



2022-2023 School Budget Passes

Thank you to PCSD community members for your support and vote during this year's School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election on May 17, 2022.

The results are as follows: **Total Voters:** 3,466

Budget: \$149,598,788, within the tax cap
Yes: 2,419 No: 998

Proposition 1: Purchase 12 Replacement Buses from Bus Purchase Capital Reserve Fund
Yes: 2,726 No: 686

Proposition 2: 1:1 Device Purchases with Capital Technology Reserve
Yes: 2,753 No: 661

Board of Education: Two Seats, Four Candidates

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Nancy Clifford Lewis | 955 votes |
| • David Berk | 1,534 votes |
| • Emily Kay | 1,937 votes |
| • Tricia González-Johnson | 1,333 votes |

Celebrating Students, Staff and Families



As Pittsford Central School District's 75th Anniversary school year draws to a close, I celebrate our students, staff and families who work hard to make our schools a place where education is valued, continuous improvement is a core principle and students feel supported at every level. In this newsletter, I often share the numerous accolades our District, schools and students receive throughout the year, and those accolades can easily be taken for granted. However, behind every achievement, award and recognition are the students who learn in the classrooms of our schools,

perform in our auditoriums and compete on our athletic fields. While students are transitioning from youth to adulthood and learning how to navigate the winding path of life filled with both expected and unexpected moments, they are also achieving amazing things.

It is not a happy accident that Pittsford is consistently named the number one school district among Rochester-area schools, or that its high schools are in the top 2% in the nation, or that all varsity athletic teams have been named scholar-athlete teams season after season. It is also not luck that our students and schools consistently earn awards and accolades in the fields of math, science, English, art, music, business and more. When I reflect on these achievements, it is not the awards I celebrate. It is the students, families and staff members that came together to make these achievements possible that I celebrate.

I often speak of our District's mission to "work collaboratively to inspire and prepare our students to be their best, do their best and make a difference in the lives of others." Equally important is the difference that is made in the lives of the students who have worked so hard to achieve their goals. The path from kindergarten to graduation is not an easy one. I applaud each and every one of our students who have walked that path, supported one another along the way and recognized that success comes in many forms. Congratulations to all on another successful school year!

Pittsford High Schools Among the Best 100 Schools Teaching Personal Finance

Pittsford Mendon and Sutherland High Schools have been recognized for excellence in teaching personal finance and are among the "100 Best W!se High Schools" teaching personal finance. The "100 Best W!se High Schools" national ranking recognizes the top 100 performing high schools in W!se's national network and is the first and only national ranking in high school financial education.

Kindergarten Registration

To be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year, children must be five years old by December 1, 2022. To register your Kindergarten-age child, please access the required registration forms by visiting the Department of Student Services page of the District website at www.pittsfordschools.org and selecting the "Registration, Enrollment and Records" link.

Kindergarten screening will be offered during the summer as needed. To schedule your child for screening, please call the Assessment Clerk at 585-267-1022. Kindergarten Screening is mandated by New York State and assesses children in the areas of motor skills, concepts such as counting/object naming skills, and language skills.

Shi and Feng Named Presidential Scholar Semifinalists

Congratulations to Joyce Shi (MHS) and Amy Feng (SHS) who were named semifinalists for the 2022 US Presidential Scholars competition. They are two of 5,000 students who were initially identified out of the 3.7 million graduating seniors in the 2021-2022 school year, which was further narrowed down to the 620 semifinalists.

Honor Rolls

Congratulations to our students who have achieved academic honors. View the Honor Rolls at <https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Domain/2434>.

Summer Enrichment Institute Presents...

Arf! (grades K-2) July 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Winnie the Pooh KIDS! (grades 3-5) July 22 at 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Disney's Descendants (grades 6-9) August 5 at 7 p.m.; August 6 at 2 p.m.

Guys and Dolls (Concert Version) (grade 9-2022 graduates) July 29 and 30 at 7 p.m.

To learn more, visit the Summer Enrichment Institute webpage of the District website at www.pittsfordschools.org.

