



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT

Ready To Make Their Mark!

Students Demonstrate Resiliency & Innovation

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

Greetings to the Class of 2020!

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the superintendent at Pine-Richland. While the first day of school is my favorite day each year, commencement is my second favorite. We are proud of each and every one of you. Although you graduate in a "class," the path is different for each student. Each graduate has a different story, a different background and a different perspective. We have worked to support each of you through our staff and the many diverse opportunities available for you. The Pine-Richland diploma holds tremendous value given the quality of the educational program and the effort you have invested in your learning. **You are ready!** As you can see in this image, you are ready in all four dimensions of the PR Graduate Portrait.

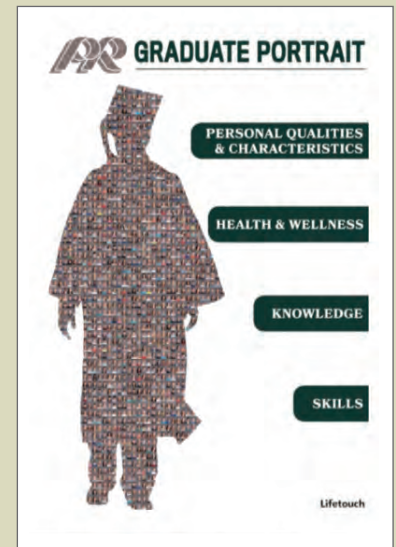
Given the unusual and surreal finish to your senior year, we wanted to do something extra special for you in our annual report. We created a "flipped" magazine with two covers. Your cover includes a thumbnail picture of each member of the Class of 2020. We organized many of the recognition stories to help create a magazine that you can keep throughout your life. The novel coronavirus was just a small piece of your K-12 education at Pine-Richland. It was just one nine-week period of the 52 nine-week periods that comprised kindergarten through 12th grade. Unfortunately, it had an impact on some of the traditional activities that occur. We hope the alternative programs, such as video messages, yard signs, and spirit weeks, helped to create new memories.

We are so proud of you. Our hearts and minds are with you. You are ready for your next step. You are always welcome at PR.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D., Superintendent

COVER PHOTO: CAN YOU FIND YOUR FAVORITE PRHS CLASS OF 2020? EACH THUMBNAIL IMAGE REPRESENTS EACH MEMBER OF THE CLASS.



Contents

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STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICA PROVIDED SENIORS, INCLUDING SENIOR MACKENZIE HACKEL, WITH ERASABLE AUTO MARKERS TO WRITE THEIR NAMES ON A BUS.



PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS DIPLOMAS TO SENIORS. PRINCIPAL NANCY BOWMAN HANDS JOSHUA HOFFMAN HIS DIPLOMA.

Pine-Richland Salutes the Class of 2020



The district launched recognition programs to acknowledge seniors who missed out on a traditional graduation and other recognition programs. The district provided a diploma pickup for families of seniors and then created a live launch of a virtual program. Please take a look at a few of the honors Pine-Richland seniors earned. This is a snapshot of senior recognition items and is not indicative of every award and recognition. Flip to the other side as seniors are recognized throughout the Student Spotlight section.

(L-R) VALEDICTORIAN DANIEL KRILL, SALUTATORIAN JUSTIN WALTRIP, AND TERTIARY JACK CARNOVALE PROVIDED VIRTUAL GRADUATION SPEECHES.

Students Named National Merit Scholars

FINALISTS



DANIEL KRILL



AIDAN MEYER



GINA SABOL



JUSTIN WALTRIP

COMMENDED STUDENTS



JACK CARNOVALE



MAX FARINO



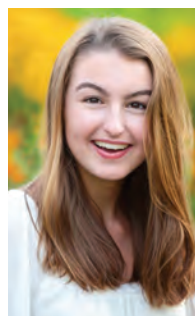
KANG-YOUNG KIM



VALERIE KOESTER



NATHAN LUKEZ



OLIVIA MCGEARY



AIDAN PAVLICK

Four Pine-Richland High School students are being named finalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship program. They include seniors Daniel Krill, Aidan Meyer, Gina Sabol, and Justin Waltrip. These seniors were among 16,000 students, who were named semifinalists in the 65th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. About 90 percent of the semifinalists to attain finalist

standing and about half of the finalists win a National Merit Scholarship. Seniors Jack Carnovale, Max Farino, Kang-Young Kim, Valerie Koester, Nathan Lukez, Olivia McGeary, and Aidan Pavlick were named commended students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship program. These semifinalists are being recognized for *Continued on page 4*

SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

Continued from page 3

their outstanding work on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT). Through the National Merit program, Justin earned the National Merit Scholarship, and Jack earned the Eaton Scholarship.

Congratulations to Daniel Krill, who was named valedictorian; Justin Waltrip, who was named salutatorian; and Jack Carnovale who was named tertiary. The following students earned placement in the top 10 percent of the PRHS Class of 2020: Erin Ahearn, Adrianna Avolio, William Baker, Jack Carnovale, Caitlin Cole, Emma Coleman, Marisa DelVecchio, Max Farino, Zachary Ferris, Ava Folloni, Abigail Giesecke, Brianna Hunt, Kang-Young Kim, Alice Kimmel, Olivia Kost, Daniel Krill, Aranya Krishnan, Kate Kwasnick, Ethan Landis, Callie Laubacher, Meghan Luellen, Nathan Lukez, Samuel Mahsoob, Julia Martin, Olivia McGeary, Kaitlyn Newport, Spencer Pachavis, Alexandru Pelinescu, Johnathan Pepling, Seamus Regan, Gina Sabol, Luke Smallwood, Benjamin Solomon, Claire Tobin, Justin Waltrip, Luke Yackovich, and Valerie Zbezinski.



MEMBERS OF THE PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND PERFORM "POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE" DURING THE 2020 VIRTUAL GRADUATION PROGRAM.

Earning perfect scores in ACT Reading include seniors Grace Dugan, Sarah Hanlon, Aranya Krishnan, and Olivia McGeary. Sarah also earned a perfect score in ACT English, along with Lindsay Holland and Daniel Krill. Daniel also earned a perfect in SAT Math, SAT Chemistry, and ACT Science. Also, Tejal Gupta and Christopher Tziouvannis earned a perfect score in SAT Math. Kang-Young Kim earned a perfect in ACT Math. Daniel, Kang Young, and Alexandru Pelinescu also earned perfect SAT Math II scores. Tejal Gupta also earned a perfect in SAT Writing.

Students earning PROF Scholarships include Enyonam Akwayena, Thomas Andrews, William Baker, Ryan Bauer, Jack Catalano, Caitlin Cole, McKenna Exline, Molly Gaffey, Alice Kimmel, Aranya Krishnan,

Meghan Luellen, Ethan O'Neil, Seamus Regan, Sedona Rocher, Alyssa Schonbachler, Julia Simendinger, Olivia Smallwood, Benjamin Solomon, Alexander Viljaste, Justin Waltrip, Bryanna Weigand, and Levi Wentz.

Senior Grace Barcasky earned the Pine-Richland Educational Support Professionals Association Scholarship. Seniors Gina Sabol and Alyssa Schonbachler earned the Pine-Richland Education Association Scholarship.

Seniors Daniel Krill and Justin Waltrip were added to the 2019 National AP Scholar roster. 2019 graduates Amalendu Bokil, Tom Fest, Luke Francis, Devin Golla, Jordan Labuda, Martha Lacek, Bailey Mohri, Umayal Natesan, Abigail Waryanka, Lucas Zak, and Kevin Zou were also named to the honor roll. These students earned an average score of at least four on all AP Exams taken and scores of four or higher on eight or more of AP exams. 2018 graduates also earned national status and include Alyssa Bigley, Benjamin Cohen, Cole Exline, Mark Farino, Amaan Kazi, Seth Kornbau, Allison Lehmann, Benjamin Martin, Molly McCarthy, Mahak Sethi, Alexander Steger, and Tyler Viljaste. 2019 PRHS Graduate Umayal Natesan was also recognized in 2018. In 2019, 174 Pine-Richland students were recognized for being added to the AP Scholar Roster with a designation of National AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, AP Scholar with Honor, and AP Scholar. In 2018, 177 made the roster. The Advanced Placement program allows motivated and academically prepared high school students to take challenging, college-level courses and get college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exam. Data for 2020 will be released later this year.

Seniors McKenna Exline, Molly Gaffey, Mackenzie Hackel, Carson Heil, Haley Rupprecht, and Morgan Young earned the PR Art Department Award. Seniors Dylan Crutchfield, Olivia Hanulak, Connor Kirby, Grace Kristofic, Seamus Regan, Johnathan Pepling earned Business and Computer Science Department Awards. Senior Thomas Andrews earned an Engineering and Technology Award and the Society of Women Engineers recognized Sedona Rocher with an award. Seniors Thomas Andrews, Gyan Kanhai, Anna Kosanovich, Alexa Sharron, Julia Simendinger, and Matthew Wojnar earned PR English Department Awards. Seniors Eleanor Kobert, Richard Martin, Alyssa Miller, and Jack Tyndall earned the Family and Consumer Science Department awards. Seniors Jack Carnovale, Callie Laubacher, Seamus Regan and Luke Yackovich earned Math Department awards. Seniors Enyonam Akwayena, Molly Gaffey, Matthew Mahafkey, Samuel Mahsoob, Olivia McGeary, and Kristen Vigna earned Music Department awards. Seniors Erin Ahearn, Jack Carnovale, Daniel Krill, Gina Sabol, Justin Waltrip earned Science Department



PINE-RICHLAND SENIORS EARN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF SCHOLARSHIPS THANKS TO THE PINE-RICHLAND OPPORTUNITIES FUND. AWARDEES ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER FROM LEFT TO RIGHT TOP TO BOTTOM.

awards. Seniors Callie Laubacher, Isabella Magill, Kaitlyn Newport, Robert Palmieri, and Seamus Regan earned Social Studies Department awards. Senior Erin Ahearn earned the World Language Department Award in French. Senior Adrianna Avolio earned the World Language Department award in German. Seniors Jack Carnovale and Justin Waltrip earned World Language Department awards in Spanish.

Students earning honor roll status for 15 quarters by maintaining grade point average of 4.0 or higher include: seniors Erin Ahearn, Elliot Alexander, Thomas Andrews, Adrianna Avolio, William Baker, Petros Balouris, Allison Battaglia, Elijah Battista, Ryan Bauer, Paige Bish, Edward Boczar, Josey Brashear, Nicholas Brenner, Macenzie Buszinski, Sydney Carlson, Jack Carnovale, Abigail Casario, Dana Chan, Caitlyn Cole, Kathryn Cole, Emma Coleman, William Coup, Gabriella D'Ambrosio, Mark DeLouis, Marisa DelVecchio, Colleen Doyle, Grace Dugan, Mitchell Dugan, Eliot Duncan, Elizabeth Dziubek, Allison Eastburn, Chloe Erdner, Anthony Erlain, McKenna Exline, Max Farino, Zoe Farrar, Zachary Ferris, Cameron Fletcher, Ava Folloni, Marissa Frick, Molly Gaffey, Alessandra Germ, Abigail Giesecke, Jacqueline Gill, Luke Gochis, Tejal Gupta, Sarah Hanlon, Sarah Hansen, Olivia Hartman, Jenna Hassett, Lindsay Holland, Madelyn Hoyland, Thomas Hudak, Brianna Hunt, Ty Jenkins, Brooke Johnson, Grace Johnson, Luke Jones, Ryan Jorgensen, Anna Jurkovec, Gyan Kanhai, Sophia Katres, Jenna Kennedy, Kang-Young Kim, Max Kim, Alice Kimmel, Connor Kirby, Olivia Kost, Connor Krause, Daniel Krill, Aranya Krishnan, Grace Kristofic, Kate Kwasnick, Ethan Landis, Callie Laubacher, Gianna Lazzaro, Caroline Leonard, Justin Lowe, Meghan Luellen, Nathan Lukez, Isabella Magill, Nathan Maher, Samuel Mahsoob. Connor Manley, William Mann, Julia Martin, Olivia McGeary, Payton McGee, Ashley Moreland,

Jordan Mullay, Logan Murray, Aaron Muth, Mackenzie Neuhart, Kaitlyn Newport, Sophia Olszewski, Ethan O'Neil, Spencer Pachavis, Robert Palmieri, Aidan Pavlick, Alexandru Pelinescu, Johnathan Pepling, Alessandro Phillips, David Pohlod, Jacob Polan, Seamus Regan, Taylor Regan, James Rekowski, Sedona Rocher, Olivia Rodgers, Shay Rossmiller, Nicolas Rovera, Madison Rowe, Haley Rupprecht, Gina Sabol, Brooke Schneider, Katie Sechrist, Jackson Sevco, Patrick Shanahan, Alexa Sharron, Julia Simendinger, Abigail Skundrich, Luke Smallwood, Olivia Smallwood, Liam Smith, Sydney Snyder, Benjamin Solomon, Dylan Staples, Lillian Stokes, Thomas Szymanski, Elizabeth Theis, Claire Tobin, Blake Todorowski, Jack Unitas, Heidi Van Dyk, Benjamin Vidic, Alexander Viljaste, Grant Voytovich, Ethan Wallace, Justin Waltrip, Caeden Wargo, Riley Weinman, Andrew Wenzel, Luke Yackovich, Alexandra Yarbrough, Morgan Young, Ashley Zaldivar, Valerie Zbezinski, and Kylie Zirckel.

Seniors Erin Ahearn, Enyonam Akwayena (Secretary), Elliot Alexander, Thomas Andrews (Service Coordinator), Adrianna Avolio, Sydney Carlson, Jack Carnovale, Vivian Chan, Caitlin Cole, Emma Coleman (Treasurer), Max Farino, Zoe Farrar, Zachary Ferris, Marissa Frick, Molly Gaffey, Jacqueline Gill, Sarah Hanlon, Lindsay Holland, Ryan Jorgensen, Sophia Katres, Young Kim, Alice Kimmel, Valerie Koester, Olivia Kost, Connor Krause, Aranya Krishnan (Peer Tutor Coordinator), Kate Kwasnick, Ethan Landis, Callie Laubacher (President), Justin Lowe, Meghan Luellen, Isabella Magill, Julia Martin, Olivia McGeary, Aaron Muth, Kaitlyn Newport, Ethan O'Neil, Spencer Pachavis, Alexandru Pelinescu, Johnathan Pepling, Steffi Puthenpurayil, Seamus Regan, James Rekowski, Gina Sabol, Jackson Sevco, Benjamin Solomon, Elizabeth Theis, Claire Tobin, Jack Tyndall, Benjamin Vidic (Vice President), Kristen Vigna, Marshall Weinberg, and Alexandra Yarbrough were recognized for being inducted into the National Honor Society.



STAFF MEMBERS DELIVER SIGNS TO SENIORS INCLUDING THIS ONE TO SENIOR JACKSON SEVCO ON MAY 1, 2020.

Career & Leadership

Seniors earning AFJROTC department awards include Gavin Bierema, Logan Guise, and Arden Webster. Students recognized for enlisting in the military include seniors Harrison Gonzalez, Jesse Hall, and Luke Yowan. Senior Nathan Lukez was recognized for being appointed into the United States Military Academy.

Pine-Richland High School students Daniel Krill, Gina Sabol, and Kristen Vigna were named among the Tribune Review's Outstanding Young Citizen Elite 100. The students were recognized for their community service, academic achievement, and post-high school plans.



(L-R) SENIORS HARRISON GONZALEZ, JESSE HALL, AND LUKE YOWAN ENLIST IN THE NAVY.

(L-R) SENIORS AARON MUTH, VIVIAN CHAN, AND CAMERON FLETCHER EARNED CONSTRUCTION CHAPTER AWARDS.



The National Women in Construction (NAWIC) Pittsburgh Chapter awarded senior Aaron Muth with first place which carries a cash award of \$800. Seniors Vivian Chan and Cameron Fletcher earned runner-up/honorable mention awards of \$900 each. The awards were sponsored by PJ Dick and the NAWIC Pittsburgh Chapter 161.

The Pennsylvania Builders Association awarded certifications to A.W. Beattie Career Center seniors Shane Warych and Jeffrey Swanson for completing at least two years in their career and technical education program while maintaining high-grade point averages. Jeffrey was also named co-valedictorian for Beattie and senior Caroline Curry earned senior of the year for her work in Sports Medicine Rehab Therapy.

Several students qualified to compete in the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Competition. Senior Jeffrey Swanson qualified internally at Beattie

to advance directly to the state competition in the HVAC category. PRHS senior Arden Webster placed second at the district competition in medical terminology. She is studying veterinary sciences. Senior Luke Yowan placed fourth in the district competition in collision repair. He is studying auto body at Beattie. Luke earned the Student of the Month Award at A.W. Beattie in December, along with seniors Aaron Schleicher, who is studying Health Science Technology and Cameron Kirkland, who is studying HVAC, and sophomore Graydon Sherron, who is studying Carpentry/Building Construction.

Senior Annalee Demitras was named president of the Family, Career, and Community of America. SkillsUSA Officers included Jeffrey Swanson who served as vice president and Caroline Curry who served as secretary. Jeffrey was named president of the National Technical Honors Society.

WEAR YOUR FUTURE DAY

PRHS Students Look Toward the Future

Pine-Richland High School students were encouraged to “Wear Their Future Day” in May of 2020. Despite the setbacks for their senior year, many students are gearing up for their future. Many participated and submitted their photos to the high school. In all, 282 students are attending a two or four-year college program with one student attending an apprentice program, three attending a career education program, three students are enlisting in the military, and 57 students will be employed or still deciding what they will do. Of the students attending college, 165 will be studying in Pennsylvania, 51 in Ohio, and eight in Virginia. PA, OH, and VA had the most students enrolled in college. Of note, one student will be studying in Ontario. Anyone wishing to still submit a post-high school decision picture can submit the photograph to rhathhorn@pinerichland.org to be placed on www.pinerichland.org/extras.



SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020



WEAR YOUR FUTURE DAY



SENIOR SPORTS



MANY SENIORS MISSED OUT ON SPRING SPORTS. THE DISTRICT RECOGNIZED THE ATHLETES WITH A TRIBUTE. VISIT WWW.PINERICHLAND.ORG/ATHLETICS FOR EACH SENIOR ATHLETE BIOGRAPHY. IF WE MISSED YOUR SENIOR WHO DIDN'T GET TO PLAY SPORTS THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC, PLEASE EMAIL RHATHHORN@PINERICHLAND.ORG TO BE PLACED IN OUR ONLINE ANNUAL REPORT EXTRA SEGMENT AT WWW.PINERICHLAND.ORG/EXTRAS.

Some senior athletes did not get a chance to participate in spring sports and were recognized. They include baseball players Wesley Byrd, Dylan DeNapoli, Nick Guidas, Justin Lowe, Luke Meckler, Connor Murphy, Charles Spontak, Marshall Weinberg, and Grant Voytovich; rowers Christopher Catalano, Vivian Chan, Ashley Moreland, and Kristen Vigna; lacrosse players Dayne Goltz, Brody Harris, Carter Hatzimbis, Nolan Kirsch, Luke Smallwood, Emma Coleman, Olivia Hanulak, Gianna Lazzaro, Meghan Luellen, and Brett Schweiger; softball players Chloe Erdner, Joslyn Hostetler and Alyssa Miller; tennis players Elliot Alexander, Ryan Hoyland, Kang-Young Kim, Max Kim, Jason Minicozzi, A.J. Silipo, and Benjamin Solomon; and track & field athletes Nathaniel Balkaran, Abby Baratka, Brian Bujalski, Nicholas Brenner, Jack Catalano, Chalondra Clarke, Dylan Crutchfeld, Zachary Ferris, Logan Guise, Connor Kirby, Daniel Krill, Grace Kristofic, Trent Miller, Ethan O'Neil, Sophia Olszewski, Alexandru Pelinescu, Kaylie Pillart, Brianna Reinert, Zachary Shaver, and Levi Wentz; and volleyball players Ryan Bauer, Blake Briski, Dave Pohlod, Jack Tyndall, and Ethan Wallace (Baseball).

