenditures for the District are budgeted to increase by \$364,770.

**Tuition Expenditures** – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$1,295,371 for 2021-2022, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools. None of these costs are reimbursed by the state. For more information on the budget, visit [www.pinerichland.org/budget](http://www.pinerichland.org/budget).

## Annual Reorganization of the School Board

The Pine-Richland School Board reorganized on Dec. 7, 2020. The board reappointed Mr. Peter Lyons as president, Mrs. Christine Misback as vice president, and Mr. Marc Casciani to serve as treasurer. This is the fourth consecutive year that the trio has led the team. The board also made several appointments:

- > Dr. Carla Meyer was reappointed as the legislative representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.
- > Mrs. Katarzyna Swope was reappointed as representative to the A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Committee for a two-year term expiring December 2022. Mrs. Swope and Mrs. Misback served as the representatives for 2020. Mrs. Misback's Beattie position expires in December 2021.
- > The board reappointed Mr. Greg DiTullio as a representative to the Pine Township Parks and Recreation Board for 2021.
- > The board reappointed Mrs. Misback as the 2021 liaison to the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Board of Trustees.
- > Mr. Lyons was reappointed as a Food Service Advisory & Wellness Committee Representative.
- > Mrs. Dana Kirk, director of financial and operational services, was reappointed as a delegate to Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee with Mr. Marc Casciani, board treasurer, serving as an alternate.

Also serving on the Pine-Richland School Board are Dr. Matthew Mehalik, and Mr. Matthew Moye. Mrs. Barbara Williams serves as board secretary.

### ADDITIONAL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Director Amy Hayden, whose term runs through November 2021, was sworn in on May 3, 2021, during the school board planning meeting. She was appointed on April 27, 2021. Ms. Hayden previously served seven years on the Brentwood School Board.

Mr. Lyons was also re-elected as Vice President of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit board of directors for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Meyer and Mrs. Misback were also certified as voting delegates for the Pennsylvania School Board Association 2021 Delegate Assembly.



SOLICITOR DON PALMER  
SWEARS IN PRSD DIRECTOR  
AMY HAYDEN.

# PINE-RICHLAND OPPORTUNITIES FUND

## Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Highlights 2020-21 School Year



## PROF Awards More Than \$24,000 to Pine-Richland Staff

### QUICK FACTS

- > The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is a non-profit, 501(c)3, education foundation committed to enriching and investing in the experiences of every Pine-Richland student through staff grants, student scholarships and community partnerships.
- > Since 2013, PROF has awarded over \$253,000 in cash grants to PRSD staff.
- > In that time, PROF partnered with community organizations and businesses to award \$293,500 in cash scholarships to graduating seniors.
- > PROF proudly partners with community businesses for our Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. First Commonwealth Bank; NexTier Bank; Metro Benefits; and Trumbull all provide funding for Advanced Technology, STEAM Grants and hands-on learning experiences. We welcome the opportunity to share the benefits of the EITC program with area businesses. Please visit our website for more information: [www.prof-fund.org](http://www.prof-fund.org).

### PROF PARTNERS WITH HANCE PTO FOR HANCE FAB LAB \$14,727 AWARD

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund was excited to partner with the Hance Parent-Teacher Organization to fund an indoor classroom dedicated to STEAM concepts in addition to the outdoor classroom created last year as a part of the Hance Habitat revival. The addition of the Fab Lab will foster a love of learning and instill curiosity throughout the exploration of technology. Additionally, students will learn more about potential career avenues as well as having the opportunity to discover their talents and areas of interest. "We are thrilled to work with the Hance PTO to bring such an amazing and impactful experience to students," says Deb Lund, PROF Executive Director. "Integrating district in-depth program review outcomes to engage students in science provides a foundation of skills and diverse opportunities for student success."

## Collaboration – Part II at PRMS

### \$5,520 GRANT AWARD



STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRMS COLLABORATION ROOM THANKS TO A PROF GRANT.