Assistant Superintendent for Business to Retire



Pittsford Central School District's Assistant Superintendent for Business, Darrin Kenney, has announced his plan to retire on September 15, 2022. The Board of Education accepted Mr. Kenney's letter of retirement at their April 5, 2022 meeting.

Serving as Assistant Superintendent for Business since 2005, Kenney has been responsible for providing overall direction and leadership for the District's Business Office, Operations, Maintenance & Security, Transportation and Food Services. "Mr. Kenney's expertise, dedication and passion for maintaining the fiscal health of Pittsford Central School District will be greatly missed," said PCSD Superintendent Michael Pero, who noted that "Mr. Kenney has created fiscally responsible budgets year after year, maintaining positive comptroller reports, ongoing audits, healthy reserves, and the best possible bond (credit) rating for a school district (Moody's Investor Services)."

Under Kenney's direction, the District has achieved utility and maintenance efficiencies through much needed capital improvements supported by the General Capital Reserve Fund, in turn generating state aid without new taxes. While the effects of COVID-19 significantly impacted NYS and public-school funding processes, PCSD entered the pandemic in its best fiscal health in decades, having never had a history of operating deficits.

Prior to working for Pittsford Schools, Mr. Kenney served as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operation in the Springville-Griffith Institute Central School District (2001-2005). Previous positions include Budget Director for the Greece Central School District, Business Administrator for Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES and Staff Accountant/Auditor for Raymond F. Wagner, P.C. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Roberts Wesleyan College, a Master of Science in Education Administration, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Business Administration from the State University of New York at Brockport.

Edward Foote Appointed as Principal of Thornell Road Elementary School



The Pittsford Central School District Board of Education appointed Edward C. Foote as Principal of Thornell Road Elementary School following a thorough search and interview process. Foote begins on July 1, 2022 and is replacing Roger DeBell, who is retiring.

Foote has served as Principal of Penn Yan Elementary School for the past eight years and has held numerous leadership positions. "Mr. Foote brings a wealth of experience as an administrator, teacher and leader who has worked with students ranging from pre-K to higher education" said Superintendent Michael Pero. "His extensive work with building systems and processes to enhance curriculum development, and his focus on the wellbeing of the whole child, aligns seamlessly with Pittsford's emphasis on continuous improvement and our District's mission to "work collaboratively to inspire and prepare our students to be their best, do their best and make a difference in the lives of others."

Foote began his career as a special education teacher in Oxford, Michigan, and later worked for the Fairport Central School District in various roles including Lead Teacher at Northside School, Principal of Elementary Summer Programs, and K-12 Curriculum Coordinator. As an adjunct professor at Roberts Wesleyan College from 2010-2013, Foote worked for the undergraduate college in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and for the Graduate School of Education in the Teacher Certification Department. Additionally, he serves as an EdWeek panelist, a Panorama MTSS Trainer, and a member of the Genesee Valley ASCD Board of Directors and the Roberts Wesleyan Teacher Development Program.

A graduate of Pittsford Mendon High School, Foote earned a B.S. in Special Education and Elementary Education from SUNY Geneseo; an M.A. in Computing in Education from Teacher's College, Columbia University; and Administrative Certification in Education Leadership from the University of Rochester. He currently resides in Fairport, NY, with his daughters Mallory and Mackenzie, ages 10 and 12.

Danielle Strauf and Emmi Lu Named 2022 Outstanding Seniors



Congratulations to Danielle Strauf (MHS) and Emmi Lu (SHS) for being selected as Pittsford Central School District's 2022 Outstanding Seniors!

The award is sponsored by the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents and presented annually to an exceptional senior from each of the county's high

schools based on character, service and scholarship.

Danielle Strauf was nominated for this award based on a number of factors including a 98 GPA in her classes, which include AP and Honors classes. She is a multi-sport athlete who has been captain of the girls' basketball team, has won four straight Section V titles, and has been selected to the prestigious All Greater Rochester Team and the All NYS Team. She is also a skilled artist who has been awarded the Anna Murray Douglass Award and multiple Scholastic Art Awards, including a Gold Key, and two Honorable Mentions.

