



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT



INNOVATIVE & DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES

"The emphasis on cross-disciplinary thinking and going beyond classroom instruction has created a culture of innovation and a unique set of diverse opportunities at Pine-Richland School District."

PRHS Senior Arjan Guglani, who teamed up with classmates on technology-related projects. (See page 15 for more information.)

2019

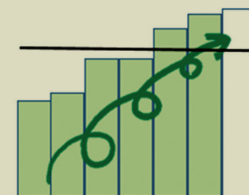
MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

We are fortunate to live, work, and engage in a vibrant school district! The timing and contents of the Annual Report give us the opportunity to sit back and reflect on the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff. We are mission-driven in our efforts to **focus on learning for every student every day**. As our shared values, the **PRIDE** acronym reflects the district values of **Personal growth, Resiliency, Innovation, Diverse opportunities, and Engagement**. This report highlights each of those values and provides a summary of educational programming and the associated results. This report is a celebration of the past year and also provides insight into next steps.

In 2018 - 2019, **Pine-Richland celebrated 60 years of tradition!** We produced a video that reflects the history of the district, held several family-based activities, and tried to celebrate history in our electronic messages. **We also placed a Spotlight on Excellence.** The image to the right illustrates the green, continuous improvement loops tied to "how" we operate our educational programs and services. Those processes are then directly tied to our results demonstrated through the histogram. **The Pursuit of Excellence** is now a category in the 2019 - 2023 strategic plan that will help us strive for improvement in all aspects of our district.



One of the most important outcomes of our work this year is the PRSD Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2023. Over 400 students, staff, parents, and community participated in a series of Town Hall sessions and/or provided electronic input. The six-month process used to map the next four years at Pine-Richland resulted in a **plan that will drive action**. Whether it relates to our in-depth program review process to refine courses and curriculum or an upcoming short-term action to create an individual professional development plan with all 500 employees, **we are committed to making Pine-Richland School District the place where students want to learn, staff members want to work, parents want to live, and the community embraces with pride.**

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 **focus on learning for every student every day**. 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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COVER PHOTO BY MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY:
(FRONT ROW: L-R) JUNIOR JUSTIN WALTRIP, SENIORS ARJAN GUGLANI, (BACK ROW: L-R) AMALENDU BOKIL, LAUREN JUNCAL, AND JUNIOR DANIEL KRILL ORGANIZED THE FIRST-EVER HACKATHON IN WHICH STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE INNOVATIVE MOBILE APPLICATIONS TO HELP OTHERS LEARN.

[DID YOU KNOW THAT...?]

- **US News & World Report** ranked **Pine-Richland High School** seventh in Allegheny County and 21st in the state in its "Top High School" rankings for 2019. In addition, the report ranks PRHS at 794 out of 17,245 public schools across the U.S. Criteria used include state math and reading scores, graduation rates, and the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work using advanced placement exam data as a benchmark.
- **The Pittsburgh Business Times** ranked **Pine-Richland School District** eighth out of 105 districts in the region in its 2019 list of rankings by examining scores from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments and Keystone exams.
- The **Pennsylvania Department of Education's Division of Federal Programs** honored **Hance Elementary School** for being named a Title I Distinguished School for 2018-2019 because it ranked in the top five percent of Title I Schools in Pennsylvania based on aggregate math and English language arts scores on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments.
- **Eden Hall Upper Elementary School** was named a **U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School**, one of only three named in PA in 2019. This distinction acknowledged EH's commitment to sustainable practices and leadership in facilities, health, and environmental education. Wexford Elementary School earned the distinction in 2018.
- **Hance Elementary School** was named to the **2019 Pennsylvania Healthy Schools Honor Roll**. Schools named to the honor roll are recognized for taking strides to create a green and healthy learning environment for their school and community.
- **Eden Hall Upper Elementary School** received the SupportMusic Merit Award from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for its commitment to music education and the arts by providing innovative learning opportunities for a well-rounded education.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS 2019-2023

Systematic & Comprehensive Process

After a systematic and comprehensive process, the PRSD Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 is complete. Beginning with a series of gallery walks with 25 members of the organization and school board last summer. The district had over 400 stakeholders participate in a series of town hall meetings and/or electronic surveys in the design process. An iterative process was used to develop and refine the plan. Given the degree that our current plan drives action, it was used as the foundation for this important work. A data and information placemat was used to ensure that future work was informed by our current performance results and input from the annual stakeholder surveys of students, parents, and staff. The existing mission, vision, and values were affirmed for the next four years. Five categories serve as the framework for the plan (See “books” below in Pursuit of Excellence category.). Within each category, there is a set of four-year long-term goals. Each long-term goal is then achieved through an intentional sequence of one-year action items. The scope of the plan was specifically evaluated to ensure depth and quality of implementation. In addition, potential measures and/or expected results were identified for each long-term goal. These measures will eventually become part of a comprehensive scorecard. Lastly, the district was able to also complete the required elements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Comprehensive Plan. The PRSD Strategic Plan and PDE Comprehensive Plan were posted for public review and then approved by the board on June 3, 2019.



EIGHTH GRADERS AMBER MURPHY (LEFT) AND HANNAH YOUNG (RIGHT) PARTICIPATE IN A STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION WITH PROF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEB LUND.

PR Graduate Portrait

In the Student Progress & Engagement category, one of the long-term goals is focused on the overall development of our students. This concept has become known as the “PR Graduate Portrait” and reflects four developmental dimensions (i.e., Knowledge; Skills; Health & Wellness; and Personal Qualities & Characteristics). Over the course of the second semester, a specific set of concepts were identified in each dimension. For example, Skills are defined as organizational, time management, communication (oral/written), research, teamwork, and more. The “PR Graduate Portrait” will serve as a key area of focus as we kick-off the 2019-2020 school year and begin to implement our four-year strategic plan. More detailed information will be shared in the fall.

Pursuit of Excellence

The final category of our strategic plan is titled, “Pursuit of Excellence.” There are several noteworthy elements in this category. First, each building has developed a specific long-term goal based on building needs, which are integrated within the district plan. This helps increase the visibility of those building-based goals for the entire community and demonstrates alignment to the larger plan. Next, the Pine-Richland School Board serves as a role model for continuous improvement by identifying 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 program. By developing an application that responds to



a comprehensive set of criteria, the district will receive a feedback report that will help identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. Finally, this category includes the finalization of a set of comprehensive measures to help the district monitor results. A podcast is available on the district website to learn more about this category.

Review Food Services Updates



(BACK: L-R) HANCE ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADERS DERNA CHIACCO, AND SELENA FLICKINGER, (FRONT: L-R) DESOLINA POSTREICH, AUBREY MITCHELL, AND EMERY WYGANT ENJOY LUNCH.



(L-R) HANCE ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADERS ANDREW CHADMAN, JOSHUA NIYONZIGIRA, AND JACOB HANSELMAN ENJOY A DELICIOUS LUNCH.

Food choice matters and Sodexo, Pine-Richland School District's food service provider, continues to make changes to allow our students and staff to have better food choices. The National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs have made some additional regulation changes for the new school year that Sodexo feels will allow more menu options and improve product availability.

2018-2019 was filled with promotions:

- Our high school students participated in the annual Sodexo Healthy High School Challenge and earned \$1,000 towards their Student Government organization.
- Eden Hall students participated in the 2019 Future Chef Event which focused on healthy Mexican recipes.

2019-2020 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

Additional Updates: What Counts as a Meal

- To qualify for a full meal, a student must select three of the five components and one of the three must be a fruit or vegetable. The five components are made up of grain, meat/ meat alternative, fruit, vegetable and milk. If you have any questions on what constitutes as a meal, please contact the food service department.
- 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, student ID number, and check written to Pine-Richland Cafeteria Fund (PRCF).
- If you would like to place any restrictions on your student's meal accounts, please contact the PR Food Service Department at 724-625-3550.



Pine-Richland Earns Communication Awards

Pine-Richland School District received an Award of Excellence in the 2019 Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association Excellence in Education Communications Contest for the Spotlight on 60 Years video produced in August of 2018. PRSD was one of only four educational organizations to earn an award in this category. The video was edited by Media & Web Services Coordinator William Clack and produced by Director of Communications Rachel Hathhorn.

In addition, PRSD also earned an Award of Honor in the digital media category for its curriculum website.

STAFF NOTES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

District Welcomes New Employees in 2018-2019

PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Since last year's annual report, Pine-Richland School District welcomed additional employees. At the district office, Pine-Richland welcomed Payroll & Employee Benefits Specialist Doris McCartney, Director of Athletics Sean Simmons, and Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Zimmerman. Within the technology department, the district welcomed Systems Administrator Dale Riley and technicians Harry Gilliland, Anthony Merola, and Nathan Pieszak. In the Xerox, ComDoc & Innovative Service Technologies (IST) Copy & Print Center, new members of the team include IST Regional Operations Manager David McElhinney, Site Manager Ryan Erb, and Courier Kirk Mechlin.



MR. JEFFREY ZIMMERMAN
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT



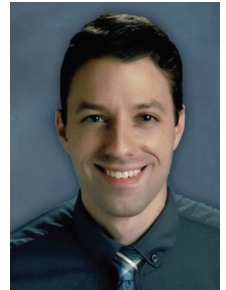
MR. SEAN SIMMONS
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



MS. DORIS MCCARTNEY
PAYROLL & EMPLOYEE
BENEFITS SPECIALIST



MR. TJ SALOPEK
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MR. JACOB MINSINGER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH & PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

At the high school, the district welcomed TJ Salopek as assistant principal, Counselor Jasmine Holliday, and custodians Walter Bylinowski, Christopher Davies, Christopher Downey, Patrick Girdwood, and Brandon Szymankowski. Math Teacher Adam Camberg, Science Teacher Amanda Demsey, Social Studies Teacher Cyndi Poole, and special education teachers Nicole McCarthy and Kristin Vetro, paraeducators Eric Finney and Megan Kelly, and Secretary Eleanor Harnick joined the staff. At Pine-Richland Middle School, Assistant Principal Jacob Minsinger joined the staff along with Counselor Olivia

Mastrangelo; custodians Perry Drum and Jeffrey Huffman; and paraeducators Julia McCabe and Lisa Petrack.

EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Eden Hall Upper Elementary School, PR welcomed Music Teacher Steven Shade, Fifth-Grade Teacher Valerie Shockling, Special Education Teacher Emily Solan, and Paraeducator Jeffrey Kustra.

HANCE, RICHLAND & WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

At Hance Elementary, the district welcomed Paraeducator Robyn Del Vecchio. At Richland, the district welcomed Neva Ravotti, kindergarten and arrival/dismissal aide; paraeducators Angela Boyd, Jamie Henry, Rupa Sundaram Iyer, Courtney Parisi, and Brittany Stein; and playground/cafeteria aides Candace Bienemann, and Christine Petronio. At Wexford, the district welcomed Nurse Jacquelyn Cerny, Personal Care Assistant Dawn Kanish, and Kindergarten Arrival/Dismissal Aide Dana Conley, and Tamara Honick as a playground/cafeteria aide.

District Honors Retirees

The district recognized staff members who retired in 2018-2019. Since the last annual report, the latest class of retirees has logged 206 years of service with Pine-Richland Director of Facilities Management Gary Zang logging the most time by serving 30 years followed by Eden Hall Paraeducator Barbara Sullivan, who served 27 years.

Pine-Richland School District

Maintenance Mechanic Thomas Hurley
Custodial Supervisor Craig Schomaker
Director of Facilities Management Gary Zang

Pine-Richland High School

Custodian Janet Eveleth

Pine-Richland Middle School

Librarian Kathleen Batykefer
Teacher John Haddad
Teacher Robert Utz

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School

Paraeducator Anne Cress
Paraeducator Barbara Sullivan

Richland Elementary School

Custodian Edward Feil, Jr.
Custodian Richard Kapp

Wexford Elementary School

Instructional Assistant Deborah Dee
Secretary Janice Hoffman



(L-R) RETIRING PARAEDUCATOR DEBORAH DEE AND FELLOW RETIREES ROBERT UTZ, PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CRAIG SCHOMAKER, CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR, ARE SHOWN HERE WITH FOURTH-GRADER TESSA LUTZ. SODEXO, TESSA, AND HER FAMILY HOSTED A SAMPLING OF HER AWARD-WINNING APPLE TACO TASTIC DURING THE PINE-RICHLAND RETIREE CELEBRATION ON MAY 20, 2019. SHE EARNED FIRST PLACE IN THE SODEXO HEALTHY RECIPE CONTEST.

SCHOOLS
INCORPORATE
HEALTHY &
SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICES INTO
PROGRAMS

Eden Hall Named U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School



PHOTO BY MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

EDEN HALL STAFF WEAR GREEN TO CELEBRATE EARNING THE 2019 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD.

“The kids are our future. We need to expose them to build awareness and instill values and tell others about these environmental projects.”

— Mrs. Michelle Ressler,
Pine-Richland parent

The U.S. Department of Education named Eden Hall Upper Elementary School a 2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honoree on May 23, 2019, for providing students an environment rich in learning and opportunities to regularly participate in activities that are focused on engaging in a healthy and sustainable environment.

Sustainable features at the school include:

- Natural lighting through skylights
- Plants & trees on school grounds native to Pennsylvania
- No-mow native grasses on the grounds
- Heat-reclaiming devices for efficiency
- Room sensors to monitor & control carbon dioxide, lighting, & heat

- Wood paneling to keep noise down
- A maker roof to reflect heat

Eden Hall’s wellness committee focuses on identifying and implementing initiatives that benefit the overall health and well-being of students and staff. Recently, the committee, with support from the parent-teacher organization, has provided stationary bikes that are available for use by all students and staff in the building.

Continued on page 7

Wexford Earns Award in 2018

Wexford Elementary School earned the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School award in 2018. On Sept. 19, 2018, administrators, teachers, and staff members accepted the award in Washington, D.C.

The distinction acknowledges Wexford’s commitment to sustainable practices and its leadership in facilities, health, and environmental education. In a move to strengthen environmental education, Wexford staff members have revitalized Wexford’s garden space as an outdoor classroom and meeting area thanks to a Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund grant. Under the direction of Wexford Elementary School Principal Kelly Gustafson, students have been giving tours of the new Learning Garden.

The students have been showing visitors how the space can directly connect with coursework that typically is conducted indoors, such as literature, science, and math.

Parent Michelle Ressler, who helped give media tours of the garden in 2018, says these projects have a great impact.

“The kids are our future,” said Mrs. Ressler. “We need to expose them to build awareness and instill values and tell others about these environmental projects.”

Some of the staff who worked on the original Wexford Green Ribbon committee included teachers Joanna Firmin and Tara Hillegas; retirees



THIRD-GRADER JACKSON REBA SHARES THE BOOK *CARL AND THE MEANING OF LIFE* BY DEBORAH FREEDMAN WITH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE WEXFORD LEARNING GARDEN. TEACHER TRACI LAFFEY HAS BEEN FACILITATING A READING OF THIS BOOK THAT DESCRIBES AN EARTHWORM AND ITS CONNECTION TO THE EARTH.

Gary Zang and Mary Beth Chips; former Principal Rick Walsh; Custodian Jerry Glevicky; and Parent Kristi Wees.

Across the country, 35 schools, 14 districts, and four postsecondary institutions are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

Hance Elementary Named to Healthy Honor Roll

Hance Elementary School was named to the Pennsylvania Healthy Schools Honor Roll in 2019. A team of teachers, staff, parents, and students were involved in applying for the recognition program this past spring.

Healthy Schools PA Program Coordinator Kara Rubio, representing the Women for a Healthy Environment organization, visited Hance to recognize the school on June 6, 2019. Schools named to the honor roll are recognized for taking strides to create a green and healthy learning environment for their school and community. The announcement was made at an assembly for students and staff. The third-grade student leaders accepted the recognition on behalf of the team.

PA Healthy Schools team members at Hance included parents Jessica Taylor and Nicole McDonnell; teachers Misty Smith, Lisa Burnsworth, and Jennifer Jankowski; counselor Tammy Godino; custodian Jeff Reidenbach; Maintenance Supervisor Bruce Riemer; and Principal Greta Kuzilla.

Ms. Kuzilla said that she is extremely proud of Hance's PA Healthy Schools Committee.

"We worked diligently as a team to work to not only complete the application process but also set meaningful goals for the upcoming 19-20 school year," said Hance Elementary School Principal Greta Kuzilla. "It's important for Hance Elementary to maintain a healthy environment in regard to sustainability, as well as other areas, so that we can focus on learning for every student every day by creating an optimal atmosphere. The committee is interested in expanding for next year to include students for their feedback and input. We hope to incorporate their voices into our goals as well."

Hance Elementary Named Title I Distinguished School

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's Division of Federal Programs is honoring Hance Elementary School for being named a Title I Distinguished School for 2018-2019 because it ranked in the top five percent of Title I Schools in Pennsylvania based on aggregate math and English language arts scores on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments. To receive this honor, schools had to show high achievement on the PSSAs while qualifying for financial assistance through the Federal Title I program.

