



2016 PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



## FOCUSED ON LEARNING for Every Student Every Day

"Pine-Richland School District has allowed me to find a supportive community of friends, taught me how to think critically and provided me with a confident voice and a firm understanding of real-world issues that I will bring with me into the future."

—Senior Hannah Reiling, 2016 PRHS Valedictorian

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

## Dear Pine-Richland Community Members:

Welcome to the 2015 - 2016 edition of the annual report! We are proud of our students, staff, and community. This publication is an opportunity to tell the story of learning and growth at Pine-Richland. Given our belief that learning occurs inside and outside the classroom, we have included a wide range of accomplishments in the areas of academics, arts, athletics and activities. It gives us the ability to reflect on the past year and also introduce key initiatives for next year.

As an organization, the most significant outcome of the past year was the completion of the strategic plan. A collaborative and iterative process was used to refine the mission, vision and values of the district. A road map for action was developed to address the time horizon of June 2015 through July 2019. It is organized into five major categories and includes a series of long-term goals and short-term actions. A summary of this plan is located on page three of this report. More detailed information is available on the district website. That information is updated on a quarterly basis to monitor progress toward district goals.

I hope that you enjoy this year's annual report. It is a community report because these accomplishments are only possible when students, parents, staff and the community are working together. While many awards and forms of recognition are identified in these pages, it is more difficult to share the effort and persistence demonstrated by the individuals and groups that earned them. This hard work occurs "out of the spotlight" but serves as the foundation for the eventual results. Thank you to all of the unseen people who have supported and impacted our students.

Your ongoing support of the students, staff and community of the Pine-Richland School District is much appreciated.

Brian R. Miller  
PRSD Superintendent

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COVER PHOTO: (L-R) SENIOR HANNAH REILING, SENIOR MATTHEW MCLOUGHLIN AND JUNIOR ARUSHI BANDI TAKE A BREAK IN-BETWEEN CLASSES AT PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL. HANNAH WILL BE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AS A NORDENBERG SCHOLAR. MATTHEW, WHO IS A NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR, WILL BE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, AND ARUSHI, WHO EARNED A NATIONAL COMPUTING AWARD, WILL BE FINALIZING HER FUTURE PLANS HER SENIOR YEAR.

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

- **The Washington Post** ranked **Pine-Richland High School** number one in the region and number nine statewide in America's Most Challenging High School rankings for 2016. The publication ranks schools through an index formula calculated by the number of Advanced Placement exams divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year at a particular school.
- **US News & World Report** ranked **Pine-Richland High School** 10th in the state and first in Allegheny County. Criteria used include state math and reading scores, graduation rates and degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work using Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test data as the benchmark for success.
- **The Pittsburgh Business Times** ranked **Pine-Richland School District** ninth out of 103 districts in the state in its 2016 list of rankings. Schools are ranked by scores from a district's Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) and Keystone exams. Editors review scores from three years giving the current year the most weight.
- **Pine-Richland Middle School** celebrated being re-designated as an exemplary middle school in the **Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn 2016 Schools to Watch** program for a third time. The program recognizes growth in areas including academics, responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels.
- **The Pennsylvania Department of Education Division of Federal Programs** honored **Richland Elementary School** as a 2016 Distinguished Title I School. This marks the fourth consecutive year the school has earned this prestigious recognition for ranking in the top five percent of Title I schools in PA based on aggregate math and English language arts scores on the PSSAs.
- **Wexford Elementary School** was named to the **Healthy Schools PA High Honor Roll** for meeting a rigorous checklist of criteria, which included testing for radon and drinking water as well as starting a recycling program.

# STRATEGIC

PLAN 2015 - 2019

## District Maps Out Future

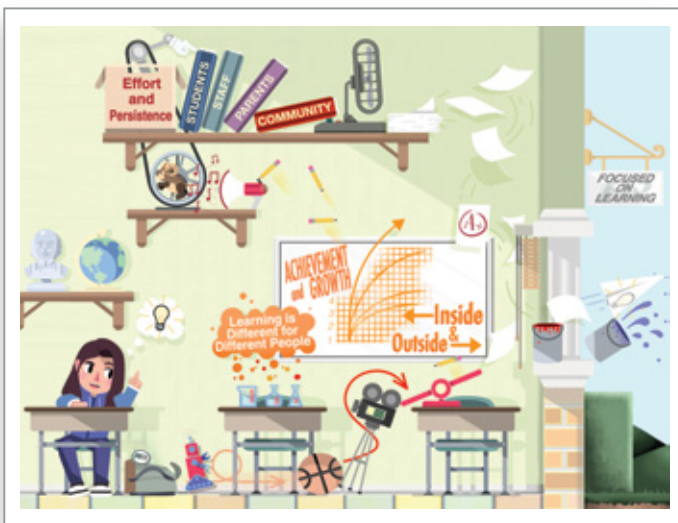
Pine-Richland School District finalized its strategic plan through 2019. The strategic plan is broken down into five categories which include strategic objectives and action plans.

For more detail, visit [www.pinerichland.org/sp](http://www.pinerichland.org/sp).



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Pine-Richland School District is to **focus on learning** for **every student every day**.



## VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Pine-Richland School District is represented in a picture developed by senior **Julian Brooks**. The image captures the mission and provides a vivid reminder of the challenge and opportunity of our schools and conveys the following:

**Learning** is our primary **purpose**.

**Learning** occurs **inside** and **outside** the classroom.

**Learning** is **measured** as BOTH **achievement** AND **growth**.

**Learning** happens **differently** for **different** people so **flexibility** and **variation** is needed in the approach.

**Learning** requires **effort** and **persistence**.

**Learning** is for all of us and requires the **support** of **everyone** (e.g., student, staff and parents).

## SHARED VALUES

**Personal Growth** represents a belief in the whole child and development through the years at Pine-Richland. In addition to academic growth, this value is meant to represent social, emotional and physical growth as well. Personal growth can also be applied to the staff.

**Resiliency** is locally defined as “the ability to adapt well in the face of hard times and build upon one’s strengths.” It was adapted from the American Psychological Association. We believe that students must be equipped to handle success and adversity in their lives.

**Innovation** represents breakthrough change or new ways of operating.

**Diverse Opportunities** capture the importance of a wide range of choices in academics, athletics, arts and activities. It acknowledges that students have varied interests. Exposure to a wide variety of opportunities helps them achieve personal growth and potential areas of future interest.

**Engagement** reflects the degree to which students, staff, parents and community are part of the school district. It reflects engagement in the classroom for students as well as their connection to other aspects of student life. For our staff and community, engagement is a critical element of achieving goals.



# DISTRICT

## INITIATIVES

### 2015-2016 Marks Year of Transformation for PR Technology

Stay informed by signing up for the Pine-Richland School District E-Newsletter. Visit [www.pinerichland.org](http://www.pinerichland.org)/email to register for information you want to receive about the Pine-Richland School District.

The 2015-2016 school year marked a year of change for technology at Pine-Richland School District. The technology department has been focused on transitioning from an outsourced structure to a new hybrid staffing model, which includes a combination of in-house personnel and outsourcing to build a reliable and secure infrastructure, under the direction of Pine-Richland's Director of Technology Shawn Stoebener.

The district welcomed Help Desk Manager **Stephen Dugan**, Network Administrator **Michael Pohl**, Systems Engineer **Jared Simon** and technicians **Patrick Conlon**, **Amanda Friday**, **Kimberly Patterson** and **Vincent Summers**.

"Making sure we have the right people with a skill set that best aligns with the district's growing technology needs has been a major focus," said Mr. Stoebener.

Additionally, a substantial number of infrastructure projects have been completed, including new cabling at three primary schools and new WiFi at all four elementary schools. The technology department has also implemented a districtwide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone system and greatly increased the amount of internet bandwidth to all of the schools, especially to the high and middle schools.

The district also extended the use of Google app accounts to high school students and will activate middle school student accounts early next year. As the final phases of several large infrastructure updates are made, the district will look at increasing the number of student devices available to students, with an emphasis at the elementary buildings.

### PR EARNS STATE & NATIONAL COMMUNICATION AWARDS

Pine-Richland School District earned an award of excellence in the 2015-2016 Pennsylvania School Public Relations Education Communication Contest. The district was one of only five in the state to earn an award of excellence in the annual report category for its Focused on Learning publication.



Judges gave the publication high marks for writing, design and professionalism and for creating interest and providing substantive information about the district and student achievements.

The district also earned an honorable mention for its e-newsletter and merit awards for the 2015 annual report and "Focused on Learning" video from the National School Public Relations Association.

### Bus Provider Prepares for 2016-2017

Pine-Richland School District welcomed a new transportation service provider at the start of the school year. Student Transportation of America, which will provide six more years of service, operates with school bus constructed vehicles regardless of the size of the vehicle or number of students transported. The buses operate on propane rather than diesel fuel. Propane is a green, non-toxic, lead-free and cleaner-burning fuel with lower levels of sulphur resulting in reduced emissions and offers quick start-up in cold weather.

In addition, school bus drivers receive ongoing training in safety, security and medical procedures. The company provides an extensive drug and alcohol testing program that exceeds federal requirements.

STA staff members are regularly trained to manage the latest technology in the industry, which include Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking, two-way radios and digital camera surveillance systems.

The main areas of focus for 2016-2017 include improving bus efficiencies especially in relation to ride time and routes, realigning and updating routes through the use of onboard technology tools, improved bus routing software and developing a working relationship with the private and parochial schools for families who live in the Pine-Richland School District community.

TO INCREASE SAFETY, THE DISTRICT'S TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER IMPLEMENTED A TAG SYSTEM TO SERVE AS A REMINDER TO BUS DRIVERS WHICH STUDENTS ARE KINDERGARTNERS AND MUST HAVE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN GREET THEM AT THE BUS STOP IN THE AFTERNOON. MRS. JENNIFER KINROSS, HANCE ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, IS SHOWN HERE ATTACHING A TAG TO A KINDERGARTENER'S BACKPACK.



# NATIONAL MERIT

## SCHOLARS

PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO



2016 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS CELEBRATE ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

## National Merit Scholar Program Recognizes 19 PRHS Seniors

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is honoring 19 Pine-Richland High School students in its 2015-2016 program. Finalists include seniors **Aidan Lakshman, Kyra Laubacher, William Newell** and **Evan Stephenson**. They are among only 15,000 students who were notified in February of 2016 that they were the top 50,000 scorers on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The exam serves as an initial screening of about 1.5 million entrants each year. The four were named semifinalists in October of 2015, along with senior **Andrew Baxter**.

The National Merit program also announced 14 commended students. They include PRHS seniors **Khaled Abdel Aziz, Nathan Carnovale, Lauren Donahoe, Madeline Hess, Hyunwoo Kim, Matthew Lacek, Sarah Libby, Matthew McLoughlin, Elizabeth Profozich, Hannah Reiling, Phillip Riggins, Matthew Ruediger, Monica Shope** and **Maxwell Skirpan**. Commended students make up the other 34,000 high performers of the top 50,000 test takers.

## Top Students Prepare for Future

PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO



PRHS SALUTATORIAN MAXWELL SKIRPAN, TERTIARY NATHAN CARNOVALE AND VALEDICTORIAN HANNAH REILING SPEAK AT THE 2016 GRADUATION CEREMONY ON JUNE 3, 2016.



## DISTRICT SCORECARD

| NATIONAL MERIT & ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARS | NUMBER OF STUDENTS |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Class of 2016                         | 19                 |
| Class of 2015                         | 12                 |
| Class of 2014                         | 14                 |
| Class of 2013                         | 19                 |
| Class of 2012                         | 21                 |

# STAFF

## NOTES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### PRMS Teacher Named Finalist in PA Teacher of Year Program

**"I live by the motto**

**'Do Your Best,' and try**

**to create a classroom**

**that brings out the**

**best in every student."**

— Ms. Patricia Cekella,  
PRMS teacher and finalist in  
PA Teacher of Year program

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National School Teacher of the Year named Pine-Richland Middle School Teacher **Patricia Cekella** as one of 12 finalists in the 2017 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year program.

"I have been both honored and humbled by the experience," said Ms. Cekella. "It has allowed me to take time and reflect on all the positive things that Pine-Richland has to offer its students and teachers. The collaborative atmosphere supports a creative and caring approach to learning."

This year Ms. Cekella initiated a Boys with GOALS group to help a small group of eighth grade boys who were in need of positive, male role models to encourage and promote GOALS. The acronym stands for **G**ood choices, **O**utstanding effort, **A**chieve consistent

work habits, positive attitude towards **L**earning, and **S**urrounded by good role models. A guest is invited to visit and speak to the boys once a month during a lunch period about characteristics of a good student/citizen and steps needed to achieve/maintain success.

Ms. Cekella has been teaching in Pine-Richland for almost 12 years. She teaches geometry and algebra fundamentals at the middle school. She has had the privilege of teaching the highest and the lowest level math for eighth grade for the past eight years. Prior to that, she taught algebra and pre-algebra.

In December, finalists will participate in a special awards ceremony to be hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, when the 2017 PA Teacher of the Year will be announced.



PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER PATRICIA CEKELLA IS NAMED A FINALIST IN THE PA TEACHER OF YEAR PROGRAM.

