



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Pursue Your Path

2024

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings to the Pine-Richland Community!

On Friday, June 7, we had the opportunity to **celebrate the Class of 2024 at commencement!** It is always a special moment for families and a milestone for students. Each graduate is unique and has followed a slightly different path toward the moment when he or she wears the cap and gown and receives the diploma. The Pine-Richland diploma has incredible value given the strength of the educational program and history of excellence in our schools.

For close to a decade, it has been our mission to focus on learning for every student every day. This mission is our purpose. Our vision was modified slightly this year to reflect the critical nature of a quality education. In the middle of our vision image, note the phrase **pursue your path**. **Our vision—and the vision of our entire educational system—is to help prepare our students for the next step of their path.** Those paths may lead to college, technical school,

the military or directly into the workforce. Through the foundation of family and strengthened through diverse school experiences, our students are ready! We know that paths may change. We also know that our students have developed the resilience and work ethic to overcome challenges and find their passion.

The quality of the district is reflected in the value placed on education in our community. It is a great place to live, learn and work. The annual report reflects on the past year and looks forward to the future at Pine-Richland. We have so much to be thankful for in our district and community. We are fortunate to have a highly trained staff committed to student success. We have students who demonstrate incredible levels of maturity and engagement in their learning. We are fortunate to have parents who value the importance of a quality education.



Contents

- 3 Strategic Plan
- 6 District / Staff Updates
- 13 Academic Achievement
- 16 Student Spotlight
- 31 Athletic Accomplishments
- 47 Athletic Hall of Fame
- 48 Budget & Board Update
- 50 Around the District
- 53 Annual Notices



Please invest time in the careful review of this Annual Report, which summarizes key accomplishments in academics, arts, athletics and many other activities. **It is the breadth and depth of opportunities that make Pine-Richland a special place.** We see clear evidence of the pursuit of excellence in the results earned by our students and staff. These performance indicators demonstrate high levels of achievement and growth. In addition, I want to draw your attention specifically to the annual notices that are outlined on pages 53 to 55. These notices help ensure clear communication of critical information tied to our legal and regulatory responsibilities.

We look forward to the 2024 - 2025 school year. Congratulations again to the Class of 2024! Thank you for your continued support of the Pine-Richland School District.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D., Superintendent

Academics

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Through in-service sessions, building-level team meetings, grade-level meetings and professional learning community sessions, our educators analyzed classroom performance data in conjunction with state standards and written curriculum for each course in order to design effective lesson plans. Effectiveness is monitored through achievement levels and growth data over time. Principals engaged in the observation cycle and met with teachers prior to a lesson’s delivery to collaborate on engagement strategies, differentiation and goals. Effective strategies have been shared among

building teams and included in newsletter updates to families. Teachers used benchmark assessment data points and common assessments to make instructional adjustments. PSSA and Keystone exam trigger courses used classroom diagnostic tools to provide students with learning experiences mirroring what they experienced during the actual exam. Each school remains focused on alignment (curriculum—lesson plans), maximizing time and providing specific feedback to all students.

IN-DEPTH PROGRAM REVIEW — SCIENCE MINI-REVIEW

Over the past seven years, all departments completed an in-depth program review. The district is now completing mini-reviews, and the Science Department was the first to complete the process. All secondary and some elementary science teachers participated. The first phase of the review evaluated the implementation of the 2016-2017 IDPR Science Department recommendations. Each grade span conducted an analysis of every goal to determine the depth of implementation. Phase two of the process included the review and analysis of data points connected to the district’s K-12 science program. The third and fourth phases of the mini-review included conducting high-level research on K-12 science topics, reviewing the STEELS Standards and interviewing a few selected universities, businesses and local school districts to identify other emerging trends. Finally, the committee reviewed the findings from each phase to identify updated recommendations that will guide the department in making continuous refinements and improvements in the coming years.



Recommendations for all K-12 science courses include modifying unit-based curriculum and assessments to align with STEELS standards; increasing phenomenon/inquiry-based learning activities; identifying physical space modifications needed; adding career education

and work standard learning activities; integrating reading into content area strategies to support and challenge all students; and revising course pathway options and sequencing of resources.



CURRICULUM

This key initiative has evolved significantly given the feedback and direction of the board, which has approved a curricular framework for all K-12 courses. **The new curricular framework will mirror the language of board policy and be posted on the Pine-Richland School District website for each of our 300+ courses.** Particular emphasis is being placed on district-level resources, which are approved to support the delivery of curriculum and are connected to each course. Specific resources that are only used within a given unit are highlighted. All unit titles, their approximate length of instruction and forms of assessment are depicted alongside representative learning goals. Links to standards for each course are embedded to connect the content back to the foundational frameworks to clarify the skills and knowledge that students should be able to demonstrate as an outcome of each course at each particular grade span.

Safety, Security and Positive School Culture

Establishing a safe and positive school environment sets the foundation for learning. As a district, we focus on actions that strengthen safety and security and promote a positive school culture. Building administrators continue to deliver developmentally appropriate messages to students to promote an inclusive school culture. These messages and actions are shared with parents throughout the year in the Friday Flash. We communicate to families about these messages so they can be understood and reinforced at home. We continue to foster resiliency (internal and external protective factors) in our students through a continuum of services such as pupil services meetings,

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), Student Assistance Teams, RAMS Way, suicide prevention and intervention and school-based mental health services. Information is provided to parents and students through our district website and messages to promote awareness of a continuum of resources and supports. In the realm of physical safety and security, we implement drills throughout the year to promote readiness to respond to emergencies. We continue to take actionable steps based on risk and vulnerability assessments conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police. We also regularly review and refine our reunification procedures in case a serious event requires building evacuation.

Recruitment and Staffing



While Pine-Richland School District continues to effectively attract deep pools of candidates for most of our vacant positions, **paraprofessional and custodial openings have remained harder for us to fill.** We have taken actionable steps this school year to more actively recruit for these openings. We ran a social media campaign highlighting individual stories about what makes it great to work in these roles at Pine-Richland as told by various support employees themselves. The Employment section of our district website was updated to include employee testimonials from current paraprofessional and custodial staff members. We also hosted three live engagement sessions to attract prospective hires for these roles, each of which has resulted in a small number of hires. We recognize that with candidates for these roles in short supply, it is important to engage them quickly upon receiving notice of their interest. We ensure that our hiring managers can provide direct outreach to applicants to quickly engage them in our interview process.

Finance and Operations

The district uses a 10-year capital funding plan to meet the needs of district facilities with a future-focused strategy. The goal is to maintain all facilities and technology in the district while analyzing costs annually with a department- and building-level approach. We analyze future costs and projects each year to determine the financial commitment and to plan for minimizing debt. Cost estimates for the next decade

are approximately \$50,000,000. The most significant projects of the capital plan are building HVAC and roofing with projected costs estimated at more than \$30,000,000. Planning for these major projects is a priority over the next five years. Significant projects planned for the 2024-2025 school year include HVAC at Richland and Wexford, natatorium improvements, high school planetarium and stadium scoreboard.

School-Based Action Plans

Our school leadership teams continually reflect on the progress made by their building and set goals to improve the learning experience and outcomes for students in direct connection to the strategic plan. Each of our schools has been focused on the impact of high-quality instruction and the professional development and systems which support it. At each grade span, common goals have been selected to enhance professional dialogue and learning among our educators.

At the K-3 and 4-6 grade spans, our educators are focused on improving differentiation and engaging in cycles of learning through lesson studies and grade-level/departmental professional learning communities. At the 4-6 level, Professional Learning Communities are increasingly facilitated by the Academic Leadership Council members in collaboration with building administration to review learning outcomes and identify instructional strategies to ensure student growth over time, a key need within that grade span. At the middle level, teachers and administrators use current student results to develop specific actions between the second and third benchmark assessments. At the high school level, professional learning communities, focused on high-quality classroom instruction, lesson planning and differentiation based on student data are the focus for the four-year horizon.



THE PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT EXPLORATION SYSTEM (PAES) LAB PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH REAL-WORLD HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES AS THEY PREPARE TO PURSUE THEIR PATH.

Board Operations

The school board aims to refine and enhance the system of governance through school board training, evaluation, policy development and strengthening of key communities throughout 2023-2027, with a short-term goal to establish board operating norms and framework.

In October, the board approved a proposal to work with a third-party consultant on strategies and practices to strengthen this area. This work also supports an annual self-assessment process used by the board. New board members have been engaged in an onboarding program. In March, the board confirmed use of the DECIDE model framework.

Benchmarking

We maintain a comprehensive set of measures and metrics in our district in the areas of academic performance, attendance, discipline, program offerings, program participation, special education, gifted education, human resources, business, technology and more. Academic achievement and growth data were presented at the annual November school board meeting.

A finance and capital funding plan update was provided in November, December and January. The annual independent financial audit reinforces the strong fiscal practice of the district. Comprehensive stakeholder survey results are posted publicly. Benchmarking demonstrates a strong return on investment with educational programming.

DISTRICT / STAFF UPDATES

Chief Michael Gasparetto, Pine-Richland High School's recently retired Air Force JROTC instructor, was named the 2024 Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania American Legion. Chief Gasparetto was nominated by Richland American Legion Post #548 and presented with the award at the 105th Department Convention in Harrisburg in July. Chief Gasparetto was also awarded the Community Patriots Award by Richland American Legion Post 548 on Memorial Day. He was selected in recognition and appreciation of his service to the Pine-Richland community and his advocacy for youth education and responsible citizenship.



Primary art teacher **Jennifer Jankowski** was selected as the March Teacher of the Month by WTAE-TV. Ms. Jankowski was celebrated by her colleagues and students at a school-wide assembly at Wexford Elementary on March 22. More than 2,500 teachers in the Pittsburgh area were nominated. See the full story using the QR code.



Wexford librarian **Andrea Clarkson** was selected as a Spotlight Librarian by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association in March. During the week of March 18, Mrs. Clarkson did a social media takeover for the association, spotlighting library programs at Wexford and throughout the district.

Carolyn Welshonce, district social worker, was recognized in April by the Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals for her engagement, leadership and impact with the association as she serves as the board's vice president.





Pine-Richland Middle School family and consumer science teacher **Erika Graham** co-produced The Salvation Army's May 22 Runway RePurposed Fashion Show that benefited The Salvation Army's Family Caring Center. Ms. Graham also mentored three Pine-Richland eighth-grade students, **Abby Galluzzo**, **Brooklyn Pfaeffle** and **Kylie Zrebiec**, who designed outfits for the event.



Retired Pine-Richland teacher and 1972 graduate of Richland High School **Ron Schmiedel** was named the recipient of the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education's Neuber Pregler Award for 2023. This award is given to individuals who have dedicated years of service to gifted students in Pennsylvania. Mr. Schmiedel retired from Pine-Richland School District in 2020.

Sixth-grade teacher and former girls' soccer coach **Jodi Chmielewski** was inducted into the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January. Ms. Chmielewski became the first female coach inducted into the PSCA Hall of Fame. During her 21 years coaching Pine-Richland High School's girls' soccer team, she racked up more than 300 wins, two WPIAL championships and a PIAA championship.



MEGHAN SWEENEY OF MCDONALD'S, DR. DAVID KRISTOFIC, SHERRY WARRICK, GRETCHEN BLEAKNEY, NICOLE BEREZO, ERIC ROSING AND KURT WOLFE.

Pine-Richland Middle School's Health and Physical Education Department earned a \$500 McDonald's MAC Grant to help purchase pickleball equipment. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the US. The MAC Grant aims to support education and sports for young people in our communities.

DISTRICT / STAFF UPDATES



In September, Eden Hall Upper Elementary held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new outdoor classroom. The idea was conceived by students and former Eden Hall assistant principals **Paula Giran** and **Dr. Joseph Domagala**, and generously funded by the PTO. During the ceremony, sixth-grader **Allie Cable** read *What Do You Do with an Idea?*, a story that describes how one idea can have a great impact. Members of the Sustainability Committee unveiled the name of the new space: The GOAL Zone (Grow Outside And Learn), which was voted on by Eden Hall students.



In honor of Dyslexia Awareness Month in October, the Student Services Department hosted a dyslexia simulation on October 25 presented by the International Dyslexia Association of Pennsylvania. Dyslexia is a learning impairment that causes problems with reading, writing and spelling. The intelligence of people with dyslexia is unaffected. To help create understanding and facilitate more awareness about this learning difficulty, stations were set up to learn more about how dyslexia can impact daily functioning when in school that included hands-on experiences to mimic what a student or person with dyslexia may endure when completing school-related tasks.



SECOND-GRADE MARLOW BARBER CREATED HER OWN DESIGN FOR THE RECYCLED/UPCYCLED FASHION SHOW.

Pine-Richland's 6-School Sustainability Club partnered with Pine Township to participate in the community's first annual Earth Day event. Students from all six district schools facilitated three community engagement opportunities: table activities, a recycled/upcycled fashion show and a recycled/upcycled art show. The collaboration closely aligned with the club's goal of educating other students about small ways they can help the earth and provide a more sustainable future.



For the second year in a row, artwork created by Pine-Richland students in grades K-8 was displayed at Pine Community Center, part of the art department's goal to make community connections to showcase student art for the benefit of both students and the community. Displays were updated throughout the year, and for Pine Township's Earth Day event, the student artwork on display was made from recycled materials to promote sustainability.

The Annual Report is available electronically at pinerichland.org. If you wish to be added to our list to no longer receive a paper copy, please email ehasinger@pinerichland.org.

Pine-Richland Middle School, Eden Hall Upper Elementary, and Hance, Richland and Wexford Elementary Schools were officially recognized by PAPBS as implementing *PBIS with Fidelity at Tier 1* for the 2022-2023 school year at the PAPBS Implementers Forum in November. **All six district schools** were recognized by PAPBS as implementing PBIS with Fidelity at Tier 1 for the 2023-2024 school year.

Eden Hall and **Hance** were once again named to the list of America's Healthiest Schools by Healthier Generation in 2023. Eden Hall was recognized for Health Education, Physical Education/Physical Activity and School Health Services. Hance was awarded in Family and Community Engagement and Physical Education/Physical Activity.