"We are extremely proud of the Hance team and its efforts to ensure both growth and achievement across our student population," said Dr. Kristen Silbaugh, assistant superintendent of elementary education and curriculum.

In all, 158 Title I schools, out of 912, were named distinguished schools. Hance Elementary Principal Greta Kuzilla attributes the continued success to the supportive families in the community, attentive students, and focused and determined staff members who strive to meet student needs.

"This recognition represents the hard work by all of our staff members, families and students as we strive as a community to focus on learning for every student every day," said Ms. Kuzilla.



(L-R) PRINCIPAL GRETA KUZILLA, TEACHERS LISA BURNSWORTH AND MISTY SMITH, AND PARENTS JESSICA TAYLOR AND NICOLE MCDONNELL ARE JUST A FEW MEMBERS OF THE HANCE HEALTHY SCHOOLS TEAM.

Eden Hall *Continued from page 6*

Gifted classes in all three grades work with Chatham University's School for Sustainability to explore and participate in a variety of activities that broaden their awareness of the connections between food, energy, nature, science, and mathematics.

"This is a significant honor for our building and is a true testament to the work, skills, and talents that our students, faculty, and staff display each and every day," said Dr. Joseph Domagala, assistant principal. "This designation gives recognition for the sustainable efforts and education, health and wellness initiatives, and reduced environmental impacts that we focus on as a school community. These efforts directly tie in with our district values of providing diverse learning opportunities both in and outside the classroom."

In addition to Dr. Domagala, Maintenance Supervisor Bruce Riemer serves on the wellness committee along with teachers Jennifer Kopach and Joanna Sovek.

"We are honored to be recognized for our initiative of embracing a more sustainable learning environment at Eden Hall and our Pine-Richland community," said Ms. Kopach and Ms. Sovek. "It has been an on-going collaborative effort with our students, faculty, and community members to generate awareness and cultivate a better understanding of how changing the habits or mindset of one person can trickle down to another. We are working towards our ultimate goal of bringing positive changes to our environment and overall well-being as committed members for a greener world."

"We are honored to be recognized for our initiative of embracing a more sustainable learning environment at Eden Hall and our Pine-Richland community."

— Teachers Jennifer Kopach & Joanna Sovek

SCHOOLS RECEIVE ACCREDITATION FROM STATE & REGIONAL PROGRAMS

PRMS Redesignated as Part of Schools to Watch Program

Pine-Richland Middle School has been redesignated, along with DuBois Area Middle School, as Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch" (PA STW) for a fourth time in 12 years as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

The school hosted a celebratory assembly to present the official "Schools to Watch" award for the school on May 21, 2019, at Pine-Richland Middle School. State Representative Mr. Mike Turzai was in attendance, along with the STW team members Bruce Vosburgh, Paul Meck, George Pry, and Steve Swogger.

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Association for Middle-Level Education, Duquesne University, and Edinboro University, the Schools to Watch selection process is based on a written application that requires schools to show how they met criteria developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Schools that meet the criteria are visited by state teams that observe classrooms, interview administrators, teachers, students, and parents, and look at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work. Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of three years, they must demonstrate progress on specific goals in order to be redesignated. "Schools to Watch" requires schools to not just identify strengths, but to also focus on areas for continuous improvement, thus the three-year redesignation.



STUDENTS AND STAFF PARTICIPATE IN A PA SCHOOLS TO WATCH CELEBRATION.



ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF ARE SHOWN HERE WITH STUDENTS WHO PROVIDED MUSIC FOR THE SCHOOLS TO WATCH CELEBRATION PROGRAM.

"We are proud of the redesignation through the Schools to Watch program," said Superintendent Brian Miller, Ed.D. "It gives us an opportunity to hold up a program against a set of criteria. STW will be embedded in the district strategic plan for 2019 - 2023 for our middle school to reflect the dynamic nature of continuous improvement."

The middle school concept focuses on a team approach for learning and supporting students.

"The daily efforts of our middle school students and staff exemplify a team of people achieving and growing together," said Assistant Superintendent Michael Pasquinelli, Ed.D. Our next set of STW stretch goals will continue this focus on teamwork and collaboration."

The program was led by Principal David Kristofic and Assistant Principal Jacob Minsinger with the support of teachers Sheri Murslack and Jennifer Bubb, and Counselor Jennifer Mullaugh. PR Parent Support Association President Stephanie Drenning and eighth-graders Jaimee Joshi, Sreyashi Mondal, Noah Moskala, and John Varghese, and seventh-graders Michael Lattari and Benjamin Lyons made presentations.

PRMS was recognized nationally in Washington, DC, at the National Forum's National Schools to Watch Conference on June 27-29, 2019.

"We are truly proud to earn the fourth honor in the Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch awards program," said Principal David Kristofic, Ed.D. "Our students, staff and parents make this school the place to be."

PRHS Receives Accreditation through Middle States Association

Pine-Richland High School received accreditation through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools on December 1, 2018. Accreditation is earned through a validation process aligned with 12 standards of organizational performance published by the Middle States Association.

The high school is implementing several goals under the direction of Principal Nancy Bowman and assistant principals Robert Puskas, TJ Salopek, and Stephanie Svilar. You can review the goals that fall under student performance and organizational capacity by visiting www.pinerichland.org/middlestates.

In addition to Dr. Svilar, the Middle States Core Planning Team was made up of teachers Lindsay Brough, Jeffrey Byko, Diann Metal, Beth Sipe, Dr. Michelle Switala, Jessica Walker, and Library Assistant Mary Folmer.

Richland Elementary Opens STEAM Lab

Richland Elementary School opened a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) lab.

Richland's maker space offers students hands-on opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics.

"The possibilities are endless," said first-grade teacher Bonnie Alessi. "It's open-ended learning, lots of opportunities for problem-solving, along with integrating the arts and technology with a little bit more freedom. They are playing, but they're learning at the same time."

The lab was put in place through a Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund grant valued at \$13,885 to get things off the ground.

The space offers students a chance to experiment with 3D printing, puppetry, crafting, early coding and more.

Each class schedules a half-hour every week to enjoy time in the space, and how they use it is up to each individual teacher. Teachers can also bring their classes in for indoor recess during inclement weather.

The STEAM Lab committee was made up of teachers Lauren Aiello, Bonnie Alessi, Brittany Boss, Tracy Hanna, Paula Ferris, Becky Fickes, Kathy Giegel, Erica Savannah, custodian Warren Ringeisen, and Dr. Gene Nicastro, principal.



(FRONT: L-R) RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADERS RYAN FORRESTER, SIA ASHER, AND SAMUEL PELLETIER (BACK) HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROBLEM-SOLVE WHILE HAVING FUN IN THE NEW STEAM DREAM LAB.

Eden Hall Earns Music Merit Award



(L-R) FOURTH GRADERS AUTUMN WILEY AND GIANNA BURJA PARTICIPATE IN A BAND LESSON. ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE BAND, CHORUS, OR ORCHESTRA CLASSES.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School earned the SupportMusic Merit Award from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for its commitment to music education and the arts by providing innovative learning opportunities for a well-rounded education.

Staff members who make up the music department include Kimberly Baney, Benjamin Coulter, Jeffrey Nicodemus, Katelyn Piroth, Stephen Rickenback, Steven Shade, and Michael Timcheck.

Teacher Michael Timcheck says the award takes into consideration the department's programs and curriculum that is offered and its connection to the community.

"This is truly a team effort on behalf of our band, choral, and orchestra program," said Mr. Timcheck. "The recognition shows our efforts to reach out beyond our school and into the community."

Nominate a Teacher

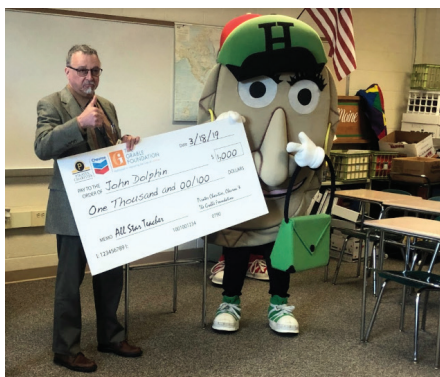
Recognize a deserving teacher by visiting www.pinerichland.org/teacherawards.

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.

STAFF NOTES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE PIRATE PIEROGIE AWARDS TEACHER JOHN DOLPHIN WITH THE ALL-STAR TEACHER AWARD.

- Pine-Richland High School Teacher John Dolphin was presented with the All-Star Teacher Award by Chevron, Pirates Charities, and the Grable Foundation on May 22, 2019, and was recognized on the field at PNC Park on July 21, 2019, during the Pirates game. Mr. Dolphin was nominated by students for positively impacting student lives and going above and beyond to make sure his students want to be in the classroom and to learn.



MR. BRIAN KANTZ EARNS A PITTSBURGH PENGUINS FOUNDATION AWARD.

- The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials announced that Accounting Specialist Rachel McCarthy fulfilled standards required as a Registered Pennsylvania School Business Official (PASBO). She earned recertification for meeting ethical and professional requirements set forth by PASBO.

- Pine-Richland Middle School Business Education Teacher Sheri Murslack will be starring in the movie *Unsinkable*. The movie is about the sinking of the *Titanic*. The movie is to air on December 25, 2019. The movie is being produced by the PMI Films Production Company. Mrs. Murslack will portray a survivor on Lifeboat eight, which was the first lifeboat to be lowered into the water after the *Titanic* hit the iceberg.



PRMS TEACHER SHERI MURSLACK LANDS ROLE IN MOVIE.

- Pine-Richland High School Choral Director Lee Rickard was selected to serve as a guest conductor for the Haverford County Middle School Honors Choir Concert in Bel Air, MD, on Jan. 11, 2019.



CHORAL DIRECTOR LEE RECORD SERVES AS A GUEST CONDUCTOR IN MARYLAND.

- Pine-Richland High School Art Teacher Ramon Riley is being featured in a marketing campaign for the city of Pittsburgh, which was launched on April 23, 2019, by VisitPittsburgh.

"I was called while I was working on a commission, and within 30 minutes I was being filmed," Mr. Riley said. "I was honored to be asked to participate. We need the message and teachings of Mr. Rogers now more than ever." Mr. Riley is an art studio director of Radiant Hall Nova Place, which is located near the Children's Museum. He had just completed an exhibition of new works called "LOVENEVERENDING."

Mr. Riley said the exhibition was an ode to Pittsburgh and the community, so it was a natural fit for the video, which welcomes the world to pull up a chair and have a seat in Pittsburgh.

The video is included in the introduction of the Mr. Rogers movie, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.



TEACHER RAMON RILEY IS FEATURED IN HIS ART STUDIO IN A MARKETING VIDEO FOR PITTSBURGH.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & GROWTH REPORT

District Presents Sixth Annual Academic Achievement & Growth Report

The vision at Pine-Richland emphasizes that learning is reflected in both achievement and growth. This philosophy is captured in the sixth Annual Pine-Richland Academic Achievement and Growth Report, which has been refined each year to provide descriptive statistics and analyses across a series of standardized assessments. As a district, we are focusing on process and results.

The district is leveraging the support of its members of the Academic Leadership Council (ALC) to lead data analysis sessions with departmental and grade level teams of teachers and to identify and prioritize strengths, opportunities, action steps, and recommendations. Additionally, the district has included information about the benchmark assessments utilized K-12, including STAR 360 (Grades K-6) and Classroom Diagnostic Tests (Grades 7-12) which help to measure student growth and performance throughout the year. As a disclaimer to all who review this report, it is important to note the narrow focus on standardized achievement test results (i.e., Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs), Keystone Exams, College Board SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement (AP) Testing). 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. The report highlighted the following key findings:

- Providing an introduction to the Future Ready PA Index
- Emphasizing PSSA achievement levels at or above the top decile in 2018 over 2017 in almost all cases
- Using benchmarking tools to drive instructional interventions down to the student level
- Collaborating with the ALC & teachers during data analysis & action planning sessions

The report also identifies areas of focus, which include:

- Continued examination and revisions of curriculum, assessment, and instruction at all grade levels
- Integration of regular, collaborative data analysis to replicate best practices among teachers
- Ensure alignment & effectiveness of Multi-Tier Systems of Support interventions to meet students' unique needs
- Establish a systematic approach & consistent implementation of curricular resources & instructional strategies

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE SCORECARD

SCHOOL	SCORE
Pine-Richland High	90
Pine-Richland Middle	78
Eden Hall Upper Elementary	86
Hance Elementary	79
Richland Elementary	94
Wexford Elementary	92

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 exceeded 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.*

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.

PA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE PROVIDES SNAPSHOT OF STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the Pine-Richland Academic Report, parents can view the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile, which is a web-based resource for districts to communicate performance results to various constituencies and assist districts in aligning and focusing resources for continuous improvement. The 2018 Academic Achievement & Growth Report outlines the data elements that are used to develop the annual PA School Performance Profile. The PA School Performance Profile can be viewed at www.paschoolperformance.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 Grades 9)


Below is an overview of the PSSA and Keystone exams.




FOURTH-GRADERS MICHAEL PIFER AND SARAH PUTHENPURAYIL ARE SHOWN HERE WITH ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL PASQUINELLI AS THEY VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH STUDENTS AT NORTH ALLEGHENY. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TEACHERS JOANNA SOVEK AND JENNIFER KOPACH, STUDENTS HAD TO USE PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS TO CREATE PACKAGING TO SAFELY TRANSPORT ONE PRINGLE CHIP TO THE NEIGHBORING SCHOOL.

 PRIMARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2018				
Grade 3	PR Math 2018	PR Math 2017	PR ELA* 2018	PR ELA* 2017
Hance	87%	89%	84%	99%
Richland	85%	84%	92%	85%
Wexford	91%	93%	96%	97%
Pennsylvania	54%	55%	64%	65%
PA Top Decile	82%	81%	86%	88%


*English Language Arts

 UPPER ELEMENTARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2018					
Grade	Subject	EH 2018	EH 2017	PA 2018	PA Top Decile
4th	Math	74%	76%	44%	72%
	ELA*	86%	90%	60%	83%
	Science	94%	94%	76%	94%
5th	Math	79%	76%	45%	73%
	ELA*	92%	83%	59%	84%
6th	Math	72%	79%	40%	63%
	ELA*	86%	89%	63%	83%

*English Language Arts

 SECONDARY PSSA SCORES Advanced & Proficient — 2018					
Grade	Subject	PRMS 2018	PRMS 2017	PA 2018	PA Top Decile
7th	Math	78%	71%	39%	59%
	ELA*	90%	86%	62%	80%
8th	Math	56%	61%	31%	49%
	ELA*	85%	84%	62%	80%
	Science	73%	71%	54%	73%

*English Language Arts

 2018 KEYSTONE EXAMS First Time Test Takers Advanced & Proficient - Spring 2018		
Subject	PR 2018	PA 2018
Algebra I	74%	65%
Literature	82%	73%
Biology	71%	64%

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 & Top Decile Schools Overall on Assessments

Some key findings highlighted in the 2018 Academic Achievement & Growth Report include:

- Pine-Richland students outperformed the state average at all levels of the PSSA Math & ELA assessments & the top decile benchmark for combined advanced/proficient performance (i.e., top 10% of schools in Pennsylvania) at all grade levels in math & ELA except for fourth-grade math.
- The percent of students at the advanced/proficient levels increased or remained stable across all grade levels on the math PSSAs & increased on the ELA PSSAs for grades five, seven and eight when comparing 2015, 2016, 2017, & 2018 grade level achievement.
- The Pennsylvania Three-Year Value-Added Report indicates varying levels of evidence that students met the Standard for PA Academic Growth in math for 2016 through 2018. The district significantly exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth in math for grades five & six; demonstrated evidence that grade eight met the standard for PA Academic Growth; reflected moderate evidence that grade seven did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth; & did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth in grade four.
- Grades four & eight in math had significant evidence of no growth, although grades five, six, & seven met or exceeded the standard for growth for 2018.
- The 2018 Pennsylvania Value-Added Report indicates significant evidence that students did not meet the Standard for PA Academic Growth in ELA for grades four & eight. Conversely, the 2018 Value-Added Report reflects significant evidence students exceeded the Standard for PA Academic Growth in ELA for grades five, six, & seven & grade six showing moderate evidence students exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth.
- Fourth grade PR students outperformed the top decile benchmark on the Science PSSAs & the state average when comparing the percent of students scoring in the combined proficient & advanced category.
- PR students with an IEP in fourth grade out performed the overall performance of all Pennsylvania students both without & with IEPs in the combined advanced/proficient category in science.
- The analysis of student performance through the PA ELA, Math, & Science Assessment Anchors helps PR understand areas of relative strength and opportunities for improvement. Those areas along with information regarding quintiles are outlined in great detail and can be viewed at www.pinerichland.org/academicreport.
- A higher percentage of all PR test-takers In 2018 scored advanced/proficient on the Keystone Algebra 1 & Literature exams in comparison to test-takers statewide, who scored advanced/proficient. Of note, this is more than double the percentage of PR students scored at the advanced level in comparison to statewide on Algebra I and Literature.
- The 2018 District Value-Added PVAAS data indicates significant evidence that the district exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth on the Keystone Algebra 1 & Literature exam, & moderate evidence students did not meet the growth standard on biology. The three-year average value-added measure shows evidence the district met the growth standard.