### District Provides Paperless Option

The Pine-Richland School District produces the annual report on 100% 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 and academic achievement as well as positive achievements of students and staff. If you would like to be removed from the annual report mailing list for further savings, please take a few minutes to submit your information by visiting [www.pinerichland.org/paperless](http://www.pinerichland.org/paperless).

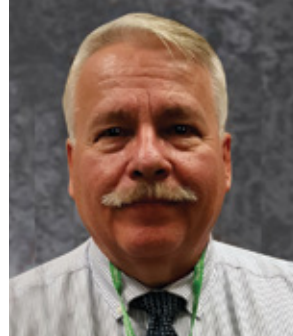
## District Welcomes New Employees



MR. ASHLEY BOYERS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT  
PRINCIPAL



MRS. KIMBERLY CHARNEY  
TRANSPORTATION & FACILITIES  
COORDINATOR



MR. ANDREW PETYAK  
SECURITY & SAFETY  
COORDINATOR



MRS. JILL WELCH  
HR DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

### PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pine-Richland School District welcomed new members to the team during the 2015-2016 school year at the district level and included: Human Resources Database Administrator **Jill Welch**, Safety & Security Coordinator **Andrew Petyak** and Transportation & Facilities Coordinator **Kimberly Charney**.

### PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

At the Pine-Richland High School, the district welcomed custodians **Edward Kratochvila** and **Brittney Undercuffler**, Guidance Secretary **Noel Goldberg**, Learning Support Teacher **Maria Pitonyak**, Math/Science Teacher **Ann Gollapudi**, math teachers **Stephanie Lang** and **Lucas Gray**, and Para Educator **Andrew Pffennigwerth**.

### PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

New to Pine-Richland Middle School are custodians **Deborah Baker-Schroat** and **Kevin Spring**, Learning Support Teacher **Cassandra**

**Muzzonigro**, Para Educator **Toroe Fields** and Assistant Principal **Ashley Boyers**.

### EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Eden Hall Upper Elementary, the district welcomed Business Education Teacher **Eli Baird**, Guidance Counselor **Lauren Hawrylak**, Music Teacher **Michael Timcheck**, Orchestra Teacher **Kathleen Korff**, Para Educator **Melissa Pindroh** and Sixth Grade Teacher **Eric Farmer**.

### HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Hance Elementary School, first grade teachers **Erin Pritchard** and **Crystal Spence** and Personal Care Assistant **Melissa Pindroh** joined the team. At Richland Elementary, new faces included Autism Teacher **Lindsay Brandon**, First Grade Teacher **Tracy Hanna** and Third Grade Teacher **Brittany Boss**.

### WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wexford Elementary School welcomed Librarian **Maria McCormick**, Guidance Counselor **Brittany Papas** and Second Grade teacher **Margo Kohler**.

## District Honors Retirees

The district recognized employees who retired this past year. Combined, these retirees logged more than 135 years at Pine-Richland:

**Pine-Richland High School**  
Teacher Gary Torso

**Eden Hall Upper Elementary School**

Teacher Debbie Grant  
Teacher Betsy Hague  
Teacher Cheryl Villegas

**Elementary Schools**

Richland Custodian Terry Colonello  
Hance & Richland Elementary  
Music Teacher Jill Linsz

## Employees Recognized for Expertise

- Hance Elementary School Reading Teacher **Carin Hutzler-Liberati** is sharing her enthusiasm for rhyming and reading with the world through a tale about a young boy and a puppy. Mrs. Liberati published the book "Flergin McGergin" with Dorrance Publishing on Jan. 26, 2016. So why a rhyming book? Mrs. Liberati says rhyming is an early emergent skill associated with phonemic awareness, which is the ability to hear and manipulate sounds without seeing letters in print. This skill is an important one because it's a precursor to phonics. Students who are phonetically proficient tend to

be successful readers.

- Eden Hall Upper Elementary Fifth Grade Learning Support Teacher **Maria Paluselli** presented at a conference sponsored by the Pittsburgh Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. She led a session entitled Dyslexia in the Classroom: Specially Designed Instruction and Classroom Accommodations on April 9, 2016. The session included an overview of various accommodations and adaptations within the classroom that can be implemented to ensure success for all students.



ADMINISTRATORS, STUDENTS AND THE SCHOOLS TO WATCH TEAM CELEBRATE PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL'S RE-DESIGNATION AS AN EXEMPLARY MIDDLE SCHOOL.

## PRMS Celebrates Schools to Watch Re-Designation

Pine-Richland Middle School celebrated being re-designated an exemplary middle school in the Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn 2016 Schools to Watch program for a third time. Students, staff and Schools to Watch team members highlighted the achievement on May 18, 2016.

"The Schools to Watch program gives us an opportunity to hold up a program against a set of criteria," said Superintendent Brian Miller. "The process is dynamic, and it is not fixed or static. Great schools change and improve."

Student **Erin Ahern**, who was one of several student speakers, reminded everyone "being a Pine-Richland Middle School student takes pride."

"The Schools to Watch program takes PR pride to a new level," She said. "We are PR, a School to Watch!"

Principal **David Kristofic** said that this is the third time the team has re-designated PRMS as a School to Watch. The school earned national recognition by being designated a School to Watch originally in 2007 and was re-designated in 2010, 2013 and now in 2016. In addition, PRMS earned the Don Eichhorn Award for Outstanding Middle School in 2004.

"We are proud to earn an honor in the Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch Awards program," said **Dr. David Kristofic**, principal. "Our students, staff and parents make this school the place to be."

Dr. Kristofic extends appreciation to staff members who helped administrators in the re-designation process. They included teachers **Robert Bartell, Erika Graham, Jeffrey Paul, Kate Pfeifer, Jason Pucey,**

**Kristy Rush** and **Sarah Thearle** and secretaries **Debbie Klodowski** and **Lynn Ross**.

Schools to Watch State Director **Bruce Vosburgh** and sponsors **Joe Maddalon** and **George Pry** and District Director **Sara Bresnahan Kennedy**, from Speaker of the House **Mike Turzai's** Office, participated in the program. Mrs. Pfeifer spoke about some of the projects students worked on outside of school to show they care which included Paws in the Park fundraiser for which the students and staff earned a "Make a Difference" national award. Eighth grader **James Rekowski** spoke about Saturday Service Day which included visits to St. Barnabas and Animal Friends. Also helping speak at the program was seventh grader **Tannah Hendrickson** and eighth graders **Petros Balouris** and **Daniel Krill**. Assistant Principal **Ashley Boyers** closed out the program.

State leaders select schools that exhibit academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. In addition, schools must show evidence of a strong leadership team in which teachers and administrators work together to improve curriculum and instruction and commit to being held accountable for continuous improvement.

**Dr. Irv Howard**, past president of the national forum stated, "We congratulate these schools for being places that do great things for all of their students. These schools demonstrate that high-performing middle grades schools are places that focus on academic growth and achievement. They are also places that recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensure that every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education."

## New Education Law Signed in December

The Every Student Succeeds Act was signed by the president in December of 2015 and replaces the previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind Act. The law will take full effect in the 2017-2018 school year. States will continue to submit accountability plans, but will be able to pick long-term and short-term goals that take into account English language proficiency, graduation rates and proficiency on tests.

**"The Schools to Watch program takes PR pride to a new level. We are PR, a School to Watch!"**

— *Pine-Richland Middle School eighth grader Erin Ahern (Schools to Watch Program Celebration – May 18, 2016)*



## Richland Elementary Earns Recognition for Fourth Consecutive Year

The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Division of Federal Programs is honoring Richland Elementary School for being named a Title I Distinguished School for 2015-2016. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Richland Elementary School has earned this prestigious recognition.

Richland Elementary received the honor 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 (PSSAs). Richland is one of about 1,800 schools in PA that qualify for Title I funding. Principal **Gene Nicastro** attributes the continued success to the supportive families in the community, attentive students and a focused and determined staff who strives to meet students’ needs.

“The staff is focused on learning, and we utilize a system of data analysis and progress monitoring to identify students’ needs,” said Mr. Nicastro. “The staff does a tremendous job in building positive relationships with students, understanding their specific needs, and implementing strategies to improve achievement.”



In all, 96 schools were honored as Distinguished Title I Schools. To receive this honor, schools had to show high achievement on the math and reading PSSAs or Keystone exam scores, while qualifying for financial assistance through the Federal Title I program.

**PRINCIPAL GENE NICASTRO, SHOWN HERE WITH READING TEACHERS DONNA FAUX AND MELINDA BELL, DISCUSSES THE SCHOOL'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION.**

## District Publishes Academic Achievement Report

The district produced the Academic Achievement Report for the third year in a row. The annual report on student learning reported data from the 2014-2015 school year and compared the performance of Pine-Richland students whenever possible to students throughout Pennsylvania and the nation.

The report looks at the following:

- Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs)
- Keystone Exams
- School Performance Profile
- Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- American College Test (ACT)
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

To review the entire report, visit:

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

### KEYSTONE PRELIMINARY TESTING WINDOWS 2016-2017

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Winter Wave I  | Dec. 5-16, 2016      |
| Winter Wave II | Jan. 9-23, 2017      |
| Spring         | May 15-26, 2017      |
| Summer         | July 31-Aug. 4, 2017 |

### PSSA PRELIMINARY WINDOWS 2016-2017

|  |
|--|
| April 3-7, 2017 – English Language Arts (Grades 3-8) |
| April 24-28, 2017 – Mathematics (Grades 3-8)         |
| May 1-5, 2017 – Science (Grades 4 & 8)               |
| May 8-12, 2017 – Make-Up Window                      |

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Testing windows may vary or change after the start of the school year. Visit [www.pinerichland.org](http://www.pinerichland.org) periodically for updates.


## State Exams Put Students to Test PR STUDENTS MEET OR EXCEED REQUIREMENTS

### PENNSYLVANIA SYSTEM OF SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS & KEYSTONE EXAMS

The 2015 Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) for the first time reflects content that is aligned to more rigorous standards. The PSSAs test students' skills in mathematics and English language arts in grades three through eight and in science in grades four and eight. The English language arts PSSAs now incorporate content from the previous stand-alone writing assessment. The following performance levels are used: advanced (superior academic performance), proficient (satisfactory academic performance), basic (marginal academic performance) and below basic (inadequate academic performance).

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

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

|  <b>KEYSTONE SCORECARD</b><br>Advanced & Proficient — 2015 |               |              |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Grade 11  | Pine-Richland | Pennsylvania |
| Literature  | 93%           | 73%          |
| Algebra I   | 88%           | 64%          |
| Science   | 84%           | 59%          |


## PR Selected to Participate in STEAM Pathway Program at Carnegie Science

Pine-Richland School District (PRSD) has been selected to be a member of the cohort of 2016-2017 Carnegie Science Technology Engineering Arts & Mathematics (STEAM) Excellence Pathway Partnership. PRSD will send five to eight team members comprised of district and building administrators, teachers, community members and students to the Carnegie Science Center in an effort to identify current strengths and opportunities related to STEAM education and to develop an action plan to further integrate STEAM education into the district curriculum.


Students are required to take Keystone exams, as an end-of-course tests. The exams are one component of Pine-Richland High School's graduation requirements. Non-proficient students are required to retake the exam and have three opportunities throughout the year. The district provides opportunities for non-proficient students. To review details on re-takes and project based assessments visit [www.pinerichland.org/exams](http://www.pinerichland.org/exams).

### EXAM COMPARISONS


Within the annual report, a comparison is typically done with the prior years. Since the rigor and content has shifted, a new benchmark will be created and the only comparisons that can be made are with the state comparison data. Despite the increased rigor, overall Pine-Richland students were able to meet or exceed the standards for growth set by the state. The tables below present Pine-Richland achievement data as compared to the state.

|  <b>UE PSSA SCORES</b><br>Advanced & Proficient — 2015 |         |           |              |
|--|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Grade  | Subject | Eden Hall | Pennsylvania |
| 4th  | Math    | 70%       | 44%          |
|  | ELA*    | 82%       | 59%          |
|  | Science | 94%       | 77%          |
| 5th  | Math    | 72%       | 43%          |
|  | ELA*    | 83%       | 62%          |
| 6th  | Math    | 69%       | 40%          |
|  | ELA*    | 83%       | 61%          |

\*English Language Arts

|  <b>SECONDARY PSSA SCORES</b><br>Advanced & Proficient — 2015 |         |               |              |
|---|---------|---------------|--------------|
| Grade   | Subject | Pine-Richland | Pennsylvania |
| 7th   | Math    | 50%           | 33%          |
|   | ELA*    | 83%           | 59%          |
| 8th   | Math    | 45%           | 30%          |
|   | ELA*    | 83%           | 58%          |
|   | Science | 79%           | 59%          |

\*English Language Arts

|  <b>PRIMARY PSSA SCORES</b><br>Advanced & Proficient — 2015 |      |      |  |
|---|------|------|--|
| Grade 3   | Math | ELA* |  |
| Hance   | 78%  | 86%  |  |
| Richland  | 76%  | 82%  |  |
| Wexford   | 87%  | 90%  |  |
| Pennsylvania  | 49%  | 62%  |  |

\*English Language Arts

## STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Math & English Language Arts Assessments (PSSAs & Keystones)

- Pine-Richland students outperformed the state average on all levels of the Math & English language arts (ELA) PSSAs. PR's drop in levels of advanced/proficient was smaller than the state average with the exception of eighth-grade math.
- When looking at the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS), which is a statistical method used to measure the influence of a district and school on the academic progress rates of groups of students from year to year, students at PR exceeded growth in math in grades five, six and eight and Algebra I standards based on three-year averages. PR students exceeded academic growth in English language arts in grades five, six and literature and met academic growth for grade eight but not for grade four.
- The combined percentage of advanced/proficient fifth graders on the ELAs at PRSD increased even more than the statewide increase.
- PRSD ELA results showed evidence that the drop in combined levels of advanced/proficient performance were less than those experienced across the state with the exception of grade three.
- Top performing students on the ELA assessments exceeded the standard for PA academic growth in grades six and seven, met the standard in growth for grades five and eight but did not meet the standard in grade four.
- Large majorities of PR students consistently scored at the advanced or proficient level on algebra I, biology and literature Keystone assessments consistently for the past three years.
- When looking at PVAAs, which is a statistical method used to measure the influence of a district and school on the academic students at PR exceeded the state standard growth in all quintiles for algebra I, biology and literature but not the top quintile for literature.
- Students taking algebra I in grades seven and eighth grade perform at much higher levels than those in ninth and 10th grade.