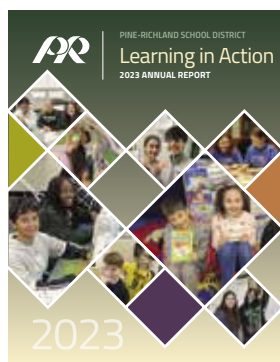
Pine-Richland High School was awarded the Pennsylvania Communication Association's William H. Tacey High School of the Year for its dedication to the Forensics Speech and Debate team and for providing a flourishing legacy of effective communicators, opportunities and resources for students. The Forensics Speech and Debate team is coached by **Jagriti Dashora, Leticia Harshman and Kayley Symanski**.

LEFT TO RIGHT: LETICIA HARSHMAN, DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ, SENIOR UDI AKOLKAR, KAYLEY SYMANSKI



Pine-Richland High School placed 13th out of 184 schools nationwide in the Sodexo Healthy High School Challenge, earning \$1,000 for the student government. Schools earned points for every meal combo and healthy a la carte items purchased.

Pine-Richland High School earned AP Gold Honor Roll Recognition for the 2022-2023 school year. Only 3% of eligible schools in Pennsylvania, and only two other schools in Western Pennsylvania, earned this designation. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness.



Pine-Richland School District's Communications Department earned the Award of Excellence—Writing, Award of Merit—Annual Report and Honorable Mention—Newsletters from the National School Public Relations Association in their 2024 Publications and Digital Media Awards program. In the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association's 2024 Excellence in Education Communications Contest, Pine-Richland earned the Award of Merit—Writing and Award of Merit—Annual Report.

New Faces

NEW HIRES THIS YEAR INCLUDED:



NICOLE BEREZO
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



ABIGAIL CERCONO
SECRETARY



CHRISTOPHER JUZWICK
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL
AND OPERATIONAL
SERVICES



ANDREW MUNDY
MEDIA AND
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR



BRUCE RIEMER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF FACILITIES
(MAINTENANCE)



JOHN STOUGHTON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
ATHLETICS/TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATOR

High School

Eric Grimm, Maintenance Technician
Dereck Majors, English Teacher
Rachael Marion, Math Teacher
Ellisyn Mularski, Health and Physical Education Teacher
Kara Samsa, Intervention Specialist
Christina Varner, Custodian
Mary Kate Zacharias, School Counselor

Middle School

Nicole Berezo, Assistant Principal
Michael Craft, Custodian
Meghan Duran, German Teacher
Fanny Medina, Paraprofessional
Kara Samsa, Intervention Specialist

Eden Hall Upper Elementary

Beth Ann Cole, Paraprofessional
Meghan Duran, World Language Teacher
Cassidy Furge, 4th Grade Teacher
Megan Glackin, Special Education/
Learning Support Teacher
Kristin Karsh, Paraprofessional
Natalie King, Strings Teacher
Lakshmi Priya Mani, Paraprofessional
Dana Nolan, Paraprofessional
Brooke Riederer, 6th Grade Teacher
Alicia Round, Paraprofessional
Joan Stover, Paraprofessional

Hance Elementary

Jessica Corbin, Cafeteria Monitor
Danielle Czegan, GATE Teacher
Joseph Domagala, Computer Science Teacher
Kristen Jordan, 3rd Grade Teacher
Megan Moretti, Paraprofessional
Jenny Novak, 1st Grade Teacher
Li Ogden, Paraprofessional
Sydney Smith, Special Education and Life Skills Teacher
Michele Trevino, Paraprofessional
Kellie Young, Paraprofessional

Richland Elementary

Danielle Czegan, GATE Teacher
Margo Kohler, Computer Science Teacher

John McGinty, Custodian
Jennifer Nicotra, Paraprofessional
Jessica Nussbaum, Paraprofessional
Gisella Spehar, Cafeteria Monitor
Ruth Williams, Paraprofessional

Wexford Elementary

Joseph Domagala, Computer Science Teacher
Linda Dzialowski, Cafeteria Monitor
Robin Jamison, Building Secretary, *new for 24-25SY
Margo Kohler, Computer Science Teacher

Retirements

THIS YEAR, WE SAID FAREWELL TO:



JANICE BAGNATO
FOURTH GRADE
TEACHER, EDEN
HALL UPPER
ELEMENTARY



MAURA BERGER
FIRST GRADE
TEACHER
WEXFORD
ELEMENTARY



**EDWARD BORGEN
III**, SECOND GRADE
TEACHER, HANCE
ELEMENTARY



DIANE BYERS
PARAPROFSSIONAL
PINE-RICHLAND
MIDDLE SCHOOL



CHARLES CONNOLLY
SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER
PINE-RICHLAND
HIGH SCHOOL



DEBORAH DICKEY
PARAPROFSSIONAL
RICHLAND
ELEMENTARY



MICHAEL GASPARETTO
AFJROTC
INSTRUCTOR,
PINE-RICHLAND
HIGH SCHOOL



KAREN HALLIDAY
NURSE
PINE-RICHLAND
MIDDLE SCHOOL



KATHY HOFFMAN
KINDERGARTEN
TEACHER, HANCE
ELEMENTARY



JANE MARINACE-DIAZ
PARAPROFSSIONAL
EDEN HALL UPPER
ELEMENTARY



KEVIN MCKINNEY
LIBRARIAN
HANCE ELEMENTARY



SHERI MURSLACK
BUSINESS EDUCATION
TEACHER, PINE-
RICHLAND MIDDLE
SCHOOL



BOB PROUDFOOT
CUSTODIAN
PINE-RICHLAND
HIGH SCHOOL



BRENDA PROUDFOOT
PARAPROFSSIONAL
EDEN HALL UPPER
ELEMENTARY



BRIAN SCOTT
BAND TEACHER
PINE-RICHLAND HIGH
SCHOOL AND PINE-
RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

NOT PICTURED:
JEFF REIDENBACH
CUSTODIAN
HANCE
ELEMENTARY

Facility Improvements



Notable facility improvements during the 2023-2024 school year included:

- > Renovated gymnasium at Pine-Richland High School
- > New track at Pine-Richland Stadium
- > HVAC improvements at Pine-Richland Middle School

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Pine-Richland High School gymnasium was held in October in conjunction with the Girls' Volleyball team's Spike Out Cancer event. The new gym now features four-sided seating for more than 1,500 and a new video scoreboard. In addition to the renovated main gym, the auxiliary gym was renovated to include dedicated space for wrestling practice and an observation balcony, the fitness center was relocated and moved, and a new athletics conference room was created.

Projects starting this summer include a new video scoreboard and fencing for Pine-Richland Stadium, a new planetarium for Pine-Richland High School, natatorium upgrades and continued HVAC improvements at Pine-Richland Middle School.



Pine-Richland added three electric buses to its fleet at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, and in October, the district celebrated this sustainability initiative with representatives from Student Transportation of America, Duquesne Light and the 6-School Sustainability Club. Nineteen members of the six-school sustainability club attended the event to learn more about the electric buses and take a brief ride in an electric bus to and from Pine-Richland High School. Club members, spanning 2nd through 12th grade, had an opportunity to look under the hood of one of the buses, learn about safety features and the charging process, and ask questions of drivers and of Kevin Barnhart, general manager of STA.





Food Service

2024 - 2025 MEAL PRICES

	PAID K-6	PAID 7-12	REDUCED K-12	FREE K-12
DAILY MEAL	\$2.60	\$2.85	\$0	\$0
BREAKFAST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

FOOD SERVICES ACCOUNTS

Parents may monitor student balances and request low-balance email alerts at schoolcafe.com. If paying by check, please make out to Pine-Richland Cafeteria Fund, include the student name and ID number, and send to 702 Warrendale Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044. Please call 724-625-3550 if you would like to place restrictions on your student's meal account.



VISIT NUTRISLICE FOR NEW MENUS.

NEW MENUS

Pine-Richland will debut Nutrislice for its digital menus this school year at pine.richland.nutrislice.com. This new site includes options to view daily, weekly and monthly

menus, access nutritional information and filter based on dietary needs and preferences.

JOIN THE FOOD SERVICE ADVISORY AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Community members and parents are invited to serve on the Food Service Advisory and Wellness Committee with district administrators, board members, teachers and students. The committee shares information about food services and gathers input to share with the food service management team. The committee addresses

the wellness needs of students, including nutrition, activities and mental health. During quarterly meetings, attendees discuss menu planning, food products, nutrition and food service sustainability needs. Please contact **Ryan Wilson** at 724-625-3550 if interested.

PR by the Numbers



4519

STUDENTS
K-12



522

FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES



338

TEACHERS



105

BUS/VAN
DRIVERS*



66

ACTIVITIES
AND CLUBS**



25

ATHLETIC
TEAMS 7-12



6

SCHOOLS

*Covering 85 routes of over 1.4 million miles / ** 7-12 (17 middle school, 49 high school)



U.S. News & World Report ranked Pine-Richland High School 4th in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, 12th in Pennsylvania, 404th in STEM nationally and 513th overall nationally in its 2024 rankings.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Wexford Elementary School 5th in Pennsylvania elementary schools and Pine-Richland Middle School 26th in Pennsylvania middle schools in its rankings published in November 2023.

The **Pittsburgh Business Times** ranked Pine-Richland School District 9th in southwestern Pennsylvania (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties) and 17th in the state in their 2024 report based on Keystone and PSSA exam results for 2021-2023.

S&P Global Ratings announced in April that Pine-Richland School District's general obligation bond rating has increased to AA Stable from AA- Stable. This upgrade reflects the district's positive financial performance, strong financial reserves, responsible management of debt, stable financial outlook and viability.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH REPORT

11th Annual Academic Achievement and Growth Report

The mission of the Pine-Richland School District is to focus on learning for every student every day. The district vision emphasizes that learning is reflected in both achievement and growth. We believe that learning happens differently for different people, requiring flexibility and variation in approach. Learning also requires effort, persistence and the support of everyone—students, staff and parents.

While data analysis is an ongoing process to drive improvements to our curriculum, instruction and assessments throughout the school year, we pause each fall to create a reflective, aggregate profile of the outcomes for the prior school year within the Academic Achievement and Growth Report. Teams consistently leverage real-time formative data to drive instruction within the classroom level and leverage lag data from standardized assessments at the classroom and building levels for course recommendations and intervention mapping. Over time, these concepts of using both real-time and lag data to ensure appropriate student learning opportunities to improve outcomes have been coined Data for Action within the district. We do not simply curate datasets to admire statically but rather view these sets of facts as criteria from which to launch measurable educational programming and hold ourselves accountable to successful outcomes.

Within the Baldrige Performance Excellence framework, LeTCl is used as an acronym to describe evaluation factors for reviewing results (Levels, Trends, Comparisons and Integration). We use those elements when gathering data for analysis to ensure appropriate benchmarking and the ability to assess performance levels and trends over time with the ability to segment that data by relevant grade levels, disciplines and subgroups.



A FOURTH-GRADE STUDENT WORKS ON A PROBLEM DURING EDEN HALL'S SCIENCE OLYMPIAD.

This collaboratively-authored report includes the most densely detailed net results for the district, allowing individuals to quickly analyze the learning outcomes in the district at the highest level. We have included the following demographic subgroups in the companion document and in this report for the years since the pandemic: (a) gender; (b) IEP status; (c) economically disadvantaged; and (d) ethnicity. While segmentation can also be accomplished for English learners (EL), our count of students within this subgroup is very low and would jeopardize the confidentiality of these students' achievement and growth levels.

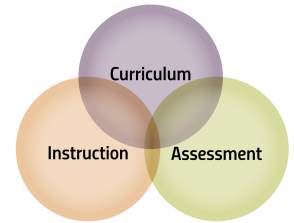
The aggregate, summative district standardized testing results, in addition to the ones we monitor throughout a given school year (e.g. universal screening results), provide us with direction as to the next areas of improvement we can target, as we prioritize our relative areas of strength and opportunity. Senior leaders, principals, Academic Leadership Council members and other teacher leaders own the analysis process together and assist with segmentation through their respective lenses. Concerted efforts have been made to include data reflective of the entire student development process, captured by our PR Graduate Portrait.

Student learning outcomes (measured through achievement and growth) are evidenced across several factors, not just the snapshot of one standardized assessment measure. Data reflective of these more holistic outcomes are included in the PR Graduate Portrait section. Those measures would ideally include a holistic look at our schools and students, including classroom-based assessments, school climate, participation in extra- and co-curricular activities, graduation rates, attendance, discipline, post-secondary readiness, social-emotional development, wellness and more.

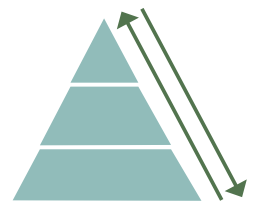
Data contained in this report is also used as input to the internal findings citations by the data subcommittee during our In-Depth Program Review Process when we study K-12 programming within departments or support areas to prioritize recommended improvement actions for systematic implementation and integration with other aspects of our learning system. Additionally, it is used as an input to our Strategic Planning Process as we design impactful, high-leverage long-term goals and short-term strategy actions, particularly within the Teaching & Learning category. Resulting recommendations impact students directly through improvements in the general education classroom and through various levels of intervention. While general

Continued on page 14

MODEL FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



MULTI-TIER SYSTEM OF SUPPORT



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

CONTINUUM OF SERVICES



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



SCAN TO SEE THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH REPORT IN ITS ENTIRETY.



Continued from page 13

education teachers own the improvements in their classrooms, our interventionists implement and own improvements within the interventions embedded in the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). District and building-level MTSS teams continuously review the efficacy of interventions for individuals and groups of students alike to make recommendations for improvement.

Stakeholder surveys are conducted annually to assess satisfaction levels among students, parents, and staff members. A portion of the survey questions focuses on elements of learning (e.g., academic programming, support services, level of challenge and pacing, meaningful nature of homework

assignments, learning goals and feedback, teacher expectations and curricular consistency, etc.). Buildings review this data annually as they set goals for their collective focal areas.

Our focal question continues to be *how do we focus on academic learning for every student every day?* The learning system at Pine-Richland School District is illustrated by the Model for Teaching and Learning image, allowing us to focus on Data for Action.