District Focuses on Next Steps & Opportunities for Success

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

- Revisiting Keystone, PSSA, and PVAAS data analysis process, results, findings, and next steps with grade level and vertical teams for PSSAs & Keystones.
- Continue refining implementation of compacted/extended & current math pathways and monitor alignment with PA Core in Math, particularly in Grades K-5 where new resources were just integrated in 2018-2019 & in grades six through eight where resources were embedded in 2017-2018.
- Using STAR 360 math as a predictor of student performance on the PSSA & ensuring alignment & integration with the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) resources & process.
- Refining MTSS processes for math to determine next steps for a systematic approach to interventions for enrichment and/or remediation.
- Continue professional development and support for co-teaching and MTSS models & new curricular resources, instructional & assessment strategies.

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



SECOND-GRADERS ADDISON KALPAKIS AND GAVIN MANGEL ARE ALL SMILES DURING A MATH LESSON IN TEACHER ANN FETTERMAN'S CLASS.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & GROWTH REPORT



JUNIORS CAROLINE CUNNINGHAM AND ALEXA SHARRON REVIEW PHYSICS PROBLEMS IN TEACHER ANN GOLLAPUDI'S CLASSROOM BEFORE AN EXAM.

FUTURE READY INDEX & CAREER EDUCATION & WORK STANDARDS NOW AVAILABLE

For the first time, 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



2018 ACT SCORECARD*

(Maximum score is 36.)

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

2018	Math	Reading	English	Science
Pine-Richland	25	25	25	25
Pennsylvania	23	24	23	23
All Test Takers	21	21	20	21

*PRHS Class of 2019 results unavailable at production time.



2018 SAT SCORECARD*

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

2018	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Pine-Richland	592	602
Pennsylvania	547	539
TL Group	536	531

*PRHS Class of 2019 results unavailable at production time.



CAREER EDUCATION & WORK STANDARDS

Grade Level	2017-18
Grade 5	96.3%
Grade 8	99.7%
Grade 11	87.8%
Pennsylvania Average	98%

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

Pine-Richland students outperformed the state and global test takers on the SAT in combined score performance and across both subtests (Evidence-based Reading and Writing & Mathematics) and on the ACT in all subject areas.

The district will:

- Continue to work with established partnerships to provide students the option to receive face-to-face SAT & ACT preparation instruction.
- Inform students & families of the SAT & ACT preparation instructional opportunities that are available online through Naviance & other web-based programs.
- Ensure similarly-formatted test questions are integrated into secondary courses to help prepare students for the SAT & ACT.

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+
2018	523	1024	376
2017	504	983	349
2016	456	911	333
2015	490	958	349

*PRHS Class of 2019 results unavailable at production time.

Data is compiled from the PA State Department of Education and from the 2018 PRSD Academic Achievement & Growth Report. Numbers are rounded.

PRIDE VALUES

Pine-Richland School District Embraces PRIDE Values

Districtwide students, parents, and staff are engaging in opportunities that reinforce the Pine-Richland School District Mission, Vision, and Values. Here is a snapshot of activities that connects with the district values that spell out the acronym PRIDE and include: Personal Growth, Resiliency, Innovation, Diverse Opportunities, and Engagement.

PERSONAL GROWTH & RESILIENCY

STUDENTS, STAFF & FAMILIES PROVE THEY ARE RESILIENT



Hance Elementary families, students, and staff learned more about personal growth and resiliency when the district built a school within a school and students and staff had to move to Eden Hall Upper Elementary for the first day of school while their building underwent mold remediation.

The experience not only required all to be resilient but provided further opportunity for continuous improvement in many areas including a plan to strengthen the district's comprehensive approach to proactive testing throughout its buildings and grounds.



ABOVE: (L-R) HANCE PRINCIPAL GRETA KUZILLA AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT KRISTEN SILBAUGH GREET (L-R) FIRST-GRADERS NOAH MARTIN, AARON MANCINI, JACKSON THOMPSON, AND JONAH MANCINI AS THEY RETURN TO HANCE ELEMENTARY FOR A "SECOND" FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.



LEFT: HANCE ELEMENTARY TEACHER LISA TILLER CONDUCTS CLASS IN THE AUDITORIUM OF EDEN HALL WHICH SERVED AS A CLASSROOM DURING THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

TOP LEFT: THIRD-GRADER LILY ORELLANA TAKES THE MOVE TO EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY IN STRIDE ON HER FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

INNOVATION & DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES

STUDENTS PROMOTE LOCAL & GLOBAL CAUSES

Pine-Richland High School students rally around not only their peers and family members who may be battling an illness but around other causes including the annual PR Mini-THON on April 6, 2019, in which students raised a little more than \$24,005 to help conquer childhood cancer. Peer-2-Peer hosted the PR Color Run, and Student Government hosted the annual Stuff-a-Bus toy



STUDENTS RAISE MORE THAN \$24,000 IN THE ANNUAL MINI-THON FUNDRAISER.

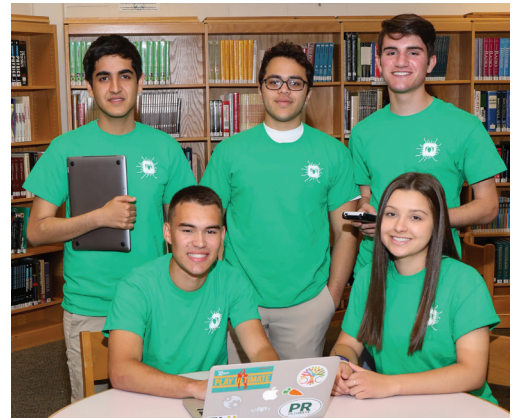
drive in which students collected six busloads of toys. Student Transportation of America donated the bus service to make the project happen.

**“First, be in the game.
Be in the moment.
Do something that
has meaning for you.
Finally, make something
better for a few people
around you. Be real. Do
something meaningful.”**

— Associate Teaching Professor David Kosbie, Carnegie Mellon University's Computer Science Department, who spoke at PR's student-led hackathon.

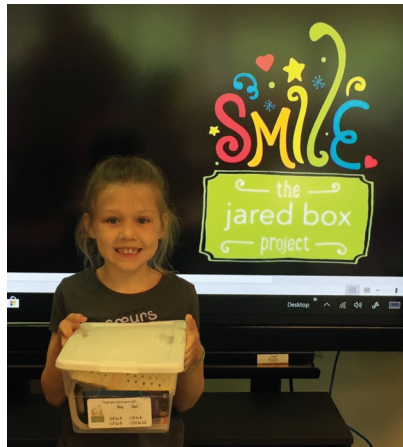
STUDENTS CREATE INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS TO HELP OTHERS LEARN

As highlighted on the cover of this annual report, students are involved in innovative and diverse opportunities whether they are in or out of the classroom. Students at the high school engaged seventh through 12th graders in the opportunity to create innovative apps that could help other people learn through Pine-Richland's first-ever hackathon on Feb. 9, 2019. Seniors Amalendu Bokil, Arjan Guglani, Lauren Juncal, and juniors Justin Waltrip, and junior Daniel Krill developed, organized, and launched the program with Sponsor Val Klosky. Professor David Kosbie, associate teaching professor, from Carnegie Mellon University's computer science department, served as the event's guest speaker. He gave students some important advice in whatever they do, "First, be in the game," said Dr. Kosbie. "Be in the moment. Do something that has meaning for you. Finally, make something better for a few people around you. Be real. Do something meaningful." The winning project was an application called QR Pass. QR Pass allows students to use their phones as a digital hall pass by scanning QR codes at different locations around a school and recording their time. Team members included eighth-grader Brandon Wees and ninth-graders Colby Patrick, Luke Waltrip, and Carson Kopp.



TOP LEFT: (L-R) EIGHTH-GRADER BRANDON WEES AND NINTH-GRADERS CARSON KOPP AND LUKE WALTRIP EARN FIRST-PLACE AT THE HACKATHON. NOT SHOWN: NINTH-GRADER COLBY PATRICK.

TOP RIGHT CENTER: 2016 PRHS GRADUATE SIMRIN GUGLANI (LEFT) CAME BACK TO HELP ORGANIZERS OF THE PR HACKATHON. SHE IS SHOWN HERE WITH CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CLASSMATE VRINDA GUPTA OF NEW JERSEY.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADER LYDIA O'LEARY PARTICIPATES IN A FUNDRAISER FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

COVER STORY TOP RIGHT: (FRONT: L-R) JUNIOR JUSTIN WALTRIP AND SENIORS LAUREN JUNCAL, (BACK ROW: L-R) ARJAN GUGLANI, AMALENDU BOKIL, AND JUNIOR DANIEL KRILL PROVIDED STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DABBLE IN INNOVATION THROUGH THE FIRST-EVER HACKATHON AT PINE-RICHLAND.

RIGHT: (L-R) SENIORS KAREEM ZEIN AND JAKE NOSCHESI, TEACHER BETH SIPE, AND SENIORS HANNAH DIRK, MICHAEL DORUNDO, AND TEACHER LINDSAY BROUGH (SEATED) SORT THROUGH TOYS IN THE ANNUAL STUFF-A-BUS TOY DRIVE.



WEXFORD ELEMENTARY STUDENTS RAISE RECORD AMOUNT FOR ANNUAL TURKEY FUND IN 2018.





STUDENTS ORGANIZE THE ANNUAL COLOR RUN WHICH SERVES TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR ALL IN BOTH OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY AND TO ELIMINATE SOCIAL INJUSTICES.



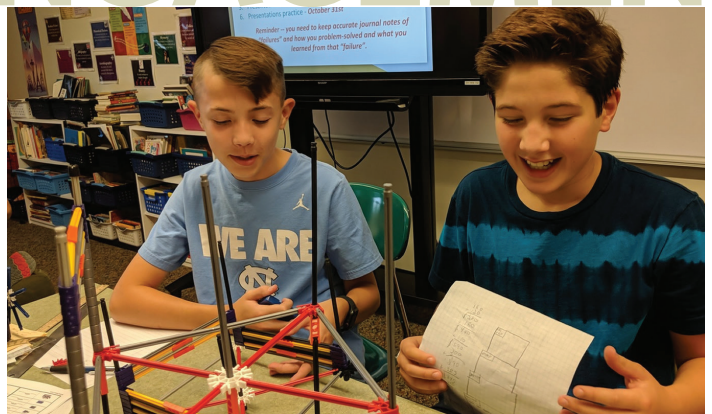
(L-R:) SENIORS CONNOR HETZEL AND JUSTIN GAVLIK STOP BY TO BUY SOME SCHOOL STORE SUPPLIES FROM JUNIOR TY JENKINS, FRESHMAN ENZO GICONI, AND JUNIOR MADDIE HOYLAND.

STUDENTS ARE ENGAGED IN LESSONS & ACTIVITIES

ENGAGEMENT

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School students were engaged in learning more about the engineering design process as they participated in a STEM Design lesson in sixth grade under the direction of Teachers Jennifer Kopach and Joanna Sovek. Students had to employ the engineering design process as they created a sustainable building, which was required to be at least one-meter tall. Students participated in this process during RAM Time. They used the K'Nex Building systems and presented their final products at the Engineering Expo on Nov. 1 and Nov 2, 2018. Students were judged on creativity, teamwork, design, and overall success.

At Pine-Richland Middle School, students in Teacher Brian Kantz's classroom were engaged in an eighth-grade science lesson in which students had the opportunity to prove Newton's First Law of Motion. The students worked in groups to figure out how mass was related to a particular variable. Students worked to figure out how much force was needed to move a shoe. Other students had to figure out the amount of force it took to move a box with a weight.



(L-R) SIXTH-GRADERS RUSSELL ROCKACY AND GRANT BRAUER REVIEW THEIR BLUEPRINTS FOR THEIR TOWER DESIGN.

Continued from page 15

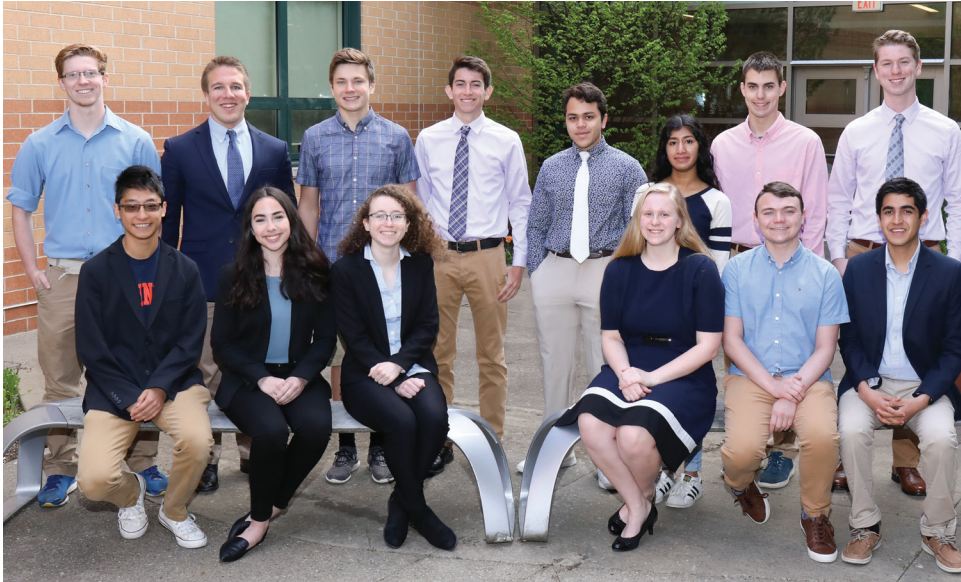
At the elementary level, Richland Elementary second graders donated and created 105 boxes filled with new toys for the patients at Children's Hospital as part of their Hero Unit this spring. The boxes were donated to the Child Life division of Children's Hospital. Teacher Alison Monk says each student had the opportunity to make a difference in the life of another child through a nonprofit organization called The Jared Box Project. Wexford Elementary helped 2,000 families enjoy Thanksgiving Day meals. PTO members, parents, administrators, teachers/staff, students, and community members helped raise a record \$17,780. PNC Bank matched the funds and contributed \$17,780 to raise a whopping \$35,560 for the KDKA Turkey Fund this year. These are only a few examples of fundraisers and causes.



EIGHTH-GRADERS (LEFT) MEGAN MEDJIMOREC, (CENTER) BRADY CARRIGAN, AND (RIGHT) DARYL MELBY WORK ON CALCULATING HOW MUCH FORCE IS REQUIRED TO MOVE A WEIGHTED BOX.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Academic Excellence



(BACK ROW: L-R) SENIORS PARKER SCHUBERT, RYAN FARBACHER, LUCAS ZAK, LUKE FRANCIS, AMALENDU BOKIL, UMayAL NATESAN, JACOB GARRETSON, MASON PRUHS, (FRONT ROW: L-R) KEVIN ZHOU, JORDAN LABUDA, DEVIN GOLLA, MARTHA LACEK, JOHN REILAND, AND ARJAN GUGLANI ARE RECOGNIZED IN THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

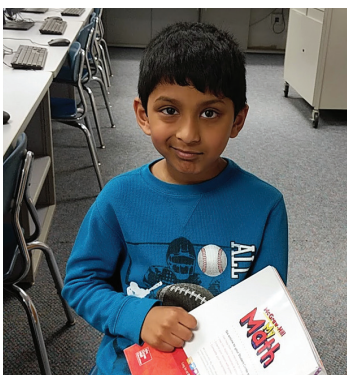
The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named 14 Pine-Richland High School seniors as semifinalists and commended students in its 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. PRHS seniors Luke Francis and Devin Golla were named finalists, and seniors Amalendu Bokil, Ryan Farbacher, Jacob Garretson, Arjan Guglani, Jordan Labuda, Martha Lacek, Umayal Natesan, Mason Pruhs, John Reiland, Parker Schubert, Lucas Zak, and Kevin Zhou were named commended students. More than 1.6 million juniors from about 22,000 high schools entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

Several students earned perfect scores on college entrance exams. On the SAT Math II, seniors Derek Bashe, Aiyana Chopra, and Arjan Guglani earned perfect scores. Arjan also earned a perfect on the SAT Math along with Luke Francis. Senior Ryan Gallo earned a perfect ACT Science score.

Pine-Richland Middle School competed in the National MATHCOUNTS program under the direction of Teacher Patricia Cekella during the 2018-2019 school year. Over 50 students participated in MATHCOUNTS this year and earned Silver Level status at the competition. The MATHCOUNTS Foundation provides engaging math programs to build confidence and improve attitudes towards math and problem solving.