### SCIENCE ASSESSMENTS (PSSAS & KEYSTONES)

- More than 94% of PR fourth graders scored on the science assessments at the advanced or proficient level, which represents the highest historic combined percentage at PRSD.
- Based on the three-year PVAAS value added report for science, PR students exceeded the growth standard grade in eighth-grade science and on the biology Keystone but not in grade-four science.
- Grade eight students exceeded the standard for PA Academic growth in science, but the top students did not meet that same growth standard.

## AREAS OF STRENGTH (PSSAS)

Geometry & Number/Operations (Fractions) – Third Grade (Math)  
Physical Science & Biological Sciences – All Levels (Science)  
Nature of Science & Earth & Space Science – All Levels & Statewide (Science)  
Vocabulary Acquisition & Use – All Levels (ELA)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT (PSSAS)

Measurement & Data – Third Grade (Math)  
Problem Solving – All Levels (Math)  
Craft & Structure/Integration of Knowledge & Ideas – All Levels & Statewide (ELA)

## NEXT STEPS

- Expand use of classroom diagnostic tools including computer adaptive diagnostic assessments aligned with revised standards and eligible content.
- Examine resources and processes in relation to enrichment and/or remediation.
- Continue professional development and support for the co-teaching model.
- Identify pockets of excellence at the classroom and/or building level to allow further expansion of effective practices.
- Determine potential considerations for sixth grade science instruction as it relates to the transition to next level.

## District Revises Curriculum

Two short-term, curriculum related action items under the long-term goal of refining clear and consistent curriculum were the focus of the work completed during the 2015-2016 school year. Those action items were:

1. To complete the curriculum writing across all departments that began at the end of the 2014-2015 school year
2. To identify resources to support the updated curriculum

K-12 teachers finalized the unit-based curriculum writing in January of 2016. Two key components of the Pine-Richland curriculum framework are the big ideas and learning goals that identify the essential learning elements for each course. Throughout the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT REPORT



## 2015 ACT SCORECARD\*

Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.

| 2015          | Math | Reading | English | Science |
|---------------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| Pine-Richland | 26   | 25      | 25      | 25      |
| Pennsylvania  | 23   | 23      | 23      | 22      |
| United States | 21   | 21      | 20      | 21      |

\*PRHS Class of 2016 results unavailable at production time.



## 2015 SAT SCORECARD\*

Pine-Richland results compared to national and state scores.

| 2015          | Critical Reading | Math | Writing |
|---------------|------------------|------|---------|
| Pine-Richland | 537              | 567  | 530     |
| Pennsylvania  | 499              | 504  | 482     |
| United States | 495              | 511  | 484     |

\*PRHS Class of 2016 results unavailable at production time.



## AP TEST SCORECARD\*

| Pine-Richland | Total AP Students | Total AP Tests Taken | Tests Scored 3+ |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2015          | 490               | 958                  | 349             |
| 2014          | 486               | 932                  | 324             |
| 2013          | 450               | 944                  | 337             |
| 2012          | 453               | 900                  | 326             |

\*PRHS Class of 2016 results unavailable at production time.

Data is compiled from PA State Department of Education and from the 2015 PRSD Academic Achievement Report.

## AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST (ACT) HIGHLIGHTS

The American College Test (ACT) is designed to measure general education development of high school students and their ability to complete college-level work in English, math, reading and science reasoning. The highest possible scaled score for each subject area test is 36. In 2015, student performances on each sub-test were stable and high (i.e., a historic number of Pine-Richland High School students took the ACT).

## COLLEGE BOARD SAT HIGHLIGHTS

The SAT is published by the College Board and administered typically to juniors and seniors in high school. The SAT is a four-hour test that measures the critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college. Separate tests are given in math, critical reading and writing. Each SAT test has a maximum score of 800 points. SAT scores are one indicator of a student's potential to do college work. Some areas of strengths and opportunities include:

- Pine-Richland had a historically high number of students in the 2015 graduating class take the SAT (i.e., 341 or 92.9%), and in general Pine-Richland had a three-year positive trend in participation.
- Pine-Richland students consistently outperformed state and total group comparisons in the past five years.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

The College Board publishes the Advanced Placement (AP) exams. By taking AP courses and tests, students have the opportunity to experience college-level work in high school and gain valuable skills and study habits for college. At Pine-Richland School District (PRSD), students enrolled in AP courses must take the end-of-course AP exam. Scores range from a low of one through a high of five, with a five indicating a student is well qualified to receive college credit and/or advanced placement in college programs. Some areas of strengths include:

- PRSD has seen a significant increase in the number of students participating in AP classes, the number of AP tests taken, and the number of students scoring a three or higher since 2011. Historic levels in each area were achieved in 2015.
- The percentage of PRSD students scoring a three or higher exceeded both state and global performance levels in 2015.

## District Revises Curriculum CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

school year, teachers implemented the newly written curriculum and shared comments and reflections in effort to continuously improve the learning experiences for students. The written curriculum provides teachers with a resource to ensure consistency across schools or classrooms while at the same time allows for flexibility to delivery learning activities in unique, teacher-specific ways.

Resources are designed to support teachers in delivering the curriculum and to support students in understanding the concepts. A number of resources were researched, evaluated, and purchased

during the 2015-2016 school year. The departments and grade levels involved in the resource reviews were English language arts grades seven through nine, science grades three through eighth and social studies grades three through five and nine through 11. Students and teachers will return next school year with new and innovative hard copy and online tools to help guide them in reaching the learning goals that were established within the curriculum. The combination of hands-on, project-based learning opportunities and new technology will help students reach those learning goals through a variety of options.

## Academic Excellence

Several students are being recognized for earning perfect scores on college entrance exams. Pine-Richland High School seniors **Andrew Baxter** and **Hyunwoo Kim** and juniors **Arushi Bandi**, **Richard Kwon** and **Trevor Russell** earned perfect scores on the Math SAT. Seniors **Kyra Laubacher** and **Sarah Libby** earned perfect SAT Writing scores. Senior **William Newell** earned a perfect score on the SAT Critical Reading portion. On the ACT, senior **Kylie Manuppelli** earned a perfect English score, and senior **Grace Roller** earned a perfect ACT Math score.

2015 PRHS graduates **Andrew Aukerman**, **Noah Blake**, **Helen Guo**, **Julia Herrle**, **Sarah Krause**, **Thomas Krill**, **Makenna Laffey**, **Ryan Mann**, **Jacob Pavlecic**, **Allison Shepard** and **Hannah Zafar** were named to the National AP Scholar roster. These students earned an average score of at least four on all AP Exams taken and scores of four or higher on eight or more AP exams. The roster for the Class of 2016 will be released at a later date. In 2014, three seniors were named National AP Scholars and included **Meher Babbar**, **Carrie Leibensperger** and **Jennifer Lott**.

PRHS German student **Michael McNamara** represented the US in Berlin in the International German Olympics. Teachers **Lauren Poetain** and **Eric Baysinger** said this was the first year for a PRHS student to compete in the competition that tests German reading, listening, speaking, writing and presentation skills.

PRHS sophomore **Julien Rovera** earned second place in Western PA and a gold medal on the Le Grand Concours, the national French exam. Sophomores **Erin Kim** and **Kiera Regan** earned silver medals and sophomore **Callista Carns** and freshman **Jordan Labuda** received bronze medals. Teacher **Dawn Herbst** said that sophomore **Aubrie Knapp** and ninth graders **Taryn Douglas** and **Maya Orlove** earned honorable mentions on the exam that covers grammar, reading and listening comprehension skills.

PRHS placed third in the Cultural Communications Alliance International Business Marketing Competition at the University of Pittsburgh Katz Business School on May 5, 2016. Spanish Teacher **Kristin Hough** said juniors **Joey Mullen** and **Allison Staresinic** and sophomores **Benjamin Cohen**, **Seth Kornbau** and **Keonwoo Park** competed against some of the best schools by creating a marketing strategy presentation on selling Bayer's Radimetrics to hospitals and medical groups in Taiwan. Radimetrics is a software platform that helps hospitals comply with new regulations.

Several Pine-Richland teams competed at the Odyssey of the Mind Western Pennsylvania Regional Tournament and advanced to the state finals on April 2, 2016. The EHUE fourth-grade team (Problem 1/Division 1), which tied for first place, and included team members **Gabrielle Boudreau**, **Nicolai Ezolt**, **Damian Ivanov**, **Avyukta Nagrath**, **Ethan Priore**, **Ryan E. Scott**, **Mia Tucciarone** and parent coach **Sarah Ezolt**; EHUE sixth-grade team (Problem 4/Division 2), which earned first place and included team members **Miles Brown**, **Joshua Katruska**, **Tadg Manna**, **Colby Ohlund**, **Colin Ohlund**, **Amish Sethi** and parent coach **Julie Katruska**. Pine-Richland Middle School eighth grade team (Problem 1/Division 2), which earned first place, and included team members **Erin Ahearn**, **Tejal Gupta**, **Nicholas Michel**, **Adrienne Rock**, **Arden Webster** and parent coach **Susan Michel** and Teacher **Kathy Deal** as the team's sponsor.

Three PRMS eighth grade mock trial teams won their cases on March 8, 2016 at La Roche College under the direction of Teacher **Kathy Deal**. Opposing teams voted on best witnesses and attorneys for the Pine-Richland teams and best witnesses included **Kylie Zirckel**, **Jacob Campbell** and **Nicholas Michel** and best attorneys included **Olivia McGeary**, **Aidan Pavlick** and **Justin Waltrip**. The PRHS State Mock Trial Team, under the direction of Teacher **Ron Schmiedel**, finished in the top four in the Pennsylvania State Mock Trial Regional Competition. Team members included seniors **Lauren Donahoe**, **Sarah Libby**, **Tyler Riggins**, **Alexandra Spallek**, juniors **David Fassler**, **Jonah Krause**, **Casey Mann** and **Sydney Scullion** and ninth grader **Umayal Natesan**.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary fourth grader **Damian Ivanov** placed second in the state and third in the nation in "Math Kangaroo," an international competition that took place at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning in March of 2016.

EHUE fourth grader **Udbhav Akolkar** placed seventh at the Tri-State Junior Open Chess Tournament on Jan. 21, 2016 under the direction of Teacher **Jennifer Kopach**.

Wexford Elementary third grader **Kiran Reddy**, a student of Teacher **Christofer Vins**, is receiving accolades for earning 20,000 stickers in the First in Math online program, which reinforces a range of skills from addition to complex algebra. Stickers are earned when a student finishes so many problems within a specific amount of time.



MICHAEL MCNAMARA

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO

TOP PHOTO: STUDENTS EARN PARTICIPATION IN STATE ENSEMBLES.

BOTTOM PHOTO: STUDENTS SHOWCASE NATIONAL AWARD WINNING ART AND REGIONAL WRITING PIECES.

### Art & Music

Five Pine-Richland High School students earned 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Award National Medals. National medalists represent less than one percent of the submissions in the 2016 Scholastic Awards Program. National art award winners included junior **Kayla Duffy**, who earned a national gold art medal; seniors **Julian Brooks** and **Sarah Libby**, who earned national silver medals for art portfolios and senior **Alaska Antestenis** and ninth grader **Kamryn Kanter**, who earned national silver medals in art. They were invited to Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 2, 2016 to participate in a special ceremony. Nearly 75 Pine-Richland students earned more than 150 awards in the regional program. Visit [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras) for all winners. In addition, junior **Amanda Ebner** earned gold key writing and silver key writing awards.

Sophomore **Chelsea Carver** earned a silver key writing award as well.

Pine-Richland High School sent eight students to the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State ensembles. Choral Director **Lee Rickard** says this is the most Pine-Richland has ever had selected in a year. For orchestra, juniors **Julia Solomon** (cello) and **Alexander Kampas** (French horn) were selected to perform at the state conference in Hershey March 30 – April 2, 2016. Other state performers included senior **Aiden Lakshman** (trumpet), who performed with the jazz band; senior **William Newell** (French horn), who performed with the concert band; junior **Andrew Gaffey** (tenor saxophone), who performed with the wind ensemble; and junior **Samantha Dzielski**, senior **Madison Engle** and sophomore **Sophia Hudock**, who performed in the choral program.