Seniors Commit to Play Sports



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL SIGNING DAY IN FEBRUARY.



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL SIGNING DAY IN NOVEMBER.

Seniors committed to play sports at the following colleges and include:

Player	Sport	College
Abigail Baratka	Field Hockey	Washington & Jefferson College
Maryellen Berger	Volleyball	Slippery Rock University
Riley Berger	Volleyball	Slippery Rock University
Izzi Boyd	Soccer	Ohio University
Keegan Kline	Field Hockey	Slippery Rock University
Grace Kristofic	Volleyball	Mason University
Ava Lokosch	Field Hockey	Allegheny College
Nathan Lukez	Wrestling	United States Military Academy
Luke Meckler	Football	Kent State University
Trent Miller	Football	Valparaiso University
Ashley Moreland	Rower	Robert Morris University
Nevan Novitski	Football	Mercyhurst University
Ethan O'Neill	Football	Duquesne University
Robert Palmieri	Wrestling	Baldwin Wallace University
Kyle Polce	Basketball	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Donnie Professori	Golfer	University of Findlay
Chris Romano	Football	Waynesburg University
Alyssa Schonbachler	Swimmer	Duquesne University
Marshall Weinberg	Baseball	Saint Bonaventure University
Levi Wentz	Football	Dominion University



PHOTO COURTESY MONTAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY

SENIOR OLIVIA MCGEARY IS OVERCOME BY EMOTION AS SHE IS CROWNED HOMECOMING QUEEN ON SEPT. 21, 2019, AT HALF-TIME OF THE FOOTBALL GAME.



SENIOR OLIVIA MCGEARY WAS NAMED HOMECOMING QUEEN (CENTER), AND SENIOR ENYO AKWAYENA AS FIRST RUNNER-UP (LEFT), AND MEGHAN LUELLEN AS SECOND RUNNER UP (RIGHT).

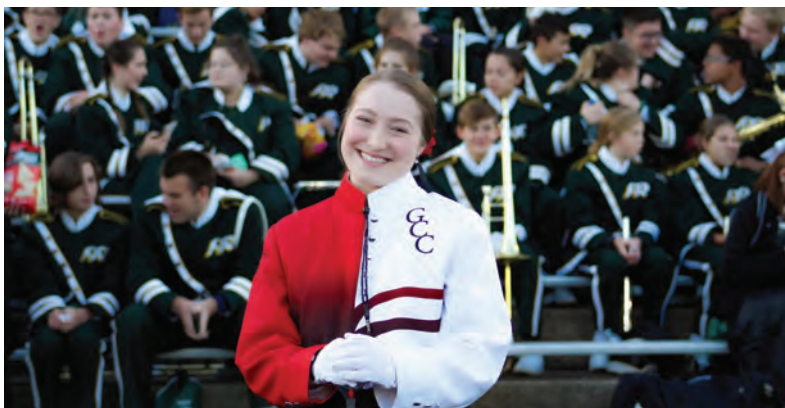
Ultimate Frisbee Players Recognized



Ultimate frisbee players missed out on their senior season. Seniors, who played on the boys team, included Elliot Duncan, Luke Gochis, Evan Grande, Ethan Landis (Captain), Devin McCue, Aidan Pavlick, Dylan Staples, and Justin Waltrip (Captain). Junior Jerek Stegman also serves as a captain for the team. The girls team is made up of seniors Allison Battaglia (Captain), Molly Gaffey (Captain), Sarah Stevens, and Kylie Zirckel (Captain).

SENIOR ULTIMATE FRISBEE PLAYERS MISS OUT ON SENIOR YEAR GAME TIME.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



DR. STACEY PAPARONE, ASSISTANT CHAIR OF THE GROVE CITY MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM, SNAPS A PHOTO OF 2017 PRHS GRADUATE SARAH DAWSON'S JOYFUL REUNION.

2017 Pine-Richland High School graduate Sarah Dawson reunited with her former band at the Grove City Band Festival on Oct. 12, 2019. She had the opportunity to see many PRHS Band friends, who were participating alongside 750 participants and six high schools. While in high school, Sarah was a drum major as she was in college. She studied music education with a concentration in trumpet and minor in voice. Sarah was a Trustee Scholar at Grove City, which is a merit-based scholarship program. She acknowledges the Pine-Richland music and band program, as well as the academic preparation that she received at PR, gave her a strong foundation and inspiration for her college journey.

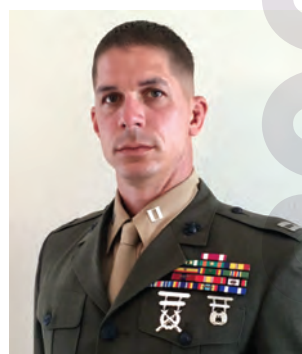
2017

2016 The U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board awarded 2016 Pine-Richland High School graduate Emma Kapoor, who graduated from American University in 2019, with the Fulbright U.S. Student Program award to Spain. Through the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Ms. Kapoor has the opportunity to teach English at IES Arquitecto Ventura Rodriguez. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected based on academic and professional achievement, as well as their record of service and leadership potential in their respective fields. Specifically, Ms. Kapoor says she is teaching at a local bilingual secondary school just outside the city. "I have to say that going on the high school Spain trip was a huge factor in me coming back to Spain," Ms. Kapoor said. "Specifically, Señora Hines and Señora Glaser helped me with my Spanish and made the trip an amazing time - so much so that I knew that I wanted to go back."



2016 PRHS GRADUATE EMMA KAPOOR EARNS THE FULBRIGHT AWARD.

Pine-Richland High School 2000 graduate Christopher Sills was promoted to captain in 2019. He serves as the mobility officer of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which provides a forward-deployed, rapid-response force capable of conducting conventional amphibious and selected maritime special operations at night or under adverse weather conditions from the sea, by surface, and/or by air. He is responsible for planning and supervising missions from a three-ship Naval Amphibious Readiness Group.



2000 PRHS GRADUATE CHRISTOPHER SILL IS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN.



2013 PRHS GRADUATE CONNOR FINLEY IS APPEARING IN MOVIES THAT WERE FILMED LOCALLY.

2013

One of Pine-Richland's own will be appearing in a series available via Netflix and a movie on HBO Max. Pine-Richland High School 2013 graduate Connor Finley is appearing in *Manhunt: Lone Wolf* on Netflix. He portrays a member of the militia. The second in a two-season program began filming on Sept. 3, 2019. He is also appearing in *An American Pickle* that is expected to be released later this summer on HBO Max. While at Pine-Richland High School, Connor was involved in PRTV and served as a student anchor and announcer. He attended AW Beattie Career Center for culinary arts.

2011



PRHS GRADUATE COLIN BUDD HOLDS UP A FRAMED DEPICTION OF HIS PATENT THAT IBM SENT IN RECOGNITION OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT ON MARCH 27, 2020.

“The interdisciplinary nature of the study that Pine-Richland and Cornell promote encouraged and enabled me to fuse my love for design and technology while allowing me to equally approach problems from novel perspectives. I’m so appreciative of that and it’s prepared me well for the work I get to do today at an enterprise scale!”

— PRHS 2011 Graduate Colin Budd

Have you ever highlighted a passage of text only to realize you aren’t exactly sure where the end of the passage is due to your view being blocked by the very hand holding the highlighter? As more and more devices gain touchscreens, this age-old problem has grown as exponentially as it has digitally. From highlighting text on ebooks to interacting with elements on a display by hand - the ability to have a constant awareness of a screen’s content is often at odds with the momentary obstruction of your vision caused by your very hand interacting with the device.

There is a solution thanks to the 2011 Pine-Richland High School graduate Colin Budd, who earned degrees in Information Science and Fine Arts from Cornell University. His solution led to his first patent entitled “Dynamic Modification of Displayed Elements of Obstruction Region (No. US 10,509,563 B2),” which defines a method by which to intelligently re-configure elements/content on a screen simply by understanding what might be hidden from the user’s view and how to re-position that content to remain in view/easily accessible has earned a patent. The method allows users to highlight text or interact with an app, and important elements on the screen (including buttons, critical information, images, text, and far beyond) can be smartly kept well in the user’s view so the user never loses awareness of or limits his or her ability to interact fully with the content on display.

Colin, who currently resides in Austin, TX, is a Global Design Strategist with IBM and helps clients around the world get started or unstuck on highly innovative projects as part of IBM’s consultancy, the IBM Garage. Colin says his high school and college experiences helped shape his future.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

PRSD Healthcare Leadership Council

Pine-Richland established a PRSD Healthcare Leadership Council to gain insight from experts in the community, a representative group of staff and key partners. The district is appreciative and fortunate to have received an overwhelming response from volunteer experts who live in Pine-Richland. In addition to board directors, the PR Senior Leadership Team, administrators, staff members, and students, the team is made up of medical and public health experts. Those experts include:

- Dr. Amy Cashdollar, Allegheny Health Network (AHN) chief operating officer
- Erin Colvin, Children’s Hospital certified registered nurse practitioner
- Dr. Vaughn Cooper, University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) professor of microbiology molecular genetics and co-founder of the Microbial Genome Sequencing Center
- Renee Dixon, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) registered nurse
- Dr. Tony Farah, Highmark Health executive vice president and health chief medical/clinical transformation officer
- Dr. Catherine Hrach, Butler Health System emergency physician
- Dr. Jenene Hunkele, senior medical science liaison for Alexion
- Dr. Allan Klapper, AHN chief executive officer
- Dr. Domenic Mantella (PRSD school physician)
- Dr. Brook McHugh, AHN pediatrician
- Dr. Tyler Quinn, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health research physiologist
- Dr. Ryan Shields, UPMC infectious diseases pharmacist/ Pitt associate professor of medicine

You can review more information and meeting presentations via www.pinerichland.org/continuitylearning.

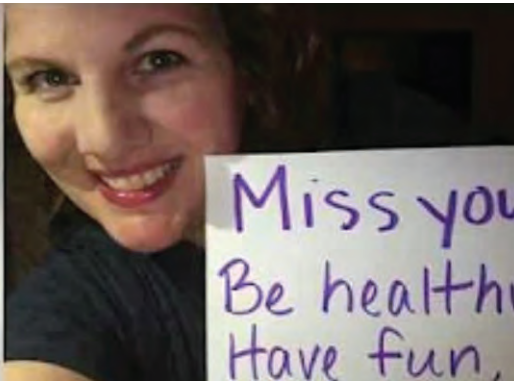
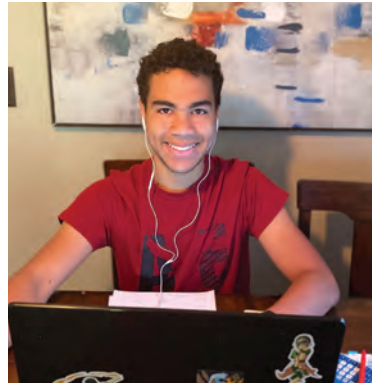
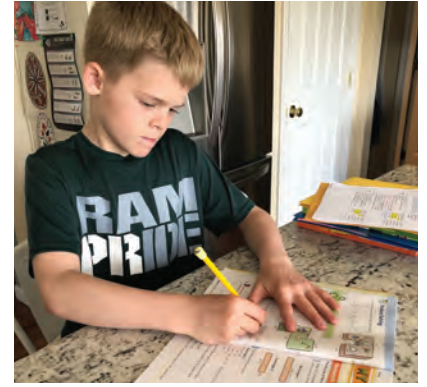
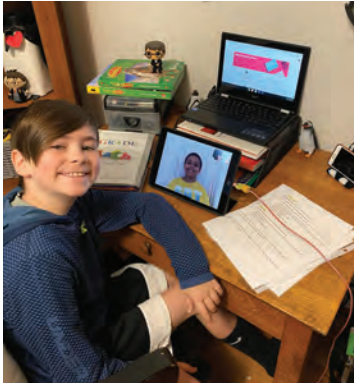
PRSD Safety and Security

The topic of safety and security is critical to the mission of the Pine-Richland School District. As a district, the team takes a comprehensive view of school safety with attention given to multiple areas (e.g., district culture, building security, personnel, law enforcement, mental health, technology, law, curriculum, reporting, communication, and general measures). That comprehensive view is most recently impacted by the public health concerns of a global pandemic connected to the highly contagious novel coronavirus. To review the latest communications on safety, please visit www.pinerichland.org/safety.

Pine-Richland School District Annual Report

2020

Learning "Inside and Outside" the Classroom (and School)!



This annual report was printed on recycled paper containing post consumer waste using vegetable-based ink.



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PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



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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. **This is a special “flipped” edition of the annual report.** You are currently reading the “regular” version designed to review and celebrate the year. If you “flip” this magazine over, you will see a **second cover specifically focused on the Class of 2020.** Given the impact of the novel coronavirus on end-of-year activities, we wanted to dedicate a specific focus on our seniors so that each family will have a copy of this report to capture memories of the entire educational experience.

The **mission, vision and values** reflected in this image serve as the **compass** that drives action in our district. At the top of the picture, you see **Effort and Persistence** followed by a set of books titled **Students, Staff, Parents, and Community.** The adversity caused by a global pandemic led to a **level of effort and collaboration** by each of these groups that fills me with PR PRIDE. We could fill a hundred annual reports with the stories of growth, resiliency, and innovation demonstrated by so many in our community. One of our values is engagement. It is hard to imagine a higher level of teamwork, ownership and **engagement.** Thank you to all for contributions great and small!

While we will remember 2019–2020 for a global pandemic that impacted all aspects of life around the world, we also want to ensure that we **celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff across the entire school year.** We have continued to grow stronger in all aspects of our educational program and the overall organization. As one example at the district level, the Pine-Richland School Board earned the PSBA-PASA Outstanding Innovation Award. The importance of effective governance – including innovation – is just one example of qualities needed for high performance.

Please invest your time in a close reading of this report. Consider the breadth and depth of opportunities at Pine-Richland and how those opportunities help us pursue our mission. With 4,600 students, this mission is an aspiration and challenge.

Thank you for your continued support of the Pine-Richland School District.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D., Superintendent



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ON THE COVER: PINE-RICHLAND PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE LEARNING AND HELP OTHERS DURING THE PANDEMIC.

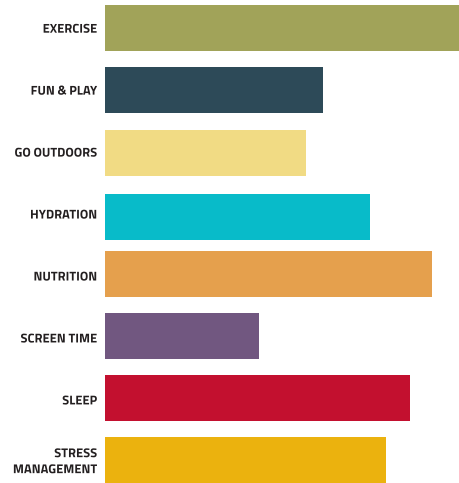
[DID YOU KNOW THAT...?]

- **Pine-Richland School District**, along with all 42 school districts and five career and technical centers (CTCs) in suburban Allegheny County, issued a joint statement on June 5, 2020, reaffirming their organizations’ commitment to students and families of all backgrounds and standing against acts of prejudice and racism. “As Allegheny County educators, we strive to ensure welcoming, inclusive, and safe learning environments for all of our students and families. We are committed to nurturing schools where each and every child is respected and valued as an individual regardless of skin color, gender, orientation, religion, ability or disability, or any other category. We stand together in support of our students and families of color and against acts of prejudice and racism. We will continue to work to ensure educational equity for all students and stand in solidarity with our black and brown students and families.”
- **U.S. News & World Report** ranks **Pine-Richland High School** eighth in Allegheny County and 25th in the state in its “Top High School” rankings for 2020. In addition, the report ranks PRHS at 860 out of 17,792 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** ranks **Pine-Richland School District** eighth out of 105 districts in the region in its 2019 list of rankings in the region and 12th out of 500 school districts in the state in its 2020 list of rankings by examining scores from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments and Keystone exams.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

PR Graduate Portrait

When you “flip” this magazine to the Class of 2020 cover, you will read an introductory message with an accompanying image that highlights the **PR Graduate Portrait**. This concept emerged during the strategic planning process as a way to emphasize that a quality education consists of much more than an increase in knowledge. The **four developmental dimensions** include: Knowledge, Skills, Health & Wellness, and Personal Qualities & Characteristics. Over the course of the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year, Pine-Richland launched a **PR Graduate Portrait Challenge** to introduce each dimension and give students, staff, and parents the opportunity to engage in the ideas. Health & Wellness is one example to highlight this work. In the survey response graph, you see the prioritized values of exercise, nutrition, sleep, and stress management. This type of interactive approach was used for all four dimensions to help us collectively determine a holistic understanding of a quality education.

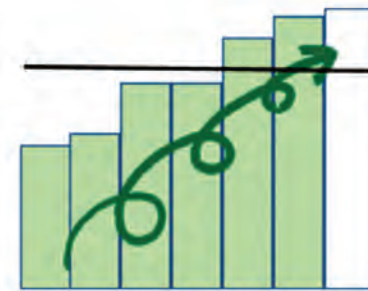


Strategic Planning Process for 2019-2023

After 400 students, staff, parents and community participated in last year’s design of the Strategic Plan for 2019-2023, the district used that plan to drive strategic action. The five categories are noted on the spines of these books. **Please visit the strategic plan section of the website.** The site is updated to include an overview of the following: mission, vision, and values; strategy development process; structure and content; four-year plan; and current-year implementation. The district provides a quarterly **narrative update** of key initiatives and a quarterly **dashboard view** of all action plans. If the mission, vision, and values serve as a compass, the strategic plan serves as the map. The direction of the district over the next few years is clearly outlined. The district also reflects and adjusts on an annual basis to demonstrate agility and flexibility for changing conditions.

Pursuit of Excellence

The final category of our strategic plan is titled “**Pursuit of Excellence.**” This category includes board goals, building goals and explicit commitment to continuous improvement through the **Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence** and **Baldrige Performance Excellence** programs (Page 5). The district completed an organizational profile and 50-page application that reflects the processes used to deliver the education program and operate the district. In addition, a comprehensive set of measures were identified to monitor the results of learning, satisfaction, engagement, strategy, finance, and leadership and governance. We will receive a feedback report in the fall that will help us identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. A podcast is available on the district website to learn more about this category.





PR Examines Demographics & Redistricting

Pine-Richland is a dynamic community that continues to experience residential and commercial growth. Long-range planning in all areas of programming and operations is critical for organizational performance and success. In addition to the areas of new construction, Pine and Richland Townships provide an attractive place for families with school-age children or those planning to start a family. The quality of our school district and its wide range of opportunities is an important consideration for those families. The municipal government, location relative to the greater Pittsburgh region, and other amenities contribute to this growth. The specific topic related to demographics, enrollment, and building capacity is contained in the Pine-Richland School District (PRSD) Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. Under the Finance and Operations category for 2019-2020, there is a specific short-term action to evaluate the 2016 demographic study versus the actual enrollment data.

Thomas & Williamson, LLC, and Davis Demographics, the companies that are conducting a demographic study, provided PRSD with an initial high-level overview of their report. The school board and district administrators reviewed the current demographic study (Phase 1) and the eventual redistricting process (Phase 2) at the Pine-Richland School Board Student Services Committee Meeting on June 8, 2020. Thomas & Williamson is working on a formal report to provide to the district.