"Not only is Danielle an accomplished student, athlete and artist, she is someone who leads by example, and is a team player both on and off the court," said Superintendent Pero.

Emmi Lu's nomination for the award was based on the leadership and compassion she has demonstrated throughout her high school experience, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since her sophomore year at Sutherland, she has been an active member of Student Council, moving up the ranks to Executive Council, serving in the role of Executive Treasurer, and then Executive Vice President, serving not only her class but the entire student body. As a member of Student Council, Emmi honed valuable leadership and advocacy skills that she brings to her Student Council work, as well as the many other student organizations in which she is involved. Emmi has been credited with working to return a sense of normalcy and school spirit to Sutherland, helping to plan the annual Homecoming Pep Rally

2022 Summer

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Danielle Strauf and Emmi Lu Named 2022 Outstanding Seniors

and reinvigorating traditions that had been put on hold due to COVID, such as the annual Halloween Costume Contest. Emmi has also been a peer leader in Sources of Strength since her freshman year.

“Emmi’s commitment to serving others and demonstrating a positive attitude in everything she does is inspiring. She is a bright light who never hesitates to step up to a challenge and is someone who cares deeply for her school and community,” said Superintendent Pero.

National Merit Scholarship Finalists

Congratulations to the 14 Pittsford high school students named 2022 National Merit Scholarships Finalists.

Pittsford Mendon seniors Wimeth Dissanayake, Taylor Klinsky, Jenny Li, Sean Li and Joyce Shi; and Pittsford Sutherland seniors Merilyn Arikkat, Muneeb Aslam, Savannah Bornheim, Jackson Ciocca, Amy Feng, Zacchary Moore, Charlotte Raith, Alan Raskin, and Melis Sahin, were selected as 14 of the 15,000 finalists narrowed down from over 1.5 million entrants.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Approximately 1.5 million high school students enter the program each year by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

PDPA President and SHS Student Featured on 13 WHAM’s “Many Voices Many Visions”

Pittsford District Teachers Association (PDPA) President Dwayne Cerbone and SHS senior, Paige Cunningham, were guests on 13WHAM's April 10, 2022 “Many Voices Many Visions” program to speak about how the national teaching shortage has affected Pittsford Schools and how a new NYS United Teachers initiative called “Take a Look at Teaching” is helping to reignite interest in the field of teaching.



Offered at both Mendon and Sutherland high schools, the “Take a Look at Teaching” club offers engaging activities including a spring forum where a local college student, teachers and administrators discussed their various roles in education and the path they took to achieve their goals. Paige attributes her decision to pursue a degree in education to one of these discussions.

MHS Theatre Students Awarded for Outstanding Performance

MHS Theatre Company students earned multiple awards during the Rochester Broadway Theatre League's Stars of Tomorrow Recognition Ceremony for their musical performance of Disaster! The MHS Theatre Company took home outstanding recognition in Dance Ensemble, Acting Ensemble, Singing Ensemble, Pit Orchestra, and Overall Production. In addition, four students were recognized as Outstanding Leading Performers: Liam Berger, Alyssa Camilo, Marcella Cincotta, and Allie Fried.



Vaccine Legislation

New York State legislation (Public Health Law 2164) has eliminated religious, non-medical exemptions from school vaccination requirements, effective June 13, 2019. The revised law specifies that children in a public, private or parochial school, without a medical exemption, must receive the required immunizations to attend or remain in school. The District will be required to exclude a child from school if these provisions are not in place.

Students Go Above and “Bee-yond” for Science

Pittsford CSD elementary school students have gone above and “bee-yond” in planting Pollinator Gardens at each of the District’s five elementary schools to correlate with the K-5 Life Science Units. These 3’x12’ raised beds are filled with PTSA-funded plants and soil donated from the Town of Pittsford. This summer, the curriculum will be modified to incorporate specific lessons at each grade level with the work being done in the gardens. Thank you to PTSA, Girl Scouts and Maintenance staff for taking care of the gardens over the summer!