PSSA and Keystone Information

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

Grade	Math		ELA		Science	
	Pine-Richland	Top 10%	Pine-Richland	Top 10%	Pine-Richland	Top 10%
3	81	81	74.1	79.6		
4	77.9	75.9	83.5	78.7	95.3	93.8
5	69.4	72.5	78.6	79.2		
6	65.7	63.3	75	78.3		
7	64	55.8	86.3	76.3		
8	50.8	46.6	79.8	72.9	85.4	78.1

*Pine-Richland students achieved at or above the top 10 percent in all but three grade levels.

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)

Subject	Year	% At/Above Prof.	
		Pine-Richland	State
Algebra I	Spring 2023	70.5	36.8
Algebra I	Spring 2022	72.4	36.8
Biology	Spring 2023	75.5	46.2
Biology	Spring 2022	81.8	48
Literature	Spring 2023	82.8	58.9
Literature	Spring 2022	86.4	60.6

AP Results and Findings

- > Students took AP exams in 26 different subjects during the 2023 school year. Of those 26 subjects, the average score was 3.62.
- > In the 18 subjects with greater than 10 test takers, the average score was 3.5.

*2024 results not available at time of publication.




2023 AP TEST SCORECARD

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


Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	% Students Scoring 3+
2023	467	1001	77.5%
2022	435	965	78%
2021	504	1108	71%

SAT Results and Findings

- > For the 2023 SAT, Pine-Richland students outperformed global and state groups.
- > Pine-Richland male students (628) outperformed female students (587) in the mathematics section; whereas female students' average performance on evidence-based Reading and Writing was higher than male students' average score (F-605, M-599).
- > Scores for all students in ELA and mathematics fell slightly below the six year average:
 - > Six year average math: 593.5 (PR 2023 - 602)
 - > Six year average ELA: 600.5 (PR 2023 - 607)

 2023 SAT SCORECARD Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.		
2023	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Pine-Richland	607	602
Pennsylvania	547	531
All Test Takers	520	508

ACT Results and Findings

 2023 ACT SCORECARD (Maximum score is 36.) Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.					
2023	Math	Reading	English	Science	Composite
Pine-Richland	25.8	26.1	25.7	26	26
Pennsylvania	23.2	24.7	23.6	23.6	23.9
United States	19	20.1	18.6	19.6	19.5

- > Composite scores for both PR male and female students are higher than state and national averages.
- > For the past ten years, Pine-Richland students have outperformed Pennsylvania and United States students in all subject areas.

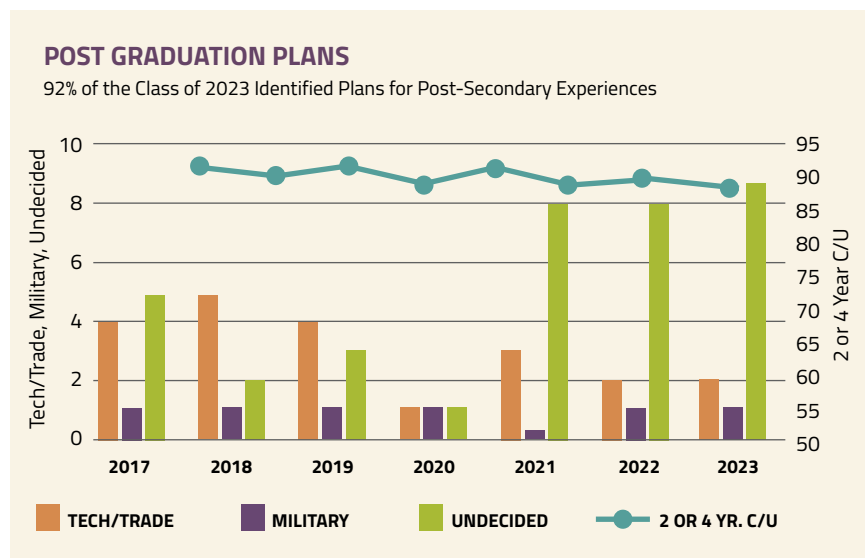
Future Ready Index

The Pennsylvania Department of Education utilizes the Future Ready PA Index as a method of evaluating schools in a more holistic manner than the SPP alone, utilizing a "dashboard model to highlight how schools are performing and showing progress on multiple measures" (PDE, 2018).

The Future Ready PA Index:

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

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



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



MUSTAFA ADEEL
COMMEDED



UDBHAV AKOLKAR
COMMEDED



VASILIOS BALOURIS
FINALIST



JOCELYN CURRERI
MERIT SCHOLAR



NICOLAI EZOLT
FINALIST



LIAM FRANCIS
FINALIST

Academic Excellence

Twenty-one seniors earned recognition from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation with commended, semifinalist, finalist and scholar status. Students are recognized as commended for scoring in the top 50,000 in the nation on the PSAT/NMSQT, as semifinalists for scoring in the top 16,000, and as finalists for their PSAT score as well as consistently high academic achievement, essay and principals' recommendation. Those ultimately recognized as scholars have earned scholarships.



RYAN GREBINOSKI
COMMEDED



ELLA GUO
COMMEDED, SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



TAMONASH KARTHIKEYAN
COMMEDED



CHLOE KASSALEN
COMMEDED



JAYDEN LAHOTI
COMMEDED



MICHAEL LATTARI
COMMEDED



BENJAMIN LYONS
FINALIST



ALEXANDER MELBY
COMMEDED



RYLAND NICHOLS
COMMEDED



JAY SCHWIERKING
COMMEDED

Eight seniors earned perfect scores on SAT and/or ACT tests: **Vasilios Balouris**, SAT Math and ACT Reading; **Christopher Camp**, **Eunice Son**, **Annie Wu** and **Cooper Zancosky**, SAT Math; **Jocelyn Curreri**, SAT Reading and Writing; **Michael Lattari**, ACT Science; **Ella Guo**, ACT English.

Seniors recognized as AP Scholars for scoring 3 or above on three AP exams include **Nathan Bang**, **Gabrielle Boudreau**, **Kate Chrystal**, **Cory Cownie**, **Ryan Grebinoski**, **Shane Horan**, **Zachary Howard**, **Josie Kichi**, **Alexander Lemoncelli**, **Madeleine Lemoncelli**, **Grace McDermott**, **Kevin McLoughlin**, **Mark Paluselli**, **Dane Ramirez**, **Shiv Rao**, **Brianna Thel**, **Cole Wilson** and **Cooper Zancosky**. Seniors recognized as AP Scholars with Honor for scoring 3 or above on four AP exams include **Mustafa Adeel**, **Vasilios Balouris**, **Christopher Camp**, **Chloe Chiang**, **Ella Guo**, **Michael Lattari**, **Brooke Lindrose**, **Benjamin Lyons**, **Noah Orellana**, **Autumn Pfaeffle**, **Samyuktha Ravichandran**, **Luke Ridgeway**, **Celeste Stokan**, **Mantavya Vashishth** and **Henry Wojcik**. Seniors recognized as AP Scholars with Distinction for scoring 3 or above on at least five AP exams include **Udbhav Akolkar**, **Jocelyn Curreri**, **Nicolai Ezolt**, **Liam Francis**, **Mintas Ivaska**, **James Jarvis**, **Yuvraj Kaloya**, **Tamonash Karthikeyan**, **Alexander Melby**, **Avyukta Nagrath**, **Dante Pittorino**, **Matteo Rovera**, **Eunice Son**, **Nelli Vaiko**, **Grant Waltrip** and **Annie Wu**.



EUNICE SON
COMMEDED



ANDREW THOMAS
SEMIFINALIST



NELLI VAIKO
COMMEDED, SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



MANTAVYA VASHISHTH
COMMEDED



ANNIE WU
COMMEDED

Class of 2024

330 students graduated on June 7, 2024. **Annie Wu** was the class tertiary, **Eunice Son** was the salutatorian and **Avyukta Nagrath** was named valedictorian.

The top 10% of the Pine-Richland High School Class of 2024 included **Mustafa Adeel, Udbhav Akolkar, Vasilios Balouris, Nathan Bang, Christopher Camp, Chloe Chiang, Kate Chrystal, Nadia Constantakis, Cory Cownie, Jocelyn Curreri, Nicolai Ezolt, Liam Francis, Ryan Grebinoski, Ella Guo, Mintas Ivaska, James Jarvis, Aiden Jones, Yuvraj Kaloya, Tamonash Karthikeyan, Josie Kichi, Michael Lattari, Madeleine Lemoncelli, Brooke Lindrose, Benjamin Lyons, Avyukta Nagrath, Dante Pittorino, Shiv Rao, Matteo Rovera, Eunice Son, Nelli Vaiko, Grant Waltrip, Cole Wilson, Annie Wu** and **Cooper Zancosky**.



LEFT TO RIGHT: EUNICE SON, AVYUKTA NAGRATH AND ANNIE WU

POST-GRADUATION PLANS

2- or 4-year college	290	86.57%
Employment	18	5.37%
Gap or Service Year	12	3.58%
Career Education or Trade School	6	1.79%
Apprenticeship Program	4	1.19%
Unknown	3	0.90%
Military	2	0.60%

Each year, Pine-Richland High School's academic departments recognize top-achieving seniors with department awards. This year's awardees include:

- > JROTC: **James Cerny, John Harris, Savannah Petroff** and **Mackenzie Roy**
- > Art: **Logan Blackwell, Ella Guo** and **Riley Turner**
- > Business: **Andrew Forrester, Zachary Howard, Jonathan Smith, Zachery Willig** and **Cooper Zancosky**
- > Computer Science: **Alexander Melby**
- > Engineering and Technology: **Logan Blackwell** and **Jocelyn Langer**
- > Society of Women Engineers Award: **Jocelyn Langer**
- > English Language Arts: **Paige Baratka, Abigail Bruce, Kaylee Oglan, Matteo Rovera** and **Brianna Thel**
- > Family Consumer Science: **Giovanni Aiello, Connor Dripps, Leah Martin, Samantha Oklejewski** and **Autumn Pfaeffle**
- > Math: **Vasilios Balouris, Christopher Camp, Liam Francis, Ryan Grebinoski, Chloe Kassalen** and **Michael Lattari**
- > Music: **Maura Flynn** and **Dante Pittorino** (band), **Chloe Chiang** and **Owen Russell** (choir), and **Liam Francis** and **Joshua LeDuc** (orchestra)
- > Science: **Abigail Bruce, Shane Horan, Benjamin Lyons** and **Eunice Son**
- > Social Studies: **Udbhav Akolkar, Aidan Jones** and **Andrew Thomas**
- > World Language: **Chloe Chiang** and **Matteo Rovera** (French), **Michael Lattari** and **Mia Tucciarone** (German), and **Grace McDermott** and **Shiv Rao** (Spanish)

Arts and Music

Sixteen Pine-Richland High School art students were honored with 38 awards in the regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. These awards are considered the nation's longest-running and most prestigious fine arts awards for students. Gold and silver award-winning works were displayed at Carnegie Mellon University's Fine Arts Building. On March 23, students were honored in an award ceremony. Gold Key winners included seniors **Logan Blackwell**, **Ella Guo** and **Riley**

Turner, and juniors **Megan Black** and **Kiera Moskala**. Silver Key winners include seniors **Logan Blackwell**, **Ella Guo**, **Jay Schwierking** and **Riley Turner**, juniors **Megan Black** and **Charlie Ozelski**, and ninth-grader **Amelia Doughty**. Honorable mentions went to seniors **Logan Blackwell**, **Walker Clack**, **Ella Guo**, **Avery Hoffman**, **Ren Telles**, **Riley Turner** and **Annie Wu**, juniors **Mark Berkheiser**, **Jenna Henry** and **Erin Murray**, and ninth-grader **Abby Hengelsberg**.



Sophomores **Sophia Priore** and **Katelyn Rickard** were selected to perform with the All-State Chorus at the PMEA All-State Festival April 20 at the Warner Theater in Erie following a competitive audition process. The All-State Chorus featured 240 of the best singers from across Pennsylvania.

Seniors **Chloe Chiang**, **Lumi Foster** and **Owen Russell**, junior **Mackenzie Mercuri**, and sophomores **Brooke Deegan**, **Sophia Priore** and **Katelyn Rickard** were selected to the PMEA District Choir Festival held at Canon McMillan in late January, and to the PMEA Region Choir held at Mars Area High School March 6-8. At the region choir, **Sophia** earned top chair in her section.

Junior **Ryan Kim** and sophomore **Morgan Radi** represented Pine-Richland High School at the PMEA Honors String Orchestra Festival the weekend of November 17 at Mt. Lebanon High School. Both **Ryan** and **Morgan** were also selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 Senior High Orchestra in February.

Sophomore **Ryan Noir** represented Pine-Richland High School in the PMEA District 1 Honors Band in November at North Hills Middle School.

Eleven Pine-Richland High School students were selected following a competitive audition to perform with the Allegheny Valley Honors Band on January 5 at Hampton High School: senior **Regis Welsh**; juniors **Elaina Anderson**, **Thomas DeVito**, **Sydney Rovnan** and **Will Tamburri**; sophomores **Ashlyn Casale**, **Jiwon Lee** and **Ryan Noir**; and ninth-graders **Chase Bisti**, **Alex Goss** and **Cody Leeper**.

Juniors **Lilliana Bogle** and **Will Tamburri** and sophomores **Jiwon Lee** and **Ryan Noir** were selected to perform at the PMEA District Band West Festival January 11-13 at Peters Township High School and at the PMEA Region 1 Band Festival February 22-24 at Deer Lakes High School.

On February 16, seven Eden Hall students participated in the PMEA Elementary String Fest at Moon Area Middle School: sixth-graders **Claire Cassisi** (violin), **Rachel Mowry** (viola), **Chloe Radie** (viola), **Nathan Leckey** (cello) and **Tyler O'Connor** (cello), and fifth-graders **Andreea Pomirleanu** (violin) and **Maia Oberst** (violin).