Results of the 10-year enrollment projection study continue to underscore the need for redistricting at the primary level. As enrollment at Wexford Elementary School continues to increase and each space is being fully utilized to deliver the educational programs, we are confirming the need to implement a redistricting plan for 2021-2022 that shifts some students within the K-3 schools and helps us ensure equity in program delivery.

The conclusion of this first phase and the work to be completed in the second phase of the planning process will lead to redistricting at the primary level beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. The timeline is:

- **2019-2020:** Update demographic study (Phase 1) and finalize redistricting recommendation by summer or early fall of 2020 (Phase 2).
- **2020-2021:** Plan the transition for students/staff and logistics (Current boundaries will remain in effect for the final year.).
- **2021-2022:** Implement the first year of redistricting (i.e., new boundaries begin).

To prepare for the work in Phase 2, the school board reviewed the potential criteria that will be utilized to determine the new school zone boundaries at the primary level. The discussion led to the prioritization of the following factors:

- Longevity of decision and sustained plan length (e.g., minimum five years);
- Projected student enrollment from yet unpopulated new housing developments (e.g., room to grow);
- Optimization of primary school utilization and programming;
- Maximum of two to three options;
- Simplicity of plan (e.g., fewer big geographic moves vs. many smaller geographic moves); and
- Minimization of new divisions of neighborhood footprints if possible.

You can review podcasts and other information via www.pinerichland.org/redistrict. The district will continue to provide future opportunities for community awareness and feedback through board meetings, key communicators, PTO meetings, and eBlasts.

District Builds Improvement Framework



Pine-Richland School District strives for continuous improvement and has identified a long-term goal for 2019-2023 and short-term actions that support that goal. Most significantly, the district is also pursuing excellence through the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence and Baldrige Performance Excellence programs. The district submitted an application, on March 18, 2020, that responded to a comprehensive set of criteria. The district will receive a feedback report that will help identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. This application will also include a set of comprehensive measures to help the district monitor results. The application included key processes and results organized by the following:

- Leadership and Governance
- Strategy Planning and Implementation
- Students and Parents
- Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management
- Workforce Environment and Engagement
- Operation Processes and Effectiveness
- Results for Student Learning, Processes, Students/Parents, Workforce, Leadership/Governance, and Budget/Finance/Market and Strategy

District Maps Out Improvement Projects

The district takes a deliberate and long-term approach to financial planning. Capital maintenance and improvement projects in the district are thoughtfully considered within a 10-year plan to support the district's value of providing diverse opportunities for students.

With insurance coverage, the district installed new energy-efficient LED-lighting replacing the stadium lights damaged during a hail storm on May 28, 2019. The new lighting solution will save energy and reduce maintenance costs over time. In addition, the new installation will benefit surrounding neighborhoods since the new system eliminates what is known as light spill and sky glow. Maintenance personnel will also be able to better manage the lights through scheduling and dimming when less light is needed.

Some of the other projects that the district has been working on include:

- Stadium Turf Replacement & Field #6 Improvements
- Pine-Richland High School Girls Varsity Softball Field
- Richland Elementary Improvements (Restrooms, Facade, and Windows)
- Pine-Richland High School Roof Replacements

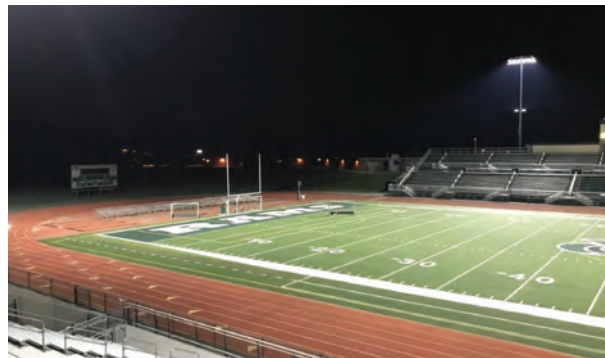
The district earned a \$250,000 Gaming Economic Development Fund grant to support some of these projects.



THE DISTRICT EARNED A \$250,000 GAMING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT TO SUPPORT PROJECTS INCLUDING NEW WINDOWS AT RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN PRIOR TO THE LIGHTING PROJECT AND SHOWS THE LIGHT SPILL AND SKY GLOW.



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AFTER THE LIGHTING PROJECT AND SHOWS HOW THE LIGHT SPILL AND GLARE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED.



(L-R) WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THIRD-GRADERS MALIYAH DAVIS, GABRIELLE FAZIO, AND JACQUELINE WHITSEL ARE ALL SMILES AS THEY EAT LUNCH.



WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THIRD-GRADERS MYRAA PANDYA (FRONT) AND AINSLEY ANDERSON (BACK) ENJOY GRILLED CHEESE AND TOMATO SOUP DURING LUNCH.

Sodexo Is Working to Reduce Plastic & Offering New Choices in 2020-2021

During the 2019-2020 school year, Sodexo reduced plastic and increased paper disposables and will continue to strive to reduce more plastics. Other initiatives during the 2019-2020 school year included:

- Providing more than 4,300 meals during the COVID closures;
- Focusing on the importance of eating breakfast at home or in school districtwide; and
- Hosting the Sodexo Healthy High School Challenge by providing the Pine-Richland High School Student Government with \$1,000.

In 2020-2021, Sodexo is working to:

- Provide the Taste4 Menu, which will include “World of Flavors” that will offer some spicy, comfort foods and fun food combinations from around the world including Mexican, Asian, US Regional Recipes, and Mediterranean flavors with specifically designed sauces at the high school possibly after January.
- Implement the SoHappy App, which will replace Schoolcafe for menus and provide allergy and nutrition options. (The app is very user-friendly and has a student option to link to the parent account. Families can connect the app to Alexa, so parents can ask, “What’s for lunch today.”)
- Maintain the Schoolcafe site, which will still be available to provide online payment options and the **SodexoMYWay.com** for another menu viewing option.

SETTING UP AN ONLINE ACCOUNT

Please note that a free online account can be set up at 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 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.

2020-2021 PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEAL PRICES

	PAID K-6	PAID 7-12	REDUCED K-12	FREE K-12
DAILY MEAL	\$2.40	\$2.65	\$.40	\$.00
RAM MEAL	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$.40	\$.00
BREAKFAST	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$.30	\$.00

STAFF & DEPARTMENT NEWS

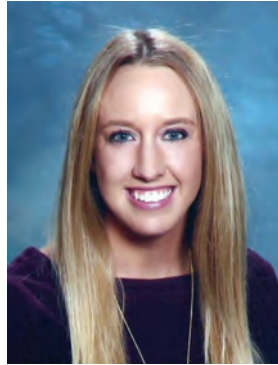
District Welcomes New Employees & Recognizes Retirees



MS. ASHLEY ANZELONE
HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST



MR. CLAYTON GRUBER
CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR



DR. TAYLOUR KIMMEL
K-6 PSYCHOLOGIST



MS. AMANDA FRIDAY
HELP DESK LEAD



MS. JENNA SLOAN
RICHLAND ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

During 2019-2020, Pine-Richland School District welcomed new faces to the administrative team including Ashley Anzelone as the district's human resources specialist at the central offices; Clayton Gruber as the district's custodial supervisor; and Dr. Taylour Kimmel as a K-6 school psychologist. In the PRSD Technology Office, Amanda Friday was promoted to the help desk lead and Matthew Keasy joined the team as a help desk technician.

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH & PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

At the high school level, Pine-Richland High School welcomed custodians Nicole Lewis Hartman, David Kiley, Barry Mazar, and James Osche, along with Intervention Specialist Emily Mazzant, paraprofessionals Mary Jo Cohen and Samuel Dickson, and Transition Counselor Jocelyn Secen. At Pine-Richland Middle School, the team welcomed custodian Christina Varner and Learning Support Teacher Jaime Knauff. The district also welcomed Librarian Kristen Rowe in June of 2019.

EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School welcomed paraprofessionals Susan Pasqualucci and Emily Jensen Powell and playground and cafeteria aides Julia Collado Latta and Erica McDonald.

HANCE, RICHLAND & WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Hance Elementary School welcomed Kaytlyn Snee as a kindergarten/dismissal aide and Paraprofessional Carole Killmeyer. At Richland Elementary School, the team will be welcoming Principal Jenna Sloan who was hired in June as Dr. Gene Nicastro relocates out of state. The Richland team also welcomed Paraprofessional Cindy Gardiner and Special Education Teacher Danica Cannon. At Wexford Elementary School, the district welcomed Librarian Andrea Clarkson, paraeducators Martha Roberts and Ellen Skirpan, Secretary Tara Franks, and Teacher Krista Amigh.

District Honors Retirees



THIS YEAR'S RETIREE
RECOGNITION WAS
HELD VIRTUALLY.

Pine-Richland School District honored teachers and staff members who retired in 2019-2020. Teachers who retired at the end of June 2020 included Pine-Richland High School teachers Kathy Bylinowski and Ron Schmiedel; Eden Hall Upper Elementary teachers Tom McGarity, Mary Anne Sanders, and Gregg Somerhalder; Richland Elementary teachers Kathy Giegel and Jan Montgomery; Wexford Elementary Teacher Shirley Boring; and elementary art teachers Eileen Gilson (Richland/Hance) and Barb Scheller (Wexford/Hance). In all, these teachers logged more than 227 years of service. From August to March 2020, the district honored Eden Hall Upper Elementary Paraprofessional Cathy Filson, Instructional Assistant Marie Carelle; and Pine-Richland Middle School Teacher Laurie Jones, whose combined service tallies to more than 53 years of service.

Pine-Richland Educators Help Lead Initiatives

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) selected Principal Kelly Gustafson as a lead administrator to serve on its AASL School Leader Collaborative. The AASL School Leader Collaborative: Administrators & School Librarians Transforming Teaching and Learning is a two-year initiative that aims to strengthen AASL's collaboration with school administrators.

PRINCIPAL KELLY GUSTAFSON WAS SELECTED AS A LEAD ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS SCHOOL LEADER COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE.



(L-R) PRINCIPAL KELLY GUSTAFSON AND EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY LIBRARIAN BETH SHENEFIEL PARTICIPATE IN A REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM HELD AT PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Eden Hall Librarian Beth Shenefiel and Pine-Richland Middle School Librarian Kristen Rowe were appointed to serve with the Leadership Institute for School Librarians (LISL). LISL offers experienced school librarians who have been active participants in the profession and/or in Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) to help lead important associations or grant initiatives. Ms. Shenefiel's leadership project is focused on developing training for the soon-to-be-released model curriculum for the PA School Library programs, and Ms. Rowe is focusing on improving the statewide communication network for librarians. They were two of only 16 librarians across Pennsylvania to be accepted and will work on their initiatives through September 2020.

Wexford Elementary School Librarian Andrea Clarkson was accepted into the PSLA and the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification program in March of 2020. The program offers librarians the opportunity to expand their leadership, communication, interpersonal, and presentation skill set.



WEXFORD ELEMENTARY LIBRARIAN ANDREA CLARKSON WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE PA SCHOOL LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION AND PITTSBURGH SCHOOL LIBRARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

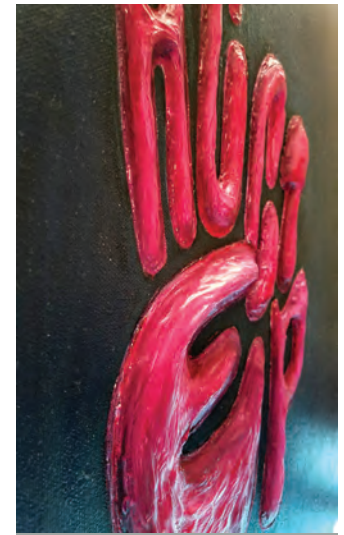


PRMS LIBRARIAN KRISTEN ROWE WAS SELECTED FOR THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS.

Teachers Featured in Local Art Exhibits



EIGHTH-GRADERS MARC SAULNIER, AVYU NAGRATH, LOGAN KEENAN, AND REGIS WELSH EXAMINE BRUSH STROKES AND USE OF VALUE WITHIN TEACHER HOLLY ANGELOFF'S SUNFLOWER PAINTING THAT WAS FEATURED IN THE NORTH HILLS ART SHOW.



EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY TEACHER KATELYNN TRONETTI CREATES A PIECE ENTITLED "ACCEPT ME" FOR THE KETCHUP CITY CREATIVE PRISM SHOW.



PRHS ART TEACHER MARY ANNE ANDREASSI PARTICIPATES IN THE ALLE-KISKI ARTS CONSORTIUM EXHIBIT.

Pine-Richland students are not the only ones being recognized for their artwork. PR teachers are showcasing their art.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary Art Teacher Katelynn Tronetti's "Accept Me" piece was featured in Sharpsburg during the Ketchup City Creative Prism show. The final show was held on Feb. 27, 2020. The piece is made of silicone caulking, oil, and acrylic on canvas.

Pine-Richland High School Art Teacher Mary Anne Andreassi participated in the Alle-Kiski Arts Consortium educator exhibition called "Practice What We Teach." The program was held at the Penn State New Kensington Art Gallery during the month of January. Her ceramic pieces "Peony Cup Series" and "Love Your Family" plate were featured items.

Pine-Richland Middle School Art Teacher Holly Angeloff's sunflower painting was featured in the North Hills Art Center Show "A Touch of Blue." The show benefitted the Highmark Caring Place in Wexford. The opening reception and awards ceremony were hosted on Feb. 8, 2020. She taught students to explore the use of value to create realism through her painting.

Teacher Earns Award

Congratulations to Physical Education Teacher Sherry Warrick. She was named a Remarkable Team Player by Chick-Fil-A Pittsburgh. Mrs. Warrick is Pine-Richland School District's Academic Leadership Council representative, and she has been instrumental in driving a wellness-based change in her classroom, school, and the whole Pine-Richland community. She was a key member of the district's in-depth program review of the physical education curriculum and has been an advocate for incorporating wellness tips into all classes. She leads a team that sends out a monthly newsletter promoting healthy living and has been a part of the textbook review committee to update health resources. Mrs. Warrick was recognized at the Pirates game Aug. 24, 2019, at PNC Park.





LEFT: PRHS ART TEACHER RAMON RILEY IS COMMISSIONING SEVERAL OF HIS PAINTINGS.

FAR LEFT: PRHS ART TEACHER RAMON RILEY IS SHOWN HERE AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.

Allegheny Conference For Community Development (AACD) purchased PRHS Art Teacher Ramon Riley's painting "Blind Progress" for public display in its Pittsburgh office space. AACD is committed to improving the Pittsburgh region's economic future and quality of life. In addition, the Sewickley Tavern commissioned four paintings for the main dining area. Riley was commissioned to create works incorporating Sewickley's rich history with his signature mixed media style. Riley's works include landmarks like the train station,

which later became an African American social hall featured in "Jig Outside Post 450," as well as the original architecture of the Sewickley Bridge in "A Bridge is a Pas De Deux." Riley was commissioned by the Children's Museum and PPG Paints to design and paint a 15-ft. mural, which Riley titled "Amuse," which is now complete and on display. Riley's "BRIDGES: Untitled II" is currently on display in the entrance of the city county building, presented by "Art on the Walls" (AOW), a collaboration between the Office of the

Mayor and Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council and Associated Artists of Pittsburgh. Riley is studio director of Radiant Hall Nova Place (located near Federal Galley). Radiant Hall is a Pittsburgh non-profit organization that creates and preserves art studio environments for working creatives. Four of Riley's works are on display at Federal Galley. Riley is creating illustrations for a Hip Hop Opera in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Festival Opera, which will be presented to students in 2021.

Students Show Their Appreciation of Bus Drivers



FOURTH-GRADER DANE MONTAGUE AND BUS DRIVER REUBEN ELLIS PARTICIPATE IN A BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School students took the time to share their appreciation and respect for more than 30 bus drivers as part of the RAMS Way initiative (Respectful, Accountable, Motivated, & Safe) aimed at helping set and achieve behavioral expectations with students. The Eden Hall Parent Teacher Organization, administration, and students helped prep a special breakfast for the drivers on Jan. 29, 2020.

Assistant Principal Paula Giran helped introduce students who were selected to serve as RAMS Way ambassadors for their particular biome and talked about behavioral expectations on the bus as outlined in RAMS Way.

Eden Hall Bus Driver Reuben Ellis says RAMS Way has had a positive impact.

"RAMS Way is a phenomenal tool that the school is using to help us drivers to get to know the kids, and the kids learn how to be respectful," said Mr. Ellis.

Student Transportation of America representatives were on hand and were pleased to be a part of the RAMS Way program.

"STA is excited to be at Eden Hall to learn about RAMS Way," says STA Manager Colleen McAndrew.

STA Assistant Manager Andy Hartman and PR Transportation Coordinator Kim Charney also participated in the program.

Nominate a Teacher

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

District Provides Paperless Option

The Pine-Richland School District produces the annual report on recycled paper. While the 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.

District Recognizes Northern Regional Police Chief



RETIRED NORTHERN POLICE CHIEF ROBERT AMANN SPEAKS AT A BOARD MEETING AS HE IS RECOGNIZED FOR HIS WORK.

The district also honored Northern Regional Police Chief Robert Amann who officially retired in November of 2019, after 44 years. He developed and sustained a strong cooperative working relationship with Pine-Richland School District administrators, staff, parents, and community and worked with his department to keep a safe learning environment for students.

PRHS Air Force JROTC Earns Distinguished Unit Award

Pine-Richland High School Air Force JROTC has been selected as one of 387 units to receive the 2019-2020 Air Force JROTC Distinguished Unit Award. This award recognizes Air Force JROTC units that have performed well above and beyond normal expectations and that have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their schools and communities while meeting the Air Force JROTC citizen development mission for America.

To earn this award, units have to surpass several milestones during the school year including meeting enrollment criteria, service hour requirements, and deadlines. The unit conducted a self-assessment, completed six or more leadership development requirements, and more.

The objectives of the Air Force JROTC program are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship and life skills; promote community service; instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline through character education; and to provide instruction in air and space fundamentals. Enrollment is open to high school students who are in the ninth through 12th grades.

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education Earns Curriculum Leadership Award



The Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) recognized Pine-Richland Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education & Curriculum Michael Pasquinelli, Ed.D., with the ASCD Outstanding Curriculum Leadership Award. He was recognized for his contributions in the field of education on Nov. 25, 2019. Dr. Pasquinelli has helped lead the in-depth program reviews as part of the strategic planning process at Pine-Richland School District.

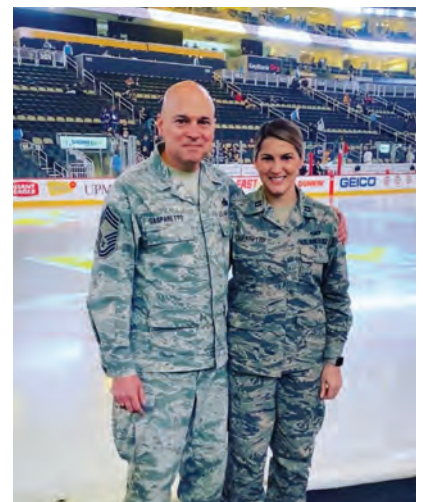
DR. MICHAEL PASQUINELLI

Instructor Honored as Hometown Hero

One of Pine-Richland's own was featured at the Penguins game on Feb. 18, 2020, as a Hometown Hero. Chief Michael Gasparetto, a PRHS AFJROTC instructor, was honored before the Pittsburgh-Toronto Maple Leaf game. He was accompanied by his daughter Autumn who serves in the military. The two were introduced in front of the crowd.