Pittsford CSD Introduces District Equity Training Series for Staff

Beginning this summer, and ongoing, Pittsford Schools will offer a new Equity Series of training for Certified Staff and School Related Professionals (SRPs). This professional learning opportunity will allow the District to deepen its knowledge and understanding of the New York State Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CR-SE) framework and continue its commitment to equity and inclusivity.

The series is made up of eight, two-hour modules that will be held multiple times throughout the summer and school year. The modules are organized around three of the New York State CR-SE principles:

- Welcoming and Affirming Environment
- High Expectations and Rigorous Instruction
- Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment

Each two-hour workshop is designed around one of the core principles of the CR-SE framework and has been developed to help participants apply an equity lens to various aspects of their work with students in various settings.

Student Earns Rochester Police Department’s Do the Right Thing Award

Congratulations to Jefferson Road Elementary School student James Allen who won the Rochester Police Department’s Do the Right Thing Award for demonstrating good sportsmanship during a baseball game! As a 2022 spring semester awardee, James received the award for showing good sportsmanship during a baseball game last summer. When the umpire mistakenly thought James tagged a batter going for a double at second base, he let the umpire know he did not tag the player. Thanks to James’ honesty, the runner was allowed a do-over at the plate, and James was nominated for this special award. During the recognition ceremony, James had the opportunity to meet County Executive Adam Bello, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans and Rochester Police Chief David Smith.



(L to R) County Executive Adam Bello, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans, James, and Rochester Police Chief David Smith

Inaugurated in 1995 by the Rochester Police Department, the Do the Right Thing Awards program seeks to foster positive relationships between local law enforcement and youth in the community. The award recognizes school-aged children who strive to make good choices, do well in school, give back to their community, or demonstrate a “turn-around” or improvement in their behavior. The RPD shares these stories with the media to publicly highlight these deserving students and their stories.

James was highlighted on News 10 NBC on May 23. To view the video, visit <https://www.whec.com/news/james-allen-jefferson-road-elementary-do-the-right-thing/6479703/>

Middle School Students Earn Top 10 Medals in NYS Science Olympiad

Congratulations to the Barker Road and Calkins Road middle school Science Olympiad teams who competed among 40 teams invited to the New York State competition in Syracuse. The Calkins Road team received two medals for top 10 finishes in “Meteorology” and “Storm the Castle” events, while the Barker Road team received two medals for top 10 finishes in “Crave the Wave” and “Dynamic Planet” events. Overall, the Calkins Road team placed 26th in the state, and the Barker Road team placed 30th in the state! Each of the students in these top 40 teams that advanced to the NYS competition are considered a top 1.5% competitor for New York State in Science Olympiad.



Pittsford Rotary Club Students Make a Difference

Student members of Pittsford Rotary’s Interact Club continued to make a difference in our communities this year! Their numerous activities included the Spread the Word Inclusion Campaign, Erie Canal Path Sweeps, Honor Flight Letters, food and charity drives, special events, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk, Foodlink Work Day, and the Special Olympics Polar Plunge for which they raised nearly \$6,000 in donations. During the past twenty years, over 1,700 PCSD Interact Club students have logged more than 22,000 hours of community service.

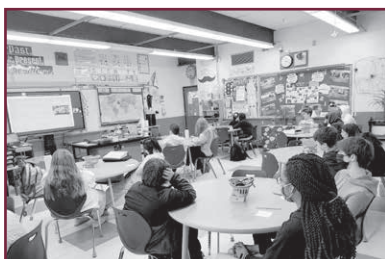


Virtual Tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp Provides Unique Learning Experience for Students

Eighth-grade students from Barker Road Middle School recently participated in a live virtual tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp, presented by Dr. Jerzy Wojcik from Oświęcim, Poland. Offered for the first time to Barker Road students, the virtual tour was part of the Social Studies World War II unit of study as well as the eighth grade English unit, Courage in Life & Literature: Diary of Anne Frank.

In written reflections, students expressed how the virtual tour impacted them: “I feel very grateful for everything I have;” “Future generations need to always see this;” “I do not have good enough words to explain how I feel. Awful is an understatement. I know we must see this information in order to prevent another Holocaust.”