The Pine-Richland Middle School Seventh Grade Choir earned first place with a superior rating in the mixed choir II category at the Music in the Parks Festival in Sandusky, Ohio on May 6, 2016. The PRMS Eighth Grade Choir earned first place and an excellent rating in the mixed choir I category and the PRMS Women's Ensemble earned first place in the women's choir category with a superior rating and earned the best middle school/junior high choir award for having the highest score in the competition. The groups participated in the festival under the direction of choral directors **Lee Rickard** and **Heather Flora**. Under the direction of directors **Katelyn Piroth** and **Dave Belchick**, the PRMS Orchestra earned a superior rating as well.

Pine-Richland hosted the PMEA District 1 Junior High Orchestra Festival April 22-23, 2016 at the high school. Teacher **Katelyn Piroth** says several Pine-Richland students selected to participate included ninth grader **Christopher Mustovic**, eighth graders **Enyonam Akwayena**, **Aranya Krishnan**, **Samuel Mahsoob** and **Kristen Vigna** and seventh graders **Caroline Dawson** and **Gabrielle Stone**.

The PRHS Marching Band performed in the New York City Tartan Day Parade on April 9, 2016 and will perform the National Anthem at the Pittsburgh Pirates game on Aug. 22, 2016. The PRHS Band and auxiliaries are proud to announce that nearly 255 students participated in the program in 2015-2016.

Several students represented Pine-Richland at the PMEA Junior High District 1 West Choral Festival on



TOP LEFT: STUDENTS REPRESENT PRHS AND PRMS AT THE PMEA JR. HIGH DISTRICT HONOR CHOIR FESTIVAL.

TOP RIGHT: STUDENTS REPRESENT EDEN HALL AT THE PMEA DISTRICT 1 SING FEST WEST.

2015-2016 MARCHING BAND

April 8-9, 2016 at Trinity High School. They included eighth graders **Marisa Del Vecchio, Marissa Frick, Harrison Gonzalez, Sadie Jeter, Olivia McGeary, Hayden Unitas** and ninth graders **Bryan Bails, Seamus Daniello, Abigail George, Tyler Hepler and Isabel Muschweck**.

The PRHS Jazz Ensemble performed at Carnegie Hall in Oakland with the Carnegie Mellon University and West Virginia University jazz ensembles on April 21, 2016.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth graders **Katherine Cwenar, Lilly Dzierzawski, Aidan Frick, Sarah Horan, Carson Kopp, Fiona Kortyna, Logan Krushinski, Eliana Lazzaro, Justin Leeper, Emily Sipple and Peter Szalay** participated in the PMEA Elementary District Band Festival at Hampton Middle School on March 4-5, 2016, under the direction of Band Director **Jeff Nicodemus** and Teacher **Ben Coulter**.

EHUE sixth graders **Colin Argot, Norah Carter, Evan Dougal, Asher Harrington and Everett Harrington** participated in the PMEA District 1 Sing Fest West on March 4, 2016 at Baldwin High School under the direction of Teacher **Joy Hess**.

The PRHS Chamber Singers performed at the Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir Festival hosted by the University of Pittsburgh on Feb. 21, 2016. PRHS Chambers singers included seniors **Madison Engle, Olivia Folmer, Carley McCaffrey and Meredith O'Neil**; juniors **Brian Berthold, Alexa Chavara, Sean Colosimo, Allyson DeMarco, Samantha Dzielski, Emily Eirkson, Benjamin Frazier, Taylor Krebs, Colleen Lowe, Kristin Martin, Michael McNamara, Jacob Pedersen, Gabriel Schoone, Daniel Trombola, Alena Zappa**

and **Jacob Zentner** and sophomores **Morgan Engle, John Folmer, Sophia Hudock and Nathan Kelly**.

PRHS senior **Madison Engle**, juniors **Samantha Dzielski and Jacob Pedersen** and sophomore **Sophia Hudock** were selected for the PMEA Regional Choir hosted at Western Beaver High School March 16-18, 2016. Those students along with junior **Brian Berthold** were also selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 Chorus Festival at Penn Hills High School Feb. 3-4, 2016.

Nearly 40 PRHS and PRMS band members auditioned and were selected for the Allegheny Valley Honors Band at Hampton High School on Jan. 22, 2016. Visit [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras) for a list of participants.

Seven PRHS band members were selected to perform with the PMEA Honors Band on Nov. 22, 2015 at Bethel Park High School. They included seniors **Aidan Lakshman** (trumpet) and **William Newell** (French horn); juniors **Alexander Kampas** (French horn), **Sarah Dawson** (trumpet), **Andrew Gaffey** (tenor sax), **Elliott Boudreau** (percussion), and sophomore **Troy Rowlands** (tuba). Aidan, Alexander, Andrew and Troy participated in the PMEA District Band at South Fayette High School on Jan. 29, 2016 and regional band at Valley High School March 9-11, 2016. Alexander also performed at the PMEA District 1 Orchestra at Upper St. Clair High School on Jan. 9, 2016. Students participated under the direction of Band Director **Brian Scott**. Aidan and junior **Jacob Zak** (trumpet) performed at Duquesne University on Dec. 19, 2015 with the PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz program.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO

MEMBERS OF THE FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA CLUB EARN STATE AWARDS.

### Career & Technical

Pine-Richland High School seniors **Grace Roller** and **Rachel Henry** placed second in management information systems at the Future Business Leaders of America Pennsylvania State Leadership Conference and qualified for nationals under the direction of Sponsor **Laura Blazé**. Senior **Kyle Hoogstraten**, who also qualified for nationals, placed second in sales. Other top 10 finishers at states included: junior **Nick Montanari** (fifth place in accounting), sophomore **GillianGrace Brachocki** (ninth place in introduction to business procedures) and sophomore **Holly Holmes** (10th in ethics). Senior **Rachel Henry** also placed seventh in fashion marketing. More than 30 students qualified for states. See a complete list of student qualifiers by visiting [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras).

PRHS Senior **Kyrra Bosland** earned second place in the advertising design category at the SkillsUSA Competition on April 15, 2016 in Hershey, Pa. SkillsUSA is a national student organization that develops employability, participatory and leadership skills to complement the occupational skills developed by students in technical education classrooms or work-based learning sites.

Senior **Sydney Sherman** placed second in the Phipps Conservatory Fairfield Visual Arts Challenge and qualified for the global competition for a comic strip she created for the Environmental Change Comic Strip Competition through the AW Beattie Center.

Senior **Jane Schwab** earned a silver medal in the baking category at the Pennsylvania Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Leadership Conference on March 16-18, 2016 at the Eisenhower Complex in Gettysburg, Pa. She competed under the direction of the AW Beattie Career Center.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth grader **Mary Fannie** took top honors with her Savory Quinoa Bites in the Sodexo 2016 Future Chefs Challenge. She participated in a chef show-down on March 16 with five other Eden Hall Upper Elementary finalists, who included sixth graders **Norah Carter, Aidan Daquelente, Stella Fannie, Ethan Sullivan** and fifth grader **Julia Phillips**.

Did we miss an important recognition item? Please email information to [rhathorn@pinerichland.org](mailto:rhathorn@pinerichland.org).



## Forensics

PHOTO BY MARC SORACCO



The Pine-Richland High School Forensics Team took home top honors following the state tournament held at Susquehanna University April 7-9, 2016 under the direction of Teacher **Jeff Byko** and assistant coaches **Barbara Bastianini** and **Cara Bastianini**. PR had two of the top 10 poetry interpretation performers in the state with junior **Rachael Weinberg** taking third at the competition and senior **Leann Klingensmith** placing eighth. In the Impromptu competition, sophomore **Benjamin Martin** earned honors for placing ninth. In the Radio Announcing category, sophomore **Alyssa Bigley** placed 15th out of more than 80 participants. For details on students qualifying for states visit [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras).

STUDENTS EARN TOP AWARDS AT THE STATE FORENSICS COMPETITION.

## History & Geography

Pine-Richland Middle School eighth graders earned top awards at the Pittsburgh National History Day hosted at the Heinz History Center March 5-6, 2016 and qualified for the state competition. Second place winners included **Olivia McGeary** (performance) and **Molly Gaffey** (documentary) and group members **Alice Kimmel**, **Chalondra Clarke** and **Isabella Boyd** (website) and group members **Kaitlyn Newport** and **Sedona Rocher** (documentary). Third place winners included group members **Kang Young Kim**, **Alessandro Phillips**, **Aidan Pavlick** and **Christopher Anderson** (documentary) and group members **Hayden Unitas**, **Lindsay Holland**, **Zoe Farrar** and **Josey Brashear** (website). Teachers **Eric Brown** and **Joseph Bailey** oversaw student participation in the program.



STUDENTS EARN AWARDS IN THE PITTSBURGH HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

PRMS eighth grader **Daniel Krill** placed fourth at the Pennsylvania National Geographic State Bee on April 1, 2016. He earned first place at the PRMS Annual Geographic Bee. Seventh grader **Samuel Stella** placed second and eighth grader **Aidan McGee** placed third.

## Leadership & Community Service

Pine-Richland High School sophomore **Jessica Lott** earned the FBI National Academy of Associates Reward of Achievement. She traveled to the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia to spend eight days learning about leadership and physical fitness. FBI Special Agent **Brad Orsini** and Lt. **David Lane**, of the FBI National Academy Associates, presented her with the award. In 2015, senior **Joseph Clark** was selected to attend a future FBI agents program at the academy. He was only one of four students chosen. Joseph received a four-year scholarship to attend Virginia Tech, where he attends a summer cadet program.

PRHS junior **Richard Young Heon Kwon** was selected as the winner of the Outstanding Asian American Student Award's Highest Honor. Junior **Arushi Bandhi** was selected as the winner of the Outstanding Asian American Student Award. Both were honored May 20, 2016 at a special awards program.

PRHS senior **Matthew Lacek** was selected as a Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Elite Top 100 Awardee. Family, friends, teachers and school officials nominate students based on their exemplary character, academic achievements, leadership and community service.

The PRHS Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Team earned a silver banner through the Jefferson Awards Foundation. The team presented their Positive Impact Project to a panel of judges on April 9, 2016. Peer-to-Peer sponsor **Leslie Straub** says the team of students included ninth graders **Alex Swartout** and **Gregory Shulkosky**, sophomore **Logan Pachavis**, juniors **Abigail Hinson** and **Jillian Siegal** and seniors **Emefa Akwayena** and **Joshua Siegal**.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CADETS HOST A DRILL COMPETITION AND EARN TOP AWARDS IN 2015-2016.



**“Sometimes things happen to you that you never expected. Cancer interrupts lives. The outpouring of good wishes and kindness of Eden Hall helped me through the months. You never know how kindness will impact someone. Your kindness has impacted me.”**

— *Library Assistant Mary Ann Graham, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School*

The PRHS AFJROTC program has been earning top honors throughout the year at drill competitions. Most recently, the cadets hosted a drill on May 14, 2016 under the direction of Chief **Michael Gasparetto** and Major **Michael Morrison**. PRHS earned first place overall under the direction of junior **Caleb Mlakar** and sophomore **Jack Shannon**; in the inspection team category commanded by junior **Alexander Hein**; in the academic category led by senior **Alexander Schmidt**; in the unarmed exhibition category led by senior **Jacob Cunningham**, and in first-year color guard category commanded by **Lillian Nicotra**; and in the advanced unarmed drill teams category (tie) commanded by **Jack Shannon** and **Cara Sauers**. In addition to Alexander and Jack, other cadets led their team to first-place awards at Parkersburg South High School including junior **Trevor Russell** and at Northern Allegheny under the direction of sophomores **Aislinn Tobin**, **Eric Clark** and junior **Alexander Schmidt**.



EHUE LIBRARY ASSISTANT MARY ANN GRAHAM IS SHOWN HERE WITH SIXTH GRADERS DAVID DEFRANCIS AND COLE BOYD WHO DIRECTED A FUNDRAISING PROJECT.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth graders **Cole Boyd** and **David DeFrancis**' project for the National Breast Cancer Foundation was voted winner in the annual fundraising challenge. Once selected, the entire school rallied around the cause. The projects touched the lives of the students, because Library Assistant **Mary Ann Graham** has been battling breast cancer. "Sometimes things happen to you that you never expected," Ms. Graham said. "Cancer interrupts lives. The outpouring of good wishes and kindness of Eden Hall helped me through the months. You never know how kindness will impact someone. Your kindness has impacted me." Read more on how the school raised \$3,000 in the challenge at [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras).



STUDENTS EARN AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2016 MUSICAL PRODUCTION "THE MUSIC MAN," WHICH INVOLVED THE HELP OF HUNDREDS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON STAGE AND BEHIND THE SCENES.

PHOTO COURTESY KEVIN CHAN

## Musical Theater & Film

Pine-Richland High School earned four nominations in the 26th annual Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater for its production "The Music Man," under the leadership of Director **Jim Scriven**. The school earned nominations for execution of direction, lead actor (**Rush Hodgkin** portraying Harold Hill), best musical (budget level III), best costume design, (budget level III) and scenic design (budget Level III).

PRHS ninth grader **Emily Stephen**, sophomore **Marc Cheetham** and junior **Jacob Pedersen** earned honorable mentions on Feb. 4, 2016 in the 2016 Pittsburgh Public Theater Shakespeare Monologue Contest, under the direction of Teacher **Michelle Bruno**.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School sixth grader **Geneva Doughty** earned first place in the animation category at the PA Regional Middle School Computer Fair on May 16, 2016 at the Carnegie Science Center, under the direction of Media Services Coordinator **William Clack** and teachers **Jennifer Kopach** and **Joanna Sovek**.