SALUTATORIAN JORDAN LABUDA, TERTIARY SAMUEL SKIRPAN, AND VALEDICTORIAN LAUREN JUNCAL ARE SHOWN HERE MOMENTS AWAY FROM BECOMING GRADUATES.



RICHLAND FIRST-GRADER KIRAN KARTHIKEYAN PLACES FIRST IN PA & IN TOP 50 IN THE UNITED STATES IN A MATH PROGRAM.



(L-R) SENIOR AMALENDU BOKIL AND JUNIORS DANIEL KRILL AND AIDEN PAVLICK ARE PUT TO THE TEST ON HOMETOWN HIGH Q.

Pine-Richland High School students were put to the test during the Hometown High Q show under the direction of Teacher Jessica Holmgren. Team members included senior Amalendu Bokil and juniors Daniel Krill and Aiden Pavlick, who competed against other area schools. Alternatives included sophomores Samuel Stella and Michael Allessi. The team took a win against Bethlehem Center and Beaver in the first round and then lost by a point to North Allegheny.



SEVENTH-GRADERS MIA TUCCIARONE AND AVYUKTA NAGRATH, LINCOLN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT GABI BOUDREAU, COACH SARAH EZOLT, AND SEVENTH-GRADERS DAMIAN IVANOV, NICOLAI EZOLT, LUKE RIDGEWAY, AND ETHAN PRIORE ADVANCED TO THE PA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Students from Eden Hall Upper Elementary School and Pine-Richland Middle School earned third and second place respectively at the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition at Keystone Oaks School District on March 2, 2019. The middle school team advanced to the state championships. The Division 1 Team was made up of Eden Hall fifth-graders Annabella Orlando, Sophia Priore, Luca Boudreau, and Owen Conley and fourth-graders Jack Ball and Noah Ezolt (third place). The Division 2 Team was made up of Pine-Richland Middle School seventh-graders Mia Tucciarone, Ethan Priore, Avyukta Nagrath, Damian Ivanov, Luke Ridgeway, and Nicolai Ezolt and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts student Gabi Boudreau (second place). Students participated through the STEAM Studio in Wexford with the help of Coach Sarah Ezolt.

Arts & Music

Ninth-grader Erina Fortune earned second place in piano at the Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition. She performed in New York City at Carnegie Hall on March 5, 2019. Multiple winners were chosen, but only the top winners of each group were invited to perform at Carnegie Hall. Most recently, Erina also earned the 2018 Duquesne University's Young Artist National Solo Award.



NINTH-GRADER ERINA FORTUNE PLAYS AT CARNEGIE HALL IN NEW YORK CITY.



EIGHTH-GRADER ALEXANDER URLING PARTICIPATES IN THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM.

The Pine-Richland Marching Band will perform at Kennywood on August 16, 2019. Some members of the band participated in the American Legion Memorial Day program in Bakerstown and the parade in Orlando in May. These are just some of the events the band participates in annually.



PHOTO BY LA PHOTOS

THIS YEAR'S PRHS MARCHING BAND BOASTED 243 STUDENTS.

Pine-Richland Middle School eighth-grader Alexander Urling had the unique opportunity to participate in a program entitled "88 Keys for Pittsburgh" on Oct. 27, 2018. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra hosted the fundraising program. The PSO launched the campaign to raise \$200,000 for a new grand piano for Heinz Hall.

The PRMS seventh-grade choir earned first place in the Middle School Mixed Choir II category with a rating of excellent, the eighth-grade choir earned first place in the Mixed Choir 1 category with a superior rating, and the PRMS Women's Ensemble placed first in the Middle School Women's Choir category with a superior rating at the 2019 Music in the Parks Competition in Hershey, PA on May 9, 2019.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Junior Olivia McGeary was selected to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators All-State Choral program in Pittsburgh on April 6, 2019. Olivia and junior Claire Tobin, along with sophomore Kristen Donahoe, and seniors Bryan Bails, Seamus Daniello, and Lucy Hess participated in the PMEA Regional Choral program. Those students along with junior Thomas Andrews and senior Spencer Harris also participated in the PMEA District Choral program. Sophomore Miriam Layne and seniors Kevin Lee and Christopher Mustovic participated in the PMEA District Orchestra program. The trio also participated along with ninth-grader

Nicholas Labuda in the PMEA District Honors Orchestra. Ninth-grader Nathan Skripac and eighth-graders Ryan Daniels and Natalie McLean participated in the PMEA Jr. High Orchestra. Senior Benjamin Luiken participated in the PMEA Honors Jazz Band. Ninth-grader Aidan Frick and sophomore William Koebnick participated in the PMEA Honors Band. William, sophomore Meredith Bille, and seniors Spencer Harris and Parker Schubert participated in the PMEA District Band program. Students participate in these programs under the direction of teachers David Belchick, Lee Rickard, Brian Scott, and James Stillwaggon.

LEFT: JUNIOR OLIVIA MCGEARY IS SELECTED TO PERFORM AT THE PMEA ALL-STATE CHORAL PROGRAM.

Sixth-graders Owen Kaufman, Kiera Moskala, Autumn Tessa Rodgers, and Roger Williams were selected for the 2019 District 1 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District (PMEA) Elementary SingFest, which was held on March 15, 2019 at Quaker Valley Middle School under the direction of teachers Michael Timcheck and Kimberly Baney.



(L-R) SIXTH-GRADERS OWEN KAUFMAN, KIERA MOSKALA, AUTUMN TESSA RODGERS, AND ROGER WILLIAMS (NOT PICTURED) PARTICIPATE IN THE PMEA SINGFEST UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TEACHERS MICHAEL TIMCHECK AND KIMBERLY BANEY.



SIXTH GRADERS ARE SELECTED FOR THE PMEA HONORS BAND FESTIVAL.

Nearly a dozen sixth graders were selected for the PMEA Honors Band Festival at Chartiers Valley Intermediate School on May 18, 2019, which included Abigail Anderson, Elaina Anderson, Grace Hanselman, Kendell Kirkland, Eliza Lazzaro, Nathan Lee, Liam Ray, William Tamburri, Jillian Uzelac, Skylar Warren, and Solomon Weigand. The students participated under the direction of teachers Benjamin Coulter and Jeff Nicodemus.

Seniors Kenzie Wolfe and Victoria McCarthy earned regional Gold Key Awards in the 2019 Scholastic Art Competition, qualifying them for national recognition. Kenzie also earned a silver portfolio award, five silver keys and an honorable mention. Also earning honorable mention awards were Maren Baxter, Cynthia Chen, Bayli Clack, McKenna Exline, Molly Gaffey, Megan McLoughlin, and Haley Rupprecht who earned two honorable mentions. Maren and McKenna earned staff pick awards as well. Students participate under the direction of teachers Mary Ann Andreassi, Ramon Riley, and Vince Thearle.



RIGHT: STUDENTS ENTER THE 2019 SCHOLASTIC ART COMPETITION.

PHOTO BY MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



SOPHOMORE XIMENA SANCHEZ, SENIOR TYLER HEPLER, AND SOPHOMORES MAYA PANTANOWITZ, AND RODOLFO DANIEL MARTINEZ, AND SENIOR BRIGITA IVASKA EARN RECOGNITION IN A PITTSBURGH PUBLIC THEATER CONTEST.

Pine-Richland High School students were named finalists in the 25th Annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at Pittsburgh Public Theater, who competed against more than 1,000 entrants from the tristate area on Feb. 14, 2019. Senior Tyler Hepler and sophomore trio Rodolfo Daniel Martinez, Maya Pantanowitz, and Ximena Sanchez earned finalist status in the upper division. Senior Brigita Ivaska earned honors status in the first round.

Senior Tyler Hepler who earned a Best Actor award in the Gene Kelly Awards program for his portrayal of Sky Masterson in *Guys & Dolls*. He traveled to New York City in June to represent Pittsburgh in the National High School Musical Theater Awards program. Pine-Richland earned five nominations for its production. Senior Declan Allwein earned a Best Supporting Actor nomination, and senior Amariana Busa earned a Best Actress nomination. In addition, PRHS earned a Best All-Student Orchestra nomination and a Best Lighting nomination. The cast for the March production included 56 students, a 26-member student orchestra, and all-student stage crew under the direction of Director Sarah McGraw and Producer Kathy Morrissey.



SENIOR TYLER HEPLER EARNS A SPOT IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATER AWARDS PROGRAM.

PHOTO COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHER CHRIS LESBIE, DIGITAL SHOEBOX



LEFT: THE PRHS THEATER CLASSES PERFORMED *THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ* IN NOVEMBER UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TEACHER MICHELLE BRUNO. CAST AND PRODUCTION MEMBERS PROVED TO BE RESILIENT BECAUSE THEY HAD TO POSTPONE ONE EVENING'S SHOW DUE TO WEATHER. STUDENTS TEAMED UP WITH THE PRHS INTERACT CLUB TO RAISE MONEY TO BE DONATED TO THE MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION IN THE NAME OF TEAM TESSA.

BELOW: THE PRHS INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY PRESENTED *PETER AND THE STARCATCHER* ON NOV 30 - DEC. 1, 2019, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TEACHER JOHN DOLPHIN.



STUDENTS PERFORM *GUYS & DOLLS* THIS SPRING.



PHOTO COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHER CHRIS LESBIE, DIGITAL SHOEBOX

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



(FRONT ROW: L-R) SENIOR CAPTAINS HANNAH ROACH AND EMILY BOBER; (CENTER ROW) JUNIOR GRACE BARCASKEY; (MIDDLE ROW: L-R) SOPHOMORES LILLIAN ROBERTS, CORRINE KLINE, ERIN DOUGAL, LEAH LEES, GRACE KOZEJ, RIELEY SNYDER, (BACK ROW: L-R); NINTH-GRADERS GIANNA REIGARHARD, AND AMELIA BAILEYS MAKE UP THE PRHS DANCE TEAM, WHICH COMPETED AT THE UDA SUMMER CAMP IN 2018.

The PRHS Dance Team competed during the Universal Dance Association Summer Camp July 6-8, 2018, which was held at the University of Maryland under the direction of Sponsor Kathy Deal. The team earned the highest honor of a superior rating and blue ribbon for their home-team dance routine choreographed by senior captains Emily Bober and Hannah Roach. The team received a Superior and highest rating on the Performance Team routine taught at the camp. The team also received the "Team Full Out Award." These awards qualified the team for the National Dance Championship in Orlando, FL, on Feb. 1-3, 2019. The team also earned awards such as the "Super Spirit Stick" award for energy and enthusiasm. Senior captains Emily Bober and Hannah Roach received a "UDA Varsity Spirit All-American Award" for excellence in the All-American Dance Competition and were invited to perform in the New Year's Day Parade in Rome, Italy. These seniors also were awarded the "Pin-It-Forward" award for their efforts and attitude. The team also participated in a fundraiser to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

MORE THAN 100 CAST AND CREW MEMBERS TOOK AUDIENCE MEMBERS BACK TO THE EIGHTIES ON FEB. 7-9, 2019, THROUGH THE PRODUCTION OF *FOOTLOOSE*, WHICH WAS DIRECTED BY ANGELA CHURRAY GROSS AND PRODUCED BY MARY LYNN DUGAN. SEVENTH-GRADER JULIANA ABRAHAM CREATED THE CAST AND CREW T-SHIRT DESIGN THAT MANY OF THE STUDENTS ARE SHOWN WEARING.



EACH YEAR, THE DISTRICT CELEBRATES BOARD APPRECIATION. THIS YEAR, STUDENTS REPRESENTING *GUYS & DOLLS*, *PETER & THE STARCATCHER*, *THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ*, AND *FOOTLOOSE* TOOK THEIR SHOW ON THE ROAD AND PRESENTED A SCENE FROM THEIR PRODUCTIONS TO THE BOARD. IN ADDITION, YOU CAN SEE IN THE RIGHT CORNER NEW ARTWORK THAT ADORNS THE BOARDROOM WHICH WAS CREATED BY STUDENTS FROM EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Career & Technical



(L-R) SOPHOMORE LAKSHMI NATESAN, SENIOR UMayAL NATESAN, AND TEACHERS KRISTIN HOUGH AND DAWN HERBST, AND SENIOR BAILEY MOHRI, AND SOPHOMORE MALINI HARINATH

The Pine-Richland High School Cultural Communications Alliance team competed at the International Business Competition which was held at the University of Pittsburgh Katz Business School on April 30, 2019. The team placed second in the competition. PRHS Cultural Communications Alliance Team members included seniors Bailey Mohri and Umayal Natesan and sophomores Malini Harinath, Lakshmi Natesan, Laila Saah, and alternate Anoushka Rajeev, earned second in the International Business Competition at the University of Pittsburgh Katz Business School on April 30, 2019. Volunteer sponsors included teachers Dawn Herbst and Kristin Hough. The team was tasked with creating a business marketing plan for a health food product for the country of Japan.

STUDENTS EARN STATE FBLA AWARDS

Six PRHS students earned awards at the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Competition on April 10, 2019. The winners were a part of a two-member team and included juniors Payton McGee and Jenna Hassett earning sixth place in graphic design, seniors Tresa Coon and Jordan Labuda earning 10th place in graphic design, and seniors Mahika Sampat and Radha Patel earning first place in business ethics. In addition to the awardees, ninth-grader Rand Hasan, sophomores Amber Honick, Bradley McLeister, and Andrew Siegal, and juniors Nicholas Brenner, William Coup, Sarah Hanlon, Lindsay Holland, Steffi Puthenpurayil, Seamus Regan, and James Rekowski. Seniors qualifying include Nicholas Casario, Patrick Cunningham, Michael Dorundo, Justin Gavlik, Morgan Hall, Kaitlyn Horrell, Daniel Johanson, Brandon Kashur, Joseph Lagnese, Drew Lund, Benjamin McLeister, Brett Miller, Nicholas Monaco, Benjamin Neill, Sherin Puthenpurayil, Enrico Sciulli, Lilya Smith, Vincent Tierno, Luke Yackovich, and Kyle Walzer qualified for the competition in a variety of categories from advertising to sports management under the leadership of Teacher Laura Blaze.



A.W. Beattie Career Center students won the World of Wheels Peddle Car Challenge for the second consecutive year on Jan. 8, 2019, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Through A.W. Beattie's Automotive Collision Technology program, 20 students collaborated on the project and beat out 14 regional schools. PRHS junior Luke Yowan worked on the frame, and PRHS senior Jesse Gonzalez helped paint and airbrush the peddle car.

MORE THAN THREE DOZEN STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR THE FBLA STATE COMPETITION.

Beattie Co-Salutatorian Victoria Compennolle placed third, and junior Caroline Curry placed second in SkillsUSA Pennsylvania. In addition, Victoria competed nationally in Anaheim, CA., for earning a gold medal at the Pennsylvania Association of Family Career and Community Leaders of America competition in Seven Springs in the early childhood category. Junior Annalee Demitras earned second place in the cake-decorating category. Junior Joshua Kelly earned a silver medal in the job interview category. The students compete through A.W. Beattie Career Center.

Health & Science



Senior Jackson English had a rare look into research work involving cancer. He was one of only 65 applicants from around the country to be accepted into the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Academy. The Hillman Academy provides rising high school seniors with eight weeks of research-focused and experiential learning opportunities at six locations. Jackson focused on cancer research and testing full-time during the summer of 2018.

Several Pine-Richland High School students were selected to participate in the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute, which consisted of 12 Saturday-morning lectures focusing on science and engineering topics from September through March. Juniors Elliot

SENIOR JACKSON ENGLISH SHARES DETAILS ABOUT HIS RESEARCH WORK AT THE HILLMAN CANCER CENTER ACADEMY.

Alexander, Adrianna Avolio, Zachary Ferris, Tejal Gupta, Daniel Krill, Julia Martin, Alexandru Pelinescu and Benjamin Solomon were selected. PR School Board Director Ben Campbell was one of this year’s guest lecturers. He presented a session entitled “Adventures in Engineering: Lasers and Mechatronics.”

Leadership

The Pine-Richland High School Peer-to-Peer student group earned first place at the Jefferson Awards Program on April 4, 2019. Students represented PR at the national program. Students, who presented at the state awards program, included ninth-grader Saige Schultz; sophomores Charlotte Menke, Mikayla Schiffer, and Kareem Zein; and juniors Enyonam Akwayena, Julia Simendinger, Anna Wagner, and Levi Wentz. Peer-to-Peer is a student-led group that strives to break down social barriers by promoting respect for all in both our school and community. The club works on many service projects such as the color run and many initiatives aimed at inclusion. Most recently, students visited Eden Hall to talk to students at lunchtime about inclusion, friendship, and other topics. They participated under the direction of Counselor Leslie Straub.



SOPHOMORE ZACHARY DEWICK WAS SELECTED FOR AN FBI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

Sophomore Zachary DeWick was selected to participate in the FBI National Academy Associates 2019 Youth Leadership Program on June 20-28, 2019. To be a part of this prestigious program, he went through a very thorough interview process and was chosen from a highly competitive regional field of candidates.