LEFT TO RIGHT: RYAN NOIR, WILL TAMBURRI, JIWON LEE AND LILLIANA BOGLE

On Friday, May 10, Pine-Richland Middle School's choirs and orchestra competed in the Music in the Parks festival in Hershey earning an array of awards:

- > **7th/8th Grade Orchestra**—First place, Middle School String Orchestra with a Superior rating
- > **7th Grade Choir**—First place, Middle School Mixed Choir II with an Excellent rating
- > **8th Grade Choir**—First place, Middle School Mixed Choir I with a Superior rating

> **PRfect Pitch**—First place, Middle School Women's Choir with a Superior rating

> **PRfect Pitch**—Best Overall Middle School/Junior High Choir

Pine-Richland Middle School was also awarded the Esprit de Corps Award, given to a participating organization that displays an exemplary attitude of positive support and outstanding personal behavior throughout the festival weekend.



For the second straight year, eighth-grader **Tisha Joshi** earned the highest score in the state of Pennsylvania on a Level 5 practical piano performance examination administered by the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Ontario. The nationally standardized piano examination requires students to memorize three pieces of solo piano repertoire from different time periods, play technical requirements such as scales and etudes and sight reading, and also tests ear training.

Ninth-grader **Chase Bisti** was chosen to participate in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Side-by-Side program in the percussion section following recommendation by teacher **Mr. Stillwagon** and a competitive audition process. The Side-by-Side program affords high school musicians the experience of rehearsing and performing alongside their Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra counterparts. Students receive personal coaching from PSO musicians, participate in full orchestra rehearsals, collaborate with other student musicians and perform at a ticketed concert on the Heinz Hall stage.



Sophomores **Ryan Noir** (clarinet) and **Leah Wu** (violin) were selected to join the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra for the 2024-2025 season after a competitive audition process. The orchestra is comprised of 85-90 members ranging in age from 14-20 representing approximately 30 different schools in the tri-state area.



Career Education



MINTAS IVASKA



LOGAN TREMBULAK



ALEXIS NICKL



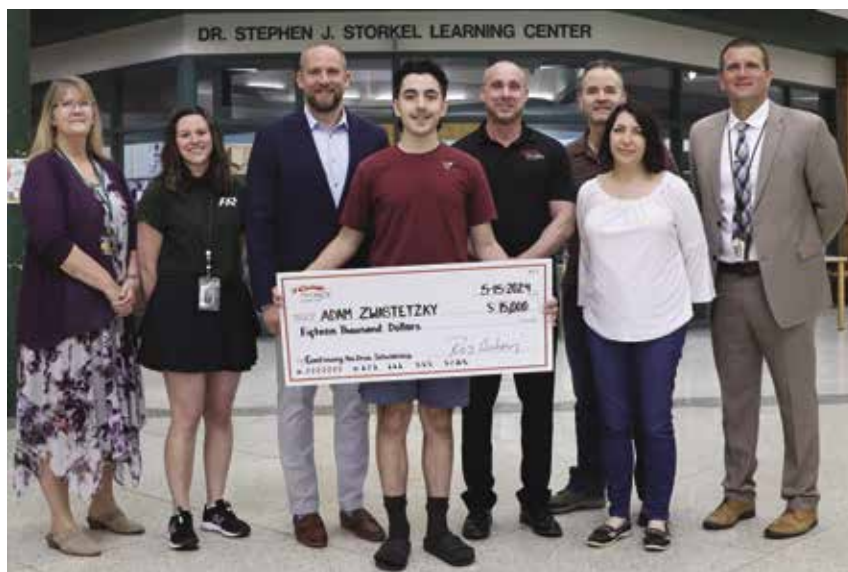
ADAM ZWASTETZKY

A.W. Beattie named four Pine-Richland students Senior of the Year in their respective programs: **Mintas Ivaska**, Network Engineering and Cyber Security, **Alexis Nickl**, Advertising Design, **Logan Trembulak**, HVAC, and **Adam Zwastetzky**, Automotive Collision Technology.

Senior **Adam Zwastetzky** was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship from #1 Cochran to attend Rosedale Technical College. Representatives from Rosedale presented the award to Adam on May 15.

Senior **Alexis Nickl** was named president of the A.W. Beattie SkillsUSA chapter.

Seniors **Mintas Ivaska**, **Luke Polito**, **Jasmine Robinson** and **Logan Trembulak** were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. The National Technical Honor Society recognizes the achievements of top career and technical education students.



JASMINE ROBINSON



LUKE POLITO

Pine-Richland High School students named Students of the Month at A.W. Beattie included seniors **Alijah Christner**, carpentry/building construction, **Mintas Ivaska**, network engineering/cyber security, **Alexis Nickl**, advertising design, **Luke Polito**, health and nursing sciences, **Logan Trembulak**, HVAC, and **Adam Zwastetzky**, automotive collision; juniors **Jessica Bui**, culinary arts (three times), **Kye Hernandez**, HVAC, **Syd Kisow**, surgical sciences technology, and **Kaleb Mathieu**, SMART-EST; sophomores **Tyler Gubitosi**, HVAC (two times), **Julia Kirkbride**, Early Childhood Education, **James Lane**, automotive collision technology, **Marcus Mesich**, veterinary sciences, **Mason Meyers**, robotics engineering technology, and **Jackson Zang**, automotive collision technology.

Leadership

Senior **Leah Martin** attended the Best Buddies Leadership Conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The four-day conference brought together student leaders from around the world who united with a shared goal of helping to foster acceptance and inclusion in their community and school. Students had the opportunity to network with experts, attend professional presentations and choose from educational and informational sessions geared towards inspiring social change. **Leah** supported and implemented the mission of Best Buddies as president of the Pine Richland High School Best Buddies chapter this school year.



Senior **Samyuktha Ravichandran** was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award. **Samy** accumulated over 100 hours of volunteer service at the Carnegie Science Center hosting shows and teaching science. Her volunteer service also includes supporting UPMC Children's Hospital, coaching youth tennis and volunteering in Kenya to support medical needs. **Samy** has collectively volunteered over 300 hours of community service to these initiatives and others.



Senior **Udbhav Akolkar** was named a semifinalist in the 2024 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. 1,514 high school seniors were selected as semifinalists from a pool of over 103,800 submitted applications from across the country based on their academic excellence, leadership and service demonstrated in school and community activities. 150 Coca-Cola scholars are selected each year to receive a \$20,000 scholarship.



Senior **Liam Francis** refreshed and improved the Wexford Elementary nature trail for his Eagle Scout project. In June, he visited the school to make the inaugural walk the trail with his former second-grade teacher, Mrs. **Joanna Firmin**, and her current class. Seven other seniors earned Eagle Scout rank: **William Bowling, Connor Foote, Michael Lattari, Mark Paluselli, Ethan Priore, Nathan Weigand** and **Jonah Wynn**.



Senior **Mackenzie Roy**, a JROTC cadet, was selected to receive an Air Force J-100 Character-in-Leadership Scholarship. She is one of only 100 cadets nationwide to receive this scholarship. The J-100 program provides recipients with four years of paid tuition at any college or university with an AFROTC detachment, \$10,000 annually for university housing, \$675 annually for books and a monthly stipend.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

LEADERSHIP CONTINUED

Seniors **Kate Chrystal, Andy Forrester, Liam Francis, Macy Hayes, Owen Russell** and **Lauren Wood** were recognized by Rich-Mar Rotary as Students of the Month for community service and academic achievement.



Senior AFJROTC cadet **James Cerny** was presented with the Music Excellence Award and a \$250 scholarship at the annual American Legion Youth Achievement Awards Banquet on April 21. James was recognized for nearly 800 hours of community service and for his work as a volunteer firefighter.



Junior **Blake Fuchs** was selected to participate as a national youth correspondent at the 2024 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University in July. **Blake** was chosen based on his academic accomplishments and interest and excellence in journalism and media studies and will join a select group of students from all over the country for an intensive study of journalism and media.

Seven Pine-Richland High School students were named Outstanding Young Citizens by Trib Total Media on April 25: seniors **Udbhav Akolkar, Ariana Anderson, Ryan Scott** and **Drew Thomas**, and juniors **Sam Heckert, Noah Mackie** and **Victoria Roccia**. The program selects 100 juniors and seniors from Western Pennsylvania who demonstrate exemplary character and leadership, dedication to community service, and outstanding academic achievement and are nominated by family, friends, school officials, teachers and community members. **Udi** and **Victoria** were named to the Top 10.



LEFT TO RIGHT: RYAN SCOTT, ARIANA ANDERSON, UDBHAV AKOLKAR, VICTORIA ROCCIA, NOAH MACKIE, SAM HECKERT AND DREW THOMAS.



Pine-Richland junior **Noah Mackie** was named the Student Visionary of the Year by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Pittsburgh on March 22. **Noah** led Team Nora's Warriors through the seven-week fundraising competition, raising \$166,245. Sixteen student teams in the Pittsburgh region competed, together raising more than \$800,000 for LLS. Pine-Richland senior **Jaden Persaud** earned the Mission Award for Policy and Advocacy, given to a student who shows leadership in bringing awareness to the research, services and mission of LLS.

NOAH MACKIE, LEFT, AND JADEN PERSAUD, RIGHT, AT THE GRAND FINALE CELEBRATION.



The Pittsburgh chapter of Multiplying Good awarded the Pine-Richland Peer-to-Peer Club with the Students in Action Gold Leadership Team Award on April 25. Pine-Richland was one of five area schools selected for this prestigious Jefferson Awards recognition. Students presenting on the club's service included fifth-grader **Juliette Straub** and juniors **Emma Eckert, Grace Hanselman, Lucy Powell** and **Erica Waite**.



Eighth graders **William Claycomb** and **Lucy Wynn** were presented with the American Legion School Award from the Richland American Legion Post 548 on May 22. The award is given annually to two outstanding eighth-grade students as selected by middle school faculty for scholarship, honor, service, patriotism, leadership and courage.

LUCY WYNN IS PRESENTED HER AWARD CERTIFICATE AND MEDAL BY COMMANDER ROBERT SCHLEIDEN FROM THE RICHLAND AMERICAN LEGION.



Fifth-grader **Aanya Patel** was named a finalist in the Highmark Caring Place's 2023-2024 Caring Team for Grieving Students Poster Contest. A representative from The Caring Place presented **Aanya** with a certificate and Amazon gift card on May 14. This year's theme was *How to Help a Grieving Friend*.



Eden Hall sixth-grader **Aiden Ro** was recognized in December for volunteer service, earning both the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award

and the Korean War Veterans Association of Western PA Outstanding Volunteer Service Certificate for his volunteer efforts. **Aiden** volunteered 137 hours in 2023, cleaning the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Pittsburgh, playing the saxophone in numerous performances for disabled and Korean War veterans, and volunteering at many community events.

Fifth-grader **Alekhyia Doddapaneni** won the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' statewide One Water Poster contest and advanced to the National Association of Conservation Districts competition. Each year, winning posters reflect the association's annual stewardship theme and highlight the work of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries and agencies to protect and enhance natural resources.



LEADERSHIP CONTINUED



LEFT TO RIGHT: SAMUEL PALUSELLI, ELLIE MANGANELLO, ISABELLE RICHARDSON, JJ MCCABE, SOPHIA KERNS AND RILEY YOON

Eighth graders **Sophia Kerns**, **Ellie Manganello**, **JJ McCabe**, **Samuel Paluselli**, **Isabelle Richardson** and **Riley Yoon** were presented with the Pittsburgh Foundation Award for kindness, consideration of others and willingness to help.

Performance



Three Pine-Richland High School students were recognized by the Prime Stage Drama Awards for their contributions to the fall play, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Senior **Nicolai Ezolt** was nominated for best actor, senior **Michael Lattari** was nominated for best student director and senior **Celeste Stokan** was nominated for best student program/poster design.

The Pine-Richland High School production of *Mamma Mia!* won two Gene Kelly Awards on May 25: Best Student Orchestra and Best Scenic Design. They were also nominated for Best Crew/ Technical Execution and Best Lighting.



PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMED CINDERELLA IN APRIL.

PERFORMANCE CONTINUED



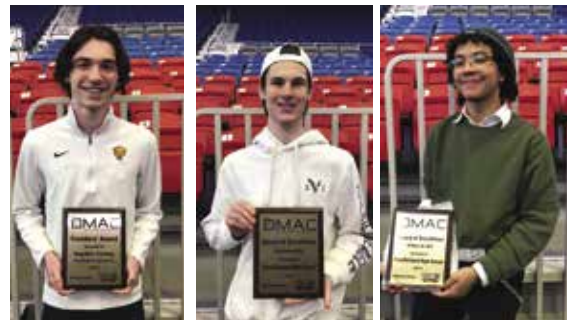
FIRST ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: CHARLOTTE BAIC, ELLA SCHNEIDER, ALETA AMEND, LILY HEILIGENSTEIN; SECOND ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: ARI LEDUC, VICTORIA ROCCIA, MAURA SCIULLO, SOPHIA REIGHARD, COURTNEY GOCHIS, SAVANNAH LOFINK; THIRD ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: ALAINA CAFARDI, CAMILLA RAND, SOPHIE WHITING, ALYSSA MANCINE, SAMANTHA MOLINARO

Pine-Richland High School’s Dance team participated in the annual Varsity Spirit Universal Dance Association summer camp at Slippery Rock University in July, earning several awards and qualifying for the UDA National Competition in Orlando, Florida, in February. The team earned a blue ribbon, superior rating and overall 1st place in the team competition. Seniors **Aleta Amend**, **Charlotte Baic**, **Lily Heiligenstein** and **Ella Schneider** earned the Varsity Spirit All-American UDA Award in the All-American competition. All 15 team members received blue ribbons (highest honor) for jazz, pom and hip-hop routines learned while at the camp. The Pine-Richland team was the only team to have all team members earn blue ribbons. All dancers in attendance participated in a drill-down competition on the last day to challenge dancers on memory, effort, precision and performance. Junior **Maria Sciuлло** placed 1st, while sophomore **Sophie Whiting** placed 2nd and ninth-grader **Alaina Cafardi** placed 3rd. The team earned the 110% Award from instructors, selected as the team who demonstrated their best effort every day of camp. Pine-Richland was also awarded Super Spirit Sticks for being the most spirited team at camp. Senior **Charlotte Baic** and junior **Victoria Roccia** earned Pin-It-Forward Awards for leadership and effort, while juniors **Ari LeDuc** and **Victoria Roccia** and ninth-grader **Alaina Cafardi** earned special recognition ribbons for effort, leadership and positive attitude.