"We were on the ice for both the Canadian and American National anthems," said Chief Gasparetto. "It was a very special night for me just not as a Veteran but as a father as well."

To top it off, Chief Gasparetto was able to ride the Zamboni in between the first and second periods and the Pens won 5-2.



AFJROTC INSTRUCTOR MICHAEL GASPARETTO IS SHOWN HERE WITH HIS DAUGHTER AUTUMN BEFORE BEING INTRODUCED AT A HOCKEY GAME IN FEBRUARY.

In 2018-2019, Pine-Richland entered a successful crosstown agreement with Mars Area High School. As a result, the program opened its doors to all Mars Area High School students. Participating students travel to and from Pine-Richland High School daily to attend JROTC courses and activities.

Major Michael Morrison and Chief Michael Gasparetto oversee the program, which began in 2010 at Pine-Richland High School.



CADETS PARTICIPATE IN A FLAG CEREMONY.

Pine-Richland Promotes Kindness & Positive Behavior

The Pine-Richland School District Department of Student Services and Special Education launched a district-wide system of positive behavioral supports and interventions. The purpose is to provide an intentional and preventative approach to improving upon a positive school climate.

Students have been learning what it means to be Respectful, Accountable, Motivated, and Safe in various areas of each school building, including the cafeteria, hallways, bathrooms, attendance, and the bus. All schools highlighted individual incentive programs to acknowledge and reward positive behavior.

In addition to RAMS Way, students have always been promoting a culture of positivity through the various programs they participate in during the school year. Here are just a few examples from each school.



ABOVE: EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL STEVEN SMITH (LEFT) AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PAULA GIRAN (RIGHT) ARE SHOWN HERE WITH SIXTH-GRADER ZURI WITHERSPOON, WHO IS PORTRAYING ALICE IN WONDERLAND DURING THE EDEN HALL MONSTER MASH CELEBRATION OF RAMS WAY.



LEFT: (L-R) WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADER STORY WOZNIAK, RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADER AIDEN RO, AND HANCE ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADER KYLE MOORE ARE SHOWN HERE WITH THEIR TEACHERS (L-R) JOANNA FIRMIN, KATHY GIEGEL, AND KERRY SCHURMAN PRIOR TO A BOARD MEETING ON JAN. 13, 2020, DURING BOARD APPRECIATION. STUDENTS PRESENTED PAINTED BUTTERFLIES WITH MESSAGES TELLING PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WHY THEY ARE APPRECIATED.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADER HAYLEY BUCHANAN PARTICIPATES IN THE SUPERHERO 5K. THE PROGRAM WAS CANCELED DURING COVID CLOSURES BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP FAMILIES IN THE FAIRWINDS NEIGHBORHOOD FROM ORGANIZING ONE THAT FOLLOWED HEALTH GUIDELINES OF SOCIAL DISTANCING.



STUDENTS ARE ALL HEART AS THEY SHARE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WITH THEIR PEERS. NINTH-GRADE MEMBERS OF THE PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION POSTED POSITIVE MESSAGES ON THEIR FELLOW CLASSMATES' LOCKERS JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY WEEK. STUDENTS ARE SHOWN HERE WITH DIRECTOR OF CAREER & COLLEGE COUNSELING JEAN WHALEN, CO-SPONSOR OF THE CLASS OF 2023.

RESPECTFUL

ACCOUNTABLE



(L-R) SENIORS JULIA SIMENDINGER AND ENYONAM AKWAYENA JOIN DOZENS OF STUDENTS IN A SPECIAL PEER-TO-PEER SESSION ON NOV. 12, 2019, IN ADVANCE OF WORLD KINDNESS DAY ON NOV. 13, 2019. PEER-TO-PEER LAUNCHED INITIATIVES THAT INCLUDED MAKING KITS AND CROCHETED HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS AND MENTORING MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.



TEACHER KERRY SCHURMAN AND ANN FETTERMAN HELP THIRD-GRADERS (L-R) MACKENZIE HEHMAN, NINA POULOS, LOGAN BRUNECZ, AND COLTON CORBIN DURING A RAMS WAY TELEVISED ASSEMBLY.



(L-R) SENIORS LEVI WENTZ AND PETROS BALOURIS ARE FRONT AND CENTER WITH SECOND-GRADER CARSON KOCH AND OTHER SECOND GRADERS. THE SENIORS SPOKE TO STUDENTS IN WEXFORD ELEMENTARY TEACHER RACHEL ZIMMERMAN'S CLASSROOM ABOUT WHAT BEING ACCOUNTABLE MEANS.



(L-R) HANCE ELEMENTARY THIRD-GRADERS LOGAN BRUNECZ, ADDISON KALPAKIS, LILY KIRKBRIDE, AND LINDSAY ECKMAN ARE SHOWN HERE WITH TEACHER DANIELLE CZEGAN KICKING OFF A PROJECT ON FEB. 10, 2020. THEY ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO CREATE CARDS WITH COMPLIMENTS TIED TO RAMS WAY TRAITS.



MOTIVATED

STUDENTS AT PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL ARE CREDITED WITH THOUSANDS OF POSITIVE BEHAVIORS THROUGH THE RAMS WAY INITIATIVE AND EARNED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPIN THE PRIZE WHEEL ON JAN. 27, 2020. EIGHTH-GRADER MAJESTA JOHNSON SPINS THE PRIZE WHEEL.

SAFE

District Presents Seventh Annual Academic Achievement & Growth Report

2019 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE SCORECARD

SCHOOL	SCORE
Pine-Richland High	88
Pine-Richland Middle	76
Eden Hall Upper Elementary	72
Hance Elementary	90
Richland Elementary	96
Wexford Elementary	84

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE SCALE

90-100: *Significant evidence the district exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

80-89.9: *Moderate evidence the district exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

70-79.9: *Evidence the district met the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

60-69.9: *Moderate evidence the district did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

>60: *Significant evidence the district did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth.*

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. Now in the seventh year of publication, the format and structure of this report have been refined each year to provide descriptive statistics and analyses across a series of standardized assessments. This year, the process was refined to include interactive, state-provided data analysis accounts to the Academic Leadership Council (ALC) members.

The data allows for disaggregation and a several-year snapshot of student performance, with multiple permutations. The collective group of administrators and professional staff identified and prioritized strengths, opportunities, and action steps to be reflected in the recommendations section. Emphasis was placed on integrated action steps, in a prioritized manner targeting high-leverage actions. Connecting these action steps to work and recommendations emerging from the in-depth program reviews and to the teaching and learning occurring in our classrooms daily is of utmost importance to ensure sustainability and alignment.

Please note that 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 this 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. In the 2019- 2023 PRSD Strategic Plan, the district has called specific attention to the holistic development of our students through the PR Graduate Portrait. The sub-skills identified under the four overarching categories were defined with help from the community, including educators, students, and parents, and the greater community as essential for success within and beyond our school experience. For a complete look at the PRSD Academic Growth & Achievement Report, visit www.pinerichland.org/academicreport.

Some of the report's key highlights include:

- PSSA achievement levels at or above the top decile in almost all cases;
- Use of benchmarking tools help to drive instructional interventions down to the student level;
- Availability to access tools and analyze data through the Academic Leadership Council; and
- Engagement of the professional staff during the data analysis, reflection, and action planning portions of the Academic Achievement & Growth Report creation.

Areas of focus include:

- Continued examination and revisions of curriculum, assessment, and instruction at all grade levels;

Continued on page 16

Review Details About Tools Used in Assessing Schools

PA Value-Added Assessment System Provides Growth Data

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) is a statistical analysis of Pennsylvania state assessment data, which provides districts and schools with growth data to add to achievement data. This analysis provides educators with valuable information to ensure they are meeting the academic needs of groups of students. Educators are using PVAAS (growth data) to make data-informed instructional decisions to ensure the academic growth and achievement of all students.

Achievement & Growth Data are Different

- Achievement data measures a student's performance at one single point in time, is highly correlated with a student's demographics, compares student performance to state standards, and is critical to a student's post-secondary opportunities.

- Growth data measures a student's growth across time (i.e., across years), with little to no relationship with student demographics, compares performance of a student group to its own prior performance, is critical to ensuring future academic success, and allows districts to have a more comprehensive picture of their own effectiveness in raising student performance.

Future Ready PA Index Provides Indicators of Success

The Future Ready PA Index is a collection of school progress measures related to school and student success. The Index includes a range of assessment, on-track, and readiness indicators, to more accurately report student learning, growth, and success in the classroom and beyond (www.futurereadypa.org).

Due to school closure, the data presented on this site is still largely linked to the 2018-2019 school year. The Future Ready PA Index scores can be viewed at www.futurereadypa.org.

Review PSSAs & Keystone Information

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) test students' skills in mathematics and English Language Arts in grades three through eight and in science in grades four and eight. The following performance levels are used: Advanced (Superior Academic Performance), Proficient (Satisfactory Academic Performance), Basic (Marginal Academic Performance), and Below Basic (Inadequate Academic Performance).


The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the following subject areas:

- Algebra I (PR Grades 7-10)
- Biology (PR Grades 9-10)
- Literature (PR Grade 9)


Below is an overview of the PSSA and Keystone exams. The most recent data is from the 2018-2019 school year. Due to school closures, the PSSAs and Keystone exams were canceled in the spring of 2020.




EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY FIFTH-GRADERS (L-R) NATASHA KUCIAK, LIANA DELISIO, AND AUBREY CRIST LEARN HOW SCIENCE SKILLS ARE USED IN VARIOUS CAREERS DURING CAREER DAY ON DEC. 6, 2019.

 PRIMARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2019				
Grade 3	PR Math 2019	PR Math 2018	PR ELA* 2019	PR ELA* 2018
Hance	92%	87%	92%	84%
Richland	93%	85%	93%	92%
Wexford	88%	91%	89%	96%
	Math 2019	Math 2018	ELA 2019	ELA 2018
Pennsylvania	56%	54%	62%	64%
PA Top Decile	83%	82%	86%	86%


*English Language Arts

 UPPER ELEMENTARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2019					
Grade	Subject	EH 2019	EH 2018	PA 2019	PA Top Decile
4th	Math	71%	74%	46%	75%
	ELA*	91%	86%	64%	87%
	Science	95%	94%	78%	95%
5th	Math	69%	79%	43%	70%
	ELA*	89%	92%	59%	83%
6th	Math	73%	72%	39%	65%
	ELA*	91%	86%	63%	84%

*English Language Arts

 SECONDARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2019					
Grade	Subject	PRMS 2019	PRMS 2018	PA 2019	PA Top Decile
7th	Math	69%	78%	38%	59%
	ELA*	88%	90%	60%	79%
8th	Math	67%	58%	32%	51%
	ELA*	83%	85%	60%	51%
	Science	84%	73%	58%	78%

*English Language Arts

 2019 KEYSTONE EXAMS First Time Test Takers Advanced & Proficient -Spring 2019		
Subject	PR 2019	PA
Algebra I	78%	39%
Literature	85%	57%
Biology	47%	66%

WHAT ARE QUINTILES?

Quintiles are subsets of students. Students are placed in quintiles based on their performance relative to all students in the state. For example, the first quintile represents the growth made by students scoring in the lowest 20 percent. The fifth quintile represents the growth made by the highest scoring 20 percent of students.

Pine-Richland Outperforms State in Top Decile in ELA & in Most Levels of Math

Some key findings highlighted in the 2019 Academic Achievement & Growth Report include:

- Pine-Richland (PR) students outperformed the state average for combined advanced/proficient performance on the Pennsylvania School System Assessments (PSSAs) in math, English language arts (ELA), and science.
- PR students outperformed the top decile benchmark for combined advanced/proficient performance at all grade levels (i.e., top 10% of schools in Pennsylvania) on the PSSAs in ELA & in math in grades four and five (i.e., top 10% of schools in Pennsylvania).
- The total number of students performing at the below basic level continued to decrease in math.
- The 2019 value-added report shows that students in grades four, five, and seven met or exceeded the standard for growth in ELA; whereas, students in grades six and eight did not.
- The first and second quintiles across all grades met or exceeded the growth standard with the exception of the second quintile in grade eight on the PA Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) ELA Quintile Diagnostic Report. Conversely, the fourth quintile across all grades except seventh grade did not show evidence of growth.
- Students with individualized education plans improved scores in science, eighth-grade students outperformed the top decile benchmark, and the percentage of students scoring at the advanced/proficient level reflected the highest level attained in the past five years in science.
- The percentage of PR students scoring advanced/proficient was well beyond the state's percentage scoring advanced/proficient on the Keystone Algebra 1 Exam.
- The percentages of students scoring advanced/proficient increases the earlier the students take the exams, and trend data indicates PR students in grades seven or below consistently scored at 100% proficiency on the Algebra 1 exam.
- The 2019 district value-added PVAAS data indicates significant evidence the district exceeded the growth standard for PA Academic Growth, and the three-year average value-added data indicates moderate evidence that the district exceeded the growth standard over the time period in literature.
- The 2019 diagnostic quintile data demonstrates evidence that students in all five quintiles exceeded the growth standard in literature but did not meet the growth standard in biology.
- The 2019 diagnostic quintile data indicates evidence that students in the first and second quintiles met the growth standards in biology but not in quintiles three, four, and five.

District Focuses on Next Steps & Opportunities for Success

The district outlines detailed steps for continued opportunities for success. Some include the following:

- Continuing the refinement of implementation of compacted/extended and current pathways;
- Monitoring alignment with PA Core in math, particularly in kindergarten through fifth grade in which new resources were integrated in 2018-2019, and also monitoring alignment in science in the same grades in comparison to the PA Academic Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards (New resources were implemented in 2019-2020.); and
- Revisiting PSSA and PVAAS data analysis process, results, findings, and next steps with grade level and vertical teams and leveraging formative assessments and interventions to ensure student success.

Visit www.pinerichland.org/academicreport to review more opportunities for success.

GROWTH REPORT

Continued from page 14

- Integration of regular, collaborative data analysis to replicate best practices among teachers;
- Alignment and effectiveness of Multi-Tiered System of Support interventions to meet students' unique needs; and
- An established systematic approach and consistent implementation of curricular resources and instructional strategies to ensure that student learning experiences yield meaningful learning opportunities for each student based upon their unique needs.



(L-R) FIFTH-GRADERS ELLA IAMS, ESHAN KAZI, BRAYDEN HAYES, AND LUCIEN MILLER CRUNCH NUMBERS AT A FINANCIAL LITERACY FAIR AIMED AT TEACHING STUDENTS HOW TO BUDGET FOR REAL-LIFE EXPENSES.



FOURTH GRADERS, WHO VISITED THE EATON CORPORATION'S EXPERIENCE CENTER ON NOV. 26, 2019, LEARN FIRST-HAND HOW SCIENCE TRANSLATES INTO REAL-LIFE APPLICATIONS SUCH AS ADVANCING THE QUALITY OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT.

FUTURE READY INDEX & CAREER EDUCATION & WORK STANDARDS NOW AVAILABLE

The Pennsylvania Department of Education released the Future Ready PA Index as a method of evaluating schools in a more holistic manner than the School Performance Profile (SPP) alone. The Future Ready PA dashboard highlights how schools are performing and showing progress on multiple measures. The dashboard elements are designed to emphasize student growth measures focusing on all learners, English Language (EL) acquisition among EL students, career awareness instruction beginning at the elementary level, indicators of student success after graduation, student access to course offerings such as AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), college credit, and Career Technical Education programs of study. Visit www.pinerichland.org/extras to go to the Future Ready Index.

The state is also introducing the Career Education & Work (CEW) standards addressing four areas:

- Career Awareness and Preparation
- Career Acquisition (Getting a Job)
- Career Retention & Advancement
- Entrepreneurship



2019 ACT SCORECARD*

(Maximum score is 36.)

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

2019	Math	Reading	English	Science	Composite
Pine-Richland	26	25	25	25	26
Pennsylvania	23	24	23	23	24
All Test Takers	20	21	20	21	21

*PRHS Class of 2020 results unavailable at production time.



CAREER EDUCATION & WORK STANDARDS

Grade Level	2020	2019
Grade 5	83.6%	99.1%
Grade 8	98.9%	99.7%
Grade 11	98.9%	99.7%



2019 SAT SCORECARD*

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

2019	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Pine-Richland	595	606
Pennsylvania	545	537
All Test Takers	531	528

*PRHS Class of 2020 results unavailable at production time.

District Outlines ACT, AP, & SAT Findings & Next Steps

Pine-Richland continues to outperform the state on the College Board SAT. Pine-Richland students have outperformed Pennsylvania and United States students in all subject areas on the ACT for the past seven years. The percentage of Pine-Richland students scoring a three or better on an AP exam has been higher than state or global comparisons for six of the past seven years. The district is highlighting some of the next steps, which include:

- Continue the partnership established to permit students the option to receive face-to-face SAT and ACT preparation instruction, now in its third year.
- Inform students & families of the SAT & ACT preparation instructional opportunities that are available online through Naviance & other web-based programs.
- Focus on the instructional strategies needed in earlier years to prepare students for the challenge of AP coursework.

Visit www.pinerichland.org/academicreport for additional findings and next steps.



AP TEST SCORECARD*

Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	# Students Scoring 3+
2019	515	1028	376
2018	523	1024	376
2017	504	983	349
2016	456	911	333

*PRHS Class of 2019 results unavailable at production time.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Academic Excellence



THE PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL NATIONAL ACADEMIC LEAGUE HAS AN OUTSTANDING COMPETITION SEASON.

The Pine-Richland Middle School National Academic League had an outstanding competition season and earned second place in Allegheny County. The competition combines short-answer and complex questions along with questions that require teamwork, critical thinking, and presentation skills. This year's team members included eighth-graders Mustafa Adeel, Hayden Conley, Ella Guo, Jack Harris, James Jarvis, Aiden Jones, Patrick Jones, Yuvraj Kaloya, Tamonash Karthikeyan, Michael Lattari, Alexander Melby, Avyukta Nagrath, Luke Ridgeway, Phoenix Schwierking, Yash Shah, Arvin Venk, and Alexander Wesolosky and seventh-graders Benjamin Crocco, Prisha Dargan, Ian Hurt, Luke Jancy, Owen Jones, Eliza Lazzaro, Jillian Uzelac, and Siena Yoon. Both PRMS Counselor Jennifer Mullaugh and Teacher Anne Harris-Crowe, are sponsors of the program.

Pine-Richland High School (PRHS) students participated in Carnegie Library's Battle of the Books on March 3, 2020, under the direction of Librarian Brent Pollock. The PRHS Pines Pages Team earned third place and included ninth-graders Luke Kastner and Madison Weakland and 10th-graders Anastasia Pillar and Emily Sipple. The PRHS Reading Rams Team earned fifth place and included seniors Nicholas Brenner and Mackenzie Hackel and junior Halle Jacks.

(L-R) SENIORS MACKENZIE HACKEL AND NICHOLAS BRENNER AND JUNIOR HALLE JACKS EARNED FIFTH-PLACE AT THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS.



JUNIOR REBECCA PENG EARNED THE HARVARD BOOK PRIZE AWARD.

Pine-Richland High School junior Rebecca Peng earned The Harvard Book Prize award. The award is awarded to an outstanding student in the junior class who displays excellence in scholarship and high character, combined with achievement in other fields. Prize books are presented annually in nearly 2,000 high schools around the world.

More than two dozen students competed in the CalcuSolve Math Competition at Duquesne University on Oct. 18, 2020. A team made up of juniors and seniors Ethan Chan, Gregory Gilmour, Elly Jang, and Catherine Lee placed third in the 11th-12th grade competition under the direction of Teacher Ron Schmiedel.