(L-R) JUNIOR ANNA WAGNER, COUNSELOR LESLIE STRAUB, JUNIOR ENYONAM AKWAYENA; SOPHOMORES KAREEM ZEIN, CHARLOTTE MENKE, AND MIKAYLA SCHIFFER; JUNIOR LEVI WENTZ; NINTH-GRADER SAIGE SCHULTZ; AND JUNIOR JULIA SIMENDINGER HOLD UP A JEFFERSON AWARDS FIRST-PLACE BANNER.

PHOTO COURTESY NICK CONTI, IMAGEBOX

Ninth-grader Andrew Ni was recognized as one of the top Young Elite Award recipients. He ranked second out of the 10 honorees. The YEA 2018 ceremony was held on Oct. 12-14, 2018, at Yale University. The program is designed to encourage students to achieve high academic performance, develop leadership skills, and excel in extracurricular activities and community service.



NINTH-GRADER ANDREW NI IS SHOWN HERE AT THE YEA 2018 CEREMONY WITH 2016 NOBEL PHYSICS PRIZE WINNER DUNCAN HALDANE.



PRHS AFJROTC CADETS PARTICIPATE IN A COMPETITION AT THE AIR FORCE BASE IN YOUNGSTOWN, OH, AND EARN MANY FIRST-PLACE TITLES.



CADET ARDEN WEBSTER RECEIVES AN AWARD AT A COMPETITION. SHE HELPED LEAD THE JV COLOR GUARD TO A FIRST-PLACE AWARD.



THE PRHS AFJROTC UNIT IS SHOWN HERE AT THE PARKERSBURG COMPETITION. THE UNIT EARNED NUMEROUS AWARDS BUT MOST RECENTLY EARNED A DISTINGUISHED UNIT AWARD.

LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

The Pine-Richland High School AFJROTC Unit earned the Distinguished Unit Award for academic year 2018-2019. The Distinguished Unit Award recognizes the personal growth and accomplishments achieved by the cadets, the contributions of the instructors as mentors, and the support of the school and community. The Distinguished Unit Award is limited to the very best of the best of our nation's 900 Air Force JROTC units. "I appreciate [Pine-Richland School District's] outstanding support in developing citizens of character dedicated to serving the nation and your communities," said USAF Colonel Paul Lips.

PRHS AFJROTC cadets earned first place overall at the annual drill competition hosted at Pine-Richland High School on Dec. 1, 2018. Some notables include first-place in varsity unarmed drill team commanded by Cadet Michael Dye; and knockout winners Abi Kobert and Cadet Kyle Kimoto. This was the first competition hosted at PRHS since PR combined forces with Mars Area School District. Cadets participated in many drill competitions.

Michael Dye, junior Harrison Gonzalez, and sophomore Madison Howard. Harrison and Madison placed in the top five in two different knockout competitions along with senior Thomas Diaz, ninth-grader Caitlin Howard, sophomore Kyle Kimoto, and Rebecca Neiser.

Cadets also earned five first-place awards in Varsity Unarmed Drill commanded by Michael Dye; Varsity Color Guard/Team B & JV Unarmed Drill Team commanded by junior Harrison Gonzalez, and JV Armed Drill Team commanded by Kyle Kimoto; and the Unarmed Drill commanded by Caitlin Howard at a competition at Plum High School on Nov. 3, 2018. The team also earned first place overall. In addition to Caitlin and Harrison, senior Abi Kobert was a knockout winner.

Cadets, who participated in the Marion Center High School competition on Jan. 12, 2019, earned first-place finishes in the JV Armed Drill Competition commanded by sophomore cadet Kyle Kimoto; JV Color Guard commanded by sophomore cadet Madison Howard; and Varsity Unarmed Drill commanded by senior cadet Michael Dye. Madison also earned first place in the JV knockout competition, and junior Arden Webster earned first place in the varsity knockout competition.

The team earned first place overall at the Air Force Association Drill Competition at Parkersburg South High School in West Virginia on Feb. 23, 2019. In addition, the team took first place in eight of the nine events they competed. Leading the first-place teams included senior cadets Ray Gonzalez and Michael Dye, junior Gavin Bierema, sophomores Madison Howard, Thomas Supe, and Kyle Kimoto, and ninth-grader Caitlin Howard. Chief Major Michael Gasparetto and Major Michael Morrison oversee the program.



JUNIOR THOMAS MOONEY IS NAMED TOP FUNDRAISER.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society named junior Thomas Mooney as Top Fundraiser in 2018. Thomas raised money to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through the Over the Edge Campaign. In all, he raised over \$12,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma society. District-wide, students participate in numerous fundraisers.

The AFJROTC competition season kicked off on Oct. 27, 2019, at an Air Force Base in Youngstown, OH in an aircraft hangar. Cadets earned first in several categories including the Varsity Unarmed Drill, Varsity Color Guard, Unarmed Exhibition, Uniform Inspection, and Academic Team led by senior



Seventh-grader Jenna Shingledecker was selected to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum Explore STEM Residential Program at Villanova University July 14-19, 2019. NYLF Explore STEM is one of the Envision family of programs that enable students to explore their interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

SEVENTH-GRADER JENNA SHINGLEDECKER IS SELECTED FOR A STEM LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

History, Foreign Language & Geography

Ninth-grader Erina Fortune placed third in the individual documentary category at the PA State National History Day competition. She earned the opportunity to compete at the national program in Maryland. Sophomores Anthony Hartwick, Joshua Rembe, Michael Alessi and Victor Williams placed second in the group performance category.

SOPHOMORES ANTHONY HARTWICK AND VICTOR WILLIAMS, NINTH-GRADER ERINA FORTUNE, AND SOPHOMORES JOSHUA REMBE AND MICHAEL ALLESSI EARNED AWARDS AT THE THE PA STATE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION.



EIGHTH-GRADER ANDREW SALVADORE (LEFT) AND SEVENTH-GRADER MICHAEL LATTARI (RIGHT) EARN AWARDS ALONG WITH SEVENTH-GRADER CHRISTOPHER MEYER (CENTER), WHO TOOK FIRST PLACE AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE.

Seventh-grader Christopher Meyer took first place in the Pine-Richland Middle School Geography Bee on Dec. 17, 2019. Seventh-grader Michael Lattari took second place and eighth-grader Andrew Salvadore earned third place. The annual program was coordinated by PRMS GATE Teacher Kathy Deal and retired PRMS Librarian Kathy Batykefer. In all, 46 PRMS seventh and eighth graders participated.



NINTH-GRADERS MATTHEW FARMAR, MILES BROWN, CALLIE STOLTZ, NICHOLIS LABUDA AND LAURA KRILL WERE A FEW OF THE NATIONAL FRENCH EXAM AWARDEES.

Several students earned top awards on the 2019 National French Exam. Silver medal awardees included sophomore Natalie Loftus and ninth-graders Matthew Farmar and Nicholas Labuda. Ninth-grader Laura Krill received a bronze medal, and sophomores Tanya Babbar and Jinwon Jang, and ninth-graders Miles Brown and Callie Stoltz received honorable mention awards. Only 17,000 students earned medals out of 70,000 students, who participated in the exam.

Multimedia

The best filmmakers were honored at the 2019 Rammy Awards program on April 12, 2019. This year's first-place winners include senior Michael Zappa earning the top award for the "Best in Show," directing, and editing categories. Eighth-grader Rylee Branscum earned first place in the K-eighth grade directing and editing categories. Wexford Elementary third-grader Zoey Campbell earned first place in the audience choice category. The awards program is produced under the direction of Media & Web Services Coordinator Bill Clack, Media Services Specialist Steve Karpinski, and Teacher Aaron Koehler. For additional award winners, visit www.pinerichland.org/extras.

(L-R) JUNIORS JOSHUA HORAN, JOSHUA IMHOF, BAYLI CLACK, ARIANNA TRICHEL, AND GIANNA TORIELLO HELPED CREATE A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT DRUG PREVENTION.



(L-R) SIXTH-GRADERS PARKER SCOTT, MICHAEL TUNDER AND NATHAN LEE PLACED FIRST IN THE PA MEDIA & DESIGN COMPETITION.



SEVENTH-GRADER AUSTIN FOSTER TAKES FIRST IN A MEDIA AND DESIGN COMPETITION.

Junior Bayli Clack and the production crew production members Joshua Horan, Joshua Imhof, Arianna Trichel, and Gianna Toriello earned a Certificate of Appreciation from the FBI Pittsburgh Division, for a public service announcement that they made for drug prevention.

Seniors Joshua Wagner, Jake Nochese, and Michael Zappa earned first place in the Armstrong CSPAN StudentCam project under the direction of Teacher Aaron Koehler. Senior Kyle Walzer earned second place.

Students from the PRHS Advanced Video and TV Production classes attended the 2019 Digital Media Arts Consortium's Awards Ceremony in Canonsburg under the direction of Teacher Aaron Koehler. Media & Web Services Coordinator William Clack and Media Services Specialist Steve Karpinski helped oversee the live event category. Junior Brock Wolff earned a Best in Category Award for photo illustration. Seniors Darren Geissler and Michael Granati earned a Best in Category Award for animation. Junior Jonah Ansell and seniors Caleb Grogan and Darren Geissler earned an Award of Excellence in special effects. Senior Ryan Bowler, who represented the PRTV Club, earned an Award of Excellence in the live event category; and senior Michael Zappa earned the Founders Award.

PRTV juniors Sean Barr, Thomas Frey, and Harrison Gonzalez earned a nomination in the Commercial Category for their commercial *Personal Paparazzi* from the 2019 National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, which was announced at Temple University on May 14, 2019. Junior Jonah Ansell and seniors Caleb Grogan and Darren Geissler earned a nomination for their video *Unnatural* in the animation/graphics/special effects category. Students created projects under the direction of Teacher Aaron Koehler.

Eden Hall Sixth graders Nathan Lee, Michael Tunder, and Parker Scott earned first place in the PA Media and Design Competition for their EHUE Online Learning Space webpage on March 20, 2019 and competed at the state competition at Dickinson College in May under the direction of teachers Jennifer Kopach and Joanna Sovek. Seventh-grader Austin Foster placed first in the middle school animation category and qualified for the state competition under the direction of Teacher Kathy Deal.

Science & Technology

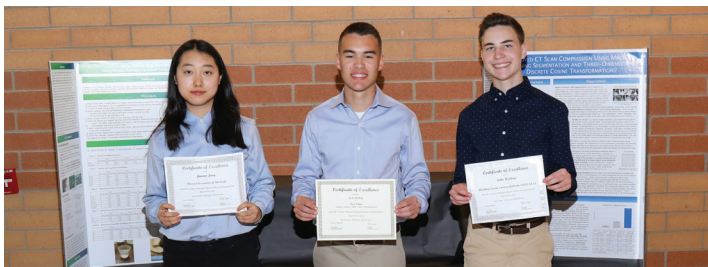
Two students from Pine-Richland High School competed at the National Robotics Competition in Detroit, Michigan on April 24-27, 2019 at the Cobo Center. Sophomore Anna Staresinic and junior Sedona Rocher were part of a team that competed at this competition. Anna served as the team's safety captain.

PRHS and PRMS Technology Students Association (TSA) Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS) each had a successful year under the direction of teachers Ron Schmiedel and Kathy Deal.

The 9th-10th Grade Team A placed fourth overall in Pennsylvania, placed first in the state, qualified for nationals, and consisted of ninth-graders Tadg Manna, Andrew Ni, Jeffrey Ock, Amish Sethi, Luke Waltrip, and sophomore Evan Jackson. The 9th-10th Grade Team B placed 10th overall in PA, placed second in PA, qualified for nationals, and consisted of sophomores Elly Jang, Gianna Julio, Catherine Lee, Natalie Loftus, Josh Pazin, Rebecca Peng, Katie Rishel, and Will Sangpachatanaruk. The 11th-12th Grade Team placed ninth overall in PA, placed second in PA, qualified for nationals, and consisted of juniors Allison Battaglia, Jack Carnovale, Zachary Ferris, Kang-Young Kim, Dan Krill, and Justin Waltrip, and seniors Noah Chmiel and Arjan Guglani. PRMS Team A placed second in PA, qualified for nationals, and consisted of eighth-graders Tyler Fritz, Cale Klaff, Jacob Lukez, Nick Murray, John Varghese, and Colin Zvejnieks. Team B placed fourth in PA and was made up of seventh-graders Mustafa Adeel, Nathan Bateman, Nicolai Ezolt, Liam Francis, Ella Guo, Yuvraj Kaloya, and Yash Shah.



SOPHOMORE ANNA STARESINIC (BACK: THIRD IN FROM THE LEFT) AND JUNIOR SEDONA ROCHER (BACK ROW: SIXTH FROM LEFT) COMPETE NATIONALLY IN ROBOTICS COMPETITION.



Junior Justin Waltrip placed first in the Computer Science/Math category in the 2018-2019 Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Sophomore Jinwon Jang received a Certificate of Merit/Excellence in Scientific Method and Certificate of Excellences (Kennametal & Chemical Association of Pittsburgh). Sophomore Anna Staresinic received a Certificate of Merit/Excellence in Presentation. Ninth graders Luke Waltrip and Matthew Farmar received a Certificate of Excellence (Allegheny County Sanitary Authority).



JUNIOR SEDONA ROCHER EARNS A NATIONAL AWARD.

Junior Sedona Rocher earned a National Honorable Mention Award for Aspirations in Computing given by the National Center for Women Information Technology. She was honored in April at the historic Twentieth Century Club in Pittsburgh. Sedona is a member of the Girls of Steel FIRST Robotics Team through Carnegie Mellon University.

Pine-Richland students competed in the FIRST World Championships in Detroit, MI on April 23-27, 2019. The BrainSTEM Robotics First Tech Challenge Team #6931 placed first at the First Tech Challenge PA State Tournament, which was hosted at Oxford Area High School in Oxford, PA, on March 2-3, 2019. The team is made up of local students from Pine-Richland, North Allegheny, and South Fayette school districts. Pine-Richland students included tenth-grader Shanna Peck, ninth-grader Matthew Farmar, and seventh-grader Ryan E. Scott. The three have been designing, building, and operating a First-Tech Challenge robot for the 2018-19 season. The team is sponsored by BrainSTEM Learning, Inc.



SEVENTH-GRADER RYAN E. SCOTT (BACK ROW SECOND FROM THE LEFT) AND NINTH-GRADER MATTHEW FARMAR (BACK ROW: FAR RIGHT) AND SOPHOMORE SHANNA PECK (FRONT ROW: FAR RIGHT) PARTICIPATED IN A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



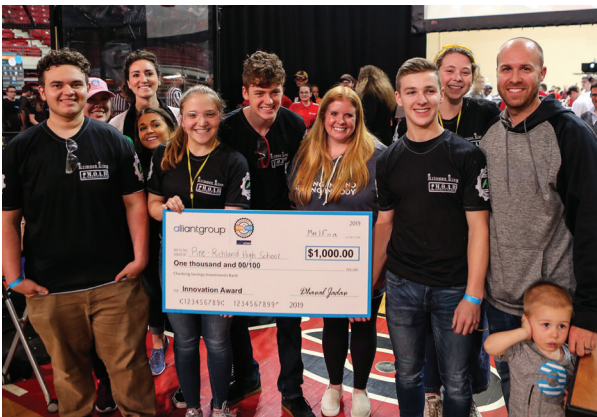
SIXTH-GRADERS VIOLET VIGLIOTTI AND ELENA MORSE COMPETE IN A STEM COMPETITION.

Sixth-graders Elena Morse and Violet Vigliotti and fifth-graders Martino Jang, Alex Kastner, Clarke Ray, and Zachary Shingledecker earned third place at the STEM Design Competition hosted at Duquesne University on March 6, 2019 under the direction of teachers Jennifer



FIFTH-GRADERS CLARKE RAY, ALEX KASTNER, ZACHARY SHINGLEDECKER, AND MARTINO JANG COMPETE IN A STEM COMPETITION.

Kopach and Joanna Sovek. The teams were tasked with creating an environmentally-friendly machine that could move three objects at least six inches across a table. They were presented with a check for \$1000.



STUDENTS EARN SECOND IN NATIONAL BOTS IQ COMPETITION AND EARN AN INNOVATION AWARD.

