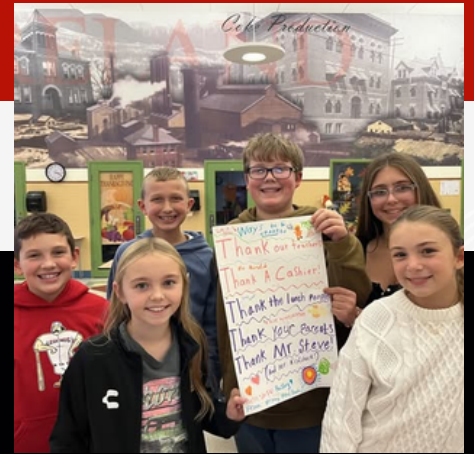




Southmoreland

District Newsletter

2025 - 2026



Winter

Edition





WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOUTHMORELAND



HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

- Great PA School Award
- Kindergarten Registration
- Registration 2026-27
- Food Service Department
- The Musical
- McKinney-Vento Information
- Scottie Paws-itivity
- SPC
- SES
- SMS
- SHS
- Athletics
- Marching Band
- School Board Calendar





Great Pennsylvania School Award



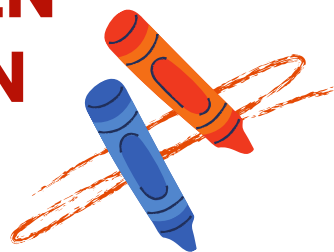
Southmoreland School District has been recognized with a Great PA Schools designation. This distinction is awarded by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association to public schools that excel in the following areas: rigorous academic programming, community-centric engagement, financial stability, and resilience.

Southmoreland is committed to cultivating lifelong learners ready for an ever-changing world.





KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026-2027



By Lori Herman, District Registrar

Kindergarten Registration will be open from **January 5th - April 10th**. All students must be registered online within this window to be included in our Kindergarten Screenings and Orientation.

Registrations will not be processed until all required documents are received.

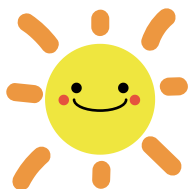
Eligibility:

For a child to register for Kindergarten they must:

- Be five years of age by September 1st of the current school term
- Have a birth certificate
- Meet state immunization law requirements

Required Documents:

- Proof of Residency
- Birth Certificate
- Immunizations



Registration/No Internet:

For families that do not have a computer or internet connection please contact the district registrar to make an appointment:

Mrs. Lori Herman
District Registrar
registrar@southmoreland.net
724-887-2000 *7202



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Or scan the QR Code

ABCD





REGISTRATION

Grades 1-12 only

2026 - 2027

REGISTRATION 2026-2027



By Lori Herman, District Registrar

Registration 2026-2027 will be open from **May 4th - July 31st**. All students must be registered online within this window to be included in building orientations.

Registrations will not be processed until all required documents are received.

Required Documents:

- Proof of Residency
- Birth Certificate
- Immunizations



Registration/No Internet:

For families that do not have a computer or internet connection please contact the district registrar to make an appointment:

Mrs. Lori Herman

District Registrar

registrar@southmoreland.net

724-887-2000 *7202

**THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON
REGISTRATION APPOINTMENTS
FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.
ALL STUDENTS MUST BE
REGISTERED BY JULY 31ST.**



**SOUTHMORELAND
FOOD SERVICE
DEPARTMENT**



WE ARE HIRING

SUBSTITUTES AND OPEN POSITIONS :

- ✓ Substitute Rate - \$13.00/hr.
- ✓ Permanent rates starting at \$15.00/hr.
- ✓ Flexible Hours/Work when kids are in school
- ✓ Permanent employment benefits for full-time positions
- ✓ Off nights, weekends, & holidays
- ✓ Clearances Required

 724.887.2015

 Southmoreland.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US!

APPLY NOW





SCOTTIE SNACKS



Are you staying after school for sports or activities?

Do you need time to study or finish projects after school?

- ✓ COME TO THE UNION
- ✓ TEACHERS AVAILABLE
- ✓ NUTRITIOUS SNACKS
- ✓ GRAB AND GO OR ENJOY IN UNION

Fuel up before practice, events or competition!

2:35–3:35
Student
Union

Monday
thru
Thursday

Beginning Feb 10

WHY?