MADISON BEGAN, PIPER BROOKS, AMELIA DOUGHTY AND AUDRA FARRAR



Eight Pine-Richland students were recognized at the 2024 Digital Media Arts Consortium’s Student Competition Awards at Robert Morris University. Industry professionals, RMU faculty and high school teachers judged student entries from the tri-state area. Pine-Richland’s award winners included: ninth-graders



HAYDEN CONLEY NATHAN DEMBOWSKI LOGAN BLACKWELL

Madison Began, **Piper Brooks** and **Amelia Doughty**, and eighth-grader **Audra Farrar**, Best Editing, 48-Hour Film Competition; senior **Nathan Dembowski** and junior **Josh Ansell**, Award of Excellence for Commercial; senior **Hayden Conley**, Founders Award; and senior **Logan Blackwell**, Award of Excellence for Video As Art.



Fifth-grader **Madeline Campbell** was a finalist in the national Sodexo Future Chefs competition. One of only five students selected nationwide, **Madeline** won the district-wide competition held in March as well as the regional competition to earn a bid for the national title with her recipe, *Madeline’s Lemon Chicken and Fried Rice*.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)



SONAYA ARORA, PIYA DARGAN AND LIZZIE FETERIK

Three Pine-Richland Middle School teams took the top three spots in the state in the annual Technology Student Association TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science) Competition. The seventh-grade team of **Sahil Dangwani**, **Katie Gliptis** and **Lydia O'Leary** placed third; the eighth-grade team of **Soha Garg**, **Sailesh Senthil** and **Owen Tan** placed second; and the eighth-grade team of **Sonaya Arora**, **Piya Dargan** and **Lizzie Feterik** placed first. All three teams qualified for the national competition in June.

A STEAM Studio team that includes five Pine-Richland High School students—seniors **Nicolai Ezolt**, **Connor Foote**, **Michael Lattari** and **Mia Tucciarone**, and junior **Jillian Uzelac**—won first place in the Opening Night Antics Division at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in May, competing against 26 teams in this division. More than 500 teams from around the world participated in the World Finals. Leading up to the World Finals, the team took first place in the Pennsylvania state competition and also was awarded the Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award, the highest of all awards given in Odyssey of the Mind, for exceptional out-of-the-box creative thinking. Pine-Richland Middle School's team, including **Sophia Cosgrove**, **Katie Gliptis**, **Ellie Kaufman**, **Kiara Liyanage**, **Lydia O'Leary** and **Violet Zappas**, also competed in the Pennsylvania state competition.



HIGH SCHOOL TEAM



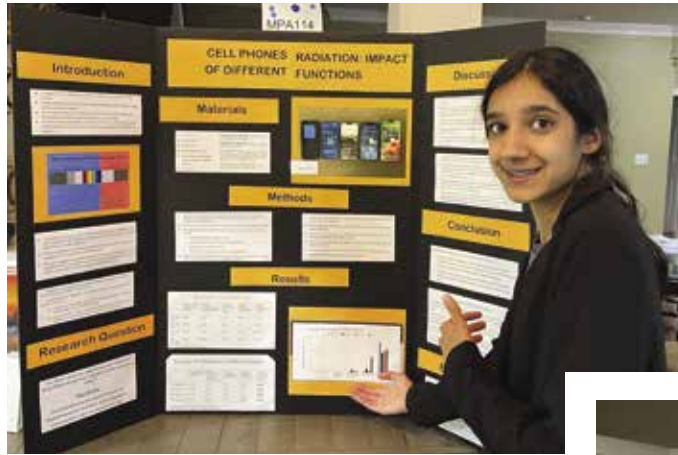
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM



Senior **Jack Nolin** won the Brighter Financial Futures Personal Budgeting Challenge for Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington, Allegheny and Greene Counties. Guided by teacher **Courtney Kronk-Love**, Jack amassed over 71,000 points in the simulation, more than 12,000 than the second place contestant. The Personal Budgeting Challenge gives students 28 months of real-world decision-making that helps prepare students for the future.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH (STEM) CONTINUED



SONAYA ARORA

Three Pine-Richland Middle School students earned awards in the intermediate division at the 85th Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair on April 2. Seventh grader **Kiaan Biswas** earned second place in the biology category, eighth grader **Sonaya Arora** earned second place in the physics category, and eighth grader **Anamaria Pomirleanu** earned second place in the engineering and robotics category. All three students were nominated to participate in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, a national event in which only the top 10% of middle school students are nominated to participate.



KIAAN BISWAS



ANAMARIA POMIRLEANU

Speech & Writing



Several Pine-Richland elementary GATE students were named winners and finalists in WQED's PBS Kids 2024 Writers Contest. Students in grades K-3 were invited to submit original stories and illustrations encouraging literacy, reading and career exploration aligned with the theme of writing about their future. Finalists included kindergarten students **Holden Kindersmith** and **Skylar Sanford-Dolly**, second graders **Alya Bhanot**, **Adelina Gao**, **Luke Iezzi** and **Clive Steadman**, and third graders **Stokely Ackenborn**, **Connor Boyer**, **Nolan Gornick**, **Alex Warnagiris** and **Christian Wyse**. Winning students included second graders **Meia Gaur**, **Zachary Machuga** and **Nicolas Romero-Sanchez** and third grader **Isla Lobas**. The winning students have been invited to submit videos of themselves reading their stories, which will be posted on WQED.org.



The Pine-Richland High School Forensics team earned the second-place sweepstakes trophy at the Duquesne University Invitational tournament on December 2nd. Seventeen schools and 179 competitors participated in the event. Pine-Richland was awarded in the large schools category for winning six individual student awards, including first place for senior **Udbhav Akolkar** in Lincoln Douglas Debate and first place for senior **Kevin McLoughlin** in Poetry. The team also earned the Small School Sweepstakes Award in addition to several individual awards March 15-16 at the annual Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Championship at Bloomsburg University. Eleven students placed, including senior **Mantavya Vashishth**, who placed first in extemporaneous debate. Five qualified for the National Catholic Forensics League Grand National Tournament following the NCFL Qualifiers tournament at Fox Chapel in early March. 138 students from 11 schools competed for a spot to qualify for the national tournament. From Pine-Richland High School, seniors **Avyukta Nagrath** and **Henry Wojcik**, junior **Thomas DeVito** and sophomore **Jiwon Lee** qualified for Public Forum Debate, and senior **Yash Shah** qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking.



Senior **Udbhav Akolkar** was awarded the Pennsylvania Communication Association's Jeanne Lutz High School Speaker of the Year Award. This award recognizes excellent

communicators and/or role models at the high school level in Pennsylvania. Udi was recognized at the Pennsylvania Communication Association's annual meeting at Slippery Rock University on September 30.



Pine-Richland High School's Cultural Communications Alliance International Business Marketing Team earned second place at the University of Pittsburgh Katz Business School's International Marketing Competition on April 30. Students were tasked with developing and presenting a marketing plan to sell Domex Superfresh Growers' Autumn Glory apples to the people of Vietnam. Team members include seniors **Jocelyn Curreri**, **Avyukta Nagrath** and **Eunice Son**, junior **Charlie Ozelski**, and sophomore **Mateen Hasan**.

CULTURE COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE MEMBERS, LEFT TO RIGHT: CHARLIE OZELSKI, EUNICE SON, JOCELYN CURRERI, AVYUKTA NAGRATH AND MATEEN HASAN

World Language



Eighteen Pine-Richland High School world language students participated in the Slippery Rock World Languages Competition in October along with hundreds of students from Western Pennsylvania. Students completed a cultural scavenger hunt and various language workshops and had the opportunity to write

their names in Japanese, create flowers out of papel picado, make buttons and more. Four Pine-Richland students placed in the competition: sophomore **Davin Biagini** (1st in Spanish 2), junior **Ian Bowen** (2nd in French 3), junior **Levina Jithesh** (2nd in Spanish 3) and sophomore **Maddy Dorigo** (3rd in Spanish 2).



Several high school Spanish students placed on the National Spanish Exam. More than 15,000 students took the Level 3 exam this year. Sophomores **Davin Biagini** and **Maddy Dorigo** earned Gold Awards, scoring above 95% of test takers. Sophomores **Brooke Deegan** and **Alexis Ross** earned Silver Awards; sophomores **Cori English**, **Isaac Kraus** and **Anastasia Punosevac** and ninth grader **Sara Alvarez** earned Bronze Awards; and sophomores **Giuliana DeRenzo**, **Adam Proctor** and **Jonathan Sweet** earned Honorable Mentions.

FIRST ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: ALEXIS ROSS, GIULIANA DERENZO, CORI ENGLISH, BROOKE DEEGAN, MADDY DORIGO, SARA ALVAREZ; SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: ADAM PROCTOR, DAVIN BIAGINI, ANASTASIA PUNOSEVAC, ISAAC KRAUS; NOT PICTURED JONATHAN SWEET.

Eleven Pine-Richland High School French students were recognized for high achievement on the National French Exam this spring, including ninth-grader **Cody Leeper**, gold medal; junior **Ian Bowen** and sophomores **Deeya Nayyar** and **Kelsey Neill**, silver medal; junior **Eliza Lazzaro**, bronze medal; and ninth-graders **Rachel Brito**, **Alaina Cafardi**, **Allie Rishel**, and **Reah Sudaric**, and seniors **Aiden Jones** and **Matteo Rovera**, honorable mention.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Baseball

PHOTO COURTESY OF GPHIL PAVELY



2023-2024 PRHS BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

The varsity team finished the season in 1st place in Section I and advanced to the WPIAL 6A semifinals.

Senior **Peyton Ford** and juniors **Keegan Deihl**, **Sam Heckert**, **Anthony Mengine** and **Jake Waddell** were named Big 56 All-Section 1st Team; senior **Reece Rupert** was named All-Section 2nd Team; senior **Danny Pedersen**, juniors **Anthony Annichine**, **Tanner Cunningham** and **Tristan Farrar**, and sophomore **Logan Plummer** were named All-Section 3rd Team. Coach **Kurt Wolfe** was named Coach of the Year.

Five seniors committed to playing baseball at the collegiate level: **Chase Caricato**, Penn State Behrend, **Nathan Kush**, Denison University, **Danny Pedersen**, Penn State Behrend, **Tyler Vogel**, Baldwin Wallace University, and **Tommy Zimmerman**, University of South Carolina Lancaster.

NEW Advertising Opportunities with Pine-Richland!

Pine-Richland is proud to offer community businesses and organizations opportunities to partner with the district through athletic digital advertising and sponsorships to help support our students and programs. Opportunities exist to support athletic teams in the stadium on our new video scoreboard, in the new gymnasium and other locations throughout campus via highly visible messaging that will reach thousands of spectators each season.



Scan the QR code or contact the Athletics Office at 724-625-4444 ext. 6800 to learn more.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



The mission of Pine-Richland Athletics is to enhance and support the overall educational mission, vision, and values of the district. Our athletic program

serves as an integral component of the school district with a commitment to academic excellence and a healthy learning environment for everyone. Athletics enhance the intellectual and social development of everyone involved in helping each person grow through experiences and to prepare for the next steps.

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

The Pine-Richland School District and PR community have immense pride in the athletic history of our teams and student-athletes. Our history is filled with quality competition, outstanding success, unparalleled facilities and integrity. The 2023-2024 school year was competitive and exciting, led by the strong leadership of our graduating seniors. You've paved the way for those who will follow, and we're excited for the next group of leaders to step to the forefront in achieving new heights in 2024-2025!

Sincerely,
J.M. Girona
Director of Athletics

Basketball

BOYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

The Boys' Basketball team finished the season with a 7-15 record after starting the season 4-4 and competed in the WPIAL 6A Playoffs. The first game of the season at highly touted Highlands was won on a valiant effort by the whole team. The team experienced two huge wins in section play at New Castle and at home versus Seneca Valley. Pine-Richland entered the playoffs as the #8 seed. The

Rams are very encouraged for next season with a young and talented roster returning.

Seniors **Carson Baer** and **Vasile Balouris** were selected to the 6A Section I All-Section 2nd Team. Coach **Robert Petcash** was named Big 56 Section I Coach of the Year. **Carson Baer** was selected to play on the Roundball Classic All-Star 6A Team. Sophomore **Grant Spacciapoli** was selected to play in the Roundball Classic Rising Stars game.

GIRLS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

The Girls' Basketball team entered the playoffs as the seventh seed in Class 6A this season.

Senior **Madison Zavasky** was named to the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* All-WPIAL 6A Team, All-Section and Big 56 First Team as well as the Roundball Classic All-Star 6A Team. **Madison** joined the 1,000-Point Club after scoring 1,266 points during her high school career and committed to play basketball for Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Bocce

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



The Unified Bocce team entered the playoffs following an undefeated season led by seniors **Logan Heilman**, **Leah Martin** and **Abram Morris**.

Together with Best Buddies, the team raised \$3,145 for Special Olympics Pennsylvania, culminating in their participation in the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge February 23 at Acrisure Stadium. Pine-Richland’s Unified Bocce team pairs two Special Olympics athletes with two unified partners, helping to promote inclusion, acceptance and respect.

SENIOR LEAH MARTIN SHOWS THE PRELIMINARY FUNDRAISING TOTAL AT THE POLAR PLUNGE EVENT; THE TEAM WENT ON TO RAISE A TOTAL OF \$3,145!

Crew



2023-2024 CREW TEAM

The Crew team placed highly at a number of events this season, including 1st place finishes at:

Speakmon Memorial Regatta, Columbus

- > Men's Novice 4+ (ninth-graders **Gavin Bullard, Dylan Lane, Blake Mastro, Gavin Mastro**, cox. senior **Joe Delie**)
- > Men's Varsity 4+ (senior **Ben Pickels**, juniors **Owen Jones, Parker Mehlhorn, Blake Mastro**, cox. **Joe Delie**)

Pittsburgh Sprints

- > Women's JV 4+ (ninth-grader **Kate Mazefsky**, juniors **Bella Folmer, Ava Spagnoli, Josie Arthur**, sub. cox. eighth-grader **Charon Fredell**)
- > Men's JV 4+ (**Owen Jones, Parker Mehlhorn, Blake Mastro, Gavin Mastro**, cox. **Joe Delie**)
- > Women's Novice 4+ (**Kate Mazefsky**, ninth-graders **Eva Merante, Ava McKenney, Sophia Zottola**, cox. sophomore **John Moschitta**)
- > Men's Novice 4+ (ninth-graders **Teagan Rich, Gavin Mastro, Gavin Bullard, Dylan Lane**, cox. **Joe Delie**)

Cheerleading



2023-2024 CHEERLEADING TEAM

Pine-Richland cheerleaders competed in the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships January 26-27 in Hershey, placing 9th in the 3A Small Varsity Finals. They moved on to the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando on February 9.