10TH-GRADER EMILY SIPPLE, NINTH-GRADER LUKE KASTNER, NINTH-GRADER MADISON WEAKLAND, AND 10TH-GRADER ANASTASIA PILLAR EARN THIRD PLACE AT CARNEGIE LIBRARY'S BATTLE OF THE BOOKS COMPETITION.



(L-R) SENIORS JUSTIN WALTRIP AND DANIEL KRILL AND JUNIOR SAMUEL STELLA HAVE A SUCCESSFUL RUN ON THE HOMETOWN HIGH Q PROGRAM.

Three Pine-Richland High School students earned first place in the second round of the Hometown High Q during the 2019–2020 school year. Seniors Daniel Krill and Justin Waltrip and junior Samuel Stella competed in the KDKA-TV quiz show. PRHS defeated teams from Central Catholic, Eden Christian Academy, Elizabeth Forward High School, and Lincoln Junior/Senior High School. The students were accompanied by Teacher Ann Gollapudi for the first round and Teacher Dawn Herbst for the second round. Alternates on the team were senior Aidan Pavlick and junior Holly Ebner. Since the program ended early this year, organizers are awarding the nine semifinalists, including PRHS, \$2,000 each through sponsorship by the Williams Energy Company.

Three Pine-Richland teams qualified for the State Odyssey of the Mind Competition after participating in the western regional program on March 7, 2020. The middle school team included seventh-graders Prisha Dargan and Levina Jithesh and eighth-graders Ella Guo, Phoenix Schwierking, and Tyler Stevens. The team placed second at the regional competition, under the direction of Coach Deborah Williams, and qualified for finals. The other middle school team, which was made up of eighth-graders Nicolai Ezolt, Gabrielle Boudreau, Damian Ivanov, Avyu Nagrath, Luke Ridgeway, and Mia Tucciarone, and the fifth and sixth-grade team, which was made up of fifth-graders Noah Ezolt and Dominic Dent, and sixth graders Annabella Orlando, Sophia Priore, and Luca Boudreau, each placed first and advanced to the finals under the direction of Coach Sarah Ezolt. The students participated through the nonprofit STEAM Studio. Teacher Kathy Deal serves as the middle school sponsor.

(L-R) PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PHOENIX SCHWIERKING, ELLA GUO, TYLER STEVENS, PRISHA DARGAN, AND LEVINA JITHESH ADVANCE TO THE PA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND FINALS.



JUNIOR SAMUEL STELLA WINS A STATE MAP CONTEST.

Junior Samuel Stella earned first place in the Draw the Lines PA contest for redrawing the voting districts of the state. He was chosen as the state winner in the youth division and earned \$5,000.

Richland Elementary School second-grader Kiran Karthikeyan is ranked number 12 in the state in the First In Math online program. He ranked first in Pennsylvania and among the top 50 players in 2019 as a first-grader. So far this year, Kiran has over 16,500 stickers. First In Math is an online math program that is used by students in the lab, classroom, and at home. Students earn stickers for every math activity that is completed. Second-graders Gage Ryer (2nd), Aiden Ro (3rd), and Jackson Lion (4th), and third-grader Stella Bain (6th) round out the top five scorers at Richland Elementary School. Teacher Jan Montgomery oversaw participation in the program.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND-GRADER KIRAN KARTHIKEYAN IS RANKED NUMBER 12 IN THE STATE IN THE FIRST IN MATH ONLINE PROGRAM.

Arts, Music, Theater & Performing Arts



Several Pine-Richland High School students earned Regional Scholastic Art Awards. Of the 27 awards earned by 17 PRHS students, six were Gold Key awards. Junior Cynthia Chen earned two Gold Key awards and juniors Bayli Clack, and Hailey Rihn each earned a Gold Key along with sophomore Bess Jarosz and ninth-grader Kate Lindrose. Cynthia also earned two Silver Key awards, and Bayli earned a Silver Key along with sophomores Allison Andrews and Taylor Cory, junior Kylie Klavon, and seniors Mackenzie Hackel, Carson Heil, Patrick Smith, and Morgan Young. Carson and seniors McKenna Exline and Devin McCue earned Honorable Mention awards along with seniors Mackenzie Hackel, Brooke Johnson, and Haley Rupprecht. Senior Molly Gaffey earned three Honorable Mentions, and Hailey earned two. Students submitted their artwork under the direction of PRHS Art Teachers Mary Anne Andreassi, Ramon Riley, and Vince Thearle.

SCHOLASTIC ART WINNERS ARE SHOWN HERE WITH PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHERS MARY ANNE ANDREASSI AND RAMON RILEY.



SOPHOMORE AIDAN FRICK

Sophomore Aidan Frick earned a top spot in Pennsylvania's PMEA All-State Band on trombone through audition into the Western Region Band program under the direction of Teachers Brian Scott and James Stillwagon.

Seniors Oliva McGeary and Claire Tobin were selected for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Choir. They were chosen for the District and Regional Choir programs along with junior Kristen Donahoe and sophomore Nora Russell, which was hosted at Hermitage High School Feb. 26-28, 2020, under the direction of Choral Director Lee Rickard. Olivia is only the second student to make All-State Choir all three years of eligibility.

Eden Hall sixth-graders Kaylee Bang, Ashlyn Casale, Ava Coons, Brooke Deegan, Emily Domitrovic, Anabell Evancho, Charlotte Liao, Madalynn Merlack, Ryan Moore, Ryan Noir, and Riley Shafer were selected for the PMEA Elementary

District Band Festival at Hampton Middle School. Teachers Jeff Nicodemus and Ben Coulter oversee student participation.

Ninth-graders Ryan Daniels and Grace Hazlett and seventh-grader Siena Yoon were invited to participate in the PMEA Junior High District Orchestra at South Fayette under the direction of Secondary Orchestra Director Dave Belchick and Eden Hall and Pine-Richland Middle School Orchestra Director Katelyn Piroth.

Sixth-graders Kimaya Matai, Brian Ock, Jaye Ortwein, and Mackenzie Williamson were chosen for the PMEA Elementary String Fest at Chartiers Valley. Students participate under the direction of music teachers Dave Belchick, Katelyn Piroth, and Steven Shade. Unfortunately, many of the programs were canceled due to COVID restrictions.



SIXTH-GRADER RYAN NOIR

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth-grader Ryan Noir was selected for the Seton Hill University Youth Honors Concert Band in which he played the clarinet on Jan. 18, 2020, at the Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center. Ryan performed with the Westmoreland Symphonic Winds on Feb. 22, 2020. Ryan is also a part of the Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra Junior Wind Ensemble. He also plays the violin in the Eden Hall orchestra.



THE SIXTH-GRADE ORCHESTRA PERFORMED FOR SENIORS.

Members of the Sixth-Grade Eden Hall Orchestra traveled to Kane Ross Community Living Center and St. Barnabas to perform for residents and patients on Feb. 28, 2020. Students prepared full group pieces together as well as small group pieces on their own to perform in both locations under the direction of Eden Hall Orchestra Director Steve Shade and Eden Hall and PRMS Orchestra Director Katelyn Piroth.

PHOTO BY DIGITAL SHOEBOX



PHOTO BY DIGITAL SHOEBOX



SENIOR MEGHAN WILSON PORTRAYS MORTICIA ADDAMS AND SENIOR THOMAS ANDREWS PORTRAYS GOMEZ ADDAMS IN THE PRODUCTION.



SENIOR PAIGE NELSON PORTRAYS WEDNESDAY ADDAMS AND FRESHMAN JACK EXLINE PORTRAYS PUGSLEY ADDAMS.

PRHS HIGH SCHOOL STAGES ONE PRODUCTION OF THE ADDAMS FAMILY ON MARCH 12, 2020.

Pine-Richland High School was all set with its production of the Addams Family. Cast and crew members were all set to stage the delightful production when COVID concerns began to emerge. The administration invited parents to see a run-through on March 12, 2020. Students put on a magnificent show with music and dance scenes that were full of life. The production was directed by Sarah McGraw Krushinski and produced by Kathy Morrissey.



SOPHOMORE ZOE KATRES

Prime Stage Theatre recognized students with production awards this year. Sophomore Zoe Katres earned a stage manager honoree award. She participated with the help of Teacher John Dolphin.

PHOTO BY ADAM PISCITELLI FROM PRIMETIME SHOTS, INC.



THE PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTED A LIVELY VERSION OF SEUSSICAL, JR., JAN. 30 – FEB. 1, 2020, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DIRECTOR ANGELA GROSS, PRODUCER MARY LYNN DUGAN, AND CHOREOGRAPHER LEE-ANN BRUNO. SEVENTH-GRADER ANNA KARMANOS IS SHOWN HERE PORTRAYING MAYZIE LA BIRD.



THE PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL THEATER CLASSES PRESENTED THE LION, THE WITCH, & THE WARDROBE ON NOV. 13-15, 2019 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TEACHER MICHELLE BRUNO NOV. 13-15, 2019. STUDENTS RAISED MONEY TO FIND A CURE FOR PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME, A GENETIC DISORDER.



LEFT: (L-R) EIGHTH-GRADERS GRANT WALTRIP AND LAUREN KING AND SEVENTH-GRADER ROGER WILLIAMS TAKE TO THE STAGE IN SEUSSICAL, JR.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL THESPIANS PERFORM *ALMOST, MAINE* ON NOV. 21-23, 2019 IN THE AUDITORIUM UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SPONSOR JOHN DOLPHIN.



SIXTH-GRADER ELLA YANNI CHOREOGRAPHS A SCENE.

Sixth-grader Ella Yannì directed and produced an abridged version of *Annie the Musical* that was presented to her classmates on Jan. 15, 2020. This is not her first production. Teacher Jennifer Kopach says that Ella wrote and directed a play in fourth grade and a musical in fifth grade.



LEFT: MORE THAN 252 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND THIS YEAR. THE BAND IS POPULAR AND PROVIDES ENTERTAINMENT AT FOOTBALL GAMES AND OFTEN PERFORMS AT LOCAL VETERANS PROGRAMS.

BELOW: (FRONT ROW) SENIOR GRACE BARCASKEY, (MIDDLE ROW: L-R) JUNIORS LILLIAN ROBERTS, ERIN DOUGAL, GRACE KOZE), CORRINE KLINE, RIELEY SNYDER, (BACK ROW: L-R) SOPHOMORE GIANNA REIGHARD, NINTH-GRADER ELIZABETH NIELSEN, AND SOPHOMORES ANGELENA SEMAN AND AMELIA BAILEYS PARTICIPATED IN A DANCE TEAM SUMMER CAMP WITH UNIVERSAL DANCE ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTOR HEATHER DORLER.

The Pine-Richland High School Dance Team competed at the Universal Dance Association (UDA) Home Technique Summer Camp. The team received the following awards: the Blue Ribbon and Superior rating for their Home Team Dance, the highest honors. Senior Captain Grace Barcaskey received a "UA Varsity Spirit All-American Award" for excellence in the All-American Dance Competition and was invited to perform in the New Year's Day Parade in Rome, Italy, and the Varsity Spirit Spectacular Parade in Orlando. Also receiving blue ribbons were the whole dance team for their "A" and "B" routines that were taught and performed at camp. The routines performed were Level 5 which is the highest difficulty. Along with the dance team, their Coach Kathy Deal received the "Squad Credentialing Award" which was presented based on active participation in and completion of the Varsity Spirit Summer Camp Dance Squad Credentialing Course for school dance teams. The PR Dance Team received a Superior rating which is the highest honor at the UDA Camp. The team was invited to perform Jan. 1, 2020, at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, FL. The PR Dance Team also participated in the Varsity Spirit UDA fundraiser to show support to St. Jude Children's Hospital and their fight to save the lives of children fighting cancer.





(L-R) FIFTH-GRADERS JACK LEWIS, MADISON MACKIE, TESSA LUTZ, ALLISON RISHEL, AND AVIANA SASSO EARN RECOGNITION IN THE SODEXO "REIMAGINING YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL LUNCH" CHEF CHALLENGE.



FIFTH-GRADER KENNETH HOY IS RECOGNIZED IN THE SODEXO CHEF CHALLENGE.

Career

A.W. Beattie Career Center named junior Joseph Paluselli as Student of the Month from September to October 2019. Seniors Matthew Mahafkey and Jeffrey Swanson, and junior Camille Grier were named Students of the Month for October-November. From November to December, seniors Aaron Schleicher and Luke Yowan and sophomore Graydon Sherron earned recognition. Juniors Brett Jones and Edward Walter, III, earned student of the month for January to February.

Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America state winners included seniors Sarah Hanlon (5th Place) and Joseph Folmer (6th Place) and sophomores Alex Erlain (9th Place), Aanya Gupta (10th Place), and Gabrielle Santiago (10th Place). They participate with the help of Teacher Laura Blaze.

Geography & History

Seven Pine-Richland High School students earned first-place awards in the 2020 National History Day competition through a Senator John Heinz History Center virtual awards ceremony. More than 350 students in grades six through 12 from around the region participated. Sophomore Erina Fortune won first place in the senior individual documentary category for "The Birth of Combined Medicine: East Meets West." Ninth-graders Ella Giesecke and Katherine Yanni took first for a group documentary entitled "Breaking Boundaries in Women's Tennis." Juniors Michael Alessi, Anthony Hartwick, Joshua Rembe, and Victor Williams won first place in group performance for "A Walk Down Abbey Road: How the Beatles Broke Barriers in History."

Eighth-grader Andrew Thomas earned first place at the Annual Pine-Richland Middle School Geography Bee on Dec. 11, 2019. Seventh-grader Grant Brauer placed second and eighth-grader Rocco Jarvis placed third. They competed against more than 45 students in the annual program hosted by GATE Teacher Kathy Deal and Librarian Kristen Rowe.



EIGHTH-GRADER ANDREW THOMAS (CENTER) EARNED FIRST PLACE IN THE PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL GEO BEE, SEVENTH-GRADER GRANT BRAUER (LEFT) PLACED SECOND, AND EIGHTH-GRADER ROCCO JARVIS (RIGHT) PLACED THIRD.

Leadership



STUDENTS ATTEND A STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT COUNCIL.

On Feb. 14, 2020, student leaders from PRHS Student Government attended the Pennsylvania Association of Student Council Region B Conference held at Montour High School. Student Government sponsors Brittany Adams and Jean Whalen accompanied them. Students were able to choose from a variety of student-run workshops. Workshops focused on communication, positivity, compassion, leadership, and global citizenship. Students who participated included ninth-graders Breanna Franchak, Sreyashi Mondal, and Kesar Sampat; 10th-graders Grace Merlack and Erica Weinberg; and 11th-graders Zeyad Amr, Ekaterini Balouris, Caitlin Golla, Amber Honick, Malaikah Kazi, Kathryn Lindauer, Anna Staresinic, and Gabrielle Stone.



CADETS ARE SHOWN HERE DURING A DRILL COMPETITION AT PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL.

In addition to earning the 2019-2020 Air Force JROTC Distinguished Unit Award, the Pine-Richland High School (PRHS) Air Force JROTC program had a successful competition year (See page 11 for unit award.). Cadets earned top awards at the PRHS Annual Competition on Dec. 7, 2019. Pine-Richland earned first overall and in the Varsity Armed Drill Team, Junior Varsity (JV) Unarmed Drill Team, JV Unarmed Drill Team, and Academic Quiz Bowl. The cadets also earned top awards at drill meets at the Youngstown Air National Guard Base, Plum High School, and McDowell High School. On Oct. 26, 2019, cadets earned the overall first place award in Youngstown and first-place awards for Varsity Armed Drill Team, JV Armed Drill Team, Unarmed Exhibition, Varsity Color Guard Team Alpha, and the Academic Team, led by 12th-graders Gavin Bierema and Harrison Gonzalez, 11th-grader Madison Howard, and 10th-grader Caitlin Howard. At Plum on Nov. 2, 2020, Gavin and Harrison helped lead the cadets to first place in the Varsity Armed and Uniform Inspection Team categories. On Nov. 9, 2019, at McDowell High School, Caitlin helped lead the cadets to first place in the JV Unarmed Drill category. Caitlin, Gavin, Madison, Harrison, and 12th-grader Olivia Hartman; 11th-Graders Wyatt Crader and Madison Howard; 10th-grader Christian Bridge; and ninth-graders Anthony King, Logan Kusar, Brittany Martin, Gianna Nicotra, and Emma Terpsta won Knockout competitions at the previous competitions. For more information on additional awards visit www.pinerichland.org/extras. Gavin, Madison, Caitlyn, and Arden Webster represented PRHS as the AFJROTC Color Guard traveled to Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh's Oakland for a retirement ceremony of an active air force senior master sergeant. Cadets Abigail King and Rebecca Neiser represented Mars Area High School. Both Chief Michael Gasparetto and Major Michael Morrison oversee participation in the AFJROTC programs.



JUNIOR KATELYN TERCHICK STANDS AT A PARK IN WHICH SHE CREATED AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TRAIL TO EARN THE GIRL SCOUTS GOLD AWARD.

Junior Katelyn Terchick earned the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. This award, presented to Katelyn by the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania, recognizes girls in grades 9 through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable "Take Action" projects that address important community needs. For her project, she created an environmental education trail in the wetlands area of a community park. In all, she volunteered 80 hours and completed the project in February of 2020.



Junior John Hoffman earned the highest honor of Eagle Scout for leading the charge to clean up and preserve a nearly forgotten local cemetery. A ceremony was held to rededicate the site on Nov. 2, 2019. On Nov. 4, 2019, township supervisors presented John with a plaque in recognition of the achievement.

JUNIOR JOHN HOFFMAN STANDS AT A CEMETERY HE WORKED TO PRESERVE.

More than 2,140 families were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving Day meal thanks to the efforts of Wexford Elementary School and PNC Bank. PTO members, parents, administrators, teachers/staff, students, and community members helped raise \$21,440.40, at Wexford Elementary. PNC Bank matched the funds and contributed \$21,440.40 to raise a whopping \$42,880.80 for the KDKA Turkey Fund this year. That's a new record for Wexford Elementary School, which in all raised \$311,263.60 over 15 years.

WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REVEALS THE RECORD AMOUNT RAISED DURING THE 2019 TURKEY FUND.



Pine-Richland High School students, staff, and sponsors in the PRHS Student Government program collected six busloads of toys from all school buildings districtwide. The students took the donations to Robinson Town Centre, where 96.1 FM was collecting the donations for the Toys for Tots program. Student Transportation of America donated bus service to deliver the toys.

STUDENTS COMPLETE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING BY STUFFING SIX BUSES FULL OF TOYS.



Science & Technology



(L-R) NINTH-GRADER OWEN ANDERSON AND PRHS NINTH-GRADER LUKE KASTNER QUALIFY FOR THE STATE ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Ninth-grader Luke Kastner qualified for the First Tech Challenge (FTC) State Championships in February. Luke participates in a community-based FTC team called Mars Robotics Association, along with ninth-grader Owen Anderson. The association earned four top awards and secured advancements to states. The team develops STEMs skills in students. They also have to raise funds, design, market, and complete outreach projects as well.



(L-R) JUNIORS ANNA STARESINIC, REBECCA PENG, AND GIANNA JULIO EARN COMPUTING AWARDS.

Juniors Gianna Julio, Rebecca Peng, and Anna Staresinic earned Affiliate Honorable Mentions in the National Center for Women & Information Technology Aspirations in Computing Awards program under the direction of PRHS Teacher Valerie Klosky. The program honors high school women for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for post-secondary education.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary students learned more about the engineering design process as they participated in a STEM Design lesson in fifth grade and sixth grade under the direction of GATE teachers Jennifer Kopach and Joanna Sovek. The teachers reminded students that when engineers solve a problem, their first solution is rarely their best and the series of steps engineers use to arrive at a solution is called the design process. Students presented their final products at the Engineering Expo on Nov. 5 and Nov 6, 2019.



