



## Industry Challenge Kickoff!



Our talented sophomores in Mrs. Piatkowski's STEAM classes have embarked on this year's Industry Challenge! In collaboration with our partners at Meyda Lighting, students in the OHM BOCES P-TECH program will be applying their problem-solving and design skills to create a storage solution for Meyda's valuable glass cutoff pieces. This hands-on project requires students to consider factors like safety, usability, size limitations, forklift mobility, structural integrity and adaptable configurations. Their journey will involve creating detailed drawings, a comprehensive bill of materials, a physical model, and a compelling presentation showcasing their design process and proposed benefits. We extend our sincere gratitude to Meyda Lighting for providing this real-world learning opportunity!



# P-TECH Library Committee Presents at School Library System Awards Breakfast



Our amazing P-TECH Library Committee shone brightly at the Oneida-Herkimer School Library System Administrators and Librarians Awards Breakfast on April 4! Students Cacey Confer (Whitesboro), Carson Gulseth (Whitesboro), Samantha Aldrich (Rome), and Gabriyel Mykel (New Hartford) delivered a fantastic presentation on their inspiring work to establish a school library right here at P-TECH OHM. They shared insights into their P-TECH experiences, their motivations for creating the library, the steps they've taken (and what's still to come!), and the ongoing support needed – including the exciting opportunity for book donations.

Did you know we're still accepting books to complete series and build our collection? You can



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presentation that earned them a well-deserved standing ovation! Want to see more? Click below to view photos on the OHM BOCES Facebook page!

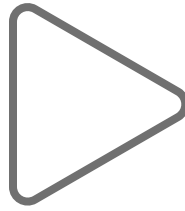
[View More Photos](#)

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## P-TECH Sophomores Compete in Engineering Wars at CiTi BOCES

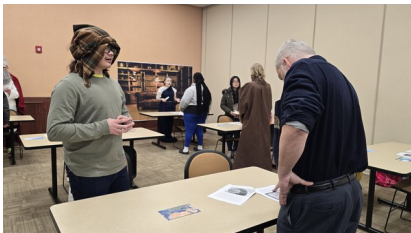


Get ready for some high-flying action! This month, eight of our talented P-TECH sophomores took on the challenge at the annual Engineering Wars, facing off against other regional P-TECH programs at CiTi BOCES. This year's mission? Design and build a functional hovercraft in just a few intense hours using limited materials like drone parts (including a remote!), cardboard, a paper plate, hot glue, and other creative odds and ends. Our two teams of four put their engineering skills to the test, navigating their creations down a timed course. Want to see how P-TECH OHM's hovercraft fared? Click the video below! Awesome job to all our participants!



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## Stepping Through Time: MA115 Explores the Lives of Mathematical Legends



Mrs. Cassulis' MA115 class took a unique and creative approach to learning about famous mathematicians at the end of March. Going beyond simple research, each student immersed themselves in the story of an individual mathematician, exploring their origins, significant





their findings but also dressed as and impersonated their chosen figure from mathematical history! They thoughtfully prepared materials for their audience and some even brought delicious treats like candy and cookie cake. Thank you, Mrs. Cassulis, for designing such an innovative and enriching learning experience for our students!

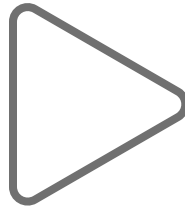
## PRIDE in Action: Innovation Takes Center Stage



Our P-TECH program's monthly PRIDE Day, dedicated to our foundational principles of **Partnership, Respect, Innovation, Diversity, and Excellence**, once again provided a unique learning experience this month. Stepping away from the regular schedule, we dove deep into **Innovation** through our exciting participation in the CTE Wars competition!

In teams of three or four, our students put their creative engineering skills to the test, designing and building contraptions to launch a ping pong ball as far as possible. Armed with the same materials and a limited timeframe, they brainstormed, constructed, and rigorously tested their designs. We were thrilled to have our partners from Trenton Technology on hand, who not only developed this engaging challenge but also provided invaluable support and feedback throughout the process. They meticulously measured each launch and offered constructive insights into the students' designs. Don't miss the video below showcasing the day's longest shot! A huge thank you to Trenton Technology for their continued partnership and dedication to our students' growth.