North Allegheny Indoor Sprints

- > Novice Relay (**Gavin Bullard, Blake Mastro, Gavin Mastro, Kate Mazefsky, Ava McKenney, Eva Merante**)
- > Men's Lightweight Novice (**Blake Mastro**)
- > Lightweight Varsity (**Ben Pickels**)

At the Midwest Scholastic Championship in Michigan, Men's Varsity 4- (**Ben Pickels, Owen Jones**, senior **Liam Francis**, senior **Dante Pittorino**) placed 2nd, the highest rank for our Crew team in school history. Junior **Owen Jones** was selected to the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Association's Scholastic Honor Roll ranking first of 103 students in the midwest region.

Cross Country

This was another strong season for our Pine-Richland Cross-Country team. Both teams and individual runners enjoyed great success with many runners achieving personal best times. The Boys' team finished with five wins and four losses with the runners placing high at many invitationals. Sophomore **Lucas Thompson** medaled at WPIALs with his 14th-place finish and qualified for the state championship. Lucas had the 3rd best finish at WPIALs for a PR runner since 1998. He competed in the PIAA Cross-Country State Championship on November 4 and finished 14th.

The Girls' team finished 8th at the WPIAL Championships and looks forward to the opportunity to compete at the WPIAL and PIAA State Championships next season.

The goal of the Pine-Richland Cross Country team is to have a welcoming program that is both enjoyable and encouraging to all student-athletes. Our coaching staff is dedicated to working with the athletes to help them develop a love for running while developing skills to maintain a healthy lifestyle. We are looking forward to a positive and successful season where we plan to celebrate both team and individual successes.

BOYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

GIRLS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Field Hockey

This season, the Field Hockey team won its fifth straight WPIAL Class 3A title along with the 2023 All-State Team GPA Award from the Pennsylvania High School Field Hockey Coaches Association for maintaining a team average GPA of at least 3.3.

Senior **Jessica Albertson** was selected to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association's 2024 Senior Impact Team, which recognizes achievements on and off the field, highlighting leadership and service. Five students were named to the 2023 National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III Scholars of Distinction for achieving a cumulative unweighted GPA of at least 3.9 through the first quarter: senior **Mikayla Saversky** and juniors **Anna Karmanos, Madeline Mill, Erin Murray** and **Kylie Schneck**. Named to the 2023 National Field Hockey Coaches Association National Academic Squad for a GPA of at least 3.5 through the first quarter were seniors **Jessica Albertson, Sara Neuhart** and **Mikayla Saversky**, and juniors **Maggie Campbell, Kendyll Jerry, Anna Karmanos, Madeline Mill, Erin Murray, Maddy**

Myers, Ella Perry, Georgia Rottinghaus, Kylie Schneck and **Elise VanderWeele**.

Georgia Rottinghaus was named 3A 1st Team All-State. **Jessica Albertson** and **Madeline Mill** were named 3A 2nd Team All-State. **Maggie Campbell, Anna Karmanos**, senior **Tyler Kopp, Madeline Mill, Erin Murray, Maddy Myers, Ella Perry, Georgia Rottinghaus, Mikayla Saversky** and **Kylie Schneck** were named to the 2023 State All-Academic Team for maintaining at least a 3.6 GPA. **Mikayla Saversky** was named the 2023 Western PA Most Positive Field Hockey Athlete by the Positive Athlete organization. **Jessica Albertson, Madeline Mill** and **Georgia Rottinghaus** were named to the All-WPIAL Team. Seniors **Khushi Saini** and **Jessica Albertson**, juniors **Georgia Rottinghaus, Madeline Mill** and **Erin Murray**, and sophomore **Emma Wallace** were named to the 2023 WPIAL Field Hockey Coaches Association Class 3A All-Stars.

Khushi Saini committed to play field hockey next year at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



THE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH-STRAIGHT WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP.



2023-2024 PRHS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY144

Football



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS FOOTBALL TEAM

After a slow start with a 1-2 record, the Rams got back on track and finished the season 9-4 as WPIAL runner-up. In that win streak, the Rams beat a highly talented Central Catholic team on the back of senior **Ethan Pillar** and a senior group of offensive linemen, blanked gritty North Hills and Woodland Hills teams with a stout defense, and pounded Bethel Park in the first round of playoffs with an explosive offense to set up an epic rematch with Penn Hills. Trailing 9-0 with under four minutes left, the powerful leg of junior **Grant Argiro** hit a 42-yard field goal, followed by an epic final drive, capped off by a touchdown from ninth-grader **Aaron "Oobi" Strader** with two seconds left. Up 10-9, senior **Evan Johnson** recovered a fumble and returned it for a touchdown as time expired for the 16-9 win. The battered Rams team lost in the WPIAL Championship to PIAA runner-up Peters Township.

Senior **Vasile Balouris** was named to the Pittsburgh Steelers All-Peer Team, one of 11 selected for going above and beyond to provide mentor-like support to teammates. Head Coach **Jon LeDonne** was named the Pittsburgh Steelers High School Coach of the Week following the Pine-Richland-Central Catholic game on October 6.

Senior **Ryan Cory** was named the 2023 Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* 5A Player of the Year and to the 2023 Pennsylvania Football Writers' Class 5A All-State



SENIOR VASILE BALOURIS WAS NAMED TO THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS ALL-PEER TEAM.

Team. Senior **Evan Johnson** was selected to represent Pennsylvania in the 67th annual Big 33 Football Classic. **Ryan** and **Evan**, along with seniors **Grant Argiro**, **Hunter Petzuk**, **Ethan Pillar** and **Jon Smith** were named 2023 WPIAL All-Conference, and **Coach LeDonne** was named Coach of the Year.

Several players committed to continuing their football careers at the collegiate level: **Giovanni Aiello**, Susquehanna University; **Nate Brown**, Gannon University; **James Cardinali**, United States Naval Academy; **Ryan Cory**, University of Wisconsin; **Evan Johnson**, Duquesne University; **Ethan Pillar**, Mercyhurst University; and **Jonathan Smith**, Clarion University.

Golf



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS BOYS GOLF TEAM

BOYS

The Boys' Golf team completed their 30th consecutive winning season by the nearest of margins and went 9-8. Four players qualified for the first two rounds of WPIAL finals: senior **Zach Howard** and juniors **Wes Calhoun**, **Will Hilton** and **Roger Williams**.

Will Hilton (8th overall) and **Wes Calhoun** (15th overall) were WPIAL Individual Qualifiers. **Will Hilton** was a PIAA state finalist, placing 35th in the PIAA State Championship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

FROM LEFT, COACH ANDY DUGGAR, WILL HILTON, COACH JEFF SEYBERT

GIRLS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144

2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS GOLF TEAM

The 2023 Girls' Golf team had its most successful season in recent years, finishing 8-7 overall, with both the JV and Varsity teams finishing over .500 for the first time in six years. The ladies showed incredible progress throughout the year and were able to beat North Allegheny for the first time in more than eight years. The team also sent two golfers to the sectional tournament: junior **Sydney Fluhrer** and ninth-grader **Siena Smith**, who both had excellent showings. The team looks to build on the success of the past season and already has set its sights on winning the section next year.



Gymnastics

The Gymnastics team went 7-0 in the 2024 season, earning the title of Section I Champions before capturing gold at the WPIAL Team Championship with a score of 148.608, the first title for the team in 15 years. Sophomore **Ana Constantakis** placed 1st on uneven bars and junior **Annamaria Samuels** placed 1st on beam. In the WPIAL Individual Championship, senior **Nadia Constantakis** placed 2nd on beam. The team will miss its graduating seniors, **Nadia Constantakis** and **Grace McDermott**, but looks forward to another highly competitive season next year!

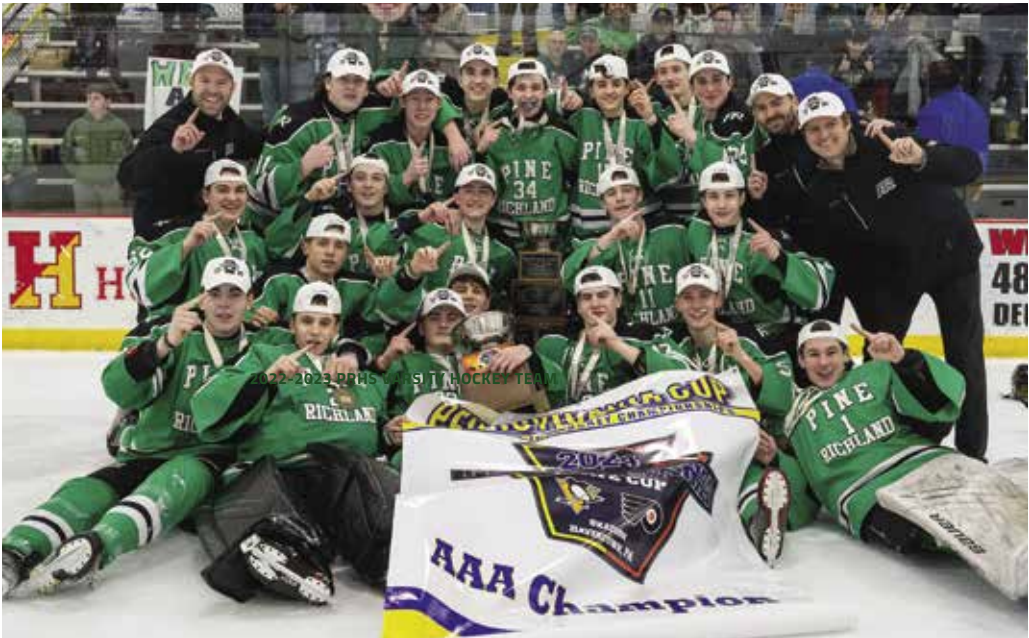


2023-2024 PRHS GYMNASTICS TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 1.44



Hockey



2023-2024 PRHS HOCKEY TEAM

Pine-Richland's varsity hockey team won the Pennsylvania Cup Class 3A state championship on March 23, defeating LaSalle 5-4 in overtime. Four team members were selected to the PHL All-Star Team: seniors **Zach Howard** and **Logan Kozak** and sophomores **Cullen Campbell** and **Doug Van Meter**. **Coach Jordan Yoklik** was named the All-Star Team's assistant coach.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Lacrosse

BOYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

The team finished the season in 5th place in Section II of Class 3A. Senior **Cooper Zancosky** was named WPIAL AAA All-Section and All-WPIAL, one of only four attackmen in WPIAL AAA lacrosse to receive the All-WPIAL recognition. This season, **Cooper** became the all-time program leader in goals (141), assists (100) and points (241). Senior **Luke Hatzimbes** was named WPIAL

AAA All-Section and All-WPIAL Faceoff Specialist. **Luke** was chosen as the top faceoff specialist in boys WPIAL AAA lacrosse to receive the All-WPIAL recognition.

Talan Hill-Ressler committed to play lacrosse at Westminster College.

GIRLS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

The Girls' Lacrosse team finished the regular season as undefeated Section II champs 9-0-0 in the section and 14-1-1 overall. They advanced to the WPIAL 3A Championship game, falling to Mt. Lebanon.

USA Lacrosse named junior **Madeline Mill** to their All-American team. Ninth-graders **Claire Mill** and **Mallory Boivin** were selected to play for the Pittsburgh National Team. Sophomore **Cate Gentile** and juniors **Kendyll Jerry** and **Madeline Mill** were named All-WPIAL. **Mallory Boivin, Cate Gentile, Kendyll Jerry**

and **Madeline Mill** were named 1st Team All-Section. **Claire Mill** and juniors **Claire Dosch** and **Erica Waite** were named 2nd Team All-Section. Senior **Taylor Wilkinson** was named Honorable Mention.

Milestones for individuals this season included 100 varsity goals, 200 varsity career points and 100 draw controls for **Madeline Mill**; 100 varsity goals and 100 varsity points for **Cate Gentile**; 200 varsity saves for **Claire Dosch**; and 100 varsity career points for **Kendyll Jerry**.

Soccer

BOYS

PHOTO COURTESY OF LA PHOTOGRAPHY



2023-2024 PRHS BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

Seniors **Nathan Bang** and **Caden Bennett** were named to the WPIAL Class 4A All-WPIAL Team and Big 56 All-Section Team. **Caden** was selected to play in the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association All-Star game.

GIRLS

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

Pine-Richland Girls Soccer had a rebuilding season after graduating 11 seniors last year. Highlights included a section record of 6-8-0, narrowly missing the playoffs by one goal, a 3-1 section victory over Butler, recording clean sheets 3-0 versus Allerdice and a 4-0 versus North Hills. Many players contributed to goal scoring, which was led by sophomore **Lily De Jesus** with six, and sophomore **Molly Baker** and junior **Abby Satina** each with four.

Sophomore **Shea Best** was named All-WPIAL, and sophomore **Riley White** was named to the Big 56 4A 2nd Team.

A big part of the season's success came from a strong defensive effort with outstanding performances from center backs **Riley White** and junior **Rylee Ulanowicz** and solid two-way work from senior center midfielder **Abby Rosenwasser**, as well as consistent performance from starting goaltender **Shea Best**. The team is well-positioned for a great season this fall.

Softball



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL PAVELY

2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

Led by junior captain **Calle Henne** and senior captain **Mackenzie Gillis**, the team led all of Class 6A in runs scored with 178, finished the season with a winning record and reached the playoffs for the fourth straight year. The varsity team advanced to the quarterfinals of the WPIAL playoffs.