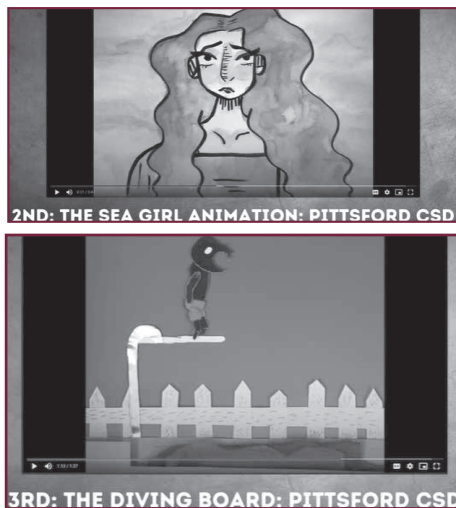
The virtual tour can be viewed at <https://holocausteducation.center/auschwitzvirtualtour/>.



MHS Students Win Awards at Annual Digies Festival

Mendon High School senior Mina Stevens and Jared Berger, grade 11, received awards at the annual Digies festival for digital media. Stevens won second place in the Audio Recording category for grades 10-12, called “What Was I Thinking,” and second place for the Video category for grades 10-12 for her animation, titled “Sea Girl.” Berger won third place for the Video category for grades 10-12 for his animation, titled “The Diving Board.”

The Digies is an annual digital media festival run by the School Library System of the Genesee Valley BOCES. The festival encourages students to be active creators of digital media and celebrates their achievements. The winning submissions can be seen at <https://www.digies.org/2022-winners>.



John Santowski Named NIAAA Scholar Athlete of the Year



Mendon High School senior John Santowski was named Scholar Athlete of the Year, earning Student Athlete Scholarships from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association’s (NIAAA) Chapter 5, New York State and Region 1. Student athletes across New York State compete for these scholarships that recognize distinguished scholastic achievement, leadership and sportsmanship.

As a three-sport athlete with a grade point average of 97.8, Santowski earned these awards for his dedication and leadership as team captain on Mendon High School’s soccer, wrestling and lacrosse teams, and for a work ethic that has also led to excellence in academics. He is eligible for the NIAAA national award, which will be announced in July.

In reflecting on the success he has achieved as a student athlete, Santowski said he feels fortunate to have been team captain for multiple teams, but felt most impacted when he was chosen to wear the Todd Pelino #9 Jersey in honor of a former soccer player who lost his life in the World Trade Center on 9/11. “Being selected to wear the #9 Jersey has pushed me to be better in every aspect of life. With it being a well-known award in the community, I knew that not only would my teammates and coaches be looking up to me but also younger players that strive to be the best in all that they can do,” he said.

“I am proud of John and all he has achieved,” said Superintendent Pero. “Wearing the #9 Jersey and earning these impressive scholar athlete awards recognizes hard work and leadership, but it is also a reflection of John’s character and the kind of leadership and character Todd Pelino demonstrated as a student athlete himself.”

PCSD Earns "Best Community for Music Education" Accolade

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation has named Pittsford Central School District one the “2022 Best Communities for Music Education.” PCSD is among 738 school districts nationwide to receive this award in recognition of outstanding support of music education and the role it plays in enriching the lives of children and advancing student achievement.



Students Lead ROC2Change Mini Summit on Race

On May 25, students from Pittsford Sutherland and Mendon high schools led a ROC2Change Mini Summit on Race for 8th graders at Barker Road Elementary School. The students developed and led a presentation and discussion on “How Words Matter” which allowed students to connect and have meaningful discussions about race relations with a focus on how words matter.



Congratulations to Winter/Spring Athletes and Teams!

Pittsford athletes wrapped up the Winter and Spring Seasons with multiple Section V Titles, a NYS Title, and the honor of having all teams recognized as Scholar Athlete Teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). To receive Scholar-Athlete Team recognition, the team’s average GPA must be greater than or equal to 90.0 for 75% of the roster. Individual student athletes earning a minimum GPA of 90.0 are recognized as Individual Scholar-Athletes even if their team did not qualify for an award.