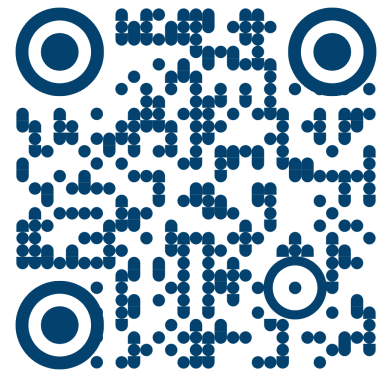
Our PRIDE Day also fostered **Partnership** through dynamic roundtable discussions. We were honored to welcome representatives from several key business partners: Erica Schoff (Griffiss Institute), Mike Joseph (Critical Technologies), Tim Kuhn (Trenton Technology), Craig Sestir (The Hartford), David Stayton (Sauquoit Valley Central School District), and Lenora D'Aprice (Community Wellness Partners). These professionals generously shared their diverse career journeys with our students, offering invaluable insights and answering their thoughtful questions. We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners for their time and commitment to mentoring



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## The Kindness Closet: Students Helping Students Thrive

Our amazing Elevating Student Voices team has launched a truly impactful initiative: "The Kindness Closet"! This resource provides a confidential way for students to access essential items they may need, ensuring everyone has what it takes to focus on their learning. Thanks to a generous initial donation, the closet is stocked with items like comfortable clothing (t-shirts, sweatshirts), important hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste), snacks, and necessary school supplies (notebooks, pencils, and more).

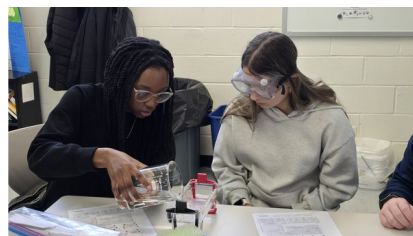
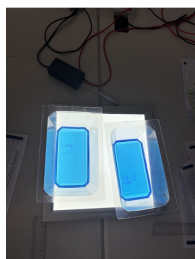


The goal is simple: to eliminate barriers and ensure every student has their basic needs met when they come to school. If a student needs something from the Kindness Closet, they can discreetly request it by filling out the [confidential form](#) – just click the link or scan the QR code. Please remember, this resource is exclusively for students within the OHM BOCES network. A huge thank you to the Elevating Student Voices team for identifying this crucial need and taking action, and to Mrs. Foote for her unwavering support and positive impact on our P-TECH community!

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## Life in Chemistry



Mrs. Kovacs' chemistry students got a delicious introduction to a powerful scientific technique: electrophoresis! While typically used to separate complex biomolecules like DNA and proteins, students in her class explored this concept by dissolving candy coatings. Each group chose a color to analyze, witnessing firsthand how charged molecules migrate through a gel when an electric current is applied. This clever experiment allowed students to visually grasp the fundamental principles of molecular separation based on size and charge, skills that are crucial in fields like biotechnology. The lab also provided valuable practice in precise measurement, careful sample handling, and keen observation. A big thank you to Mrs. Kovacs for making this advanced concept so accessible and fun for our students!

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**Need Extra Help? Come to Academic Club!**

# Academic Club

**Wednesdays | 2-3:30pm**







*To attend Academic Club,  
students need parent/  
guardian permission and  
their own transportation.*

## Student Ambassadors



### **Freshman: Shealyn Brown**

Shealyn is from the Sauquoit Valley Central School District. Teachers and peers alike take note of Shealyn's kindness and ability to collaborate with others. She always has a positive attitude and implements feedback to improve her performance. Shealyn leads by example and lends her support to others whenever possible.



### **Sophomore: Morgan Barker**

Morgan is from the Utica City School District. Morgan is an active member of the P-TECH community, going above and beyond to take on leadership roles. She recently attended the Engineering Wars event and showed remarkable perseverance and a growth mindset when facing a difficult challenge. Morgan works hard in her classes as well, asking questions to ensure she understands important concepts.



### **Junior: Zackary Eichhorn**

Zackary is from the Sauquoit Valley Central School District. Peers note Zack's respectfulness and his kindness toward others. He consistently contributes to a positive environment in all of his classes. Zack also goes out of his way to help others every time he has the opportunity.



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