Calle Henne was named Big 56 First Team Catcher All-Section, senior **Jocelyn Langer** was named Big 56 First Team Outfielder All-Section, sophomore **Serafina Julio** was named Big 56 Second Team Outfielder All-Section, **Isabella Sulesky** was named Big 56 Second Team Designated Player All-Section, and senior **Mackenzie Gillis** was named Big 56 Honorable Mention All-Section. These awards are given to the best of the best in Class 6A and to have five players selected is quite an honor.

Swim and Dive



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2023-2024 PRHS SWIM AND DIVE TEAM

Following the WPIAL Swimming and Diving Championships the first weekend of March, several Pine-Richland students competed in the PIAA Championship March 13-16 at Bucknell University: junior **Sarah Anne Shaffer**, girls' 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke, and ninth-grader **Allison Schomaker**, girls' 100-yard breaststroke. In the girls' 200-yard freestyle relay, **Sarah Anne** and **Allison**

swam with sophomore **Riley Shafer** and ninth-grader **Bree Arthur**, and in the girls' 400-yard freestyle relay, **Riley**, **Sarah Anne** and **Allison** swam with sophomore **Anna Schomaker**.

Ariana Anderson will continue her swimming career at Ohio Northern University.

Tennis

BOYS

PHOTO COURTESY OF LA PHOTOGRAPHY



2023-2024 PRHS BOYS VARSITY TENNIS TEAM

The Boys' Tennis team finished the season with an overall record of 5-4 and second in the section with a 5-1 record. The team made it into the WPIAL playoffs where they beat Norwin in the first round 5-0 before losing to Gateway in the second round by a score of 2-3. Sophomore **Ryan Moore** and junior **Ian Hurt** represented the team in the section singles tournament. Two teams represented the team in the section doubles tournament: juniors **Ben Santiago** and **Tim Peng**, and senior **Udi Akolkar** and junior **Ian Hurt**. **Udi** and **Ian** qualified for the WPIAL doubles tournament after finishing in the top three in the section tournament.

GIRLS

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

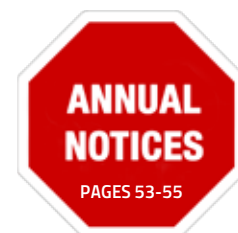


2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS TEAM

Girls' Tennis finished the season with an overall record of 12- 4 and 6-1 in the section. The team made it to the second round of WPIAL playoffs where they fell to North Allegheny. Sophomore **Deeya Nayyar** and senior **Rachel Smith** represented the team at section doubles and made it into the WPIAL doubles tournament after finishing in the top three. Seniors **Samy Ravichandran** and **Kiana Strahotin** also represented the team at the section doubles tournament. Ninth-grader **Caroline Prisk** and sophomore **Deeya Nayyar** represented the team in the section singles tournament. **Caroline** won the section singles tournament and then participated in the WPIAL singles tournament where she finished in third place, qualifying her for the PIAA State Singles Championship in Hershey on November 3.



CAROLINE PRISK REPRESENTED PR AT THE PIAA STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP.



Track and Field



2023-2024 PRHS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144



SENIOR NADIA CONSTANTAKIS EARNED A SILVER MEDAL AT THE PIAA TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

This was another awesome track and field season. Our athletes work hard and train and compete with great determination. Both the girls' and boys' teams placed high at many large invitationals, and we hosted a successful Pine-Richland Invitational again this season, one of the biggest invitationals in the state. Five student-athletes qualified for the PIAA Track and Field State Championships in late May, all finishing in the top 12: senior **Nadia Constantakis**, pole vault, 2nd place (tie); junior **Emery Moye**, high jump, 8th place (tie); junior **Ryan Beam**, javelin, 9th place; junior **Ben McLean**, 800 meters, 12th place; junior **Abby Satina**, 300 hurdles, 12th place. **Nadia Constantakis** set a school pole vaulting record at 12'6". Twenty-seven student-athletes competed in the WPIAL Championships; four girls (individuals/relay teams) and five boys (individuals/relay teams) medaled.

Nicholas Hartwick committed to furthering his track and field career at Slippery Rock University.

Ultimate Frisbee

THE PINE-RICHLAND ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAM ARE THE 2024 PITTSBURGH ULTIMATE WINTER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS. PINE-RICHLAND DEFEATED CENTRAL CATHOLIC 20-12 TO WIN THE TITLE.



Volleyball

BOYS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144

2023-2024 PRHS BOYS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

After only winning two matches in two seasons, Pine Richland Boys' Volleyball had a great season with a record of 7-9 and only missed the playoffs by one game. Junior **Matteo Rotelli** reached 1,000 career assists. Sophomore **Doolin Stober** was named 1st Team All-Section and 2nd Team All-WPIAL. **Matteo Rotelli** was named 2nd Team All-Section. **Doolin Stober** was selected to USA Volleyball's National Team Development Program.

GIRLS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVE MARMARELLU

2023-2024 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Pine-Richland Girls' Volleyball had another winning season, finishing with a 13-6 record led by captains senior **Sofia Morse** and sophomore **Isabelle Hoppe**.

Isabelle Hoppe was named to the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association Class 4A All-State Team and was selected to the USA Volleyball Girls' U19 National Team. **Isabelle Hoppe** and **Sofia Morse** were named Class 4A Section I 1st Team All-Stars; sophomore **Valerie Menke** and ninth-grader **Piper**

Vogel were named Class 4A Section I 2nd Team All-Stars; and sophomore **Megan DeKunder**, senior **Kaylee Oglan** and junior **Tiffany Gathers** were named Class 4A Section I 3rd Team All-Stars. **Isabelle Hoppe** was named WPIAL Class 4A 1st Team All-Star; **Sofia Morse** was named WPIAL Class 4A 2nd Team All-Star; and **Piper Vogel** was named WPIAL Class 4A 3rd Team All-Star. **Isabelle Hoppe** and **Sofia Morse** were named to the WPIAL All-Section Team.

Wrestling



2023-2024 PRHS BOYS AND GIRLS WRESTLING TEAMS

BOYS



VAUGHN SPENCER WON GOLD IN THE PIAA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP.

At the Allegheny County Wrestling Tournament in January, juniors **Vaughn Spencer** and **Dominic Ferraro** placed first, earning Allegheny County Championship titles. **Vaughn** won the Ron Garrison Brotherhood of Wrestling Award for sportsmanship. This is the third consecutive year a Pine-Richland wrestler has won the award.

Five wrestlers competed in the WPIAL Class 3A wrestling championships: juniors **Dom Ferraro** and **Vaughn Spencer**, sophomore **Mac Miller** and ninth graders **Max Kohser** and **Alden Rockacy**. **Vaughn** won his second WPIAL Championship, and **Dom** earned second place. **Mac**, **Dom** and **Vaughn** were section champions. Both **Vaughn** and **Dom** advanced to the

PIAA Wrestling Championship in March in Hershey, where **Vaughn** took the PIAA title, the first for Pine-Richland in 42 years. **Vaughn** also broke Pine-Richland's single-season record with 43 wins.

Senior **Cole Wilson** and **Mac Miller** were named to the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic 1st Team, **Vaughn Spencer** was named to the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic Third Team and junior **Robert Hoy** was named Honorable Mention. **Coach Shane Simpson** was named Section II Assistant Coach of the Year.

Cole Wilson committed to continue his wrestling career at Penn State Behrend.

GIRLS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Pine-Richland Girls' Wrestling was part of history this year—the first season PIAA recognized girls' wrestling as a sport! With 26 girls on the roster, 23 of whom had never wrestled before, their season resulted in one of the best showings for any first-year team in the WPIAL. Junior **Tiffany Gathers** and sophomore **Brynn Bosack** placed at WPIALs and qualified for the PIAA Western Regional Championship.

COACH TOMMY CAMPANELLA, BRYNN BOSACK, TIFFANY GATHERS AND COACH ELLSYN MULARKSI AT THE WPIAL GIRLS' WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

1960 Football Team

The 1960 Richland football team was the first athletic team in school history to challenge for a WPIAL playoff berth. Only the fourth football team in Rams history, they went 8-1 under coach Dick Dilts and assistant coaches Aylmer Girdwood and Ron Jenkins.



MICHAEL BUTERBAUGH, Class of 1971



Michael Buterbaugh was a two-sport athlete at Richland High School, playing football and basketball. At quarterback, Mr. Buterbaugh was the starter for the 1969 and 1970 Hall of Fame teams and captain of the 1970 team. He never lost a game—both teams won back-to-back WPIAL Class A

championships with a 20-0 record. Mr. Buterbaugh was named to the All-WPIAL Team in 1970, WKPA Player of the Week in 1969 and 1970, Sharpsburg Herald All-Star Offensive Team in 1969 and 1970, Pittsburgh Press Outstanding Player Class A in 1970 and All-Allegheny Conference in 1970. As a basketball player, Mr. Buterbaugh was captain his senior year, graduating as the leading career scorer at Richland High School with 614 points as well as having the most career field goals with 255.

BILL COLPO, Class of 1969



Bill Colpo graduated from Richland High School as a three-sport athlete. As a freshman, Mr. Colpo won the WPIAL Section 7 Championship in the 133 lb. weight class. That same year, he won Area 3 and the AMA-AAU Junior Olympics Championship in the 135 lb. weight class. As a senior, he was co-captain of the wrestling team (12-2) and was

undefeated (14-0) in regular season matches. That year, he won the Section 7 Championship in the 138 lb. weight class for the second time. As a senior football player, Mr. Colpo was the leading rusher for the first seven games while only playing two and a half games due to a season-ending knee injury.

MATTHEW CRUMMY, Class of 1999



Matthew Crummy was a three-sport athlete, participating in soccer, ice hockey and track and field, earning 11 varsity letters and the title of North Hills News Record Boys' Athlete of the Year in 1999 and North Hills News Record Boys' Soccer Player of the Year in 1998. In soccer, Mr. Crummy scored 83 career goals and 40

career assists, graduating with all-time PRHS career goals and points records. He was a four-time section all-star, two-time section MVP, two-time team MVP and two-time WPIAL all-star, and led the team to two PIAA tournaments. In hockey, he led the varsity team to a PIHL AA Championship in 1999. He was named a WPIHL and TAHA all-star, team captain and MVP. He was a two-time Penguins Cup finalist. In track and field, he earned 555 career points in track and field, the school's then third-highest of all-time. He was a two-time team MVP and six-time WPIAL finalist.

KEVIN MCCABE, Class of 2003



Kevin McCabe was a three-sport athlete at Pine-Richland, lettering in football, basketball and baseball. Football is where he excelled, and in his senior year, he led his team to a then-school-record 12 wins and to the WPIAL title game. As a senior, Mr. McCabe was selected to the AP First Team All-State and was named a Super Prep All-American.

He was a two-time member of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Fabulous 22 and graduated as Pine-Richland's all-time leader in touchdown passes, yards and completions. Mr. McCabe played in the National Football League with the Pittsburgh Steelers and in the Arena Football League with the Cleveland Gladiators and Pittsburgh Power.

KRISTEN MURSLACK, Class of 2013



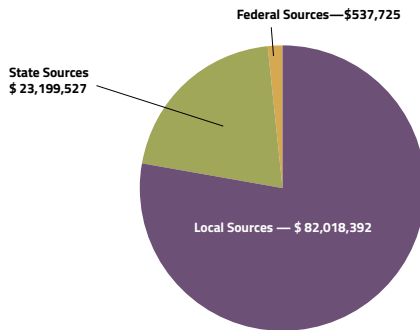
Kristen Murslack was a Pine-Richland High School swimming standout, earning a PIAA championship in 2011 in the 100-meter breaststroke, along with five WPIAL championships in the 200-meter individual medley and three WPIAL championships in the 100-meter breaststroke. Following her

Pine-Richland career, Ms. Murslack swam for Auburn University, participating in the SEC Championships in her senior year. After college, she spent a year coaching the Rams swim team, two seasons coaching at the University of Pittsburgh, and now coaches the Florida Gators.

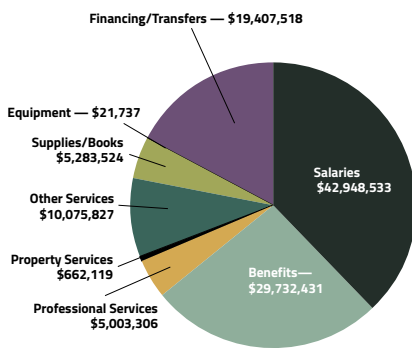
BUDGET & BOARD UPDATE

Board Approves Budget for 2024-2025 with No Tax Increase

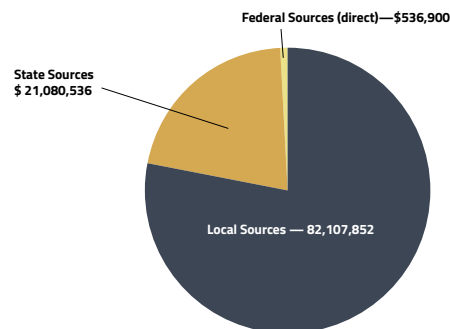
2024-2025 Budgeted Revenue



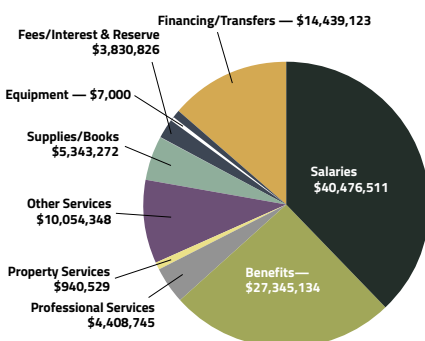
2024-2025 Budgeted Expenditures



2023-2024 Budgeted Revenue



2023-2024 Budgeted Expenditures



The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2024-2025 school year with total expenditures of \$113,134,994 and total revenues of \$105,755,644 with utilization of fund balance for capital improvements in the amount of \$7,379,350. The board maintained the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2024-2025 with no increase:

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

COST-SAVING MEASURES

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

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

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the district was unable to capitalize on any bond refunding opportunities due to the high interest rates. The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for additional refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible. Due to the high interest rates, the District investments outperformed expectations by over a million dollars.

INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- > The board approved the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution for the upcoming tax year. The resolution provides for property tax reduction through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion," which is provided by the state gaming industry/casinos. Residents should have an application on file with Allegheny County indicating the house they live in is their homestead. They will also receive a reduction in assessed value for their school tax. Each approved homestead will receive a real estate tax reduction in the amount of \$217.35.
- > In February 2024, the board approved a property tax rebate program for all qualifying senior citizens, widows and widowers for the 2023 calendar year. The application reflected a due date of June 30, 2024. If the filer meets the criteria, he or she could see anywhere from \$380 - \$1,000 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 64.24% of total annual budgeted expenditures. These expenditures are established by collective bargaining agreements and compensation plans.

Employer Benefit Costs – The district's employer contribution rate for the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) will decrease to 33.9% of salary costs from 34% in 2023-2024. This rate is set by the PSERS Board of Trustees and mandated by state legislation. Although a drop in rate, expenditures for retirement contributions are budgeted to increase \$713,581 in 2024-2025. State funding reimburses the district fifty percent of these costs.

Premium Costs – Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium medical premium costs will increase by 9% for covered employees. Dental and vision insurance premiums will increase by 5% and 3% respectively. Overall group health insurance expenditures for the District are budgeted to increase by \$1,433,814 in 2024-2025.

Tuition Expenditures – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs which are projected at \$1,100,915 for 2024-2025 for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools. None of these costs are reimbursed by the state.

Board Update



SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT: MRS. CHRISTINA BRUSSALIS, MRS. LISA HILLMAN, MRS. AMY TERCHICK, MRS. LESLIE MILLER, MRS. ASHLEY FORTIER; STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT: MR. MICHAEL WIETHORN, MR. PHILIP MORRISSETTE, MR. JOSEPH CASSIDY, MR. MARC CASCIANI

Pennsylvania school boards are governed by nine elected directors. Four newly elected school directors and one incumbent school director were sworn into office on December 4, 2023. Solicitor **Donald Palmer** administered the oath of office to **Mrs. Ashley Fortier** (Region 1), **Mrs. Leslie Miller** (Region 2), **Mr. Philip Morrisette** (Region 3), **Mr. Michael Wiethorn** (Region 3), and incumbent **Mr. Marc Casciani** (Region 1). The directors will serve a four-year term ending in 2027. The board elected **Mr. Morrisette** as president and re-elected **Mrs. Amy Terchick** as vice president. **Mr. Casciani** was re-elected in May 2024 to continue serving as board treasurer.

The board also appointed:

- > **Mrs. Lisa Hillman** as legislative representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for a one-year term through November 2024.
- > **Mr. Joseph Cassidy** as a representative to the A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Committee for a two-year term expiring December 2025. **Mrs. Miller** was appointed to a one-year term expiring December 2024.
- > **Mrs. Amy Terchick** as a representative to the Pine Township Parks and Recreation Board for 2024.
- > **Mrs. Fortier** as a Food Service Advisory and Wellness Committee representative.
- > **Mr. Christopher Juzwick**, director of financial and operational services, as a delegate to the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee with **Mr. Casciani** as an alternate.
- > **Mrs. Barbara Williams** serves as board secretary.

At the May 20, 2024, meeting, **Mrs. Hillman** and **Mrs. Christina Brussalis** were elected as voting delegates for the Pennsylvania School Board Association's 2024 Delegate Assembly.

In April, members of the school board toured Pine-Richland High School and Wexford Elementary to see learning in action. The tour included a visit to the high school PAES Lab, designed to prepare students for post-graduation employment opportunities, and to the high school planetarium. While at the high school, board members spoke with GATE students and members of the Principal's Advisory Committee. At Wexford, the board saw phonics learning in action in first and second-grade classrooms and a school counselor-guided lesson in a third-grade classroom. They visited the English as a Second Language classroom to learn how the district is meeting the needs of students with language barriers. Board members also spoke with third-grade teachers to learn about RAM Time and how students use it to reach their highest potential through differentiation.



MR. CASSIDY AND MR. WIETHORN TALK WITH LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER MS. ALICIA METZGER IN THE PAES LAB.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



PINE-RICHLAND MARCHING BAND PERFORMS AT HALFTIME ON OCTOBER 6.



EDEN HALL'S WORLD LANGUAGE STUDENTS COLLECTED OVER 500 POSTCARDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AS PART OF THEIR IT'S A SMALL WORLD POSTCARD PROJECT.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RAISED \$19,108 FOR KDKA'S ANNUAL TURKEY FUND, MORE THAN ANY OTHER SCHOOL IN THE PITTSBURGH REGION. AS A REWARD TO HER STUDENTS, PRINCIPAL JENNA RUCKER DROPPED A TURKEY COSTUME AND WAVED HELLO TO STUDENTS FROM HER SAFELY TETHERED PERCH IN A BUCKET TRUCK.



WEXFORD STUDENTS CELEBRATED WORLD READ ALOUD DAY IN FEBRUARY.

EIGHTH GRADERS WELCOMED PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROB MERCURI AND PA STATE SENATOR LINDSEY WILLIAMS FOR AN ASSEMBLY TIED TO THEIR SOCIAL STUDIES COURSEWORK. STUDENTS PREPARED QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE AND ENGAGED IN AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION WITH THE OFFICIALS.





FIRST GRADERS AT RICHLAND HOSTED THEIR ANNUAL SING-A-BRATION FOR FAMILIES, PERFORMING SONGS THEY LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATED A SUCCESSFUL RAMS WAY CHALLENGE WITH A STUDENTS VS STAFF BASKETBALL GAME.



FIRST GRADERS AT HANCE PARTICIPATED IN AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE NUTCRACKER STORY AND BALLET. STUDENTS ENJOYED A FIELD TRIP TO THE BENEDUM CENTER, BUT FIRST WERE TREATED TO A VISIT FROM MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE.



PEER2PEER CLUB HOSTED ITS 9TH ANNUAL COLOR RUN, AN EVENT DESIGNED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND THE MULTIPLYING GOOD FOUNDATION.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY HELPED 96.1 KISS FM FILL A RECORD 68 BUSES THIS YEAR FOR ITS ANNUAL STUFF-A-BUS PROGRAM. PINE-RICHLAND STUDENTS STUFFED SIX BUSES FULL OF TOYS FOR THE FUNDRAISER.



FOURTH GRADERS PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD, WORKING IN PAIRS TO COMPLETE A VARIETY OF SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS AND PROJECTS.



HANCE ELEMENTARY EXPLORED WORLD CULTURE THEMES ON DISNEY DAY. STUDENTS WERE INVITED TO DRESS IN COSTUME OR WITH T-SHIRTS BEARING THEIR FAVORITE CHARACTERS, AND STAFF GOT IN ON THE FUN AS WELL.



BEST BUDDIES HOSTED A CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT IN APRIL

ANNUAL NOTICES

Introduction

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

Each year the district publishes these notices along with other pertinent information families need to know about school district operations and expectations at pinerichland.org. Families without internet access should contact the Director of Communications at **724-625-7773**, ext. **6202**.

Annual Notices

Visit pinerichland.org/annual-notices for more about student services and more details on the following:

- > Armed Forces Recruiting
- > Attendance
- > Bullying/Cyberbullying
- > Child Abuse
- > Concussion Management
- > Diabetes Management
- > Electronic Devices
- > Enrollment of Students
- > Federal Programs Title I
- > Food Allergy Management
- > Food Services
- > Free and Reduced Lunch
(Visit compass.state.pa.us for info & application)
- > Gifted Education Services & Screening & Evaluation
- > Hazing
- > Health Examinations/Screenings
- > Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
- > Integrated Pest Management
- > Interscholastic Athletics
- > Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners

- > McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- > Medication
- > Meetings
- > Migrant Students
- > Nondiscrimination/Title IX
- > Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
- > Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)
- > Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records
- > Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
- > Protected Handicapped Students: Chapter 15
- > Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students
- > Right to Know Act
- > School Wellness
- > Screening, Evaluation & Placement Procedures
- > Searches
- > Services for Preschool-Age Children with Disabilities
- > Services for School-Age Exceptional Children
- > Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools
- > Special Education
- > Special Notice Regarding Directory Information
- > Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools
- > Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
- > Student Records
- > Student Rights & Responsibilities
- > Student Services
- > Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- > Surveys
- > Tobacco & Vaping Products
- > Video and Photographs*
- > Weapons

**Any parent/guardian wishing his or her student not to be photographed or video-taped for use on the website, social media or outside media outlets should contact the Director of Communications at ehasinger@pinerichland.org.*

Attendance

The board requires that school age students enrolled in district schools attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by the district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for

students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. You can visit pinerichland.org/attendance for more about **Policy 204**. The district revised this policy in 2021.

Discipline Code

The purpose of the PRSD Discipline Code is to present standard behavioral expectations based on school board policy for all students in the district. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the PRSD Discipline Code and to review these documents with their children. Parents, guardians, and students are also referred to Board Policy 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 pinerichland.org/discipline-code.

Public Outreach & Awareness System (Child Find)

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

Discrimination and Harassment

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

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

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

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

Pine-Richland School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in employment. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this notice as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator (contact information below), to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (<https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr>), or both.

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

Complaint & Investigative Processes

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

Students and third parties who believe they or others have been subject to discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment, and/or retaliation

for reporting of such should promptly report such incidents to the building principal and/or the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals are encouraged to do so even if some elements of the related incident took place or originated away from school grounds, school activities or school conveyances. A person who is not an intended victim or target of discrimination, but who is adversely affected by the offensive conduct, may also file a report of discrimination. The building principal shall promptly notify the Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator of all reports of discrimination, Title IX sexual harassment and/or retaliation.

The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator shall promptly contact the complainant regarding the report to gather additional information as necessary and to discuss the availability of supportive measures. The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator shall consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures.

Compliance Officer /Title IX Coordinator

Mr. Brian Glickman
Director of Human Resources
702 Warrendale Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724-625-7773 ext. 6201

Section 504 Coordinator

Dr. Maura Paczan
Director of Student Services
Richland Elementary
3811 Bakerstown Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724-443-7230 ext. 6503

Related policies include:

Policy 103

Nondiscrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

AR 103A

Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice Complaint Procedures

AR 103B

Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice - Gender & Gender Identity

AR 103C

Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures & Grievance Process

Policy 103.1

Nondiscrimination: Qualified Students with Disabilities

AR 103.1

Nondiscrimination Qualified Students w/ Disabilities Grievance Process

Policy 104

Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices

Policy 247

Hazing

Policy 249

Bullying/Cyberbullying

Policy 824

Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

All procedures related to this policy (e.g., timelines, communications, investigation process, complaint forms, grievance process, etc.) are available on the district's website at pinerichland.org/nondiscrimination.

*On April 19, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education released its Final Rule under Title IX which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education or activities receiving federal financial assistance. These updated regulations are effective August 1, 2024. Policies and administrative regulations will be updated based on the new guidelines. The online version of the PRSD Discipline Code will also be revised.

Surveillance Cameras & Audio Recordings (Policies 810.2 and 817)

Under School Board **Policy 817 (Use of Video Surveillance Cameras)**, the district is permitted to use video surveillance in any school building, on school district property, or on any transportation vehicle being used by the district. The district does monitor district buildings, property, and transportation vehicles with surveillance cameras and individuals using any such facilities should expect that such surveillance may occur. In addition, the use of audio recordings is permitted on school district transportation vehicles (Policy 810.2). The district began recording audio on all equipped buses in the 2017-2018 school year.

Food Service (Policy 808) & Student Wellness (Policy 246)

For more information on the free and reduced meal program and online application go to, compass.state.pa.us.

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

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

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

Child Abuse (Policy 806)

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

Complaint Process (Policy 906)

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

Confidentiality (Policy 207)

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

Public Attendance at Events (Policy 904)

The board welcomes the public at all activities and school-sponsored events, but, the Board also acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve school facilities during such events. To view Policy 904 visit pinerichland.org/policy-904. The overview will contain more information about tobacco use, free admittance, and service animals.

Student Accident Insurance (Policy 211)

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

Parents/guardians looking for health insurance can review more information about the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP is there for your kids with quality, comprehensive health insurance coverage for routine doctor visits, prescriptions, dental, eye care, and much more. Visit pinerichland.org/student-insurance for more information on both.

Student Fundraising (Policy 229)

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

Student Survey (Policy 235.1)

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

Student Assistance Program (Policy 236)

The district reinforces the connection between emotional well-being and student success through a continuum of the school

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

Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response (Policy 819)

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

Board Policies & Discipline Code

All policies are updated cyclically and are available at pinerichland.org/school-board-policies. Please review policies and the discipline code (pinerichland.org/discipline-code) annually.

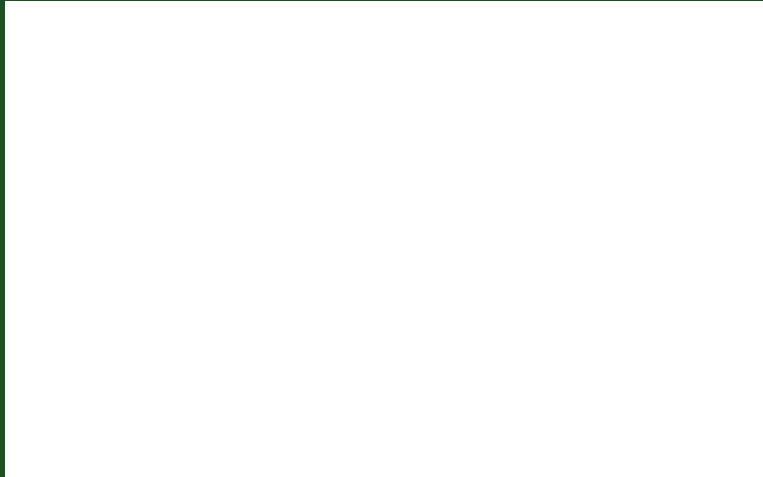


PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

702 Warrendale Road

Gibsonia, PA 15044

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FAREWELL TO 2023-2024

WE CELEBRATED 330 GRADUATES ON JUNE 7,
ALL ARMED WITH THEIR OWN SKILLS, EXPERIENCES
AND VALUES THAT HAVE PREPARED THEM TO PURSUE
THEIR PATHS BEYOND PINE-RICHLAND.