Five first-place awards were given out in the 2016 Rammy Awards program under the direction of Media Services Coordinator **William Clack**. Local filmmakers, professors and broadcast journalists awarded PRHS sophomore **Austin Shaw** first place in the editing category, EHUE sixth grader **Geneva Doughty**



first place in the directing and best in show award categories, 2013 Graduate **Elizabeth DeVale** first place in the at-large category and sixth grader **Reid Duncan** first in the audience choice category.

PRHS senior **Kristopher Ansell** and junior **Christian Dyni** earned an award of excellence in the video as an art category and senior **Elliot Clay** earned an award of excellence in the commercial category as well as the founders award at the 2016 Digital Media Arts Consortium Awards program at Robert Morris University on April 7, 2016 under the direction of Teacher **Aaron Koehler**. In all 200 entries were submitted in this year's program.

POPULARITY OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION IS GROWING EACH YEAR. PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE STUDENTS, WHO HELPED STAGE THE PRODUCTION "ANNIE," TAKE TIME FOR A PHOTOGRAPH.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

STUDENTS BRING HOME A FIRST-PLACE WIN FROM THE NATIONAL ROBOTICS LEAGUE COMPETITION.



### Science & Technology

Pine-Richland High School earned a first-place, grand champion award out of 63 other teams at the National Robotics League Competition on May 21, 2016 at California University of Pennsylvania, under the direction of Teacher **Evan Clark**. Seniors **Jacob Reuter**, **Sam Schoone** and **Christopher Lang**, juniors **Ryan Schonbachler** and **Rachel Jarman** and sophomore **James Baxter** represented PRHS at the Bots IQ Competition.



ARUSHI BANDI

PRHS junior **Arushi Bandi** has been selected to participate in the 2016 Pennsylvania Governor's School for Science. In addition, Arushi earned the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. She is only one of 35 across the country to earn this award.

Several PRHS students earned top awards at the 38th Annual PA State Technology Student Association (TSA) Competition held at Seven Springs, Pa. from April 13-16, 2016, under the direction of Teacher **Evan Clark**. PRHS seniors **Chris Lang** and **Jacob Reuter** and junior **Tanner Zang** took first place in the R/C off-road racing category. Sophomore **James Baxter** earned third place in the CAD 3D Engineering category. Students earned awards at the regional competition as well. To see a complete list visit: [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras) for details.

PRHS took first place out of 20 teams at the Southwestern PA Bots IQ Prelims on March 10 at Butler County Community College and competed at the regionals on April 8-9, 2016. Competing students included seniors **Brendan Heatherington**, **Drew Gallis**, **Evan Gallis**, **Christopher Lang** and **Samuel Schoone**, juniors **Rachel Jarman** and **Ryan Schonbachler** and sophomore **James Baxter**.

PRHS students earned awards at the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which was held April 1-2, 2016 at the Heinz Field and Carnegie Science Center, under the direction of PRHS Teacher **Ron Schmiedel**. Ninth grader **Arjan Guglani** earned first place in the senior division in computer science and math. In addition to first place, he earned a Naval science award and US Air Force award. Sophomore **Chelsea Carver** earned third place in computer science and a sponsor award. In addition, ninth grader **Devin Golla** earned a sponsor award.

The University of Pittsburgh named senior **Hannah Reiling** only one of 10 Nordenberg Scholars for 2016. Selected seniors are awarded full tuition, three years of paid internships and tuition for study abroad opportunities. This is the second year in a row that a PRHS senior was chosen for this award.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary fourth grader **Udbhav Akolkar** and fifth graders **Owen Anderson**, **Joseph DeRenzo**, **Benjamin Tamburri** and **Cameron Tino** earned second place for their project presentation on

electronics recycling and 10th place for their robot performance in the fourth through eighth grade level at the Western PA First Lego League Grand Championship on Jan. 9, 2016 at La Roche College. Parents **Erik** and **Kiera Anderson** said the students wrote complex programs, built an effective robot, researched and presented their findings, ideas and solutions about electronics recycling.

Sophomore **Chelsea Carver**, who recently earned a Girl Scout gold award for her community service in creating five gardens at North Park, participated in a TEDx project, in which speakers dialogue about various topics of interest. She was invited to be a keynote speaker for the Browning School and spoke about her love for science.

PRHS earned first place in the 10th Annual High School Science Bowl Competition at Robert Morris University on Nov. 7, 2015, under the direction of Teacher **Brittany Pikur**. The team was made up of junior **Trevor Russell**, sophomores **Benjamin Cohen** and **Bruce Jia** and freshman **Arjan Guglani**.



SOPHOMORE CHELSEA CARVER SHARES HER LOVE OF SCIENCE AND GARDENING THROUGH SERVICE WORK.

Eden Hall Upper Elementary sixth graders shared their architectural designs with a panel of experts on April 5, 2016. Students were challenged to repurpose unused space (garage) found on neighboring Chatham University's Eden Hall Campus in a sustainable and meaningful way to better serve the community. The winning project was created by sixth graders **Riley Doyle**, **Matthew Farmer**, **Rohan Shah** and **Carolyn Williams**.

## Special Awards

The Pennsylvania Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Inc. honored the Pine-Richland Middle School Department of Family & Consumer Sciences with a 2016 Award of Excellence. Teachers **Erika Graham** and **Maria Klingenberg** accepted the award on behalf of the department on April 9, 2016 in Indiana, Pa. The purpose of the award is to identify and recognize outstanding educational programs, methods, techniques and activities integrated into the curriculum that provide visibility to family and consumer sciences.



TEACHERS ERIKA GRAHAM AND MARIA KLINGENBERG ACCEPT A STATE AWARD FOR THEIR DEPARTMENT'S WORK.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

High school can be quite busy for some students, but imagine juggling cheerleading duties and band duties during an already busy school year. That's just what one student did. Pine-Richland High School senior **Elizabeth McMurry** has been cheering competitively since second grade. That has always been her first



ELIZABETH MCMURRY

love, but then she discovered band in middle school. "I joined the band and was asked to play the tuba and become one of the 'world famous' dancing tuba girls in middle school," she said. "It was the greatest, and I met so many friends in the band. When I got to high school, our band director made it a point to have a meeting and tell all the freshmen families that there was no reason why students couldn't be in a sport and still be in the marching band."

That's no easy feat and is very rare to be both a cheerleader and in the band. There have only been a few students over the years that tried juggling the two. In fact, Elizabeth is the only combined PR cheerleader/PR band member to ever perform at every championship venue available to a cheerleader and band member. To read more, visit [www.pinerichland.or/extras](http://www.pinerichland.or/extras).

# ATHLETIC

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Baseball

The PRHS Varsity Baseball Team defeated Gateway High School in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs but were stopped in the second round.

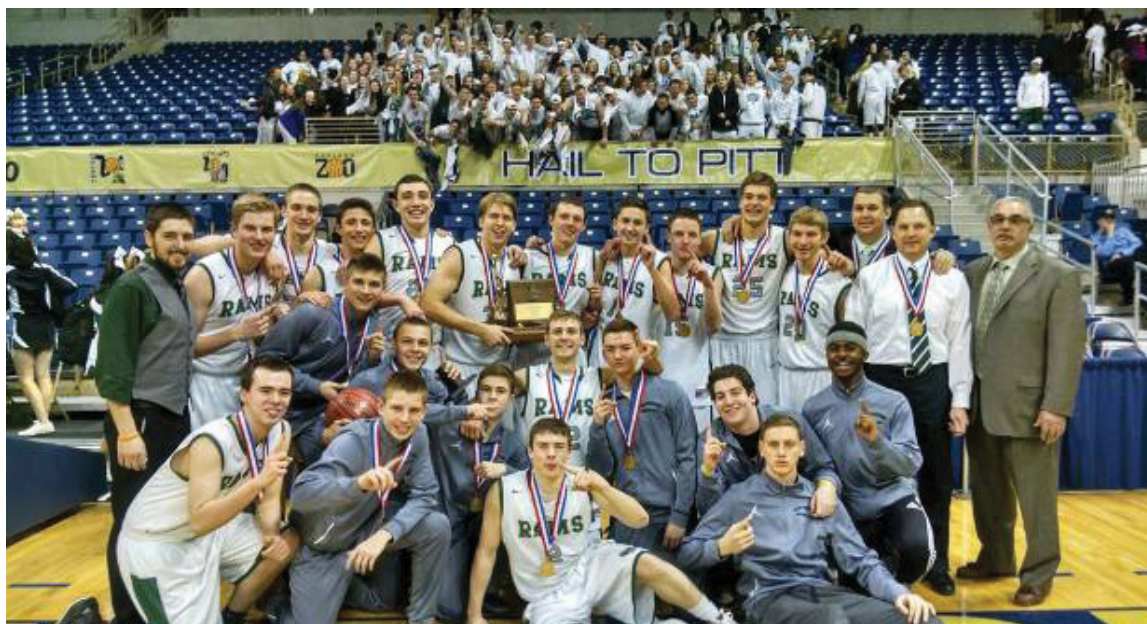
Coach **Kurt Wolfe** was named the WPIAL AAAA Section 2 Coach of the Year and junior **Maxxim**

**Harpalani** and **Tim Laylock** were named WPIAL Section 1 AAAA First Team players.

Pittsburgh and Pine-Richland said goodbye to Pirates second baseman **Neil Walker** as he moved to play with the New York Mets organization. The 2004 PRHS graduate was traded on Dec. 9, 2015.

### Basketball

THE PRHS BOYS TEAM PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PIAA CHAMPIONSHIPS.



CHELSEA ROURKE

The PRHS Girls Basketball Team earned its first PIAA playoff game since 1999 and finished third in the WPIALs. Senior **Chelsea Rourke** was named to the Second All-Section Team and the annual Dapper Dan Game. She signed with Gannon University to play basketball. Juniors **Caitlyn Byerly**

and **Amanda Kalin** were named to the First Team All-Section. Kalin was named a Post-Gazette Fabulous Five, achieved 1,000 career points and achieved a WPIAL record of 43 points in a playoff game. She also was named to the All-State First Team and named the Post-Gazette Female Athlete of the Year.

The PRHS Boys Team made it to the second round of the PIAA Championships after earning the Basketball AAAA WPIAL Championships for the first time in history and named co-champions for section 3. Senior **Andrew Petcash** was named a Post-Gazette Athlete of the Week and was made an offer to play at Army West Point.

The PRMS seventh grade boys basketball team had a record of 29-1.

### Cheerleading

The Pine-Richland High School Competitive Cheerleading team earned eighth place at the PIAA Competitive Spirit Finals. The team placed third both at the WPIAL district and national qualifiers. The team advanced to the semifinal round at the Universal Cheerleading Association National Championships.

## Crew

Rowing his varsity single boat, senior **Benjamin Harris** won a gold medal at the Pittsburgh Sprints and a silver medal at the Midwest Scholastics in Ohio. Rowing a men's JV 4+ boat with junior **Elijah Egyed** as the coxswain, juniors **Maxwell Katich** and **Gavin O'Connor** and sophomores **Christian Oberst** and **Troy Rowlands** earned gold medals at both the Pittsburgh Sprints and Dillon Lake Invitational in Ohio. Rowing a women's varsity 2x boat, senior **Cassidy Oberst** and junior **Taylor Boczar** won a silver medal at the Pittsburgh Sprints. As the final competition of the year, all three teams competed at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America National competition at Dillon Lake in Ohio.



MEN'S JV 4+ CREW MEMBERS EARN MEDALS.

## Cross Country

The PR boys and girls cross-country teams competed in the WPIAL Cross-Country Championships on Nov. 1, 2015 in Slippery Rock, Pa. The boy's team placed 15th and the girls' team 12th. Junior **Gregory Schleicher** qualified for the PIAA State Cross-Country Championships at Hershey Park Nov. 1, 2015 and ran the course in 17 minutes flat, the fastest time in PR history.

## Fencing

The PR Boys Fencing Team won the bronze medal at the high school championships led by starters **Matt Lacek**, **Noah Stewart**, and **Matt Di** and finished the season tied for first place in the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association competition.

The PR Girls Fencing Team, which was led by **Skyla Bruno**, **Camille Patrignani**, and **Martha Lacek**, just missed qualifying for the playoffs to make another bid to earn a championship as the team did in 2015.



THE PR BOYS FENCING TEAM WINS A BRONZE MEDAL.