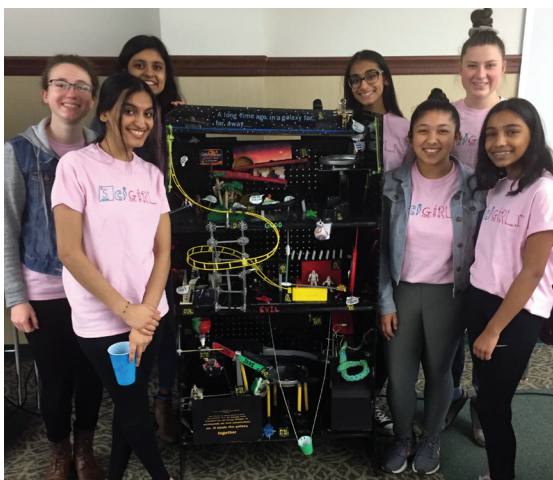
PRHS placed second out of 58 colleges and high schools in the national Bots IQ competition. Students competed with the Mother of All Bots (MOAB) Team on May 18, 2019. The team also earned the innovation award for their newly designed in-wheel motor invention. The team finished first-place out of 21 teams at the Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ preliminary rounds at Butler Community College. Team members took the top spot on March 7, 2019. Team members included seniors Sean Adams, Lauren Allen, Jacob Anderson, Christopher Bissell, Ian Fletcher, Jacob Garretson, Andrew Helmsen, Kyle Mackay, Brian Phipps, Reis Ravotti, Jaime Rivero, Ashley Settineri, Alexander Spang, Kira Welker, and Otavio Wilkinson-Baldauf. Students participate under the direction of Teacher Evan Clark.

PRHS students earned top awards at the Technology Student Association Regional Competition and qualified for states. The high school earned two first-place awards in video game design and the webmaster categories and second in architectural design and third place in music production. Seniors Lauren Allen, Brandon Malchano, and Jake Swinderman made up the architectural design team. Sophomores Zeyad Amr and Malaikah Kazi made up the music production team. Ninth-graders Jeffrey Ock, Justin Puthenpurayil, and Amish Sethi, and sophomore Ryan Sarrick made up the video design game team. Jeffrey, Justin, and Amish also competed in the webmaster category as well. TSA Sponsor Evan Clark oversees participation with the help of the Engineering & Technology Education Department.

Beattie's For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology Robotics Team (FIRST) earned the Industrial Design Award at the FIRST Regional Robotics High School Competition at the California University of Pennsylvania, which was held on March 22-23, 2019. The team mainly consisted of participating students from A.W. Beattie's Engineering Design and Robotics Manufacturing, Advanced Computer Programming, Computer Systems Technology, and Building Construction programs. From Pine-Richland, sophomores Max Romano and Aakash Kottakota and ninth-grader Brayden Devinney were a part of the winning team.



PRHS STUDENTS HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPETE IN TOP TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIONS.



SCIGIRLTEAM MEMBERS SHOW OFF THEIR CHAIN REACTION CONTRAPTION.

SCIGIRLS TEAM EARNS FINALIST STATUS IN CONTEST

Several Pine-Richland School District students were named finalists in the Chain Reaction Contraption Contest at the Carnegie Science Center on Dec. 7, 2018, under the direction of Teacher Heather Rogus. Competing in the competition were seniors Devin Golla, Mahika Sampat, Radha Patel, and Kate Schillinger, sophomores Jessica Czerski, Elly Jang, Lakshmi Natesan, and eighth-graders Jaimee Joshi, Sreyashi Mondal, and Kesar Sampat.

Senior Arjan Guglani was accepted into Penn Apps at the University of Pennsylvania on September 7-9, 2018. The event was sponsored by Google and Facebook and only has a 10-15 percent acceptance rate. Junior Justin Waltrip was selected into HackTheNorth held at the University of Waterloo which is located in Ontario, Canada from Sept. 14-16, 2018, a similarly prestigious event. In addition, Arjan and Justin were chosen as Global Finalists at the fifth annual Student Startup Competition that took place at SXSW EDU Conference in Austin, TX in March 2019. The duo pitched their app business plan called Travel Time, which made its debut on Apple's App Store.

Speech & Writing



FIFTH-GRADER EMMERSON MUCHNOK IS NAMED A WINNER IN A WRITING CONTEST.

Storyworks Magazine named fifth-grader Emmerson Muchnok a winner in its writing contest. She participated under the direction of Language Arts Teacher Michelle Brockway. Emmerson earned an award for her story entitled "How I helped the Chickens." Sophomore Charlotte Menke published a short story entitled "The Battle That Changed Us." The story is a condensed version of her "Battle of Gettysburg Alternative History" assignment that she wrote in Teacher Charles Connolly's Honors US History class.



SENIOR TARYN DOUGLAS EARNS WRITING AWARD.

Senior Taryn Douglas was recognized at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Writing Awards celebration at Carnegie Mellon University on Jan. 21, 2019. Taryn submitted a personal reflection piece titled, "The Bubble."



(L-R) SENIORS MAHIKA SAMPAT AND TRINITY BARNETT, AND SOPHOMORE TANYA BABBAR, NINTH-GRADER AMISH SETHI, SOPHOMORE MICHAEL ALLESSI, NINTH-GRADER MILES BROWN, SENIOR NATHAN NGUYEN, AND NINTH-GRADER ANDREW NI COMPETE IN STATE OR NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EVENTS.

Seniors Trinity Barnett and Mahika Sampat placed third in the News Broadcasting competition at the PA State Speech & Debate Competition at Bloomsburg University on March 16, 2019, under the direction of Teacher Jeff Byko. Students placing in the top 12 in the state included senior Nathan Nguyen in persuasive speaking, sophomore Tanya Babbar in Poetry, and sophomore Michael Alessi in prose. Debate team members Andrew Ni and Amish Sethi qualified for the Catholic Forensics League National Tournament. Ninth-grader Miles Brown also qualified for the speaking category.

Junior Isabella Magill was named a finalist in the Ayn Rand Anthem Essay Contest. The Ayn Rand Institute collected more than 11,000 submissions from nearly 20 countries. Isabella's essay analyzed the main character of *Anthem* by Ann Rand under the direction of Teacher Gina Mahouski.

LEFT: JUNIOR ISABELLA MAGILL IS NAMED A FINALIST IN THE AYN RAND ANTHEM ESSAY CONTEST.

Did we miss an important recognition item? Please email information to rhathorn@pinerichland.org.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Dear Pine-Richland Community:

As the director of athletics, I would like to share the mission, vision and philosophy of the athletic department and how the district PRIDE values are woven into our programs. 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 careers.

Continued on page 44

Baseball



ABOVE: THE PRHS BASEBALL TEAM EARNS THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

RIGHT: BASEBALL COACH KURT WOLFE IS NAMED THE 2019 BIG 56 COACH OF THE YEAR.



THE PRHS BASEBALL TEAM CHEERS ON JUNIOR TY JENKINS DURING BEST BUDDIES DAY.

“Our players and our parents look forward to Best Buddies day at the ballpark every season. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate an amazing and inclusive culture that exists in the PR schools and community.”

*—Senior Alec Swartout,
PRHS baseball player.*

The Pine-Richland High School Varsity Baseball Team earned the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League Championship (WPIAL) 6A Baseball Championship Title on May 30, 2019. The team made it to the second round of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) competition and was stopped by North Allegheny. Senior Jared Armstrong signed to play baseball at High Point University, senior Joshua Johnson with Kent State University, senior Troy LaNeve with Vanderbilt University, and Senior Matthew Wood with Penn State University. Coach Kurt Wolfe was named 2019 Big 56 Coach of the Year. Jared, Josh, Troy, and Matthew, and sophomore Thomas Beam were named to the Big 56 First Team. Named to the Second Team were seniors Wesley Byrd, Jacob Maley, Joshua Scherer, and Chase Vrabel. Earning honorable mention status were junior Grant Voytovich and senior Matthew Schietroma.

This season, the PRHS Baseball Team hosted a Best Buddies Day. “Our players and our parents very much look forward to Best Buddies day at the ballpark every season,” said senior Alec Swartout. “It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate an amazing and inclusive culture that exists in the PR schools and community.”



THE PRHS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM PLAYS IN THE PIAAS.

Basketball

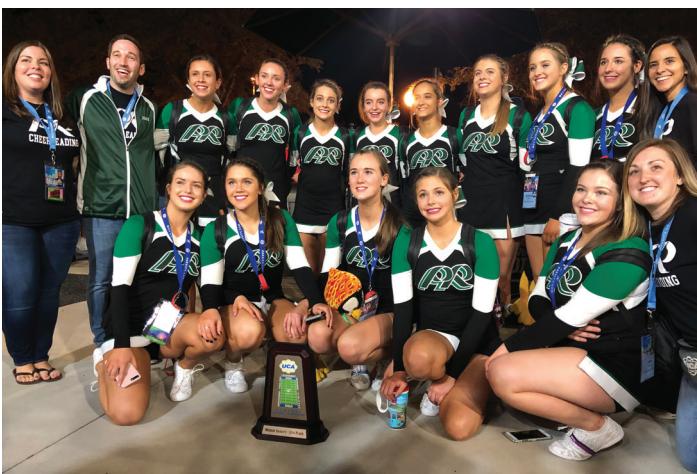
The PRHS Boys Basketball Team had a great season with a 20-2 regular-season record. The team won 20 consecutive games this past season and was awarded the first seed for the 6A playoffs which allowed them to receive a first-round bye into the WPIAL Playoffs. The team ended the season ninth in the USA TODAY's Super 25 Regional Boys Basketball rankings. They lost in the semifinals against Butler but still qualified for the PIAA State playoffs, where the team made it to the second round to face off against Kennedy Catholic, the team that eventually earned the state championship title. In addition, senior Dan Petcash signed to play with Binghamton University.

The PRHS Girls Basketball Team welcomed 11 new members of the team this year with four returning members.



THE PRHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Cheerleading



The PRHS Competitive Cheerleading Squad made it to WPIALS and earned second in the small varsity division and fourth overall at the competition held at Hempfield High School on Jan. 5, 2019. The squad then moved on to the State Championship Competition in Hershey, PA, on Jan. 11-12, 2019. The team placed fourth and earned a bid to nationals held in Orlando, FL, Feb. 8-10, 2019. At nationals, the team competed in the small varsity and game day divisions and placed 11th.

PRHS CHEERLEADERS AND COACHES CELEBRATE PLACING 11TH AT NATIONALS.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE PR CREW HAS SUCCESSFUL SEASON

PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER KEVIN CHAN

Crew

PR Crew men's varsity double, which was made up of seniors Ryan Farbacher and Rainier Spears, placed fourth overall at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship and took first at the Mercyhurst Prep Invitational. The varsity double, which was made up of juniors Christopher Catalano and Lucas Zwastetzky, placed fifth overall at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship, first overall at Pittsburgh Scholastic Sprints, and second place at the Mercyhurst Prep Invitational. The varsity four crew made up of junior

Kristen Vigna, senior Grace Crankovic, and sophomores Savannah Ungor and Savanna Foote, and sophomore coxswain Alexandria Catalano placed sixth overall at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship, second overall at the Head of the Ohio Regatta, second overall at Pittsburgh Scholastic Sprints, and first overall at the Mercyhurst Prep Invitational. Senior Grace Crankovic signed to row at West Virginia University.

Cross Country & Track & Field

RIGHT: JUNIOR OLIVIA MILLER, SENIOR MADI ARGIRO, SOPHOMORE ELLA ROTTINGHAUS, AND JUNIOR CHALONDRA CLARKE PARTICIPATE IN THE 4X400 RELAY AT THE PIAAS.

FAR RIGHT: DANIELLE BRYANT EARNS FIRST IN THE 300-METER HURDLES AT WPIALS AND FOURTH AT STATES.



The Pine-Richland High School Boys and Girls Cross Country teams qualified for the WPIAL Championships at California University of PA on Oct. 25, 2018. The girls placed sixth and the boys placed 17th. Individually, ninth-grader Meredith Price placed 28th, junior Liah Kilgore 32nd, senior Tresa Coon 35th, and sophomore Victor Williams 50th. Tresa signed to run at Chatham College.

At the 2019 PIAA State Track & Field Championships, sophomore Danielle Bryant placed eighth in the 100-meter hurdles and placed fourth in the 300-meter hurdles. In all, more than 20 athletes qualified for WPIALs. Senior Madi Argiro, juniors Chalondra Clarke and Olivia Miller, and sophomore Ella Rottinghaus ran the 4x400 relay at the state championships. The team broke the school's record with a time of 3:57.23 earning second place at WPIALs. Danielle earned third and Chalondra

PHOTO BY BRIAN KUNST FROM BRIAN LEE STUDIOS



PHOTO BY BRIAN KUNST FROM BRIAN LEE STUDIOS



COACH CHAZ CONNOLLY LOGS HIS 50TH MARATHON.

TOP LEFT: THE BOYS EARNED 17TH AT THE CROSS COUNTRY WPIALS.

LEFT: THE GIRLS PLACED SIXTH AT CROSS COUNTRY WPIALS.

earned sixth in the girls 100-meter hurdles at WPIALs. Danielle earned first in the 300-meter hurdles, Chalondra fifth, and junior Olivia Miller 10th at WPIALs. Junior Grace Kristofic placed 11th in the javelin and junior Luke Meckler eighth in the 300-meter hurdles. Also qualifying for WPIALs were ninth-graders Thomas Cornelius, Mary Fannie, and Stella Fannie, sophomores Malaikah Kazi, Liah Kilgore, Andrew Koenig, Anthony Nicassio, Daniel Nichols, and Lindsey Roskoph, juniors Katelynne Patton, Brianna Reinart, Zachary Shaver, and Anna Staresinic, and seniors Tresa Coon, Trent Miller, Mary Jane Montanari, and Noah Naeletz.

Danielle was selected for the elite New Balance National Championship Competition hosted in North Carolina on June 13-15, 2019. She placed fifth overall. She's ranked number one in the 400-meter hurdles in PA MileSplit rankings and earned WPIAL All-State status.

Cross Country Coach Chaz Connolly put on his running shoes and ran the Erie Marathon on Sept. 9, 2018. Incredibly, this was his 50th marathon. In addition, runner Max Hudak, who is also a boxer, won the 154-pound cadet final at the Western PA Athletic League Police Golden Glove Tournament.

Fencing

PRHS Girls Fencing Team Captain Martha Lacey, a senior, won a bronze medal at the Black & Gold High School Western PA Division of USA Fencing Invitational on Feb. 23, 2019. Medals were awarded to the top four finalists in each individual event.



MARTHA LACEY (RIGHT) IS SHOWN TAKING ON A FENCER AT PETERS TOWNSHIP.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Football



THE 2018-2019 FOOTBALL TEAM EARNED A BACK-TO-BACK WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

PHOTO BY MONTAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY MONTAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS NAMES HEAD FOOTBALL COACH ERIC KASPEROWICZ PA COACH OF THE YEAR.

The Pine-Richland football team won its third WPIAL title within the past six years with back-to-back WPIAL wins in 2018 and 2017. This is the fifth straight year in which the Rams have finished the season ranked in the top 10 in the state. The team finished the season with a record of 11-3, a WPIAL Championship title, and a loss in the PIAA State semifinals against St. Joseph Prep. The team finished the season ranked fourth in Pennsylvania. This year's class of seniors made PR history with 34 wins during high school. Head Coach Eric Kasperowicz was named PA Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations and Coach

of the Year in Western PA by *Football News*. Senior Andrew Kristofice earned the Mr. PA Football Lineman of the Year and the *Post-Gazette* Co-Player of the Year awards; played in the Adidas All-American Game; and signed early to play for Notre Dame. Junior Luke Meckler was named Western PA Football Player of the Year. Senior Michael Katic, who enrolled to play football at Indiana University early, was named PG Co-Player of the Year. Senior Tyler King, who committed to play football at the US Naval Academy, played in the International Bowl for the US National Team. Senior Michael Dorundo, who signed to play at Duquesne, and senior Anthony Cerminara, who played in the PA East/West All-Star Game, were named to the 6A North 1st Team All-Conference along with Andrew, Luke, Michael Katic, and Tyler. Sophomore Miguel Jackson was named to the 1st Team All-State along with Andrew, Michael Dorundo, Michael Katic, and Tyler. Miguel, was also named to the 6A North 2nd Team All Conference. Seniors Bryan Bails, Connor Hetzel, and Mason Pruhs were awarded 6A North Honorable Mention All-Conference. Senior Shane Cafardi signed to play football at Allegheny College, senior Merrick Miller at Denison University, senior Tyruck Ruddle at Washington & Jefferson College, and senior Dylan Stenson at Youngstown State University.



PHOTO BY MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Field Hockey

THE PR GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM QUALIFIES FOR PIAAS.

The PRHS Girls Field Hockey Team made it to the first round of the PIAA State Playoffs for the third straight year. The team ended the season as the 2018 WPIAL 3A Runner-Ups. Many players on the team were recognized on the 3A Division I All-Stars Teams. Junior Ava Loskoch and sophomore Ella Rottinghaus were named to the 3A Division I All-Star First Team. Juniors Alexa Sharron and Heidi Van Dyk, and sophomore Elaina Camino were recognized on the All-Star Second Team. Senior Alora Sharron received an All-Star Honorable Mention and a Scholar of Distinction award along with Alexa. The

2018 National Field Hockey Coaches Association named senior Rebecca Roth and Alexa and Alora to its High School National Academic Squad. Eighth-graders Julie DeFoggia and Danielle Deer both compete on the U14 USA Field Hockey National Indoor Tournament Championship Team which was undefeated and took home the championship title, the first in Western PA History for a U-14 team. Alora signed to play field hockey at Christopher Newport University, and senior Lauren Peterman signed to play field hockey for the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Golf

The PRHS Golf Team played in the WPIAL semifinals on Oct. 8, 2018. Senior PRHS Golf Team Captain Lauren Freyvogel earned a spot in the U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship on April 23 - May 1, 2019 alongside North Allegheny's Caroline Wrigley. The duo shot 71 - 71, 2 under par from 6,307 yards and tied 26 out of 64 teams and made the cut to advance to match play and were stopped in their first match by the eventual tournament winners. Lauren, who earned the 2017 state championship title, signed to play golf at Penn State University.