New York State Champion

- Diving – Daley Fraser (MHS)

Winter Section V Team Champions

- MHS Boys Basketball
- MHS Girls Basketball
- Pittsford Boys Alpine Ski
- Pittsford Boys Swimming & Diving
- Pittsford Wrestling

Spring Section V Team Champions

- MHS Boys Track & Field
- SHS Girls Softball
- SHS Boys Baseball
- SHS Boys Golf
- SHS Boys Tennis

To view a complete list of individual Section V Champions, please visit the District website at www.pittsfordschools.org.

Students Place 8th at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

Congratulations to Park Road Elementary School’s 5th Grade Odyssey of the Mind Team who placed 8th out of 38 teams at the 2022 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Iowa State University May 25-28! Coached by Colleen Markevicz, the seven students who competed in the World

Finals included Hanna Gabriel, Ingrid Hezel, Malana Lam, Luke Markevicz, Alborz Yousefi Nooraie, Maya Thompson, Kian Whitford.



Safety and Security at Pittsford Schools

The recent tragedies in Buffalo and Texas are further reminders of the importance of a safety-first mentality in our schools. While there is no singular preventative measure for stopping harm, know that PCSD continuously looks to best practices and routinely works with experts in the field to maximize student, staff and visitor safety. School safety is often described in terms of layers. The more layers that are in place, the deeper the District’s protection and safety.

Some of these layers include emergency alert buttons in every school, phones with enhanced security features, intruder locks on classroom doors, Mobilize Rescue Units, single point entry at all buildings, a computer-based visitor photo badge system, and security video equipment and personnel. In addition to these measures, the District

engages in continuous emergency preparedness training, safety drills, and collaborates with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, Town of Pittsford Fire Department, and Pittsford Ambulance. PCSD also puts considerable emphasis on prevention through mental health programs and services, threat assessment teams, the Code of Conduct and the “See Something, Say Something” national campaign to raise awareness about the importance of reporting suspicious activity. To learn more about safety and security at Pittsford Schools, please read the May Superintendent’s eNewsletter online at www.pittsfordschools.org.



Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award during the May 10, 2022 PCSD Board of Education Meeting. These students were selected by their schools for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive leadership. Students are chosen for this award three times a year.



Congratulations to:

- Natalie Cincotta, Grade 12, Mendon High School
- Alexandra Comerford, Grade 8, Calkins Road Middle School
- Aiden Gough, Grade 5, Jefferson Road Elementary School
- Ingrid Hezel, Grade 5, Park Road Elementary School
- Sofia Leite, Grade 8, Barker Road Middle School
- Aiwen Li, Grade 11, Sutherland High School
- Cooper Paulis, Grade 5, Mendon Center Elementary School
- Molly Wenger, Grade 5, Thornell Road Elementary School
- Victoria Yao, Grade 5, Allen Creek Elementary School

For more information about Pittsford Pride, visit the District website at www.pittsfordschools.org. To watch the videos of the virtual ceremonies, visit the Pittsford Central School District YouTube channel.



Congratulations to the Class of 2022!



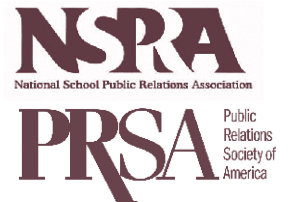
The Pittsford Central School District does not discriminate in access, admission, employment, or treatment of participants in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, color, handicapping condition, or ethnic or national origin. This is in compliance with Title IX, OCR Guidelines, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Inquiries regarding compliance issues may be addressed to: Shawn Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Administration Building, Pittsford Central Schools, 75 Barker Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.

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State and National Award
Winning Publication



Summer 2022

- Celebrating Students, Families and Staff
- School Budget Passes - Thank You Voters!
- Assistant Superintendent for Business to Retire
- Thornell Road Elementary School Principal Appointed
- Student Achievements and Activities
- High Schools Ranked Among Best in the Nation
- PCSD Recognized as a Best Community for Music Education