**“Students can have fun, make lasting friendships, improve self-confidence and self-esteem, learn the value of team, compete on a regional and national basis and experience success. All of our students have an opportunity to compete at their level of ability.”**

— Mr. Kevin Rowlands, PR Crew Booster President

## Field Hockey

Pine-Richland High School Field Hockey advanced to the WPIAL playoffs this year. Senior **Hannah Reiling** and junior **Sammi Pavlecic** were named National Field Hockey Coaches Association Academic All-American players. In addition, Hannah was named Most Positive Field Hockey Athlete in Western Pennsylvania, the FOX 53/ WPNT 22 Friday Night Rivals Scholar Athlete and GetGo Scholar Athlete of the Week. She earned Section 1 Honorable Mention status with Sammi and junior **Chalinda Schleicher**. Sophomores **Sarah Metzmaier** and **Molly Rottinghaus** were named Section 1 All Stars and All WPIAL. Molly was named Post-Gazette North Feature Athlete of the Week. Hannah, Molly, Sammi and Sarah were named PR Scholar Athletes along with seniors **Isabella Bailie** and **Sloane Hudok**; juniors **Kierstin Coup**, **Olivia DeFoggia**, **Kaitlyn Norris**, sophomore **Christy Malcho** and **Sarah Mooney**; ninth graders **Isabelle Foster**, **Meghan McLoughlin**, **Alora Sharron** and **Vivian Cavanaugh**. Varsity Coach **Donna Stephenson** was recognized in January 2016 as the Elixir Sports Equipment & National Field Hockey Coaches Association Junior Hockey Award recipient.



JUNIOR SAMMI PAVLECIC IS FRONT AND CENTER ON THE FIELD.

## ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE PRHS FOOTBALL TEAM ENDS SUCCESSFUL SEASON AND PLAYS IN THE WPIALS.



The Post-Gazette named sophomore **Philip Jurkovec** a North Xtra Player of the Year. Along with Philip, seniors **Anthony Battaglia**, **Zachary Lemirande**, **James Graf** and **Matthew Hampson** and junior **Ryan Duran** and sophomore **Philip Jurkovec** were named to the All-Conference First Team.

Senior **Antonino Battaglia** signed with the United States Military Academy at West Point. Senior **Donny Bryant** signed with Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. Senior **Jacob Gill** signed with Duquesne University. Senior **Matthew Hampson** signed with Princeton University. Senior **Thomas Jurkovec** signed with Duquesne University. Senior **James Willard** signed with Slippery Rock University. Sophomore **Philip Jurkovec** made a commitment to play at Notre Dame. Philip and Matthew were named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Fabulous 22 roster.



FOOTBALL PLAYERS SIGN TO PLAY BALL AT THE COLLEGIATE LEVEL.

### Football

Next year's football season will kick off via ESPN. The PRHS Football Team will take on St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio on Aug. 27, 2016. The game will be televised live on ESPN.

The team made it to the WPIAL AAAA Semifinals and were stopped when Penn Trafford scored a touchdown for a final score of 38-34 with only 52 seconds left in the game. The team earned the Northern Eight Section Championship.

### Golf

Ninth grader **Lauren Freyvogel** earned her biggest career win at the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour Boar's Head Inn Classic at the University of Virginia. She earned seventh at the PIAAs at the Heritage Hills Golf Course, sixth at the Western Regional Finals at Toms Run Golf Course and the WPIAL AAA Section 4 Championship at the Pittsburgh Field Club Golf Course.

The PRHS Boys Varsity Golf Team finished the season 8-2 in section play and earned the section championship and finished 13-3 overall. The team qualified for the WPIAL Team Championships. Seniors **Austin Matz** and **Nate Riley** were WPIAL individual finalists.

Senior **Christopher Rust** was named an Esmark High School All-American Athlete for his outstanding achievements in athletics, academics and community service.



LAUREN FREYVOGEL





## Hockey

Seniors **Nate Carnovale**, **Matthew Cole** and **Jack Drury** were named to the PIHL AAA All-Star Team. For the first time in the 23-year history, the PRHS Team won the St. Margaret Fall Face-Off Tournament (4-0).

Columbus Blue Jackets and former student **Brandon Saad**, forward, was among 16 players selected to represent Team North America at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey to be held Sept. 17 to Oct. 1, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario.

## Karate

The Pennsylvania Shotokan Karate Club sent a team of 16 athletes to compete in the US National Championships and Team Trials in Fort Lauderdale. Sophomore **Sarah Krahanke** won a silver medal in the event Kata and gold medal in the event Kumite.

## Lacrosse

The PRHS Girls Varsity Team earned the section championship title for the first time since 2012 when they beat Peters Township in the WPIAL playoffs. They beat Quaker Valley in the WPIAL consolation and played in the PIAA state playoffs. Senior **Maura Flaherty**, junior **Caitlyn Byerly** and sophomore **Marina Miller** were named all-section players. Maura and Marina were named All WPIAL players.

The PRHS Boys Varsity Team earned the Division 1, Section 2 co-championship title (shared with Shady Side Academy) for the first time in program history and beat Upper St. Clair in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs. Senior **Adam Reimer** and juniors **Evan Juncal**, **Thomas Hanulak** and sophomore **Jake Freedlander** were



named All-Section and All-WPIAL players. Adam and Jake were named All-American players. Jake was the first sophomore in WPIAL history to earn the honor. Varsity Offensive Coordinator **Tyler Digby** was named the Lacrosse Division 1 Assistant Coach of the Year.

TOP: PRHS GIRLS LACROSSE  
ABOVE: PRHS BOYS LACROSSE

## Soccer

The PRHS Varsity Girls Soccer Team won the Section AAA Championships and played in the first round of the WPIAL Girls Soccer Championships.

Senior **Shaelyn Parry** signed to play Division 1 soccer at St. Francis University.

Seniors **Jennifer Shulkosky** and **Kylie Manuppelli** and juniors **Chrissy Ciarrocca**, **Amanda Kalin** and **Ingrida Ivaska** were named to the All-Section Team. Kylie, Ingrida and Amanda were named to the All-WPIAL Team and Amanda to the All-State Team.

Senior **Megan Herr** signed a national letter of intent to play soccer at Rutgers University.

The PRHS Boys Soccer Team derailed nationally ranked Kiski Prep School in the finals of the James R. Kennedy Memorial Soccer Tournament at Pine-Richland. Co-MVPs **Matt Thompson** and **Carlo Tozzi** were named WPIAL Section 2 First Team All Stars. The team finished the season with a record-setting nine games that went into overtime. Restructuring of the WPIAL soccer landscape will put the soccer team in the largest classification of AAAA for the 2016 and 2017 seasons.



PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM RAISES MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER.

## ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Softball

Junior **Jacquelyn Langer** was named a WPIAL Section 1 First Team player.

### Swimming & Diving

Junior **Ryan Schonbachler** placed 19th both in the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle at the PIAA Championships PIAA Championships at Bucknell University earning a personal best in the 200. At the WPIALs, he placed seventh in the 20-yard and third in the 500-yard freestyle breaking school records for both. Diver **Mallory Charles**, sophomore, finished third at WPIALs and ninth at the PIAAs, and diver **Madison Huitt**, ninth grader, finished fifth at the WPIALs and 11th at PIAAs. Sophomore diver **Austin Shaw** finished eighth at the WPIALs. The boys team placed 13th and the girls team finished 20th at WPIALs.

### Tennis

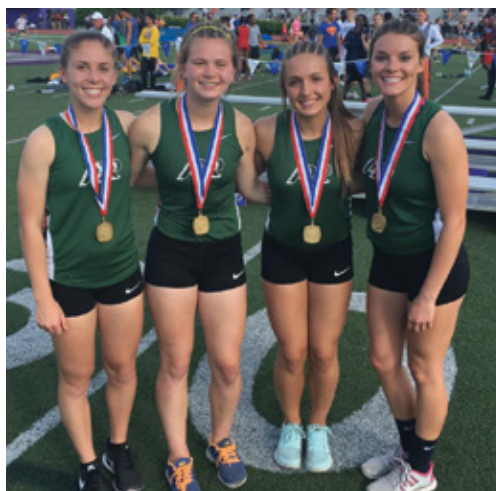
Both the PRHS Girls and Boys Tennis teams participated in the first two rounds of the WPIAL Class AAA Team Tennis Championships. Sophomore **Alice Qian** and junior **Claire Casanova** participated in the first two rounds of the WPIAL Class AAA Girls Doubles Tennis Championships. Claire also participated in the first round of the WPIAL Class AAA Girls Singles Tennis Championships.

Juniors **Benjamin Vinarski** and **Siddhanth Iyer** played in two rounds of the WPIAL Class AAA Boys Doubles Tennis Championships. Benjamin played in three rounds of the Class AAA Boys Singles Tennis Championships and was defeated in a consolation match.

### Track & Field



4 X 400 RELAY



4 X 100 RELAY TEAM



RYAN SCHONBACHLER

The PRHS Varsity & JV Track & Field Team participated in the PIAAs at Shippensburg. While the 4 x 100 Girls Relay, which included seniors **Gabrielle Kreiger** and **Karly Krisby** and sophomores **Jodie Berezo**, **Meghan Briski** and **Mary Montanari** (alternate) and 4x400 Girls Relay, which included Meghan, Gabrielle, Karly and senior **Kylie Manuppelli** and ninth grader **Madison Argiro** (alternate) and junior **Olivia DeFoggia** (alternate) did not advance to the medal round, but ended the season successfully with Kylie breaking a school record. The 4 x 100 earned the WPIAL

Championship, and the Girls 4 x 400 ended seventh in the WPIALs. Junior **Tessa Franchi** placed sixth in the 3200-meter run, and Kylie placed seventh in the 400-meter dash. They all logged school records. Senior **Joseph Kelly** placed second in the pole vault, and senior **David Kelly** placed third at the WPIALs. Senior **Eric Batykefer** placed seventh in the 1600-meter run at the WPIALs. David placed eighth at the PIAA Championship Meet with a vault of 14'9. In addition, Joseph competed in pole vault at the PIAAs. For a list of those who qualified for the WPIALs, visit [www.pinerichland.org/extras](http://www.pinerichland.org/extras).

Eighth grader **Isabella Greco** earned the MVP Track Award at the Butler Invitational and Mars Invitation. This is the first time an athlete earned the award at both. She placed second in the 100-meter dash and first in the 200-meter dash and 4 x 100-meter relay at Butler and first in all three races at Mars.

Seventh grader **Danielle Bryant** competed in two national junior Olympic programs this year. The first was hosted by the USA Track & Field at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. She placed fifth in the 400-Meter. She did her personal best in the semi-finals. She also participated at the Junior Olympics hosted by the Amateur Athletic Union at Norfolk State in Virginia and placed fifth in the 400 and seventh in the 200.

## Volleyball

The PRHS Boys Volleyball Team advanced and played in two rounds of the WPIAL playoffs.

The PR Junior High Girls Volleyball Team won the section championship title.

The PRHS Girls Volleyball Team played in the first round of the WPIAL Class AAA Girls Volleyball Championships.

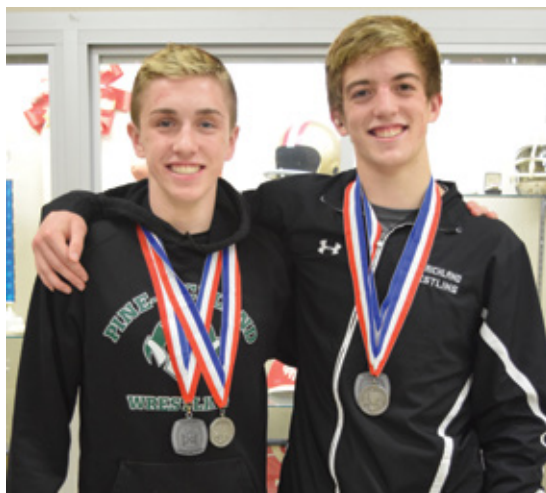
Senior **Bailey Baker** was named to the All-Section First Team. Senior **Lindsey Jacks** and juniors **Nicole Kordenbrock** and **Emily Cottrill** and **Hannah Cottrill** were named to the All-Section Second Team, and senior **Lacey Richwalls** was named to the All-Section Third Team. Bailey and Emily were named to the All-WPIAL Team. In addition, Emily made a verbal commitment to the University of Notre Dame.

## Wrestling

Junior **Hunter Baxter** earned fourth place at the PIAA State Wrestling Championships. He earned second along with senior **David G. Kelly** at the WPIALs. Hunter and David finished first and second respectively at the WPIAL qualifiers along with junior **Brendan Scheller**, who placed second as well, and juniors **Nick Geyer** and **Alex Salas** who both placed third. Hunter placed sixth and junior **Garrett Burnham** eighth at the Powerade Tournament, which is ranked the third toughest tournament in the US.

Hunter is noted as becoming only the fourth wrestler in school history to reach 100+ career wins with yet another season to go, and is fourth all-time for most pins in one season with 20 this season. Alex earned second fastest pin in school history this season with a seven-second pin.

The PRHS junior varsity and varsity teams hosted the annual PR Wrestling Best Buddy Showcase. This year's program was hosted on Feb. 12, 2016. The JV/Varsity wrestling team wrestles with students who are part of the Best Buddies program once a week to teach wrestling skills as well as team building and social interaction skills throughout the year. The Best Buddies then get to show their skills off by wrestling a member of the team during the showcase.



JUNIOR HUNTER BAXTER AND SENIOR DAVID KELLY PARTICIPATE IN THE WPIALS.



PHOTO COURTESY PETER DIANA WITH GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

THE PRHS BEST BUDDIES SHOWCASE PROVES TO BE A SUCCESS THIS YEAR. SENIOR GARRETT GREEN SUCCESSFULLY PINS JUNIOR WRESTLER GARRETT BURNHAM.