We want you to be at your best for your activities--and it can be a long time between meals!



[Click here to complete the Snack Request form!](#)



Life is uncertain, but your **child's education** doesn't have to be.

Even if you lack a permanent residence, your children can receive help to stay in their home school district.

PENNSYLVANIA'S EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

Every child deserves school stability

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act can help provide school stability for your child if you do not have a permanent home and are:

- **Staying with friends or family because you lost housing.**
- **Living in a shelter, including transitional programs.**
- **Staying in motels because you cannot get your own home.**
- **Living on the streets, in a car, van, tent or other nonpermanent structure.**

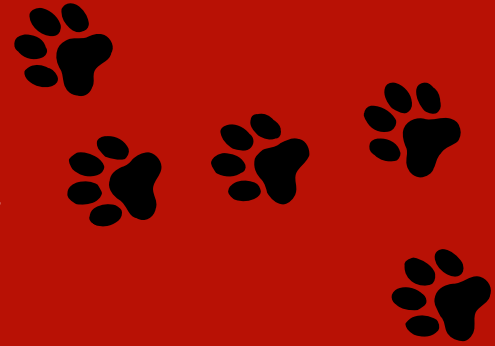
**Southmoreland
School District**



Dr. Daniel Clara
Homeless Liaison
clarad@southmoreland.net
724-887-2002

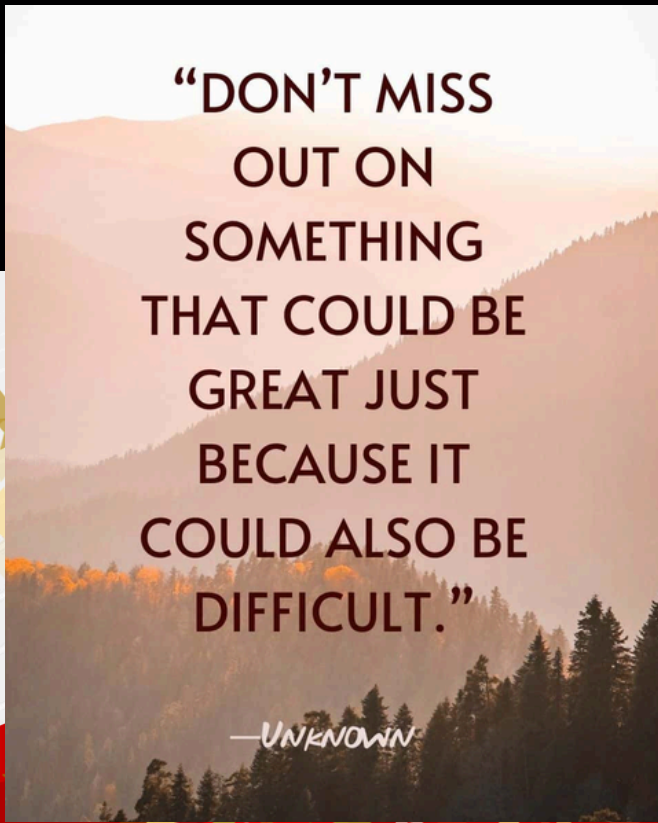


Scottie Paws-itivity



"YOU CAN'T LET YOUR FAILURES
DEFINE YOU. YOU HAVE TO LET
YOUR FAILURES TEACH YOU."

-Barack Obama



"DON'T MISS
OUT ON
SOMETHING
THAT COULD BE
GREAT JUST
BECAUSE IT
COULD ALSO BE
DIFFICULT."

—UNKNOWN



SOUTHMORELAND PRIMARY CENTER



Help Your Little Scottie Be Ready For Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Readiness Program

You are invited to attend three interactive family sessions designed to help your child transition into Kindergarten at Southmoreland School District.

These sessions will be presented by Southmoreland teachers in partnership with several local preschools.

The first session will focus on the importance of fine motor skills, following directions, and early letter formation. Families in attendance will learn about the key skills young children need in order to be successful as they begin their Kindergarten journey.

Who: Children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2026 and their parents/guardians

When:

- Thursday, November 13th, 2025
- Thursday, February 12th, 2026
- Thursday, April 9th, 2026

We suggest that you register to attend every session but it is not required. Due to space limitations, only 1 parent/guardian will be allowed to attend with the child.