This year, around the world, there was no greater real-life problem to solve than being faced with a global pandemic. Major thinking skills and strategies utilized by teachers and students alike abounded. Phase 1 of the PRMS Collaboration Room provided a haven for problem-solving, decision making, conceptualizing and critical thinking. Phase 2 will add resources to support the collaborative design of the room so that there is a place for any small or large group to gather, share ideas and unlock discoveries. "At PRMS, we created the collaboration room with the goal of fostering collaboration among students and providing a new space for teachers to innovate and use different instructional practices," says teacher Cecelia Kelly. "Looking to next year where we anticipate more traffic, we want to expand the capacity of the collaboration room to include opportunities for hands-on learning, high-tech integration and creativity."

The enhancements to the collaboration room offer a space to engage in problem-based learning experiences in a modern learning space.

## Meet PROF's Board

PROF's trustee board is comprised of dedicated volunteer community leaders: President Laura Ball, Vice President Eric Giesecke, Treasurer Jim Neill, Secretary Jennifer Husted, Development Officer Jason Merante, Charles Berry, Keri Brown, Leslie Craven, Joseph Culos, Mary Lynn Dugan, Amy Gillespie, Susan Hong-Bang, Stacey Silipo, David Speidelsbach, Robin Tino, School Board Liaison Christine Misback, and Faculty Liaison Andrew Dugger. PROF's Executive Director is Deborah Lund.

## PROF Needs Your Support

Help further PROF's mission by supporting important programs and scholarships through a donation today by visiting [www.prof-fund.org](http://www.prof-fund.org) or support PROF through United Way Donor Option number 921848. Companies supporting PROF may be eligible for substantial tax credits through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund

@proudtobe\_PR

Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund

@proudtobe\_PR

### Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund

**Address:** P.O. Box 248 Wexford PA 15090

**Phone:** 724-625-7773

**Website:** [www.prof-fund.org](http://www.prof-fund.org)

**United Way Donor Option:** #921848

## PROF's FAST Grants Program Provides Pilot Funding \$3,868 Total FAST Grant Awards

PROF's FAST Grant Application streamlines the grant request and approval process for applicants. If a grant request is \$1,000 or less, PROF will consider a FAST application to evaluate and respond quickly. The grant will be evaluated similarly to the full grant application. In the 2020-21 school year, PROF provided \$3,868 in FAST grants to staff including:

**Hance Elementary School/Richland Elementary School** – Music Kits

**Pine-Richland High School** – Trout in the Classroom

**Pine-Richland High School** – Project Runway

**Hance Elementary School** – Storywalk

### MUSIC KITS

PROF sponsored music kits for every student allows for music education remotely.



SECOND-GRADER ARYA PALATHUNKAL OPENS A MUSIC KIT THAT WAS PURCHASED THROUGH A PROF FAST GRANT.

### TROUT AT PRHS



A grant by PROF provided high school students the opportunity to raise trout within the classroom. Once the trout were raised, they were released into a local waterway by the students.

**A FAST GRANT HELPS FUND THE TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM.**

### EHUE BREAKOUT ROOMS

Students participate in classroom Breakout Rooms at EHUE. Students worked together to solve a series of problems and riddles in order to reach a desired goal. This helped students work on their teamwork and problem solving skills.

## PROF and Community Partners Award \$38,000 in Scholarships



PROF AWARDS \$38,000 TO SENIORS DURING THE 2021 SENIOR SCHOLASTIC AWARDS PROGRAM.

On June 9, 2021, PROF awarded 19 scholarships to 26 Pine-Richland High School seniors totaling \$38,000. The various winners were recognized in a multitude of areas, including: service and volunteering; leadership; interest in STEM, and fields that help others; resiliency; performing arts; musical talents and kindness; financial need, and more. PROF Trustees sponsored

a \$5,000 scholarship highlighting student experiences and interactions with PROF-funded educational grants and interaction with faculty or fellow students.

For descriptions of scholarships and for a complete list of scholarship winners, please visit [www.prof-fund/scholarships](http://www.prof-fund/scholarships).

# ANNUAL NOTICES

## Introduction

Parents/guardians should take time to review the district's annual notices. These annual notices include information about regular education, special education, and gifted education services. These notices also provide details of the district's public outreach and awareness system as well as screening procedures. Pine-Richland School District (PRSD) provides a free and appropriate public education for all students including students requiring special education services. This includes provision of education and related aids, services, or accommodations, which are needed to afford each qualified student with a disability equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits from educational programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination, to the same extent as each student without a disability, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

Each year the district publishes these notices along with other pertinent information families need to know about school district operations and expectations at [www.pinerichland.org](http://www.pinerichland.org). Families without internet access should contact PR Communications Director Rachel Hathhorn at 724-625-7773, ext. 6202.