# BUDGET & BOARD

## UPDATE

### District Earns Bond Rating Upgrade

Moody's Investors Service recently conducted a bond rating review of the Pine-Richland School District. The underlying bond rating was upgraded on May 6, 2016 to Aa3 from A1. Moody's indicated the upgrade was a result of reserves and liquidity, strong management with conservative practices, and large tax base with modest growth. Additionally, Moody's noted a further upgrade could result with a reduction in debt burden and growth in tax base.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS TELEVISED

The PR School Board regular and planning meetings air on PRTV, which is available on Communications Channel 404 and on Armstrong Cable Channel 211. Visit [www.pinerichland.org](http://www.pinerichland.org) for a listing of the tapings. 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.

### PR Maintains Millage Rate for Third Year in a Row

The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2016-2017 school year with total expenditures of \$80,194,586 and total revenues of \$80,032,341 with a fund balance utilization of \$162,245 for capital improvements. In addition, the board maintained the millage rate and established the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2016-2017:

- Real Estate Tax rate of 19.2083 mills (no increase over 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016)
- 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 few years. Some of them have included:

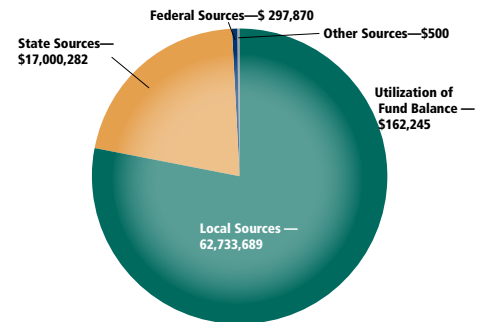
|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alternative Revenue Sources | Parking Fees              |
| Energy Curtailment Program  | Rebates & Commissions     |
| Facility Rental Agreements  | Scoreboard Advertisements |
|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

During 2015-2016, the school district refunded one bond issue which shortened the term 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.

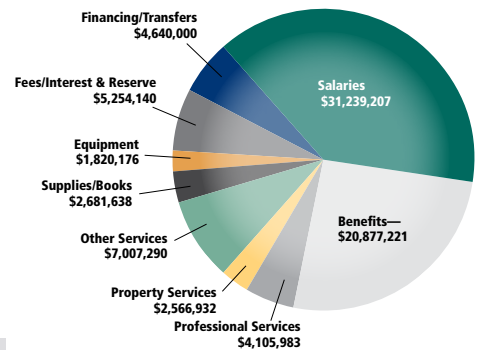
#### INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- 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 \$188.20.

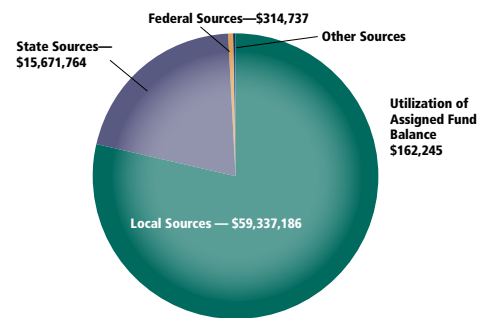
#### 2016-2017 Budgeted Revenue



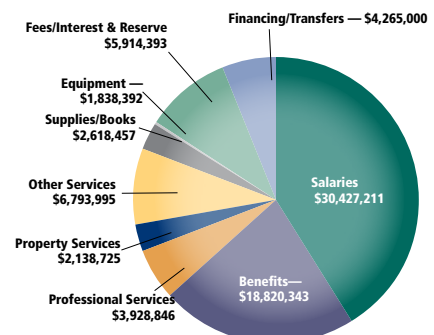
#### 2016-2017 Budgeted Expenditures



#### 2015-2016 Budgeted Revenue



#### 2015-2016 Budgeted Expenditures



- The board approved a property tax rebate program for qualifying senior citizens, widows and widowers for calendar year 2015. If the filer meets the criteria, he or she could see anywhere from \$250-\$650 in tax rebates.

## BUDGET BALANCING ACT IMPACTED BY VARIABLES

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

**Salaries & Wages** – Personnel costs for administration, faculty and support staff represent 65 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 a little more than 30 percent of the salary cost from nearly 26 percent in 2015-2016, which translates to about \$1.5 million (or approximately \$864,500 in increased costs to the district after receiving state funding for retirement contributions) in the 2016-2017 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 2.25 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 \$65,401.

**Tuition Expenditures** – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$675,150 for 2016-2017, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools. None of these costs are reimbursed by the state. For more information on the budget, visit [www.pinerichland.org/budget](http://www.pinerichland.org/budget).

## PR School Board Reorganizes

The Pine-Richland School Board reorganized on December 7, 2015. The board unanimously elected **Dr. Jeffrey Banyas** as president and **Mr. Greg DiTullio** as vice president. The board reorganizes each December. Dr. Banyas served as vice president since 2011 and began serving the board as a director in 2009. Mr. DiTullio has been serving on the board since 2014.

**Mr. Marc Casciani**, who was elected for a two-year and four-year term in Pine Township, announced he would take the four-year seat. Mr. Casciani has been serving on the board since 2012. The board appointed **Mrs. Therese Dawson** to the remaining two-year term. She has been serving on the board since 2007. The board approved **Mr. Dennis Sundo** as treasurer from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. He has been serving on the board since 2005.

On March 14, 2016, the Pine-Richland School Board appointed **Mr. Steven Stegman** to represent Richland Township Region 3. He was appointed to the empty seat vacated by **Mrs. Laura Ohlund**, who served more than four years.

"School board members invest a significant amount of time, energy, and knowledge into the governance of the district," said **Dr. Brian Miller**, superintendent. "On behalf of the administration and staff, I thank Mrs. Ohlund for her service and welcome Mr. Stegman into his new role."

The board convenes for planning meetings on the first Monday of each month and for regular meetings on the third Monday of each month with the exception of September, November and December. The planning meeting is scheduled for Sept. 12, 2016 and the regular meeting on Sept. 26, 2016. In November, the board has combined the planning and regular meeting, which is scheduled for Nov. 14, 2016 and in December on Dec. 12, 2016. The reorganization meeting will be held on Dec. 5, 2016.

This year's committees consist of:

**Academic Achievement:** Chairperson Therese Dawson, Jeffrey Banyas, Holly Johnston & Steven Stegman

**Buildings & Grounds:** Chairperson Greg DiTullio, Jeffrey Banyas, Marc Casciani, & Dennis Sundo

**Finance:** Chairperson Dennis Sundo, Marc Casciani, Greg DiTullio & Peter Lyons

**Operational Services:** Chairperson Peter Lyons, Greg DiTullio, Virginia Goebel & Steven Stegman

**Staff Services:** Chairperson Virginia Goebel, Therese Dawson, Dennis Sundo & Steven Stegman

**Student Services:** Chairperson Holly Johnston, Therese Dawson, Virginia Goebel & Peter Lyons.

Both Dr. Banyas and Mr. Stegman represent PR on the Northern Area Special Purposes Schools Committee (Beattie). Mrs. Dawson serves as the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative representative. Mrs. Johnston serves as a representative to the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund, and Mr. DiTullio represents the district on the Pine Township Parks and Recreation Board.

Mr. Lyons was elected on March 31, 2016 to serve on the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board for 2016-2017.

The district has a very robust communication center for school board meetings. Visit the website and click on the "School Board" tab in the upper banner to view agendas and policies.



MR. STEVEN STEGMAN

### Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Enriches Educational Experiences through Grants & Partnerships



PHOTO BY: PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN MADIA

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is a non-profit educational foundation committed to enriching and investing in the experiences of the Pine-Richland student community through staff grants, student scholarships and community partnerships.

From 2007-2016, PROF awarded nearly \$121,000 in grants to PRSD teachers and \$202,000 in scholarships to deserving seniors.

The foundation consists of community-based trustees including President **Moira Singer**, Vice President **Christine Misback**, Treasurer **Randall King**, Secretary **Deborah Lund** and trustees **Sara Antol, Rachel Berlin, Charles Berry, Chris Cochran, Kate Eyerman, Leanne Finney, Eric Giesecke, Jill Gruber, Susan Hong-Bang, David Jeter, Jim Neill, Monica Nielsen, Terry Pomerleau, Susan Shepard, Stacey Silipo, David Swisher** and School Board Liaison **Holly Johnston**.

PROF ADMINISTERED AND AWARDED \$51,500 TO 26 STUDENTS THROUGH 17 COMMUNITY SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS. TRUSTEES, BENEFACTORS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE 2016 SENIOR AWARDS PROGRAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [WWW.PROF-FUND.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://WWW.PROF-FUND.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS).

### Community Partnerships through EITC Program



Working with community partners, PROF continues to identify opportunities to highlight our students' talents and provide them with real-world experiences. As a recognized organization under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC), participating businesses are able to contribute towards innovative educational programs within Pine-Richland's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) initiative. We expect to grow those opportunities in the coming year.

### Support PROF



Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund



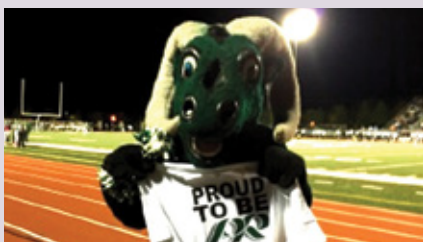
@proudtobe\_PR



Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund



@proudtobe\_PR



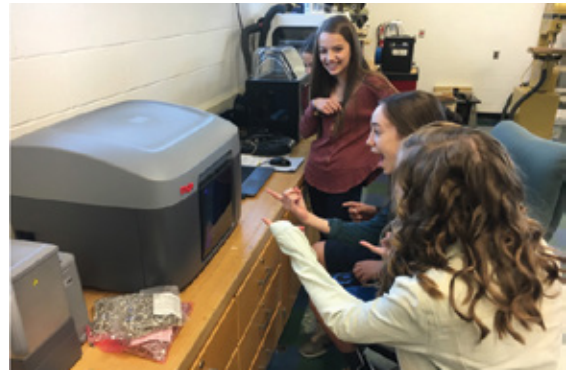
MASCOT SHOWS OFF PROUD TO PR SHIRT.



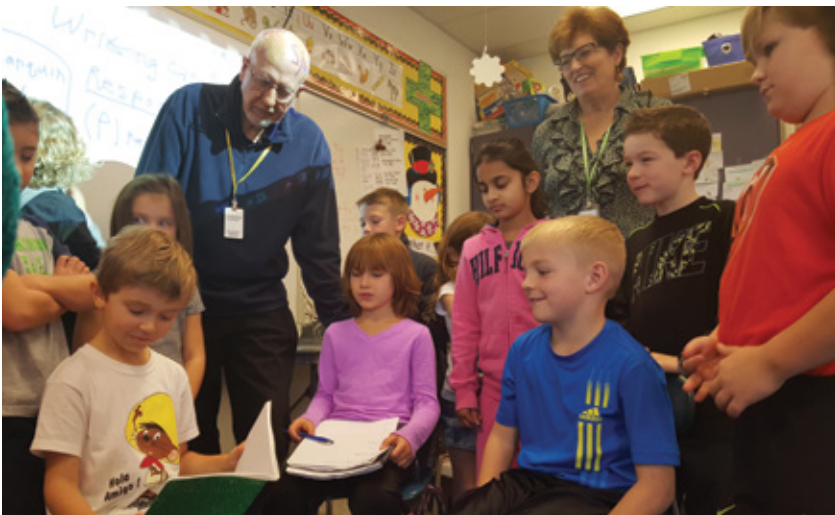
(L-R): CHRIS COCHRAN, LEANNE FINNEY, JILL GRUBER, ETHAN SILIPO, JUSTIN BANG, JIM NEIL, SUSAN HONG-BANG, MONICA NEILSEN, MOIRA SINGER, DEBORAH LUND, AJ SILIPO AND DREW LUND SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR PROF.

## PROF Awards Staff Grants in 2015-2016

Throughout the year, PROF awarded more than \$26,000 in grants to Pine-Richland School District (PRSD) Staff. These grants supported such programs and initiatives as the Eden Hall Visitor Kiosk and Student Learning Garden, Authenticity and Joy of Elementary Writing II for Hance, Richland and Wexford Elementary schools (with support from PRSD), 3D Printer for the Pine-Richland Middle School Technology Education Department, Data Collection Technology for the Pine-Richland High School Science Department, Elementary Makerspace for Wexford Elementary School in collaboration with the Wexford Elementary School PTO and PRSD and Elementary Art Exploration (with support from the Richland Elementary School PTO).



3D PRINTING GRANT



JOY OF WRITING GRANT



ELEMENTARY ART EXPLORATION

Join PROF's campaign, and tell us why you are #PROUDTOBE\_PR. Trustees hosted a #PROUDTOBE\_PR t-shirt toss at Homecoming.



TRUSTEES CHRIS COCHRAN, JILL GRUBER, JIM NEILL, LEANNE FINNEY, DEB LUND AND MOIRA SINGER TOSS OUT PROF SHIRTS.

## How Can You Help?

Interested in more information about future scholarship opportunities, grant updates or how you can contribute to the success of the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund? Please visit [www.prof-fund.org](http://www.prof-fund.org). PROF's United Way Donor Option number is 921848. Companies who wish to support PROF may also be eligible for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC).

## Graduate Making Mark in Film, TV &amp; Multimedia Industries



Imagine working with American Movie Classics' (AMC's) *Breaking Bad* actor Aaron Paul, actor Tom Cruise and Marvel Comic writer Paul Jenkins just to name a few. These are just some of the professionals 1989 Richland High School graduate **Sean Freeland** has spent time with over the course of his acting and production career.