The PRHS Boys Golf Team earned the section championship. The team finished fifth in WPIAL Team playoffs. Junior Donald Professori and seniors Caden Zolkos and Jack Wymard made it to the WPIAL Individual Finals. Caden and Jack made it to the Western Regional Indy Finals. Jack also qualified for the PIAA State Individual Championship and he finished 18th overall.



LEFT: THE PRHS GIRLS GOLF TEAM PLAYS IN THE WPIAL SEMIFINALS.



BELOW LEFT: THE PRHS BOYS GOLF TEAM IS NAMED SECTION CHAMPS.



SENIOR LAUREN FREYVOGEL EARNS SPOT IN THE U.S. WOMEN'S AMATEUR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

PHOTO BY PAMI PANCHAK, POST GAZETTE

The PRHS Boys Golf Team earned the section championship with an overall 14-1 record. The team finished fifth in the WPIAL Golf Finals. Donnie Professori, Jack Wymard, and Cade Zolkos qualified for WPIAL Individual finals at Oakmont Country Club. Jack qualified for the PIAA Finals and for the Western PIAA Qualifier with Cade. Jack finished 18th in the state tournament.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Gymnastics

The Pine-Richland High School Gymnastics Team finished third at the WPIAL Team Championships on Feb. 15, 2019. The team qualified for the state championship meet. The team finished behind number one Thomas Jefferson High School. This was the team's best finish since 2014. The team finished with its highest team score of the season and finished second in beam and floor and third on bars and the vault.



THE PRHS GYMNASTICS TEAM FINISHES THIRD AT WPIALS.

Hockey



THE PRHS HOCKEY TEAM EARNS THE PIHL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

The PRHS Hockey Team earned the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) State Championship with an 18-0-0-1 record in its division. The Rams shutout Downingtown East 3-0 on March 23, 2019, at Robert Morris University. To earn the Penguins Cup, the team beat Upper St. Clair on March 18, 2019, at the Lemieux Center. The varsity team finished in first place with an 18-0-0-1 record in the AA Northwest Division of the PIHL. The team was selected to attend the USA Hockey Division 1 High School Nationals Tournament in Cleveland March 28-April 1, 2019. The team went 3-0 at the start of nationals and advanced all the way to the quarterfinal round. The boys finished nationals in the top five in the nation.

Seniors Jared Eggert and Brandon Kashur and Junior Daniel Stauffer were named to the PIHL All-Star Gold Team; and seniors Nicholas Lindauer and Jordan Rosenbaum were named to the PIHL All-Star Blue Team. Coach Jordan Yoklic was named the PIHL All-Star Team coach. Daniel was also named *Post-Gazette* Athlete of the Week.



THE PRHS VARSITY INLINE HOCKEY TEAM COMPETES IN THE PIRHL COMPETITION.



THE PRHS MIDDLE SCHOOL INLINE HOCKEY TEAM WINS THE PIRHL COMPETITION.

The PRHS Varsity Inline Hockey Team competed in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Roller Hockey League (PIRHL) competition and the middle school team won the Class 2 Title. The PIRHL finals were held on March 17, 2019.



The Pine-Richland High School Girls Lacrosse Team ended the season with an overall record of 13-5 and a conference record of 7-1. The team lost on May 20, 2019, in the WPIAL Semi-Final game to Upper St. Clair with a score of 13-7. The team then went on to play a consolation game against Mount Lebanon at Robert Morris University. The Rams defeated Mount Lebanon which allowed them to secure a spot in the PIAA State Playoffs. The Pine-Richland Girls Lacrosse Team faced off against Manheim Township in the first round of the PIAA State Playoffs. Senior midfielder Kendall Gessner scored her 100th goal on March 25,

2019, at the season opener. Junior Olivia Hanulak and sophomore Mia Petzuk represented their team in the 2019 U.S. Lacrosse Women's National Tournament on May 25-26 in Baltimore, MD. Coach Brittany Adams, head coach of Pine-Richland Girls Lacrosse, was given the honor of coaching the Pittsburgh region and Western Pennsylvania area. Seniors Kendall Gessner and Hannah Rust signed to play lacrosse at John Carroll University, senior Abby Levier at Robert Morris University, and senior Carly Switala signed at Shippensburg University.

THE PRHS GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM PLAYS IN THE PIAAS.



THE PRHS BOYS LACROSSE TEAM EARNS THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PR HISTORY.

The Pine-Richland Boys Lacrosse Team earned the 2019 WPIAL Championship Title for the first time in PR history. The team advanced to the PIAA State Playoffs, but lost in the quarterfinal round. The team earned the co-section championship alongside North Allegheny. Junior Dane Dowiak earned the WPIAL Boys Lacrosse Player of the Year Award, U.S. Lacrosse All-American Status, and All-WPIAL. Senior Samuel Skirpan earned Academic All-American. Senior William Harnick earned the Boys Lacrosse All-WPIAL and All-Section. In addition, senior Jonathan Scherer earned the Boys Lacrosse All-WPIAL and All-Section. Senior Brendan Hein earned the Boys Lacrosse -All-Section. Coach Pat Donnelly was named as WPIAL Assistant Coach of the Year. Senior Benjamin Barnes signed to play lacrosse at Seton Hill University, senior William Harnick at York College of Pennsylvania, senior Brenden Hein at John Carroll University, and senior Jonathan Scherer at Mercyhurst University.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Soccer



THE PRHS GIRLS SOCCER TEAM MADE IT TO THE WPIAL PLAYOFFS.

The PRHS Girls Varsity Soccer Team made it to the second round of the 2018 WPIAL Soccer Championship. Senior Alaina Kalin was named to the All-State Team and United Soccer Coaches Regional All-American Team. Alaina signed to play soccer at Indiana University Bloomington. Sophomore Megan Donnelly was named to the All-State Team, to the United Soccer Coaches All-American Team, participated in an Olympic Development Program camp in New Jersey, was chosen to participate in a program in Florida in which she was selected for an international matchup, which was played in April, and was recognized as one of the 18 players across the United States to be selected to represent the U.S. Youth Soccer Department Program in Germany. Coach Jodi Chmielewski celebrated her 300th win this season.



THE PRHS BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM MADE A BID FOR THE WPIAL PLAYOFFS.



The PRHS Boys Varsity Soccer Team made a bid for the WPIAL Championships and lost to Canon-McMillan on Oct. 25, 2018, 2-1 in overtime. Senior soccer players Brian McCarthy, Gregory Shukolsky and Abhinov Vankatakrishnan earned WPIAL All-Section status, and senior Tom Fest earned honorable mention status. Senior Brian McCarthy signed to play soccer as a midfielder at Slippery Rock University. Senior Connor Anderson earned the 2018-19 Most Positive Boys Soccer Athlete in Western PA Award. Coach Jon Conner retired after serving 20 years as the boys soccer coach.

SENIOR CONNOR ANDERSON EARNS THE 2018-19 MOST POSITIVE BOYS SOCCER ATHLETE IN WESTERN PA AWARD.

Softball



THE PRHS SOFTBALL TEAM

PRHS Softball junior player Alyssa Miller was selected to represent Team USA in the Dominican Republic to compete against other top competitors from the Caribbean as well as countries in South America and Central America in mid-August of 2018. In six games, Alyssa and Team USA earned a 3-3 record. Senior player Bailey Devinney plans to play softball for Seton Hill University.

The PRHS Girls Softball Team is anticipating the 2019 season to be solid with a group of experienced players returning to the field.

Swimming & Diving

The PRHS Swimming and Diving Team finished the season with the girl's team recording 116 lifetime best times and dive scores. The men's team ended with 127 lifetime best times and dive scores. Many athletes from both the men's and women's teams qualified for WPIALS such as ninth-graders Madison Alexander, Jacob Garretson, Ethan O'Connor and Trent Vacula, sophomores Abigail Flood and Lily Settembrino, senior Jonathan Kelly, and juniors William Laubacher and Alyssa Schonbachler. The girls qualified for the 200-Freestyle Relay and the 400-Freestyle Relay. The boys qualified for the 200-Freestyle Relay, 200 Medley Relay, and the 400-Freestyle Relay.

Representing PRHS at the WPIAL District 7 Championships were ninth-graders Madison Alexander, Luke Farrar, Grant Lundgren, Ethan O'Connor, Shane Rupert, and Trent Vacula, sophomores Emerson Dickson, Abigail Flood, and Lily



THE 2019 SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM COMPETES AT WPIALS.

Settembrino, juniors Alyssa Schonbachler, Valerie Zbezinski, William Laubacher, Andrew Wenzel, and seniors Sara Chiprean, Alaina Gormley, Channing Lamparski, Logan Bogacz, Jacob Garretson, Jonathon Kelly, and Alexander Mroz.

Tennis



PHOTO BY L.A. PHOTOS

THE PRHS GIRLS TENNIS TEAM COMPETES IN WPIALS.

The PRHS Girls Tennis Team played in the first round of the 2018 WPIAL Class AAA Girls Team Tennis Championships in October and was stopped by Latrobe. Sophomore Abbey Nardulli made it to the semi-final round of the WPIAL Tennis Section Singles Tournament. She lost in the semifinals. She qualified for the consolation match and earned fourth place. Juniors Kang-Young Kim and Elliot Alexander qualified for the WPIAL Boys Doubles Tournament. The boy's team also qualified for the WPIAL playoffs.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PHOTO BY L.A. PHOTOS



THE PRHS BOYS TENNIS TEAM.



JUNIORS KANG-YOUNG KIM AND ELLIOT ALEXANDER QUALIFY FOR WPIAL PLAYOFFS.

Volleyball

The PRHS Boys Volleyball Team made it to the second round of the WPIAL Playoffs and then was defeated by Bethel Park. Senior Luke Olson was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association Boys High School All-America Watch List. This is the first for boys volleyball at Pine-Richland. He was also named a WPIAL Player of the Week. Luke signed to play volleyball at Messiah College.



THE PRHS BOYS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM PLAY IN FOR THE WPIAL PLAYOFFS.

PRHS Girls Volleyball Team entered the WPIAL Playoffs with a first-round bye. They made it to the third round of the WPIAL Girls Volleyball Championships. Senior Madelyn Schieder signed to play volleyball at Villanova University.



THE PRHS GIRLS SOCCER TEAM PLAYS IN THE WPIAL PLAYOFFS.

Wrestling



PRHS VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM 2018-2019

The PRHS Varsity Wrestling Team finished the season with 13 wins and four losses. The team won the William Jenkins Duals with a final matchup against Greater Latrobe 42-33 on February 9, 2019.

In the championship match, the team was down 36-38 going into the last match when junior Robby Palmieri pinned his opponent for the win. Ninth-grader Kelin Laffey, sophomore Cole Spencer, and juniors Zachary Shaver and Nathan Lukez went 5-0. Nathan committed to West Point. He also earned the 2019 WPIAL AAA Section 3 Championship, was a PIAA State Qualifier, and earned a 37-7 record at 138 pounds. Sixth-grader Vaughn Spencer earned first place in his weight division and sixth-grader Maclane Miller earned fourth place in his division at the University of Pittsburgh Petersen Events Center on March 16, 2019 in the PA Junior Wrestling Tournament.



JUNIOR NATHAN LUKEZ IS SHOWN HERE AT THE MARS DUAL COMPETITION.



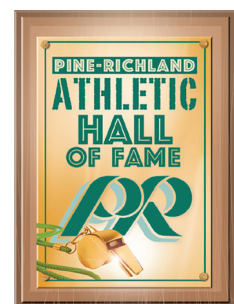
SIXTH-GRADER MACLANE MILLER (LEFT) EARNED FOURTH AT THE PA JUNIOR WRESTLING TOURNAMENT.



SIXTH-GRADER VAUGHN SPENCER (CENTER) EARNED FIRST PLACE AT THE PA JUNIOR WRESTLING TOURNAMENT.

Pine-Richland Athletic Hall of Fame Created

Pine-Richland School District formed the first ever Pine-Richland Athletic Hall of Fame under the direction of Executive Director Sean Simmons and executive board, which is made up of Chair Jack McCurry, Vice Chairperson Patrick Hanulak, Treasurer Barbara Young, Secretary Tiffany Meyer, and committee members Brittany Adams, Nancy Bowman, Larry Bracco, Marc Casciani, Maureen Farrar, Eric Kasperowicz, Jane McTighe, and John Pasquinelli. The committee accepted nominations for the first-ever hall of fame class, who will be recognized this fall. To nominate someone who has made their mark on PR Athletics, visit www.pinerichland.org/athletichalloffame.



ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ultimate Frisbee



The PRHS Boys Ultimate Frisbee Team made it to the Pittsburgh-area finals for the fourth year in a row. The Rams finished second in fall league, indoor winter league, and the spring main season. Co-captain Ethan Landis was named to the All-City Team in April. Ethan and six fellow team members were selected in June to play with Impulse, the Pittsburgh travel team, which will compete on the national level at the 2019 Youth Club Championship in Minnesota in August.



The PRHS Girls Ultimate Team recruited new team members and placed fifth in the league and eighth at states.

ABOVE LEFT: THE PRHS BOYS ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAM EARNS A SPOT IN THE PITTSBURGH FINALS.

LEFT: THE PRHS GIRLS ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAM EARNS FIFTH IN ITS LEAGUE.

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Continued from page 32

Collectively, it is our hope that 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.

Personal Growth: Everyone involved is encouraged to grow and to learn while developing a number of strong moral character traits such as teamwork, discipline, self-confidence, and sportsmanship.

Resiliency: Participants will demonstrate an unwavering commitment to success. Learning from victories as well as from defeats. Everyone involved will perform at maximum effort in the quest to learn how to be successful and operate with integrity and follow the spirit of the rules both on and off the field of play.

Innovation: PR athletics encourages innovation and the utilization of technology to increase knowledge of all constituents of each of the district programs. Innovation can enhance the communication and collaboration of the entire athletic community (student-athletes, coaches, alumni, and community supporters).

Diverse Opportunities: PR athletics offers a wide range of high-quality programs. Everyone who chooses to be involved with PR athletics will have the opportunity to capitalize on all of the benefits of athletic participation namely good health and well-being, self-confidence, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Engagement: These “outside of the classroom” engagement opportunities often inspire student-athletes to develop habits and skills that they can apply throughout their lives.

Everyone associated with the athletic department serves as an ambassador for the school district striving to enhance its overall mission through competitive excellence.

Thank you to all of the athletes, teams, coaches, parents, and community members who have contributed to a successful athletic season.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sean Simmons
Director of Athletics

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

District Adjusts School Start Times



The Pine-Richland School Board approved the administrative recommendation to adjust school start times beginning in the 2019 – 2020 school year. This topic has been studied since the fall of 2017 with the support of a number of podcasts and communications. Grounded in literature related to wellness, sleep, and adolescents, this change is designed to provide a benefit to middle school and high school students while also minimizing the impact on primary school students and families. The feedback provided by stakeholders led to additional refinements and efficiencies in the structure.

The shift in start times are as follows:

High/Middle School: From 7:20 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

Eden Hall Upper: From: 8:30 a.m. to 8:35 a.m.

Primary (HE, RE & WE): From 9:15 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.

For additional resources, visit www.pinerichland.org/starttimes.

District Kicks Off Rams Way Initiative

Pine-Richland School District
Focused on Learning for Every Student Every Day

The RAMS Way



The Pine-Richland School District Department of Student Services and Special Education is launching an initiative to deploy a district-wide system of positive behavioral supports and interventions. The purpose is to provide an intentional and preventative approach to improve upon a positive school climate. Procedural and behavioral expectations will be intentionally communicated and taught at appropriate developmental-levels from grades K through 12. The Rams Way will focus on developing and improving positive behaviors through the use of common, developmentally-appropriate language and expectations.

“The RAMS Way” initiative spells out the acronym for a common set of behavioral expectations, which is being shared across the district that includes:

R-espectful / **A**-ccountable / **M**-otivated / **S**-afe

Students will be 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. The expectations will be developmentally modified to fit each grade span. The district has been training building-level teams on roles and responsibilities. Team members are developing behavioral matrices and lesson plans specific to each building and individual environment (e.g., hallways, cafeterias, playgrounds, bathrooms, attendance and buses) in advance of the 2019 - 2020 districtwide kick-off. All schools will highlight individual incentive programs to acknowledge and reward positive behavior. Building-specific information will be shared by principals over the summer months and throughout the 2019-2020 school year.