## Annual Notices

You can visit [www.pinerichland.org/annualnotices](http://www.pinerichland.org/annualnotices) for more about student services and more details on the following:

- > Armed Forces Recruiting
- > Attendance
- > Bullying/Cyberbullying
- > Child Abuse
- > Concussion Management
- > Diabetes Management
- > Education for Homeless Youth
- > Electronic Devices
- > Enrollment of Students
- > Federal Programs Title I
- > Food Allergy Management
- > Free and Reduced Lunch (Visit [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) for info & application)
- > Gifted Education Services & Screening & Evaluation
- > Hazing
- > Health Examinations/Screenings
- > Homebound Instruction
- > Independent Educational Evaluations
- > Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
- > Interscholastic Athletics
- > Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners
- > McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- > Medication
- > Meetings
- > Migrant Students
- > Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
- > Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)
- > Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records
- > Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
- > Protected Handicapped Students: Chapter 15
- > Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students
- > Right to Know Act
- > School Wellness
- > Screening, Evaluation & Placement Procedures
- > Searches
- > Services for Preschool-Age Children with Disabilities
- > Services for School-Age Exceptional Children

- > Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools
- > Special Education
- > Special Notice Regarding Directory Information
- > Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
- > Student Recruitment
- > Student Rights & Responsibilities
- > Student Services
- > Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- > Tobacco & Vaping Products
- > Video and Photographs\*
- > Weapons

\*Any parent/guardian wishing his or her student not to be photographed or videotaped for use on the website, social media or outside media outlets, should contact the PR Director of Communications no later than Sept. 15 via [rhathhorn@pinerichland.org](mailto:rhathhorn@pinerichland.org).

## Attendance

The board requires that school age students enrolled in district schools attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by the district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. You can visit [www.pinerichland.org/Page/1842](http://www.pinerichland.org/Page/1842) for more about **Policy 204**. The district revised this policy in 2021.

## Discipline Code

The purpose of the PRSD Discipline Code is to present standard behavioral expectations based on school board policy for all students in the district. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the PRSD Discipline Code and to review these documents with their children. Parents, guardians, and students are also referred to Board Policy No. 218 of the board policy manual for additional information regarding the discipline code, student conduct, and consequences of inappropriate or proscribed behaviors and conduct. In the event of any conflict between the terms of the discipline code and any board policy, the applicable board policy will control and take precedence. To review this document, which contains everything from attendance, unlawful harassment, bullying to bus expectations, visit [www.pinerichland.org/disciplinecode](http://www.pinerichland.org/disciplinecode).

## Public Outreach & Awareness System (Child Find)

PRSD uses a public outreach awareness system to locate and identify children thought to be eligible for special education within the school district's jurisdiction. The district provides details of where to find out more information about the district's special education and early intervention programs through announcements on PR-TV (broadcasted throughout the community), in the annual report (distributed to residents, township buildings, and libraries) and via electronic communications (e-notices and website).

## Discrimination and Harassment

The board declares it to be the policy of this district to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability.

The district shall provide to all students, without discrimination, course offerings, counseling, assistance, employment, athletics, and extracurricular activities. The equitable distribution of district

resources is one means the district shall use to ensure all students receive a quality education. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute handicaps and disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the district and is prohibited at or, in the course of, district-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

The board also declares it to be the policy of this district to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

Annual notices are required for the PRSD website and related publications. Violations of this policy, including acts of retaliation as described in this policy, or knowingly providing false information, may result in disciplinary consequences under applicable Board policy and procedures.

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report, and the investigation related to any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment, shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy, the attachments, and the district's legal and investigative obligations.

## Complaint Process

The school board encourages students and parents/guardians who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment to promptly report such incidents to designated employees in accordance with PR School Board Policy Nos. 103: Nondiscrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students and 103.1: Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities, which can be found on the PR Policy Manual, which is linked to the district's website. Complaints of discrimination or harassment shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action will be taken for substantiated allegations. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.

