



news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

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For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools Celebrates Academic Excellence with AP Honors and National Student Recognitions

Pittsburgh, PA, December 4, 2024 – Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) is proud to celebrate several significant academic achievements, including the inclusion of two schools on the 2024 Advanced Placement® (AP®) School Honor Roll and the national recognition of 16 students for their exceptional academic performance and college readiness.

“We are incredibly proud of our students who have excelled in the classroom, embraced scholarly research, and demonstrated success on College Board assessments,” said Superintendent Dr. Wayne N. Walters. “With the unwavering support of our dedicated teachers, our AP students are not only pursuing their passions but also developing critical skills that will prepare them for success well beyond high school. There is so much that makes our students unique, and this recognition celebrates their individuality and achievements as valuable assets for their future endeavors.”

Advanced Placement School Honor Roll Recognition

The College Board named Pittsburgh Allderdice High School and Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 to the 2024 AP School Honor Roll with Silver Membership status, acknowledging their commitment to fostering a college-going culture and delivering strong results while broadening access to AP courses. This achievement highlights the success of these schools in preparing students for college-level coursework. At Pittsburgh Allderdice six students earned the AP Capstone Diploma and one student earned the AP Seminar and Research Certificate during the 2023-2024 school year.

“AP gives students opportunity to engage with college-level work, to earn college credit and placement, and to potentially boost their grade point averages,” said Trevor Packer, head of the AP program. “The schools that have earned this distinction are proof that it is possible to expand access to these college-level courses and still drive strong performance – they represent the best of AP.”

National Recognition Program Honors 16 PPS Students

In addition to AP honors for Pittsburgh Allderdice and Pittsburgh CAPA, 16 students across PPS earned awards from the College Board’s National Recognition Programs. These awards celebrate high-performing students from historically underrepresented groups, including African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, Indigenous/Native American, First-Generation college students, and those from rural or small-town communities.



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The following students were honored during last week's Board Distinguished Achievement Awards ceremony:

- Abdullah Abdelmoula, Pittsburgh Allderdice
- Angela Alacio, Pittsburgh Allderdice
- Ruth Ayers, Pittsburgh Science and Technology
- Michael Biyang, Pittsburgh Science and Technology
- Isabella Blick, Pittsburgh CAPA
- Priya Holloway, Pittsburgh Allderdice
- Laila King, Pittsburgh CAPA
- Mariska Kiraly, Pittsburgh Science and Technology
- Anthony Konchak, Pittsburgh Brashear
- Michael Meade, Pittsburgh Science and Technology
- Abraham Mendoza, Pittsburgh Brashear
- Oluwatobiloba Olaore, Pittsburgh CAPA
- Kofi Opoku-Dakwa, Pittsburgh Allderdice
- Luke Pena, Pittsburgh Allderdice
- Nola Toussant, Pittsburgh Science and Technology
- Chatumn White, Pittsburgh CAPA

Eligibility and Impact of the National Recognition Programs

These awards honor students who demonstrate academic excellence and meet specific criteria, including:

- A GPA of at least B+ (3.3 or higher).
- PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT 10 scores within the top 10% in each state, or a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams by the end of 10th grade.
- Identification with eligible groups or communities, such as African American, Hispanic, or First-Generation students.

This year, the program expanded to include the inaugural National First-Generation Recognition Program Award, with over 35,000 students nationwide earning this distinction. These awards enhance students' opportunities for postsecondary education by connecting them with colleges and universities committed to supporting diverse academic talent.

"This year, the National Recognition Programs are recognizing more students than ever so that the outstanding academic abilities of more than 90,000 deserving students are not overlooked as they plan for their future," said Amy Reitz, Senior Vice President of BigFuture at College Board. "We're proud to support colleges and universities that are committed to fostering all students' success."

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