(L-R) FIFTH-GRADERS KATHERINE MAZEFESKY, AVERY DOUGHTERY, REAH SUDARIC, AND GAVIN ERDMAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ENGINEERING EXPO ON NOV. 5, 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

In the Technology Student Association (TSA) Chapter Regional Competition, senior Thomas Andrews placed first and freshman Brandon Wees placed second in the computer-aided design engineering category. Seniors Cameron Fletcher and Jack Tyndall placed second in music production. Sophomores Nicholas Labuda, Jeffery Ock, and Justin Puthenpurayil placed second in the video game and webmaster categories. Senior Blake Briski and sophomore Luke Gochis placed fifth in problem solving. Blake, Cameron Luke, and Thomas placed first along with seniors Christopher Catalano, Carson Garrity, Ethan O'Neil, Joshua Rechenberg, Charles Spontak, and Lucas Zwastetzky and sophomore Amish Sethi in the Bots IQ Preliminary Competition. Teacher Evan Clark serves as the TSA advisor.

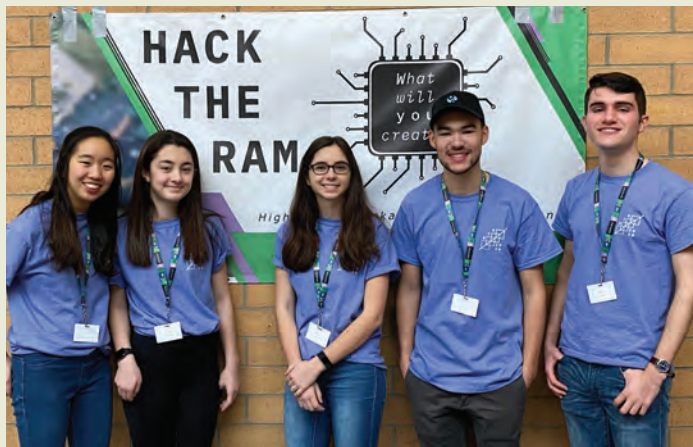
Pine-Richland High School students organized and led a successful second-annual hackathon called "Hack the Ram." Seniors Daniel Krill and Justin Waltrip; juniors Gianna Julio and Rebecca Peng; and sophomore Rand Hasan organized this year's program, which was hosted on Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2020, under the direction of Teacher Val Klosky. More than 150 seventh through 12th graders registered to participate. "I learned real-world skills

by talking to people in the industry, and getting sponsorships," said Rebecca. "In addition, organizing this event exposes more people to technology and coding. It's a passion of mine." The winning project was a web-based app that analyzes tweets to detect if followers may be in emotional distress on social media. The app alerts the user so he or she can directly message the person who may be in distress.

"I learned real-world skills by talking to people in the industry, and getting sponsorships for the annual hackathon. In addition, organizing this event exposes more people to technology and coding."

— Junior Rebecca Peng

PRHS took two first-place wins during the Technology Student Association (TSA) Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS) competition. The 9th-10th Grade Team A and the 11th-12th Grade Team A both earned first place out of 36 teams. The 9th-10th Grade Team B took eighth place, and PRHS 11th-12th Grade Team B placed 21st out of 73 teams. The 11th-12th Grade Team A recorded the highest score in the nation out of 471 competing teams. Members of the 9th-10th Grade Team A included: Tadg Manna, Amish Sethi, Nicholas Labuda, Andrew Ni, and Jeffrey Ock. Members of the 11th-12th Grade Team A were made up of Jack Carnovale, Daniel Krill, Justin Waltrip, Kang-Young Kim, Marissa Frick, and Rebecca Peng. The competitions took place in February and March of 2020. Competition organizers provided results to Teacher Ron Schmiedel in early April.



(L-R) JUNIOR REBECCA PENG, SOPHOMORE RAND HASAN, JUNIOR GIANNA JULIO, AND SENIORS JUSTIN WALTRIP AND DANIEL KRILL ORGANIZE A SUCCESSFUL HACKATHON.



(BACK ROW: L-R) PRHS 11TH-GRADER JESSICA CZERSKI, NINTH-GRADER KESAR SAMPAT, 11TH-GRADER ELLY JANG, TEACHER HEATHER ROGUS, (FRONT ROW: L-R) 11TH-GRADER CAITLIN GOLLA, NINTH-GRADERS SREYASHI MONDAL, AND JAIMEE JOSHI, AND 11TH-GRADER LAKSHMI NATESAN EARN FOURTH AT THE CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER CHAIN REACTION CONTEST (NOT PICTURED: NINTH-GRADERS TARA STARESINIC, ANJALY PALATHUNKAL, AND NATALIE MCLEAN).

The PRHS SciGirls earned fourth place out of about 30 entries and received a special Creativity Award titled "What Will You Create?" at the Carnegie Science Center Chain Reaction Contest this year on Dec. 9, 2019, under the direction of Teacher Heather Rogus. Competitors included 11th-graders Jessica Czerski, Caitlin Golla, Elly Jang, Lakshmi Natesan, and ninth-graders Jaimee Joshi, Sreyashi Mondal, Anjaly Palathunkal, Kesar Sampat, and Tara Stareshnic. Ninth-grader Natalie McLean is also a member of the team. As finalists, the girls were invited to share their contraption with engineers at Westinghouse on Feb. 20, 2020. The girls created a project around the topic "Make a Mess and Clean It Up." The girls took that topic and merged it with the theme *Jurassic Park*. As the balls travel throughout the contraption, cages open on the first level releasing dinosaurs. The dinosaurs run rampant on the second level and then dinosaurs are captured as cages are closed at the bottom level.



SCIGIRLS CREATE A CONTRAPTION FOR THE CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER CHAIN REACTION CONTEST.



ORGANIZERS FOR THE 2020 RAMMY AWARDS COORDINATE A VIRTUAL BROADCAST.

This year's Rammy Awards reveal was held virtually. This year's winners include sixth-grader Sophia Priore, who earned K-8 Best Director and K-8 Best Editing for her video "Love." Ninth-grader Rylee Branscum earned High School Best Cinematography for her video "The Game." Junior Bayli Clack earned High School Best Editing for "Tea Time." This year's Audience Choice Award went to junior Hailey Rihn for her video "Pine-Richland High School Hockey Hype." Junior Hannah Raible earned Best in Acting.

PRHS earned awards in the 2020 Digital Media Arts Consortium Student Competition Awards sponsored by Robert Morris University (RMU) on March 30, 2020. Students from Advanced Video Production, TV Production, and the PRTV Club submitted videos and other digital media that were judged by industry professionals, RMU faculty, and high school teachers. PR's entries competed against 19 schools from around the tri-state area. Junior Bayli Clack earned an Award of Excellence in Animation. Seniors Brock Wolff and Thomas Frey earned an Award of Excellence in Video as Art. PRTV Club earned an Award of Excellence in Live Event. Senior Sean Barr received the Founders Award. Both the Rammy and digital media programs are coordinated by PRTV Club Advisor William Clack, Teacher and PRTV Club Sponsor Aaron Koehler, and PRTV Club Advisor Steve Karpinski.

Sophomores Andrew Ni and Amish Sethi were selected as finalists in the 2020 International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for their scientific research on Alzheimer's disease. To be named finalists, they participated in the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair. ISEF is an international competition with more than 1,500 high school students competing from 70 countries to earn the prestige of being a finalist and the opportunity to win \$5 million in scholarship money among winners. The students' project will now go to Society for Science & the Public for review by the scientific review committee (SRC). Since August 2019, the students invested more than 500 hours with the support of their research coach Ann Gollapudi, PRHS teacher.



SOPHOMORE ANDREW NI



SOPHOMORE AMISH SETHI

Speech & Debate

RIGHT: (L-R) JUNIORS ANDREW NI AND REBECCA PENG AND SOPHOMORE AMISH SETHI SHOW OFF FIRST-PLACE TROPHIES IN THE SPEECH COMPETITION AND SECOND-PLACE TROPHIES IN THE DEBATE COMPETITION HELD ON NOV. 2, 2019.

BELOW: SOPHOMORE NICOLA SAAH HOLDS UP THE SECOND-PLACE OVERALL TEAM TROPHY FROM A TOURNAMENT ON NOV. 2, 2019.



Pine-Richland High School sophomores Andrew Ni and Amish Sethi and junior Samuel Stella were selected among the "Top 64" teams for the 19th annual International Public Policy Forum – 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 150 teams, representing schools in 19 countries and 28 United States.

On Nov. 2, 2019, the PRHS Forensics Team earned three team trophies following a tournament held at Penn State-Behrend in Erie on Nov. 2, 2019. The team took the first-place trophy in speech, second-place trophy in debate, and second-place overall trophy. Earning individual awards included juniors Michael Alessi and Catherine Lee, who earned first and sixth in prose respectively. Sophomore Andrew Ni earned

second in original oratory with sophomore Grace Merlack earning fourth, and Katie Hassett earning fifth in the same category. Sophomore Miles Brown earned fourth in extemporaneous speaking; sophomore John Varghese earned fourth in Lincoln-Douglas debate; and sophomore Amish Sethi and junior Samuel Stella earned fourth in public forum debate.

World Languages

Students earned top awards at the 2019 Slippery Rock University World Languages Competition in October 2019 under the direction of Teacher Tahnee Hines. More than 169 students participated in the program. In the Spanish category, 10th-grader Ethan Jancy placed first, ninth-grader Ashton Jacobs placed second, and ninth-grader Colin Zvejnieks placed third. In the French category, ninth-grader Jack Exline placed third.

Spanish III Honors students earned awards on the National Spanish Exam. Sophomores Ethan Jancy, Lia Meijer, Carolyn Williams, and Olivia Wood earned bronze medals and sophomores Nathan Cottrell, Kaitlyn Kerns, and Elizabeth Kost earned honorable mentions. Spanish Teacher Kristen Szarell Hough proctored the exam.

Writing

Pine-Richland High School junior Camille Grier was recognized for her writing at Carnegie Mellon University during the university's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Writing Awards program on Jan. 20, 2020. Students representing 24 high schools and seven universities submitted entries. Camille's piece entitled "A Story of Discrimination" earned a "Best School Entry" Award.



JUNIOR CAMILLE GRIER

Did We Miss Something? This document serves as a snapshot of student accomplishments and does not reflect all accomplishments. However, if we missed an accomplishment that you would like to submit, please email rhathorn@pinerichland.org to be published at www.pinerichland.org/extras. The deadline for submission each year is May 15.

MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



SEAN SIMMONS
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

The mission of Pine-Richland School District athletics is to enhance and support the overall educational mission, vision, and values of the district. Athletics serves as an integral component of the school district with a commitment to academic excellence and a healthy learning environment for everyone. Athletics enhance the intellectual and social development of everyone involved in helping each person grow through his or her experiences and to prepare for the next steps in his or her career.

Collectively, we hope that our teams, exhibiting consistent effort and sportsmanship, will generate prideful excitement throughout the community, giving our community members another reason to be proud of PR. The values of the PRSD Athletic Department will align tightly with the district PRIDE (Personal Growth, Resiliency, Innovation, Diverse Opportunities, Engagement) values.

The global pandemic presented countless challenges but included in those challenges are opportunities. Students, staff, and coaches relied heavily on the PRIDE Values of resiliency and innovation. Coaches instilled these traits in our student-athletes as part of their coaching philosophy. While our students missed time with their teammates during the spring sports season, please take some time to read some of the accomplishments our athletes achieved throughout the entire school year. You can flip the document to the other side to read more about the seniors who were recognized for missing out on the spring sports season.

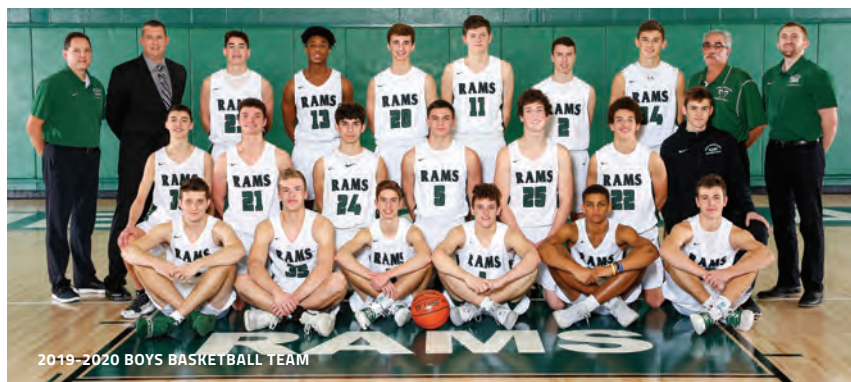
Most recently, the district developed a board-approved health & safety plan for athletics and activities. You can find the complete plan on the website at www.pinerichland.org/continuitylearning. This plan, built through the guidance and recommendations from local, state, and federal health experts, is limited to fall varsity athletic teams to participate in voluntary conditioning and serves as the roadmap for our goal of returning to athletic and extracurricular activities and remaining at school and maintaining these activities in the healthiest manner possible.

We are so excited to see our students back on campus.

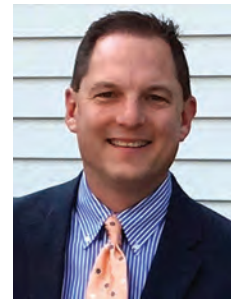
Sincerely,
Sean Simmons
Director of Athletics

Basketball

Boys basketball moved on in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Competition. They beat Connellsville in the first round and moved on to the semifinal round and lost to Upper St. Clair. The Post-Gazette named seniors Logan Murray and Kyle Polce among the WPIAL Boys Class 6A Section 1 All-Section. Coach Bob Petcash, who has served as an assistant coach, was selected to take over as the coach for boys basketball. Coach Kyle DeGregorio was hired as the new girls team coach. Coach DeGregorio comes to Pine-Richland after serving as the Baldwin Girls Basketball coach for the past two years.



2019-2020 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



COACH BOB PETCASH



2019-2020 GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM



COACH KYLE DEGREGORIO

PHOTOS BY MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



Cheerleading

The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Team traveled to Orlando and placed ninth at the National High School Cheerleading Competition on Feb. 7-9, 2020. The team hit three “zero deduction” routines, which means they executed them flawlessly. The team also competed at the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships on Jan. 10-11, 2020, in Hershey, PA, and earned ninth-place as well. The team competed in the 2020 Competitive Spirit Championships at Hempfield Area High School on Jan. 4, 2020. The cheerleaders took first place in the small varsity division and also took home the silver medal in the elusive AAA WPIAL title. With their season winding down, the Pine-Richland Cheerleaders used their enthusiasm to bring cheer to people in the larger community. In February, the middle school cheerleaders shared ice cream, conversation, and smiles with the residents of St. Barnabas at the Arbors during an ice cream social after showcasing their cheerleading skills. The PR varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders also collected gloves and socks in February to donate to area homeless shelters.

THE PRHS COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADERS COMPETED NATIONALLY AND IN THE PIAAS.

Crew



PHOTO COURTESY/KEVIN CHAN

PRHS CREW LOOKS FORWARD TO 2020-2021 AS THE 2019-2020 SEASON WAS CUT SHORT.

The Pine-Richland Crew High School and middle school teams participated in the Erg in the Burg Indoor Regatta/Race on Feb. 22, 2020, at Marshall Middle School. The team brought home several medals in different divisions. Medal winners included: Ninth-grader Nolan Martin (Third Place/Men’s Coxswain 1k), ninth-grader Megan Finney (Second Place/Women’s Lightweight Novice), junior Savanna Foote (Second Place/Women’s JV), senior Kristen Vigna (First Place/Women’s Lightweight Varsity), senior Vivian Chan (Third

Place/Women’s Lightweight Varsity), and junior Dante Pittorino (Second Place/Middle School 1k Boys). Megan, Kristen, Savannah, and senior Christopher Catalano, junior Thomas Catalano, and sophomore James Delie, earned third place in the Mixed HS Varsity Six-Person Relay. 2016 PRHS graduate Gabrielle Krieger was selected for the USRowing Under 23 Women’s National Team Selection Camp this summer. She graduated from the University of Alabama where she was a member of the Crimson Tide Rowing Team.

Cross Country



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN MADIA

2019-2020 PR BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN MADIA

2019-2020 PR GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Two runners made it to the PIAAs in cross country on Nov. 2, 2019. In the AAA competition, ninth-grader Natalie McLean finished 38th, and sophomore Meredith Price finished 84th at states. Natalie finished 11th and Meredith finished 12th at WPIALS, the highest places for PR girls at WPIALS in 19 years. Sophomore Elizabeth Hunkele just missed



MARK HUNKELE
CROSS COUNTRY
HEAD COACH

qualifying for states by two places. The Pine-Richland Girls Cross Country Team finished fourth overall at the WPIAL Competition at California University of Pennsylvania on Oct. 24, 2019, out of 30 teams in a very competitive AAA division, just narrowly missing qualifying for the PIAA State Championships by one place. Senior Annabelle Nielsen, sophomores Audrey DeKunder and Stella Fannie, and ninth-grader Breanna Franchak also had impressive finishes. The PR Boys Cross Country Team placed 14th out of 31 teams, improving three spots from last year. PR's top finisher Victor Williams, a junior, had a great race at WPIALS and wasn't far off from qualifying for states. Senior Max Hudak, juniors Quinn Pritchard and George Nix, sophomores Nicholas Labuda and Christopher Fisher, and ninth-grader Nicholas King all had impressive races and great seasons. Additionally, the team welcomed Mark Hunkele as the high school head varsity cross-country coach. Coach Hunkele is no stranger to the Pine-Richland Athletic Department. He was recently hired as the head coach of the PRHS Varsity Track & Field program. He also served as the interim head cross-country coach last season.

Fencing



PRHS FENCING TEAM MEMBERS (L-R) SOPHOMORE ZACHARY LEE, NINTH-GRADER VYTAS IVASKA, SOPHOMORE RYAN DANIELS, AND NINTH-GRADER MADISON WEAKLAND ARE SHOWN HERE WITH COACH BRAD CELLIER. RIGHT: JUNIOR CLARE GIBRON.



The PRHS Fencing Team worked on growth and rebuilding after several team members graduated in 2019. The team added five new members, who are all eligible to return for the 2020-2021 season. The boys are positioned to compete in next year's high school league with at least four competitors. The girls team has two members with at least one more recruit and are positioned to compete in the 2020-2021 high school league. The team also added all new electric uniforms and equipment with the Pine-Richland Rams green, which is a first for the fencing team. The team is looking for athletes who want to train and compete from late October to the end of February.

Field Hockey

The PRHS Women's Field Hockey Team finished the season yet again as WPIAL Champions. This is the third year in a row that they have earned the WPIAL Championship title which allowed them to advance to states. Senior Ava Loskoch and junior Ella Rottinghaus were named to the Division I First Team. Seniors Abigail Baratka, Keegan Kline, and Alexa Sharron, and junior Elaina Camino were named to the Division I Second Team. Senior Heidi Van Dyk earned a Division I Honorable Mention. Ella was also recognized as the 2019 Post Gazette Co-Player of the Year. The

players that were honored in the 2019 National Field Hockey Coaches Association High School National Academic Squad included juniors Elaina Camino, Natalie Loftus, Jordan Landreneau, and senior Alexa Sharron. Abigail, Natalie, Ava and ninth-grader Danielle Deer participated in the USA Field Hockey Indoor Nationals. Natalie and Alexa were named Scholars of Distinction. Lastly, Field Hockey Coach Donna Stephenson recorded her 100th win within the program. Flip this document over to find out which senior players signed to play field hockey in college.



FIELD HOCKEY COACH
DONNA STEPHENSON EARNS
100TH WIN.



THE PRHS GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM EARNS THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AGAIN.