Students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment, and or retaliation for reporting of such to promptly report such incidents to the building principal, even if some elements of the related incident took place or originated away from school grounds, school activities or school conveyances. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination but is adversely affected by the offensive conduct may also file a report of discrimination

The building principal shall promptly notify the Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator of all reports of discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment or retaliation. The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary and to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

### Compliance Officer

Mr. Brian Glickman  
Director of Human Resources  
702 Warrendale Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
724-625-7773 x6301

### Section 504 Coordinator

Dr. Maura Paczan  
Lead School Psychologist  
Richland Elementary  
3811 Bakerstown Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
724-443-7230 x6503

Related policies include:

#### Policy 103

Nondiscrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

#### Policy 103.1

Nondiscrimination: Qualified Students with Disabilities

#### Policy 104

Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices

#### Policy 247

Hazing

#### Policy 249

Bullying/Cyberbullying

#### Policy 824

Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

#### AR 103.1

Nondiscrimination Qualified Students w/Disabilities Grievance Process

#### AR 103A

Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice Complaint Procedures

#### AR 103B

Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice - Gender & Gender Identity

#### AR 103C

Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures & Grievance Process

Visit [www.pinerichland.org/nondiscrimination](http://www.pinerichland.org/nondiscrimination) for more details on the above procedures and policies.

### Surveillance Cameras & Audio Recordings

Under School Board **Policy #816 (Use of Video Surveillance Cameras)**, the district is permitted to use video surveillance in any school building, on school district property, or on any transportation vehicle being used by the district. The district does monitor district buildings, property, and transportation vehicles with surveillance cameras and individuals using any such facilities should expect that such surveillance may occur. In addition, the use of audio recordings is permitted on school district transportation vehicles (Policy #810.2). The district began recording audio on all equipped buses beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

### Food Service & Student Wellness

For more information on the free and reduced meal program and online application go to, [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)

In 2018, the school board approved a revised **Policy #808 Food Services** as well as an administrative regulations, which addresses student meal balances and unpaid meal charge procedures.

Pine-Richland School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The board is committed to

providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement. In November of 2017, the board approved a revised **Policy #246 Student Wellness**.

### Child Abuse (Policy 806)

The board requires district employees, independent contractors, and volunteers to comply with identification and reporting requirements for suspected child abuse, as well as the training requirement for recognition and reporting of child abuse to comply with the Child Protective Services Law and the School Code. To read the entire policy visit [www.pinerichland.org/healthwellness](http://www.pinerichland.org/healthwellness) and click on Child Abuse Policy.

### Complaint Process (Policy 906)

The board welcomes inquiries, suggestions, and constructive criticism from parents/guardians, district residents, or community groups regarding the district's programs, personnel, operations, and facilities. The Board adopts this policy to establish procedures for seeking an appropriate resolution to complaints. To review more details about the complaint process, visit [www.pinerichland.org/complaintprocess](http://www.pinerichland.org/complaintprocess).

### Confidentiality

In **Confidential Communications of Students Policy 207**, the board directs school personnel to comply with all federal and state laws, regulations, and Board policy concerning confidential communications of students. To review the guidelines of the policy, please visit [www.pinerichland.org/confidential](http://www.pinerichland.org/confidential).

### Public Attendance at Events (Policy 904)

The board welcomes the public at all activities and school-sponsored events, but, the Board also acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve school facilities during such events. To view Policy 904 visit [www.pinerichland.org/community](http://www.pinerichland.org/community) and click on Public Attendance at Events. The overview will contain more information about tobacco use, free admittance, and service animals.

### Student Insurance

The board recognizes the need for insurance coverage for unforeseen accidents that may occur to students in the course of attendance at school or participation in the athletic and extracurricular programs of the schools. The board shall provide parents/guardians the opportunity to purchase insurance coverage, at no cost to the board, for injury resulting from accidents sustained by students in school programs, school activities, and while traveling between home and school other than on a school bus. The premium will be paid by the parents/guardians. The board shall maintain insurance coverage by a qualified insurer over and above the first responsibility of family coverage at no cost to the student for injury resulting from accidents sustained while participating in an interscholastic sports program, the cheerleader program, and band program. You can visit [www.pinerichland.org/insurance](http://www.pinerichland.org/insurance) for more information on the student insurance carrier.