Where: Southmoreland Primary Center

Time: 6-8 PM

RSVP: Please RSVP online by visiting tinyurl.com/ScottieSteps or scanning the QR code. Registration will close one week prior to each session.



If you have any questions please call Southmoreland Primary Center at 724-887-2026 or email Brian VanKirk at vankirkb@southmoreland.net



SOUTHMORELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

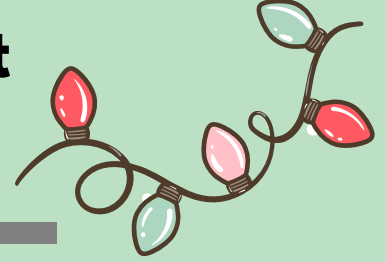
5th Graders, Do You Want to Join a Kindness Club?

- DO YOU LOVE...**
- Helping Others
 - Volunteering
 - Being a Leader
 - Making a Difference

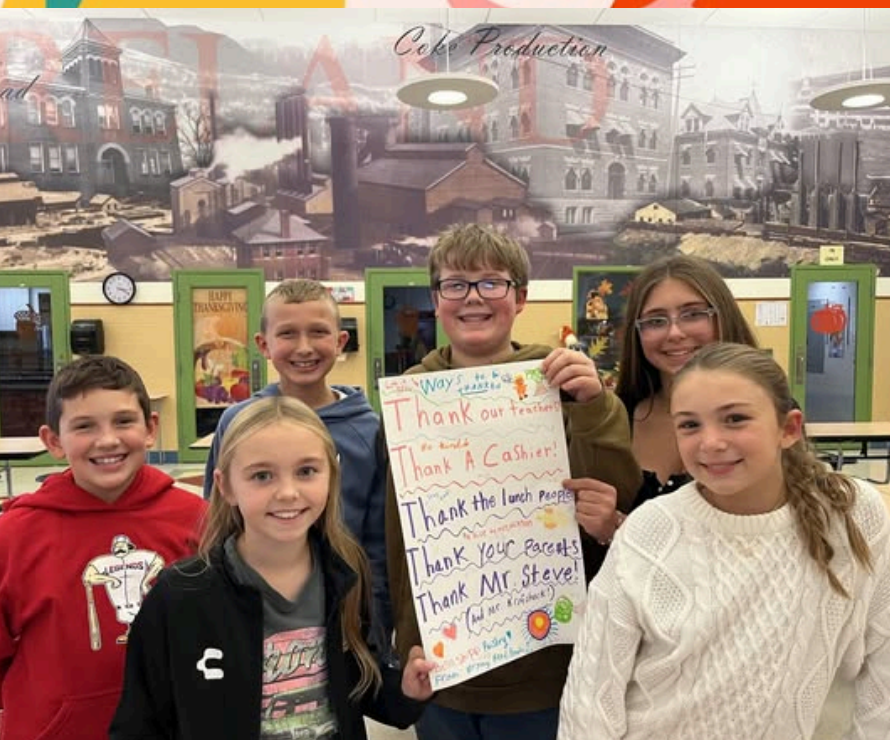
This week we had our first meeting of our new kindness club: Early Act! It is an extension of the Interact Club at Southmoreland High School. Members will meet once a month during school hours!

If you missed sign ups the first time, just email your homeroom teacher AND hixsonj@southmoreland.net with the following information:
 Name
 Homeroom Teacher

Early Act Club



Our first Early Act Club, an extension of Interact Club, meeting at SES. Thirty-five 5th graders have signed up to participate this year. Once a month, high school members of Interact Club, led by Keira Bryson, will host a meeting in the SES Cafeteria from 2:45-3:30.





SOUTHMORELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



Great job!



Mrs. DeLuca's Top 10 for the Second Nine Weeks

Awesome!



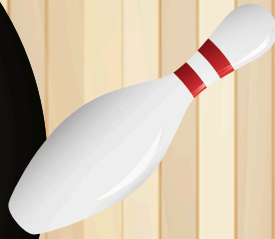
Students who completed Mrs. DeLuca's Problem of the Week each week during the second nine weeks were rewarded with hot chocolate and donuts!





SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

SHS
Special
Olympics
TEAM



SPARE
ME!