Gymnastics

THE PRHS GYMNASTICS HAS
A GREAT FINISH AT WPIALS.



The Pine-Richland High School Gymnastics Team had a great finish at the WPIAL Team Championships at Moon Township on Feb. 14, 2020. The girls successfully made 18 out of 20 routines and had their second-highest team score of the season placing fourth. The team was led by senior Brianna Reinert who made all four of her routines. At the individual championship on Feb. 14, 2020, sophomore Samantha Alexander became Pine-Richland's first-ever advanced division all-around champion with a score of 37.65. Samantha also won the uneven bars. Brianna placed third on floor exercise. All the gymnasts qualified for the individual WPIALs this year. The PRHS Gymnastics Team placed second in its section with a 4-1 record.

Football



THE PR FOOTBALL TEAM PLAYS IN THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

The Pine-Richland High School Football Team played Central Catholic in the WPIAL 6A Championship Game at Heinz Field on Nov. 16, 2019. A field goal in the fourth-quarter gave Central Catholic the 10-7 win over PR. The Tribune-Review named junior Miquel Jackson, who committed to Liberty University, and junior Cole Spencer as two of the Trib's top 25 standouts in football this year. The Post-Gazette named the duo to the Fabulous 22, as well. Miquel is among the WPIAL's best pass rushers, and Cole emerged as one of the WPIAL's top passers. They were both named to the First Team 6A All-State, along with junior Eli Jochem. Seniors Chance Boyd, Luke Meckler, and Levi Wentz were named to the First Team All-Conference. Eli, Cole, Miquel, junior Luke Miller, and senior Trent Miller were named Second Team All-Conference players. Seniors Nevan Novitski, Ethan O'Neil, and Joshua Rechenberg were named Honorable Mention All-Conference players. Levi was named to play in the Big 33 All-Star Game and Trent Miller to the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association's East-West All-Star Game. Coach Eric Kasperowicz was named the 2019 US National Team Offensive Coordinator.



FOOTBALL COACH
ERIC KASPEROWICZ

Alumni

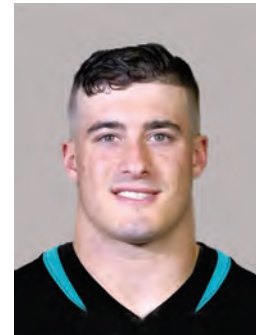
The Dallas Cowboys drafted 2015 Pine-Richland High School graduate and Pitt quarterback Ben DiNucci as the 231st overall pick in the seventh round of the 2020 NFL Draft. 2014 PRHS graduate and West Point graduate Connor Slomka signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars as an undrafted free agent. 2013 PRHS graduate Kevin Rader signed on to the Pittsburgh Steelers roster. This will be his first season with the team. Prior, Rader played with the Green Bay Packers.



KEVIN RADER



BEN DINUCCI



CONNOR SLOMKA

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Golf

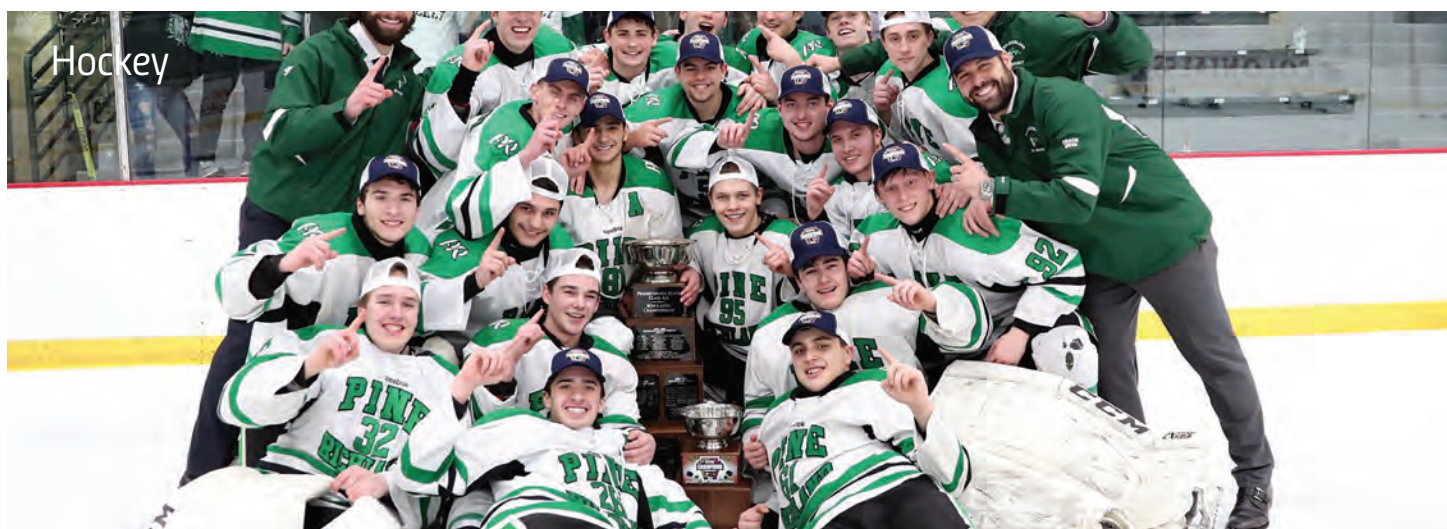
MEMBERS OF THE PRHS BOYS GOLF TEAM COMPETE AT WPIALS AND PIAAS.

THE PRHS GIRLS GOLF TEAM IS LOOKING TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNGER PLAYERS.



Senior golfer Donald Professori, who committed to the University of Findlay, captured first place at the Section 1-AAA qualifier, finished third at WPIALS, and seventh-place at the PIAA individual finals. Junior Nicholas Piper placed 22nd at WPIALS. The Pine-Richland Boys Golf Team beat Seneca Valley 194 to 195 on Sept. 18, 2019. The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Boys Golf Team was named section winners. Ninth-grader Tobias Kitay tied for fifth at the Tri-State PGA Isaly's Junior Golf Tour event at Glengarry Golf Links in Unity.

The Pine-Richland Girls Golf program focused on consistent growth in the areas of putting and driving. The team was led by seniors Carson Heil and Sedona Rocher and is looking to rising seniors Carlin Carion, Emerson Dickson, Hannah McNamara, and Briella Ruby to help ingrain the program's core tenets to the younger golfers. Coach Jared Slimm says the team is looking to continually grow and is in the process of expanding opportunities for younger students in the district as well. 2019 PRHS graduate Lauren Freyvogel, who is a member of the Penn State Women's Golf Team, participated in the University of Central Florida Challenge on Feb. 4, 2020.



Inline Hockey



The PRHS Inline Hockey Program had four teams that were in the playoffs. The PRHS JV1 Team won the Tier 4 High School Championships and gold medal, winning the best of three series played over two weekends against West Allegheny, which wrapped up on March 1, 2020. The PRHS Varsity Team earned a silver medal in Tier 1 High School Division on Feb. 23. The middle school and JV2 teams were eliminated in the first round of their playoffs.

THE PRHS JV1 INLINE HOCKEY TEAM EARNED A GOLD MEDAL IN THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.



THE PRHS VARSITY INLINE HOCKEY TEAM EARNED A SILVER MEDAL IN THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The PRHS Hockey Team team was expected to take on North Allegheny at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Center on March 12, 2020, in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) Semifinals. The matchup was canceled due to the pandemic. The team took an impressive win against Canon-McMillan 4-1 on March 3, 2020, in the PIHL quarterfinals. This year, the team moved up to AAA. Seniors Richard Wild, Jack Tyndall, Joseph Folmer, and Daniel Stauffer and juniors Connor Salsbury and Charles Mill were selected for the PIHL All-Star AAA Game on Jan. 27, 2020. Only 40 players were picked out of 12 teams. PR had one of the largest numbers of players chosen. Varsity Head Coach Jordan Yoklic was also chosen as a PIHL All-Star Coach in 2019.



COACH JORDAN YOKLIC EARNS THE PIHL ALL-STAR COACH TITLE IN 2019.

FAR LEFT: THE PRHS HOCKEY TEAM EARNED A SPOT IN THE PIHL SEMIFINALS.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Many of the athletic programs were canceled during the spring sports season including baseball, boys tennis, rowing, lacrosse, track and field, and softball. Seniors who missed those sports were recognized. Flip this document to see who they were. If we missed an accomplishment, please email rhathorn@pinerichland.org for publication via our Annual Report Extra Online edition at www.pinerichland.org/extras.

Soccer



RACHELLE DIXON
SOCCER COACH



MEMBERS OF THE PR BOYS SOCCER TEAM HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THOSE IN NEED DURING THE PANDEMIC.

The PRHS Varsity Girls Soccer Team moved on in WPIAL play and was stopped by Penn Trafford in the first round of WPIALS on Oct. 21, 2019. The following athletes received All-Section recognition (AAAA Section 1): senior Isabella Boyd; juniors Megan Donnelly and Katharine Kelly; and ninth-grader Ava Boyd. Isabella, Ava, and Megan were also named to the First Team Big 56 Organization. Katharine and Katie were named to the Second Team Big 56. The team welcomed Rachelle Dixon as the high school's new head varsity girls soccer coach. Coach Dixon comes to Pine-Richland after serving as the North Hills Girls Soccer coach for the past two years. The Pine-Richland Boys Soccer Team had eight wins and 11 losses this season. The team researched several charitable organizations and ultimately voted to donate \$1,134 they raised through a bake auction to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Team members prepared 32 delicious items for the bake sale. The fundraiser allowed the food bank to provide 5,670 meals to people during the pandemic. Juniors Zeyad Amr, Michael Tamburri, and Ethan Wojcik, sophomore Spencer Sable, and eighth-grader Joshua LeDuc presented the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank with the money raised through the online bake sale auction.



TOP: THE PRHS GIRLS SWIMMING TEAM

ABOVE: THE PRHS BOYS SWIMMING TEAM

RIGHT: MEMBERS OF THE DIVING TEAM

Swimming & Diving

Several PRHS students competed and one swimmer qualified for the PIAAs. At the AAA WPIAL Swimming Championships, three records were set by the boys team. In the 200-Yard Freestyle Relay, sophomores William Laubacher and Trent Vacula and freshmen Justin Bogacz and Matthew Carper placed 12th with a final time of 1:30.71 in the AAA WPIAL Swimming/Diving Championships. In the 200-Individual Medley, Trent also broke a school record with a final time of 1:56.07 placing sixth and qualified to swim at the PIAAs at Bucknell University March 11-12, 2020. In the 400 Freestyle Relay, Justin, Matt, Trent, and Will broke a school record with a time of 3:19.40 and placed 13th. Seniors Anna Kosanovich, Alyssa Schonbachler, Andrew Wenzel, and Valerie Zbezinski, sophomores Grant Lundgren, Shane Rupert, and Daniel Steger, and ninth-graders Delaney Allen, Matthew Carper, Mila Cribbs, Eleah Dickson, Brennan Kirkpatrick, and Megan Medjimorec qualified for WPIALs at the University of Pittsburgh Trees Pool on Feb. 27-28, 2020. Senior Zoe Farrar, junior Emerson Dickson, and sophomore Luke Farrar served as alternates. In diving, junior Lily Settembrino, sophomore divers Madison Alexander and Dylan McCabe and ninth-graders Emily Smallwood and Rachel Watson qualified to dive at WPIALs.



Volleyball

The PRHS Girls Varsity Volleyball Team defeated Oakland Catholic in the second round of the WPIAL Playoffs by 3-2. The team was stopped by Canon McMillan 2-3 on Oct. 30, 2019, in the semi-final game. The PRHS Boys Team was ranked fourth in Section 2-AAA. The team missed out on the season due to the pandemic.



THE PRHS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM COMPETES IN SECOND ROUND OF WPIALS.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tennis



The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Girls Tennis Team defeated Hempfield 5-0 in Round 1 of the WPIAL Team Tennis Tournament on Oct. 10, 2019. The team was stopped on Oct. 14, 2019, by Peters Township in the second round of WPIALs. Pine-Richland Girls Tennis Double pairing Eizabeth Stokes, a junior, and Meghan Wilson, a senior, qualified for the WPIAL Class AAA doubles championship playoffs and competed at WPIALs on Oct. 3, 2019, at the Oxford Athletic Club. The duo lost to Mt. Lebanon's Alexandra Renton & Lauren Masteller. While they weren't able to win the Section 2-AAA consolidation match at North Allegheny, they rose to the top of the Rams' list for doubles being in the top four finishers. Ellie made it to the quarterfinal round of the Section 1-AAA singles tournament. The PRHS Girls Tennis Team finished fourth in WPIALs.

ABOVE LEFT: MEMBERS OF THE PRHS GIRLS TENNIS TEAM



LEFT: MEMBERS OF THE PRHS BOYS TENNIS TEAM.

Wrestling



RIGHT: THE PRHS WRESTLING TEAM HAS A STRONG YEAR

BELOW: SENIOR TY JENKINS PARTICIPATES IN THE BEST BUDDY WRESTLING SHOWCASE.



The PRHS Wrestling Team earned the championship title at the William Jenkins Duals on Feb. 8, 2020. Wrestlers that went undefeated included: ninth-graders Anthony Ferraro, Jacob Lukez, and Zachary Shaver; and seniors Robert Palmieri and Nathan Lukez; and junior Cole Spencer. The team finished the regular season with an impressive 15-3 record. Assistant Coach Tom McGarrity assumed the role of head coach during the championship wrestling program

to capture his 200th win. He has been sitting on 198 since 2006-2007. The team earned the title at the Allegheny County Wrestling Tournament on Jan. 18, 2020 Anthony and Cole earned first-place and named All-County, along with Nathan and sophomore Kelin Laffey with impressive county runner-up titles; Jacob and Robert with fourth-place finishes; and sophomore Shane Simpson and freshman Joseph Schneck with seventh and eighth-place finishes. It is just the second county title in Pine-Richland history. The team was named the Tribune-Review Team of the Week on Jan. 21, 2020. The PRHS Varsity Wrestling Team qualified for team *Continued on page 40*

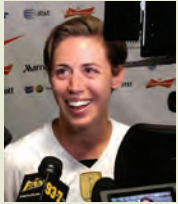
PHOTO COURTESY MONTAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

FIVE INDIVIDUALS & ONE TEAM INDUCTED INTO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Nearly 150 people came out to recognize five individuals and one team for the first-ever Pine-Richland High School Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet. On Oct. 4, 2019, the inductees were recognized at the PRHS Football Game and then at a special banquet on Oct. 5, 2019. Inductees included:

CLASS OF 2007 ATHLETE MEGHAN KLINGENBERG



Meghan Klingenberg excelled in the sport of soccer at Pine-Richland High School. Ms. Klingenberg represented the United States as a member of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team and went on to win the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup. She also represented the United States as a member of the U.S. National Olympic Team. She currently plays professional soccer for the Portland Thorns.

CLASS OF 1967 ATHLETE JACK MCCURRY



Jack McCurry was a two-sport athlete at Richland High School where he earned six varsity letters in football and track. In 1965 and 1966, Mr. McCurry led the Rams in scoring, rushing and pass receiving. Mr. McCurry has coached scholastic football for 35 years and amassed 281 victories, won 16 conference titles, four WPIAL Quad-A titles, and a Quad-A State title.

FORMER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OSSIE SANTACROCE



The late Ossie Santacroce served as the athletic director at Richland High School for many years. His leadership of the Pine-Richland athletic program was evident through his planning and organization for all interscholastic sports teams. Upon Mr. Santacroce's sudden passing the Pine-Richland School District named the athletic field at the former Richland High School site the Ossie Santacroce Stadium in his honor.

RETIRED COACH EUGENE SULLIVAN



Eugene Sullivan was inducted into the Pine-Richland Athletic Hall of Fame as an outstanding head football coach. Coach Sullivan led the Rams from 1964 through 1975 and captured WPIAL Football Championships in 1969 and 1970. Coach Sullivan is the all-time leader in football coaching wins at PR with a total of 84 victories in his 12-year tenure. Mr. Sullivan also served as the head football coach at Geneva College for 17 years.

CLASS OF 2004 ATHLETE NEIL WALKER



Neil Walker was a three-sport athlete at Pine-Richland. He participated and excelled in football, basketball, and baseball and led the Rams to the state playoffs in both football and baseball. He has played professionally for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Miami Marlins, New York Yankees, New York Mets, and other MLB teams. He is currently playing for the Philadelphia Phillies.

1969 RICHLAND RAMS FOOTBALL TEAM



THE 1969 RAMS FOOTBALL TEAM WAS INDUCTED INTO THE PINE-RICHLAND ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME FOR CAPTURING THE PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FIRST WPIAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP. THE TEAM COMPILED AN UNDEFEATED 10-0 RECORD AND WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WITH A RESOUNDING 30 TO 0 VICTORY OVER NEW BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL.

NEW INDUCTEES TO BE HONORED THIS FALL

The PR Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2020 will include the following inductees: retired football coach and biology teacher Aylmer Girdwood (Posthumously), former cross country coach and teacher Robert McDonough, 2002 PRHS graduate and WPIAL & PIAA tennis champion Brett Warren, 1998 PRHS graduate and tri-athlete Kristen Wisse (Soccer, Basketball, and Track & Field), 2000 PRHS graduate and basketball player Carrie Walker, and the 1988 Girls Cross Country Team coached by Coach Bob McDonough. The team was the first in school history to ever win a PIAA Championship.

If health/safety guidelines permit, the inductees will be recognized at 6:45 p.m. on Oct. 16, 2020, prior to the PR home football game. The banquet celebration will be held at 6 p.m. on Oct. 17, 2020, in the PRHS Cafeteria.

2019 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE



SOME OF THE PRHS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE MEMBERS SMILE FOR A PHOTO BEFORE THE BANQUET. (L-R): PRHS PRINCIPAL NANCY BOWMAN, CHAIRPERSON JACK MCCURRY, COACH BRITTANY ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEAN SIMMONS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS JANE MCTIGHE AND LARRY BRACCO, SECRETARY TIFFANY MEYER, COMMITTEE MEMBER MARC CASCIANI, AND TREASURER BARBARA YOUNG.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sean Simmons, PRSD Director of Athletics

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairperson: Jack McCurry

Vice Chairperson: Patrick Hanulak

Treasurer: Barbara Young

Secretary: Tiffany Meyer

COMMITTEE

Brittany Adams -Current Girls Lacrosse Coach

Larry Bracco -Youth Boys and Girls Sports & Community Member

Nancy Bowman, PRHS Principal

Marc Casciani -Community Member & PR Board Member

Maureen Farrar -Booster Board Swimming

Patrick Hanulak -Booster Board Girls Lacrosse

Eric Kasperowicz -Current Boys Football Coach

Jack McCurry -Retired Coach & Community Member

Jane McTighe -Graduate & Community Member

Tiffany Meyer -Community Member

John Pasquinelli -Retired Coach (Male Sports) & Community Member

Barbara Young -PRUBO Board Member 2014-2016 & Community Member

Message from the School Board

Dear Pine-Richland Community:

The Pine-Richland School District Board of Directors is proud to govern the school district, its policies, and its strategic plan. The onset of a global pandemic this spring disrupted all of our lives and plans in so many different ways, but the mission, vision, and values of the district, as well as our strategic goals, persist as milestones by which we determine our direction and measure our progress.

We are proud, not only of the resiliency and innovation shown in meeting the unique challenges of 2020, but in the continued pursuit of excellence throughout the organization: completing and presenting the In-depth Program Reviews for ELA, Library, and Music; finalizing the district's application to the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence; and creating a holistic PR Graduate Portrait of our students. These are just some of the areas of immense pride and progress toward district goals that continue to move us forward this year.