"I get to work with some pretty decent people in the industry," Freeland said.

Freeland is collaborating to help open one of the largest multimedia facilities to date, which is located near Atlanta, Ga. in Norcross. Freeland has teamed up with Paul Jenkins, who has been creating, writing and building franchises for more than 20 years in the graphic novel, film, animation and video game industries.

Together they have created Meta Studios, a cross media production company that is helping assist The Jacoby Group; which focuses on real estate, energy, biotechnology, media and education with an emphasis on sustaining the environment.

The multimedia facility, unofficially known as Atlanta Media Campus, covers two-million square feet and is being inhabited by some of the top filmmakers, game developers, comic and book publisher and technology innovators

in the industry. While the final plans are being worked out, the facility has already hosted a multitude of film and television shows including *Furious 7*, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay*, *Captain America: Civil War* and *Cruise's Mena*.

Meta Studios mission is to "design and nurture an environment for projects to be developed across multiple media, thus maximizing the potential of any piece of intellectual property."

Meta Studios is also hoping to align with a number of regional universities to help educate and retain college graduates. Students from high schools and universities across the region will be able to work on professional projects to provide hands-on education that will produce valuable credits and experience that cannot be found elsewhere.

Interestingly, Freeland's new project will combine entertainment with education, not surprising since his father was a musician and his mother a teacher. Some of Freeland's acting projects have included ABC's *Nashville*, NBC's *Constantine*, CBS's *The Inspectors* and *Shadow*, a film to be released in 2016.

You can follow Freeland on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Freelandacting](http://www.facebook.com/Freelandacting) and also find out more information on Meta Studios at [metastudios.com](http://metastudios.com).

## Grad Plays in US Open



2005 graduate Mike Van Sickle was among the final members chosen to join 156 players at the US Open Golf Tournament. He played the first two days of the open, didn't make the cut, but was the only local to qualify. He finished 16 over par.

## PRHS Grad &amp; Soccer Star Named to Olympic Roster

2007 Pine-Richland High School graduate and soccer player **Meghan Klingenberg** was added to the US Women's Olympic Soccer Team roster on July 12, 2016. This year she was also named Sportswoman of the Year at the 80th annual Dapper Dan Awards program. In August of 2015, members from the Pine-Richland community and district cheered on the graduate as she was honored by Mayor Bill Peduto in Downtown Pittsburgh. She has played the last two National Women's Soccer League with the Houston Dash.





## Grad Finishes Documentary Film on Women in Military

1990 Richland High School Graduate **Julie Hera DeStefano** has recently finalized a feature-length documentary, "Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home" and seeking distribution of the film. She was invited by a medical task force to spend four months with the US Military in Afghanistan. She spent time filming and interviewing more than 100 women about their experiences in the military, their lives back home and what they envisioned for their transition home.

On Dec. 6, 2015, she was the keynote speaker at the American Legion Post 548 Pearl Harbor Tribute program, which highlights those still serving and all veterans, prisoners of war and those missing in action. She told the American Legion Post 548 and their families that we need to support all veterans.

"We must move toward a more comprehensive understanding and appreciation for veterans' experiences and support them in a way that

recognizes and fosters their innate inner resiliency," Ms. DeStefano said. "We want to put a face on service. We want to demystify the American veteran by revealing the human behind the uniform. We are currently sharing experiences of female veterans. However, we frequently see their stories resonate with veterans of all eras, women as well as men."

DeStefano has been invited across the nation to speak about the deployment and reintegration experiences of women veterans and leads Journey to Normal, Inc., a charitable 501c3 organization. Journey to Normal, Inc. exists to advance its mission of sharing the stories of women in service, creating a network of connection for them, educating the public about them, and providing media and research materials for those who serve them. Each year, the American Legion hosts the tribute to veterans under the direction of Post Commander **Jerry Gogolin, Jack Gabor** and **Robert Schleiden**.



## Grad Provides Behind Scenes Wizardry for Universal Studios

2006 Pine-Richland High School graduate **Ben Clark** has been working as a special effects and ride engineer at Universal Creative in Florida. He spent several years collaborating with the artists, designers, architects, engineers, and a construction team at Universal Creative to bring the Wizarding World of Harry Potter: Diagon Alley to life.

"I had a crash course in theme park design and engineering as I managed about three dozen or so third party companies over the course of the project," he said. "My responsibilities included the special effects for Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringott's, Diagon Alley, and the Hogwart's Express, and the dragon which sits atop Gringott's Bank in Diagon Alley."

Mr. Clark graduated from Penn State University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical design and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre production and design, with an emphasis in lighting design.



ENGINEER JOSEPH MAIKISCH HOISTS UP 2006 PRHS GRADUATE BEN CLARK, WHO WORKS HIS MAGIC AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IN FLORIDA.

## Grad Named Outstanding Scholar



2012 GRADUATE EVAN KLEI (FAR LEFT) ACCEPTS AN AWARD WITH MRS. VALERIE KLOSKY (CENTER) AND DR. WILLIAM W. DESTLER, PRESIDENT OF RIT.

2012 Pine-Richland High School graduate **Evan Klei** was among 117 college students whose academic and personal achievements have made them this year's Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he graduated this year. The students were given bronze medallions during a ceremony on April 7, 2016 for their outstanding academic work and community engagement whether it be creative work, serving on student committees, participating in civic activities, working and/or conducting independent research.

In addition, the honorees were allowed to nominate a high school teacher who had an impact on his or her academic career. Evan chose Teacher **Valerie Klosky** for this honor. Mrs. Klosky was Evan's computer science teacher at PR and helped him develop his computer skills.

Evan earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in computer science with a minor in statistics from RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

## Grad Earns Recognition at Cannes Film Festival

2014 Pine-Richland High School graduate **David Randolph**'s short film was featured at the Cannes Film Festival, which was held May 11-22, 2016 in Cannes, France. The annual festival previews new films of all genres from around the world. The highly publicized festival is considered the most prestigious film events in the world. David's five-minute film feature was produced in January of 2016 and is entitled AVA. The drama about a young girl diagnosed with a deadly disease, and how it affects those who love her most.

The grad was only a freshman in college when he landed an internship at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. He was part of the Young Filmmakers Program as a producer. His film professor at Point Park University said it is rare for a freshman to be selected. You may remember in 2014, David directed the "Best Day of My Life" lip dub. He organized students, staff and administrators to participate in the one-take video to a popular song.

David is attending Point Park University and will be a junior this fall.



PHOTO COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHER CHLOE JAKIELA

If you are a graduate of Pine-Richland School District, we want to hear from you. Contact the district by emailing [alumni@pinerichland.org](mailto:alumni@pinerichland.org) to share your accomplishments with us. You can also sign up to stay in contact with the district by visiting [www.pinerichland.org/alumni](http://www.pinerichland.org/alumni).

## REUNION NOTICES

### Class of 1966 Planning 50th Reunion

Richland High School Class of 1966 is hosting its 50th reunion. Activities will kick off on Sept. 23, 2016, with a golf outing at the Pittsburgh North Golf Course. Later at 7:30 p.m., there will be a home football game as Pine-Richland takes on Bethel Park. A buffet dinner at the Treesdale Country Club will follow on Sept. 24, 2016. The festivities will wrap-up on Sept. 25, 2016 at Narcisi's, located at 4578 Gibsonia Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044. Contact **Kathy McCloskey Rezzetano** at [rlrezz@zoominternet.net](mailto:rlrezz@zoominternet.net) or **Richard Altenbaugh** at [richard.altenbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:richard.altenbaugh@gmail.com) for more information.

# ANNUAL NOTICES

## Free & Appropriate Public Education

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 provides a free and appropriate public education for all students including students requiring special education services. This includes provision of education and related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to afford each qualified student with a disability equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits from educational programs and extracurricular activities without discrimination, to the same extent as each student without a disability, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

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

### > Attendance

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

### > Public Outreach & Awareness System (Child Find)

Pine-Richland 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](http://www.pinerichland.org/annualnotices) for more details about the above services and the following:

- Education for Homeless Youth
- English as a Second Language Instruction
- Federal Programs Title I
- Free and Reduced Lunch
- Gifted Education Services & Screening & Evaluation
- Homebound Instruction
- Independent Educational Evaluations
- Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
- Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records
- Protected Handicapped Students: Chapter 15
- Right to Know Act
- Screening, Evaluation & Placement Procedures
- Services for Preschool Age Children with Disabilities
- Services for School Age Exceptional Children
- Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools
- Special Notice Regarding Directory Information

## > 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, 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 x 6201 or Fax: 724-625-1490.

### > Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response

The board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and school community. The district's Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response Policy supports federal, state and local efforts to provide education on youth suicide awareness and prevention; to establish methods of prevention, intervention, and response to suicide or suicide attempt; and to promote access to suicide awareness and prevention resources. The district shall utilize a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention which integrates school and community-based supports. To review this policy and resources, visit [www.pinerichland.org/suicidepolicy](http://www.pinerichland.org/suicidepolicy).

Some recent initiatives around this topic have included implementing Student Assistance Teams in Eden Hall and the primary schools, revising the district's protocol to use for the assessment of suicide ideation and threat, implementing pupil services teams in all six schools, making classroom presentations at the high school level for being responsible reporters, approving a suicide awareness policy, implementing school-based mental health. Most recently the district hosted a suicide awareness workshop entitled "Protective Factors, Risk Factors & Warning Signs" for parents.

Please look for announcements about future meetings and/or evening presentations.

### > Pine-Richland Discipline Code

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

## > Surveillance Cameras & Audio Recording

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). If audio recording is being used on a district transportation vehicle, a notice indicating that such recording may occur will be placed within the vehicle.

### > Photograph & Videotaping Notice

Periodically, the Pine-Richland School District publishes photos of students in: newsletters, calendars, handbooks and brochures. The district also publishes photos electronically (via website) and in video productions (PRTV). In addition, the local media will photograph or videotape students. If you give the district permission to use your child's photo or video of your child, do nothing. However, if you do not wish your child to appear in video or photographs, please visit [www.pinerichland.org/photo](http://www.pinerichland.org/photo) for details on submitting your wishes no later than September 15.

### > Acceptable Use of Technology

The PR School Board supports use of the internet, computers and other technologies in the district in order to facilitate learning and teaching through interpersonal communications and access to information, research and collaboration. The use of the district's Internet service and all district-provided computers, computer networks, servers, hardware, software, telephone and voicemail systems, e-mail accounts, and all other technology facilities (collectively, "technologies") shall be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the school district, as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of students. In addition, all students, district employees and third parties who use district technologies shall be required to comply at all times with the requirements set forth in Policy 815 and Policy 815.1.

### > Pest Management Procedures

PRSD uses an Integrated Pest Management approach for managing insects, rodents and weeds. Our goal is to protect staff and students from pesticide exposure by using an IPM approach to pest management. Our approach focuses on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. If it is necessary to use pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency to manage a pest problem, the pesticide will only be used as needed and will not be routinely applied. When a pesticide is necessary, the least toxic, most effective product will be used. Applications will be made only when unauthorized persons do not have access to the area being treated. Notices will be posted in these areas 72 hours prior to application and for two days following the application. For more information, contact Director of Facilities, who serves as the district's IPM coordinator at 724-625-7773, ext. 6750.



# PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Elementary Schools Focus on Reading & Writing



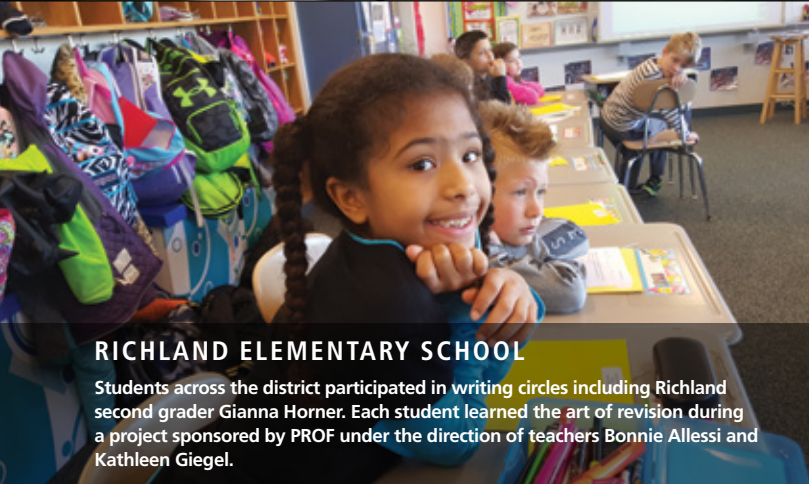
### EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Principal Steven Smith is shown here with students as they kick off the One Book, One School reading project that embraces the love of reading and encouraged a community of readers.



### HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Singer Jackie Evancho visited her alma mater to tout the importance of reading for all during Read Across America Week and Caught Me Reading programs.



### RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students across the district participated in writing circles including Richland second grader Gianna Horner. Each student learned the art of revision during a project sponsored by PROF under the direction of teachers Bonnie Alessi and Kathleen Giegel.



### WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Reading became a mission to help others during the annual Read to Feed program at Wexford Elementary School. Students, staff, parents and community members raised more than \$11,850. PNC Bank matched the contributions bringing the amount to a record \$23,700.