Serving up
SMILES



One cup at a time





SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

**SHS
WORKS
Program**



WORK
WORK
WORK



**AWE
SOME**



**Great
job**

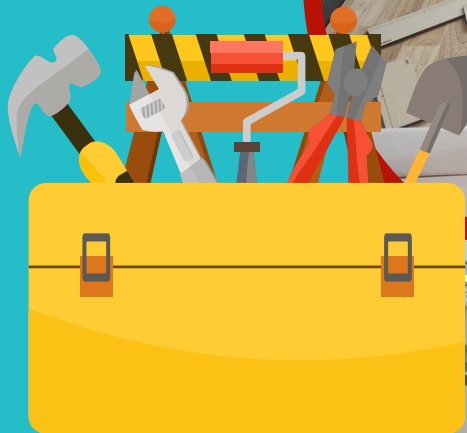
Hard Working Scotties . . .





SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

PAES Lab



Exploring CAREERS

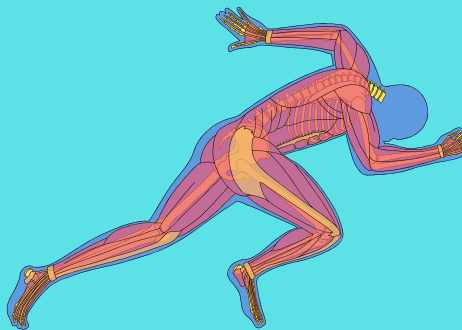


SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Cavalier



Human Body Class



Mr. Cavalier's Human Body class explored the concept of power. Students raced to the top of the steps while their classmates recorded the time it took to complete the climb. The activity helped them apply real-world calculations of power and understand how the human body produces energy during movement.

They also reviewed basic horsepower formulas, including:

- Power (W) = Work \div Time
- Work = Force \times Distance
- Horsepower (hp) = Power (W) \div 746
- Horsepower (hp) = (Force \times Distance) \div (Time \times 746)



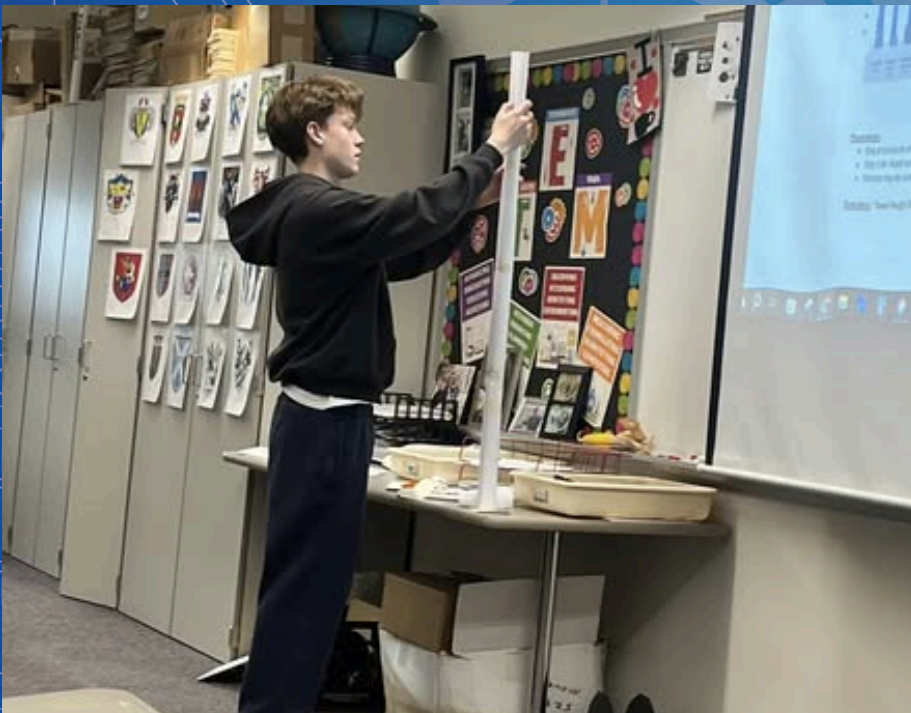
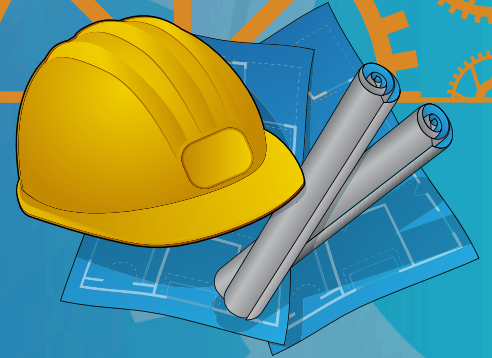
SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Ansell