This annual report is evidence of that progress and a celebration of our students, teachers, and administrators who continue to focus on *learning for every student every day*.

Continued from page 38

sectional playoffs Jan. 22, 2020. Cole competed at the Hershey Giant Center on March 6-8, 2020, at the state wrestling championships earning fourth-place and a final record of 42-2. The 42 wins set a Pine-Richland season all-time record. Cole also earned his first WPIAL wrestling title Feb. 29 at Canon-McMillan High School and clinching career win No. 100. He earned fourth at the National High School Coaches Association National Championships in Virginia Beach. Cole made a verbal commitment to wrestle at the University of Pennsylvania.

Seventh-grader Vaughn Spencer earned first at the Pennsylvania Junior High Wrestling State Championships on March 1, 2020. Vaughn and his older brother are the only two in Pine-Richland history to win the middle school state championship. Seventh-grader Maclane Miller placed sixth. Wrestler Nate Lukez earned his 100th victory on Dec. 11, 2019, at Butler. His career record is 100-25.

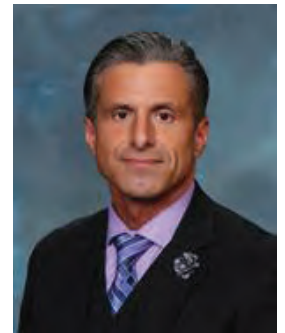
The PRMS Wrestling Team earned the county title in January of 2020. The public was treated to a special evening during the Pine-Richland High School Team's senior night and Best Buddy Showcase on Feb. 5, 2020. The team also introduced the middle school wrestlers. The team took on Frazier that evening winning 60-18 and best buddies were matched up with their varsity wrestling mentor. Wrestlers work with students in the best buddies program to participate in exhibition matches. The showcase is a way to display their new wrestling skills with their peer mentors. *(See photo on page 38.)*



MR. PETER LYONS
BOARD PRESIDENT



MS. CHRISTINE MISBACK
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT



MR. MARC CASCIANI
BOARD TREASURER



DR. BENJAMIN CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR



MR. GREG DITULLIO
DIRECTOR



DR. MATTHEW MEHALIK
DIRECTOR



DR. CARLA MEYER
DIRECTOR



MR. MATTHEW MOYE
DIRECTOR



MRS. KATARZYNA SWOPE
DIRECTOR

2019-2020 Highlights



(L-R) VICE PRESIDENT CHRISTINE MISBACK, DR. CARLA MEYER, DIRECTOR, AND PRESIDENT PETER LYONS, ACCEPTED AN INNOVATION AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE 2019-2020 PR SCHOOL BOARD.

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) honored outstanding recipients of the Pennsylvania Education Innovation Awards at the PA Association of School Administrators-PSBA School Leadership Conference at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center on Oct. 16, 2019. The Pine-Richland School Board was the only school board out of three groups to receive the award. President Peter Lyons, Vice President Christine Misback, and Dr. Carla Meyer were on hand to receive the award, along with Dr. Brian Miller, superintendent, and Board Secretary Barbara Williams. As part of the award, the board earned \$5,000 from CM Regent and CM Cares. The board generously donated the money to the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund. The team was on hand to present at the PASA-PSBA Leadership Conference. The topic of the team's presentation was the "Pursuit of Excellence: Leadership & Governance." The professional development session is open to school leaders across Pennsylvania.



DIRECTOR VIRGINIA GOEBEL

The board thanked Director Virginia Goebel from Region 3, for her eight years of service to the students and community.

Mrs. Goebel and Mr. Lyons were added to the Pennsylvania School Board Association Honor Roll of School Board Service for serving eight years.

Board Discusses Goal Planning

During the 2019-2023 Strategic Planning Process, the school board met to discuss board goals in the strategic plan's Pursuit of Excellence category. One of the long term goals is to conduct annual school visitations across multiple departments, buildings and grade levels to deepen understanding and oversight of in-depth program review recommendations (e.g., elementary math resources, new course offerings, or technology integration). During visitations, the board was able to observe the Multi-Tiered System Support process, RAMS Way, and in-depth program review recommendation implementations in business, math, and science. A complete list of board goals is located at www.pinerichland.org/extras.



DIRECTOR KATARZYNA SWOPE IS SHOWN HERE VISITING AN UPPER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM DURING A SCHOOL BOARD VISITATION TO DEEPEN HER UNDERSTANDING OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

Administrators Named to Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Examiners for 2020

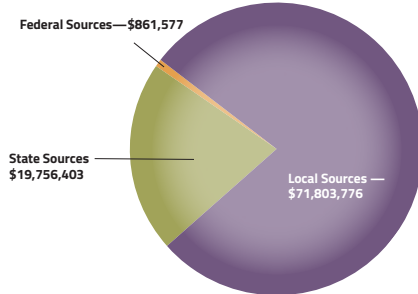
The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has named Pine-Richland Superintendent Brian R. Miller, Ed.D., and Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Kristen Justus, Ph.D., to the Board of Examiners for the 2020 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Baldrige Award is the nation's highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence. Appointed by the NIST Director, examiners are responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submitted for the Baldrige Award, as well as other assessment-related tasks. Those selected meet the highest standards of qualification and peer recognition, demonstrating competencies related to customer focus,

communication, ethics, action orientation, team building, and analytical skills.

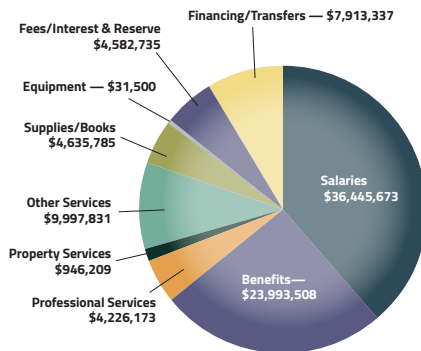
Dr. Miller is a senior examiner with Baldrige. He has served as an examiner for eight years. This is Dr. Justus' first year as a national examiner. In 2019, she served as an examiner for the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Performance Excellence (MAAPE), which is a Baldrige-based awards regional program that serves Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. In 2020, Hance Elementary School Principal Greta Kuzilla was selected as an examiner for MAAPE. She joins Director of Communications Rachel Hathhorn, who is serving a second year as a MAAPE examiner.

Board Approves Budget for 2020-2021 with No Tax Increase

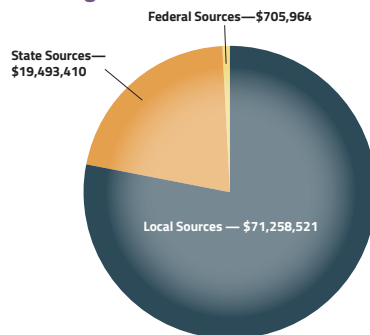
2020-2021 Budgeted Revenue



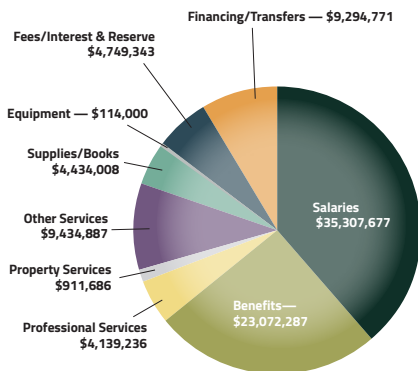
2020-2021 Budgeted Expenditures



2019-2020 Budgeted Revenue



2019-2020 Budgeted Expenditures



The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2020-2021 school year with total expenditures of \$92,772,751 and total revenues of \$92,421,756 with utilization of fund balance for capital improvements in the amount of \$350,995. The board maintained the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2020-2021 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 2019-2020 school year, the district refunded one bond issue which provided over \$252,000 in savings over the remaining life of the bond issue. The district is currently in the process of refunding two additional bond issues and 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 \$177.77.

- In January 2020, the board approved a property tax rebate program for all qualifying senior citizens, widows, and widowers for the 2019 calendar year. The application reflected a due date of June 30, 2020. 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 67.27% 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 34.51% of salary costs from 34.29% in 2019-2020. That translates to about \$470,935 (or \$235,238 in increased costs to the district after receiving state funding for retirement contributions) in the 2020-2021 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 2.5% for covered employees. Dental insurance premiums will increase by 6%, and vision insurance premiums will increase by 7%. Overall group health insurance expenditures for the District are budgeted to increase by \$405,122.

Tuition Expenditures – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$1,206,571 for 2020-2021, 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.

Board Reorganizes & Focuses on Strategic Planning

The Pine-Richland School Board reorganized on Dec. 2, 2019. Solicitor Donald Palmer swore in re-elected board members Marc Casciani, Greg DiTullio, Peter Lyons, Dr. Matthew Mehalik, and Dr. Carla Meyer. The board was pleased to rename Mr. Peter Lyons as president and Mrs. Christine Misback as vice president. On May 11, 2020, the board approved Mr. Marc Casciani to serve as Board Treasurer effective through June 30, 2021. This will be the third year in a row that Mr. Lyons and Mrs. Misback were selected to lead the team and Mr. Casciani to serve as treasurer.

The board also made several appointments, which include:

- Director Kasia Swope was appointed and was sworn in for a two-year term for Richland Township Region #3 on Dec. 17, 2019, and appointed to a one-year term as a representative on the A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Operating Committee.
- Director Greg DiTullio was reappointed to represent the Pine Township Parks and Recreation Board for 2020.
- Dr. Carla Meyer was reappointed as the legislative representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, and Dr. Meyer and Mrs. Misback were appointed as voting delegates for the PSBA 2020 Delegate Assembly.
- Vice President Christine Misback was reappointed as representative to the A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Committee for a two-year term and as a representative for the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund.
- President Peter 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 Treasurer Marc Casciani serving as an alternate.

Directors were chosen for committees and include:

Committee	Chair
Academic Achievement	Dr. Meyer
Buildings & Grounds	Mr. DiTullio
Finance	Mr. Casciani
Operational Services	Mr. Moye
Staff Services	Dr. Mehalik
Student Services	Dr. Campbell

Mrs. Barbara Williams serves as the board secretary.

For more information on board meetings, topics, agendas, and director bios, visit www.pinerichland.org/board.



PROF Fund Highlights Successful Year

QUICK FACTS

- The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is a non-profit, 501(c)3, education foundation supporting the needs of staff and students in the community above and beyond what can be provided by the district's budget.
- In the last eight years, PROF has awarded more than \$243,000 in cash grants to PRSD staff. In that time, PROF partnered with community organizations and businesses to award nearly \$308,000 in cash scholarships to graduating seniors.
- PROF proudly partnered with community businesses for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. First Commonwealth Bank, NexTier Bank, Trumbull, and University Pittsburgh Medical Health Plan help to provide funding for STEAM Grants and hands-on learning experiences. PROF welcomes the opportunity to share the benefits of the EITC program with area businesses.

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

On June 3, 2020, PROF awarded 17 scholarships to 24 seniors totaling \$38,000. 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 a complete list of scholarship descriptions and winners, please visit www.prof-fund/scholarships.

PROF Launches First Community Grant

The community has been facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. PROF's longstanding commitment to the community continued with the opportunity to work in supporting the North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) with the first-ever community grant. PROF challenged the community with a \$3,500 dollar-for-dollar match and received overwhelming support in the form of a \$9,270 grant to the NHCO, a donation that will have an incredible impact on serving the needs of our community.

PROF Awards \$50,000 to Pine-Richland Staff

Hance Outdoor Learning Spaces (\$18,000 Grant)

PROF helped revive and expand the outdoor learning classroom at Hance Elementary School as part of the organization's fall 2019 grants cycle. The project included updating the area with a new steel gable shelter with a concrete foundation to provide an additional learning area that will create a comprehensive outdoor classroom with flexible seating options that are protected from the elements and strong sun. "The Hance Habitat revival project will be a wonderful space to experience lessons in STEAM subjects and engage in hands-on learning in the outdoors, as well as a place for teachers and staff to take a brain break during the day," said PROF Executive Director Deb Lund.

Pine-Richland Middle School Collaboration Room (\$8,750 Grant)

Today's classrooms are nothing like those from days past. Rather than rigid lines of desks and little to no moving around, classrooms often are set up to encourage collaboration to more closely simulate real-world working environments. With that in mind, PROF recently funded a grant request from the Pine-Richland Middle School to help create a "collaboration room." The school district is funding technology to aid in collaboration, including Chromebooks and tablets. PROF was asked to fund flexible seating options to better encourage students to work together. "The collaboration room will be used daily in periods one and two by students in the gifted and talented program," says Teacher CC Kelly. "During the rest of the day, teachers in other classrooms reserve the room for use by their classes." The collaboration room offers a more relaxed and flexible setting for discussions or Socratic seminars, as well as for hands-on group projects.

Enhancements to Pine-Richland High School Sensory Room at PRHS (\$7,212 Grant)

Many local and national businesses, universities, and even airports have begun to recognize the importance of providing sensory-room areas for use by both children and adults to decompress from stress and anxiety. Thanks to a grant from PROF, the PRHS multi-sensory room will see some



(L-R) HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LUCAS TZIOVANNIS AND LUCCIA HARPALANI, TEACHER KRISTEN PINKERTON, AND STUDENTS JACOB TROUT AND ANNA COVERT TEST OUT THE SENSORY ROOM.

upgrades and additions. This multi-sensory room is a dedicated space or room where sensory stimulation can be controlled (either intensified or reduced) to fit the therapeutic and/or educational needs of the user. It includes lighting effects, sensory activities (think blowing bubbles or play dough), tactile experiences involving different textures, soft items for sitting or laying on, and sound effects or rhythmic music. "While the primary use of this room will be to help engage and work with our special needs students, this multi-sensory room will also help teach students who participate in the Peer Buddies program how to use different techniques to support others by using sensory resources," said PRHS Special Education Teacher Tracey Settembrino. "It may also be useful in our health and physical education curriculum in teaching mindfulness meditation and the importance of taking brain breaks for overall health and well-being."



PROF Hosts Fundraiser

In October, PROF hosted over 100 community members and PRSD staff at the Richland Township Barn in Richland Park. During the event, PRSD staff and PROF grant recipients from Wexford Elementary School and Pine-Richland High School showcased their grants in action and shared classroom impact with the community. Next year's fundraiser is scheduled on Oct. 11, 2020.

PRHS TEACHER MATT ROBERTS, A GRANT RECIPIENT, PRESENTS AT A PROF FUNDRAISER.

PROF Needs Your Support

Help PROF further its mission of providing important programs and scholarships. Donate today by visiting 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

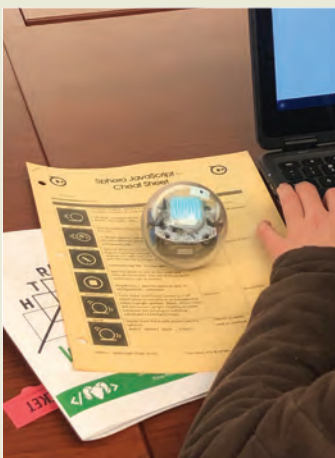
 @proudtobe_PR

Meet PROF's Board

PROF's trustee board is comprised of dedicated volunteer community leaders including President Laura Ball, Vice President Eric Giesecke, Treasurer David Jeter, Secretary Jennifer Husted, and trustees Charles Berry, Keri Brown, Leslie Craven, Joseph Culos, Kate Eyerman, Susan Hong-Bang, Jason Merante, Jim Neill, Terry Pomerleau, Stacey Silipo, David Speidelsbach, Robin Tino, School Board Liaison Christine Misback, and Faculty Liaison Bonnie Alessi. PROF's Executive Director is Deborah Lund.

Pine-Richland Hackathon Event (\$7,763 Grant)

A PROF grant covered the cost of two Sphero Bolt Starter Kits (each including 15 Sphero Bolt programmable robots) and five Arduino Starter Classroom Packs (each containing six Arduino Uno Rev starter boards), which was used by participants in the second annual hackathon, a 24-hour invention marathon, held in January. This PR student-driven event was free and open to all Pittsburgh-area students from grades 7 to 12. Participants with any level of computer programming or hardware experience collaborated in teams to create technology projects from scratch. The technology also will be used throughout the school year and beyond by PR's Programming Club during educational events for elementary, upper elementary and middle school students, and by teachers in various classroom projects. "This grant really illustrates what PROF is all about – funding projects that encourage and fuel the intellectual curiosity of our students," says Deborah Lund, PROF's executive director.



THIS SPHERO BOLT IS ONE OF THE PROGRAMMABLE ROBOTS THAT PROF DONATED TO THE ANNUAL HACKATHON.

PROF's FAST Grants Program (\$7,891 Total Grants)

PROF's new FAST Grant Application serves to streamline 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 its first year of inception, PROF provided over \$7,800 in FAST grants to staff including:

- **Hance Elementary School:** Climbing the Leadership Ladder for Staff, a sensory path, Plyometric blocks, Coding with Drones Program, and co-funding an author visit with the Hance PTO
- **Eden Hall Upper Elementary School:** Breakout Room game intellectual challenge
- **Pine-Richland Middle School:** Academic League buzzers for scholastic competition, and graphic novels in comic book style for the Library
- **Pine-Richland High School:** Virtual reality technology to bringing Spanish to life



PROF CO-SPONSORS AUTHOR DARYL COBB'S VISIT. HE IS SHOWN HERE TALKING TO HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ABOUT WRITING.

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. Families without internet access should contact PR Communications Director Rachel Hathhorn at 724-625-7773, ext. 6202.

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 for more about **Policy 204**. The district revised this policy in 2017.

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.

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).

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

- Education for Homeless Youth
- English as a Second Language Instruction
- Gifted Education Services & Screening & Evaluation
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records
- Protected Handicapped Students: Chapter 15
- Screening, Evaluation & Placement Procedures
- Services for Preschool Age Children with Disabilities
- Services for School Age Exceptional Children
- Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

General Annual Notices

There are several general annual notices that can be reviewed at www.pinerichland.org/annualnotices and include:

- Free and Reduced Lunch (Visit www.compass.state.pa.us for info & application)
- Federal Programs Title I
- Homebound Instruction
- Independent Educational Evaluations
- Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
- Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)
- Right to Know Act
- Special Notice Regarding Directory Information
- Armed Forces Recruiting
- District Video and Photographs*

**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 rhathorn@pinerichland.org.*

Pine-Richland School District Nondiscrimination Statement & Complaint Process

Pine-Richland School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Individuals who have an inquiry, complaint of harassment or discrimination, or who need information about accommodations for disabled persons, should contact Dr. Maura Paczan, coordinator of 504 Service Agreements at 724-443-7230 or Fax: 724-443-7374. For non-disability claims, individuals should contact the

human resources director/Title IX coordinator at 724-625-7773 x6201 or Fax: 724-625-1490.

Policy 103: Nondiscrimination in Schools & Classroom Practices

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.

Policy 103.1: Qualified Students with Disabilities Grievance Process

The school district shall provide to each qualified student with a disability enrolled in the district, without cost to the student or parent/guardian, a free and appropriate public education. 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.

The school board encourages students and parents/guardians who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment to promptly report such incidents. Policies 103 and 103.1 can be found in the policy manual or via the website at www.pinerichland.org/nondiscrimination. Reports of discrimination may be forwarded to the school district's Section 504 Coordinator Maura Paczan, lead school psychologist, Richland Elementary School, 3811 Bakerstown Rd., Gibsonia, PA, 15044; 724-443-7230 x6503.

Non-disability claims may be forwarded to the school district's Title IX coordinator/director of human resources, Pine-Richland School District, 702 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044; 724-625-7773 x 6201 or Fax: 724-625-1490.

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

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 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.

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.

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 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 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 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 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/survey.

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 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.

Board Policies & Discipline Code

All school policies can be accessed at any time by visiting 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.