AFS Program Seeks Host Families

The AFS Intercultural Programs is seeking families now to host an AFS exchange student at Pine-Richland High School. As an AFS host family, you will welcome a new member into your home, share your everyday lives, and grow as you get to know one another. AFS welcomes all families that are willing and able to provide a safe and loving home for an AFS student. There is no “typical” AFS host family. Families can have small or teenage children at home, be empty nesters with adult children, or be couples with no children. Single adults and single parents are also welcome. To learn more about becoming an AFS host family, go to <https://www.afsusa.org/host-family/>, click on “Learn More”, and submit your contact information. A local AFS volunteer will contact you.



AFS SENIOR RAFFELE TARTARONE, WHO IS FROM ITALY AND ENROLLED AT PINE-RICHLAND, PARTICIPATED IN AFS DAYS AT PRHS. HE PROVIDED INSIGHT INTO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS FASCINATING ABOUT THE PITTSBURGH AREA.

BUDGET & BOARD UPDATE

Board Approves Budget for 2019-2020 with No Tax Increase

The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2019-2020 school year with total expenditures of \$91,457,895 and total revenues of \$91,457,895 with no utilization of assigned fund balance. The board maintained the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2019-2020 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 have included:

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

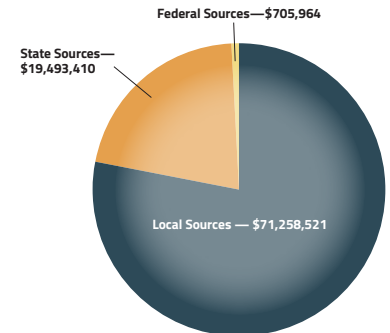
During 2018-2019, the school district refunded one bond issue, which provided over 11 percent savings over the remaining life of the bond issue.

The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible.

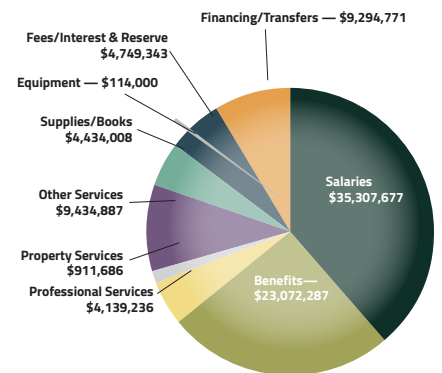
INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- 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 amount of \$179.53.
- In January 2019, the board approved a property tax rebate program for qualifying senior citizens, widows, and widowers for the 2018 calendar year. The application reflected a due date of June 30, 2019. If the filer meets the criteria, he or she could see anywhere from \$250-\$650 in tax rebates.

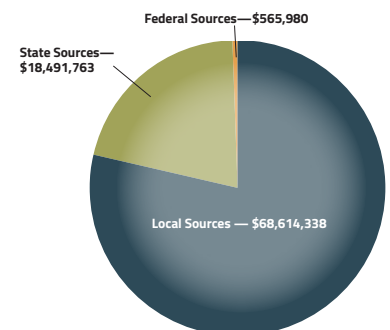
2019-2020 Budgeted Revenue



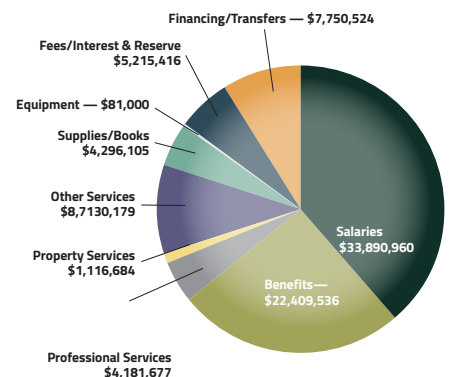
2019-2020 Budgeted Expenditures



2018-2019 Budgeted Revenue



2018-2019 Budgeted Expenditures



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS TELEVISED

The PR School Board regular and planning meetings air on PRTV, which is available on Consolidated Communications Channel 404 and on Armstrong Cable Channel 211. Visit www.pinerichland.org for a listing of meetings. You can also view the videos of meetings online the next day. In addition, agendas and meeting minutes are available under the school board tab on the website.

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, and support staff represent 63.83 percent of the 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 34.29 percent of the salary cost from 33.43 percent in 2018-2019 that translates to about \$777,257 (or approximately \$345,097 in increased costs to the district after receiving state funding for retirement contributions) in the 2019-2020 budget. This rate is set by the PSERS Board of Trustees and mandated by state legislation.

Premium Costs – Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium premium costs will increase by 1.9 percent for Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans and Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) plans for covered employees. Overall, group health insurance expenditures are expected to increase this year by \$48,895.

Tuition Expenditures – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$929,571 for 2019-2020, 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. 3, 2018. The board renamed Mr. Peter Lyons as president and Mrs. Christine Misback as vice president. Mr. Marc Casciani was reappointed treasurer on May 20, 2019, to serve a second term.

The board also made several appointments including:

- Dr. Carla Meyer as the legislative representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and as a voting delegate for the PSBA 2019 Delegate Assembly along with Mrs. Misback
- Mrs. Virginia Goebel and Mrs. Christine Misback as representatives to the A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Committee
- Mr. Greg DiTullio as a representative for the Pine Township Parks & Recreation Board
- Mrs. Christine Misback as a representative for the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund
- Mr. Peter Lyons as a Food Service Advisory & Wellness Committee Representative
- Mrs. Dana Kirk, director of financial and operational services, as a delegate to the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee with Mr. Marc Casciani serving as an alternate

In addition, Mr. Lyons was re-elected to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors. The Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors is comprised of 13 elected members representing member school districts.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Dr. Matthew Mehalik and Mr. Peter Lyons led the board in a discussion about board goals and strategic planning.

The board established meeting dates for 2019. All meetings will be held in the DeWitt Blank Conference Room, located at 702 Warrendale Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044, at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Action items may be placed on the reorganization and planning meeting agendas at various times throughout the year. Remaining meetings for 2019 include:

Date	Meeting
August 5, 2019	Planning Meeting
August 19, 2019	Regular Meeting
September 16, 2019	Combined Planning/Regular Meeting
October 14, 2019	Planning Meeting
October 28, 2019	Regular Meeting
November 11, 2019	Combined Planning/Regular Meeting
December 2, 2019	Reorganization Meeting
December 9, 2019	Combined Planning/Regular Meeting

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

THE PR SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZED FOR 2018. THE 2018 SCHOOL BOARD INCLUDES (FRONT ROW: L-R) MRS. VIRGINIA GOEBEL, DIRECTOR, PRESIDENT PETER LYONS, VICE PRESIDENT CHRISTINE MISBACK, DR. CARLA MEYER, DIRECTOR, (BACK ROW: L-R) TREASURER MARC CASCIANI, MR. GREG DITULLIO, DIRECTOR, DR. MATTHEW MEHALIK, DIRECTOR, DR. BENJAMIN CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR, AND MR. MATTHEW MOYE, DIRECTOR.



PINE-RICHLAND OPPORTUNITIES FUND



Foundation Marks Successful 2018-2019 School Year

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.

Over the last seven years, PROF has awarded over \$194,000 in cash grants to PRSD teachers.

In that time, PROF partnered with community organizations and businesses to award nearly \$270,000 in cash scholarships to graduating seniors.

PROF proudly partners with community businesses through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. First Commonwealth Bank; NexTier Bank; Trumbull; and UPMC Health Plan help to provide funding for STEAM Grants and hands-on learning experiences.

COMING SOON

PROF to Support Virtual Reality Expedition

PROF's \$10,000 grant will support PRSD's strategic plan by integrating technology tools into middle school classrooms and activities that can extend and improve the teaching and learning process. By providing real-world strategies and experiences, students will engage in problem-solving and seeing connections between content areas.

PROF Hosts PROFtoberfest

On September 30, 2019, PROF hosted more than 100 community members and PRSD staff at Chatham University's Eden Hall Campus in Gibsonia to explore the self-sustaining, natural preserve and enjoy delicious, locally grown and sourced Oktoberfest fare.

During the event, PRSD staff and PROF grant recipients from Richland Elementary School and Pine-Richland High School showcased their grants in action and shared classroom impact with the community. Attendees enjoyed the incredible talent of the Pine-Richland String Ensemble throughout the evening.

PROF's next event will be held on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019. Mark your calendars and watch for details!



(L-R) RICHLAND ELEMENTARY TEACHERS PAULA FERRIS AND BRITTANY BOSS SHOWCASE THE IMPACT PROF GRANTS CAN HAVE ON THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY.

PROF & Community Partners Award \$47,000

On June 6, 2019, PROF awarded 20 scholarships to 28 Pine-Richland High School seniors totaling \$47,000. The various winners were recognized in a multitude of areas, including service and volunteering, leadership, interest in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), veterinary science, fields that help others, resiliency, performing arts, musical talents, kindness, financial need, and more. A special \$2500 scholarship was awarded this year celebrating Pine-Richland School District's 60th-anniversary recognizing community engagement and Pine-Richland pride.

For descriptions of PROF's scholarships and for a complete list of scholarship winners, please visit PROF's scholarships web page at www.prof-fund/scholarships.



PHOTO BY MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

AWARDEES, TRUSTEES, AND BENEFACTORS PARTICIPATE IN THE PRHS SCHOLASTIC AWARDS PROGRAM ON JUNE 5, 2019, WHEN MORE THAN \$47,000 WAS PRESENTED TO STUDENTS IN SCHOLARSHIP MONEY.

Meet PROF Board

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

PROF Awards Staff Grants in 2018-2019

GRANTS SUPPORT ELEMENTARY INITIATIVES

STEAM DREAM LAB

PROF awarded Richland Elementary \$13,325 to support the school's STEAM Dream Lab. The purpose of the lab is to foster STEAM learning and innovation in the classroom. This fall, Richland Elementary staff implemented bold new ideas and creative, hands-on learning experiences by launching their STEAM Dream Lab, reaching all students in the building.

"Our primary objective is to foster a lifelong love of learning and instill a sense of curiosity and inquisitiveness that naturally leads children into exploring and learning," said Richland Elementary First-Grade Teacher Paula Ferris.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SECOND-GRADERS CARTER LENNON AND CLAIRE RUSCELLI HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE IN THE STEAM DREAM LAB DURING TEACHER TODD MURPHY'S CLASS.

OUTDOOR LEARNING GARDEN

PROF also supported Wexford Elementary with a \$7,000 grant for its outdoor learning classroom. The learning garden provides teachers with a resource they can use to teach students about the growing processes of some of the foods they eat while helping them apply the concepts of science, math, social studies, and care for the earth and others.

"As a district, one of the clear ways we can engage students in their world and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics (STEAM) is to have them outdoors, experiencing nature as part of their everyday, not just at 'recess' or for special occasions, but also to think about their role in science and the world and enact change through understanding and experience," said Joanna Firmin, Wexford Elementary School first-grade teacher.



STUDENTS ARE IMMERSSED IN A READING LESSON IN THE LEARNING GARDEN.

FIRST-GRADE TEACHER JOANNA FIRMIN AND PARA-EDUCATOR TARA HILLEGAS HELP WITH THE OPENING OF THE LEARNING GARDEN AT WEXFORD.



THINK TANK

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School received an \$8,600 PROF grant to support a think tank. Eden Hall's Think Tank educates students using an interdisciplinary approach that integrates STEAM as a cohesive learning model based on real-world experiences and challenges. PROF provided iPads to support student technology use to connect and program robots, create videos, access tutorials, and problem solve.


"Students need to be able to turn knowledge into action and participate in personalized learning," said EH Assistant Principal Paula Giran, Eden Hall Upper Elementary Assistant Principal.




A STUDENT IS SHOWN HERE IN THE EDEN HALL THINK TANK.

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

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



1998 PRHS Graduate Philip Reed wrote and published a book called *Hume's Moral Philosophy and Contemporary Psychology* (Routledge Studies in Eighteenth-Century Philosophy). He is currently a professor and the chair of the Philosophy Department at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY.

1998 GRADUATE PHIL REED PUBLISHES A BOOK.

1998

2004 PRHS Graduate Benjamin Reed is playing the role of Macbeth at the Arkansas Shakespeare Theater. Ben has been in nine seasons and over 48 roles since entering the Arkansas Shakespeare Theater. He has played Laertes in *Hamlet*, Antonio in *Antonio's Revenge*, Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*.



2004 GRADUATE BENJAMIN REED PERFORMS ROLE OF MACBETH.

2004



2015 PRHS graduate Julia Herrle was named one of 12 students at Princeton University, who has been selected for the 2019 cohort of the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative (SINSI). As a senior at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, she pursued certificates in Environmental Studies and in Values and Public Life. She is passionate about improving global food security and is particularly interested in the relationships between food insecurity and conflict and between agriculture, climate change, and environmental degradation. In 2018, as a SINSI intern, she worked in the Secretary's Office of Global Food Security at the U.S. Department of State. The previous summer, she interned at Bioversity International in Nepal, conducting research on improving the resiliency of agriculture in Himalayan villages. "I am so thankful for the wonderful teachers and staff at Pine-Richland School District who ignited my love of learning and helped me build a strong foundation for Princeton, and for the friends I made at PR who have continued to be an important support system throughout college," said Princeton senior Julia Herrle.

2015

"I am so thankful for the wonderful teachers and staff at Pine-Richland School District who ignited my love of learning and helped me build a strong foundation for Princeton, and for the friends I made at PR who have continued to be an important support system throughout college."

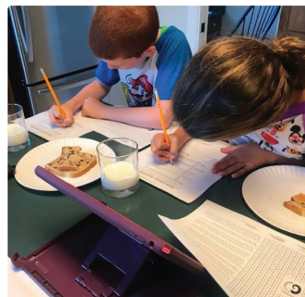
— 2015 PRHS Graduate Julia Herrle, senior at Princeton University.



2015 PRHS GRADUATE MYAH MERHAUT IS SHOWN HERE WITH PRHS TEACHER MARY ANNE ANDREASSI.



NINTH-GRADER TAYLOR MCWILLIAMS PARTICIPATES IN THE PR SCAVENGER HUNT.



THE GENTILE FAMILY SPENDS THEIR SUMMER RESEARCHING SCAVENGER HUNT LOCATIONS AND HAVING SUCCESS.



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT BARBARA WILLIAMS TAKES HER SEARCH TO ST. BARNABAS IN THE PR SCAVENGER HUNT.



2018



Pine-Richland School District celebrated 60 years with a community scavenger hunt. Many families and staff members submitted photos. You can see the district's 60th Anniversary video and some more scavenger hunt photos by visiting www.pinerichland.org/60years.

PRHS 2015 graduate Myah Merhaut debuted an exhibit entitled "Finding Balance" as part of the Slippery Rock University Senior project Exhibitions hosted at the Martha Gault Art Gallery from April 22-25, 2019. Fellow artist and PRHS Art Teacher Mary Anne Andreassi also shared artwork as well. Myah graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with concentrations in ceramics and digital media. She is an intern with Touchstone Center for Crafts in Farmington, PA, and previously at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts in Shady Side.

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 rhathhorn@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 Owen Kenney, 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 Student 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 Owen Kenney, director of Human Resources & Legal Affairs, 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.

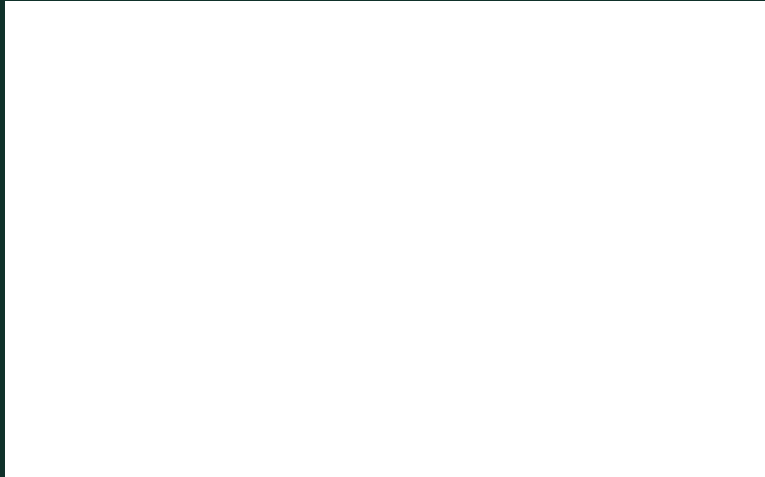
Pine-Richland School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education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



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

702 Warrendale Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

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

STUDENTS HELP CREATE INNOVATIVE & DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

(L-R) SENIORS SAMUEL SKIRPAN, LAUREN JUNCAL, AND JUNIOR ENYONAM AKWAYENA GREET PARTICIPANTS AT THE DISTRICT'S FIRST HACKATHON IN WHICH STUDENTS WERE TASKED WITH CREATING COMPUTER AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS AIMED AT CREATING EFFICIENCIES AND HELPING OTHERS LEARN.