Parents/guardians looking for help for health insurance can review more information about the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP

is there for your kids with quality, comprehensive health insurance coverage for routine doctor visits, prescriptions, dental, eye care, and much more. Visit [www.pinerichland.org/insurance](http://www.pinerichland.org/insurance) for more information.

### Student Fundraising

Fundraising activities must comply with **School Board Policy #229 (Student Fundraising)** and must be requested in writing to the building principal or director of athletics on a district-approved form. The form must be reviewed and approved at the building/athletic office before any such fundraising can take place. No student instructional time may be used for fundraising. Visit [www.pinerichland.org/booster](http://www.pinerichland.org/booster) for policy information and forms.

### Student Survey

Policy 235.1 sets forth guidelines regarding the conduct of surveys and the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, consistent with law and regulations. To read the entire policy, please visit [www.pinerichland.org/surveys](http://www.pinerichland.org/surveys).

### Student Assistance Program (Policy 236)

The district reinforces the connection between emotional well-being and student success through a continuum of the school and community mental health supports. The Student Assistant Programs and School-Based Mental Health Services are available in all of PR schools, K-12. Specifically, all staff members (administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses, coaches, bus drivers, custodial staff, food service personnel) are trained annually on risk factors and warning signs of suicide and appropriate responsible reporting procedures (Observe, Listen, Refer). The district and school suicide prevention coordinators continue to provide age-appropriate curriculum for students K-12 in the development of resiliency, understanding good emotional and physical health, protective factors, healthy coping and problem-solving skills, responsible reporting, and identifying trusted adults at school and in the home environments. Anyone can refer a student to SAP when they are concerned about someone's behavior. Students can go directly to the SAP team to ask for help. The SAP team contacts the parent for permission to proceed with the SAP process. Visit [www.pinerichland.org/sap](http://www.pinerichland.org/sap) for more information.

### Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response (Policy 819)

The board is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its students and the school community. Policy 819 supports the provision of a comprehensive district program designed to promote behavioral health and prevent suicide. The Board directs the district to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; to establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to a suicide attempt or suicide death; and to promote access to suicide awareness and prevention resources. You can view the Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response site via [www.pinerichland.org/suicidepolicy](http://www.pinerichland.org/suicidepolicy).

### Board Policies & Discipline Code

All school policies can be accessed at any time by visiting [www.pinerichland.org/policies](http://www.pinerichland.org/policies). Policies are updated in a cyclical manner. Families should review the policy manual and discipline code annually. You can find the discipline code by visiting [www.pinerichland.org/disciplinecode](http://www.pinerichland.org/disciplinecode).

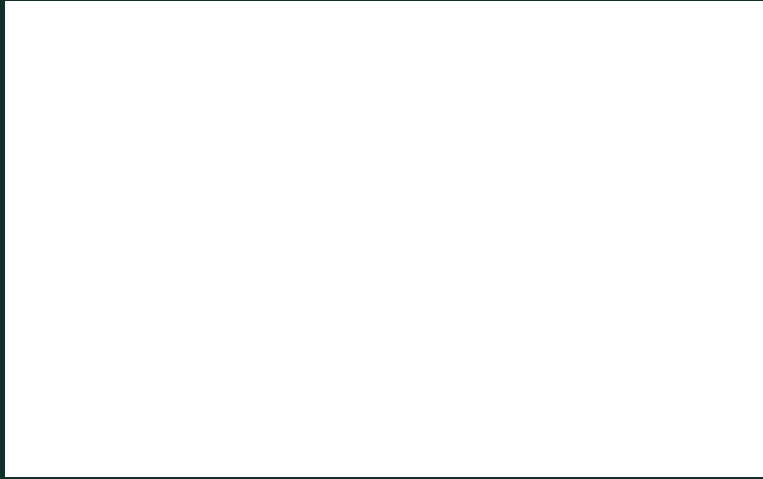


**PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

702 Warrendale Road

Gibsonia, PA 15044

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# FAREWELL TO 2020-2021

STUDENT GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT ZEYAD AMR  
SPEAKS TO THE PRHS CLASS OF 2021 ON JUNE 11, 2021,  
DURING COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