Structural Engineering Class

Mr. Ansell's Structural Engineering classes are currently completing the Tall Tower Challenge. Students are constructing towers using only paper and tape, applying principles of strength, balance, and design. Prior to building, students were provided information about what makes a tower structurally strong, along with examples of effective construction techniques.

In the coming weeks, students will extend this learning by designing and building popsicle stick towers, allowing them to apply more advanced concepts in structural engineering.





SHS *College and Career Fair*



2025

**CAREER
PATH
AHEAD**





SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL



Four Southmoreland High School students took part in Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at Westinghouse! They connected with industry professionals, engaged in hands-on learning experiences, and explored exciting pathways in STEM.



SHS would like to proudly recognize four AP Language and Composition students that were selected to present essays at Saint Vincent: Phoenix Roberts, Keira Bryson, Caylin Raymond, and Cassie Loop.

A Scriptorium was the room in a medieval monastery in which monks would transcribe scripture into beautifully illuminated manuscripts. The Saint Vincent College English Department welcomed high school students to submit papers, the selected students were invited to present their papers at the first Scriptorium Conference at Saint Vincent College.



SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

The Great Debate



Six Southmoreland students attended the Great Debate at Penn Trafford High School. Two of them (Jaxon Raygor & Robert Woodward) came out with a win in the topic of Generative AI in Education. Congratulations to all teams participating!



PMEA District 1 Honors Band

Congratulations to Caleigh Boyce (junior, clarinet) for representing Southmoreland at PMEA District 1 honors band! Caleigh successfully completed a challenging audition in order to earn a seat in the ensemble! The performance was at North Hills MS under the direction of the acclaimed composer/educator/conductor Dr. Andrew Boysen, Jr.! Congratulations Caleigh! We are so proud of you!

WCMEA County Chorus

Seven choral students had the opportunity to represent Southmoreland High School at the WCMEA County Chorus festival held at Penn Trafford High School. 155 students from 17 schools were in attendance. The guest conductor was Dr. Mark A. Boyle from Seton Hill University



SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

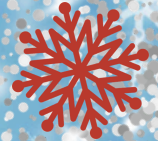
ORGAN RECOVERY
EDUCATION**CORE**

We had the privilege of hosting a presentation from the CORE Center for Organ Recovery Education. The speakers highlighted the importance of organ donation and encouraged our students to consider becoming organ donors, emphasizing the life-saving impact they can have on others. We would like to thank Ms. Richter, Mrs. Claycomb, and Mrs. Kelley for their important roles in making this presentation possible. Thank you to Mrs. Malcolm and her art students for painting the windows!



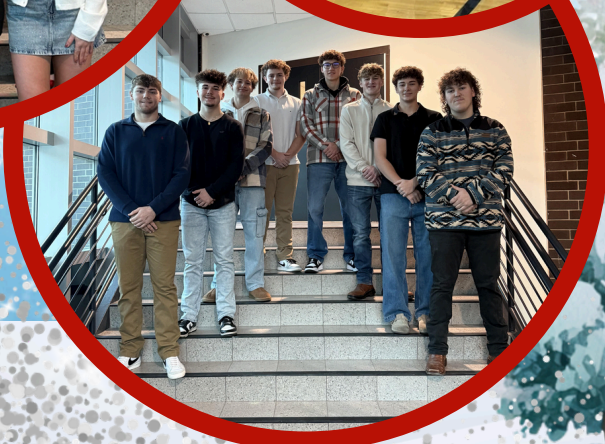


SHS Snow Court



*Jenna Eutsey
Alyssa Hixson
Kaitlyn Ice
Ainsley Martin
Mackenzie Martin
Audrey Miller
Alexa Pandullo
Rylie Pletcher*

*Joey Bentz
Brady Butts
Stanley Chapman
Logan DeLuca
Chad Long
Reed Pollard
Ty Whoric
Damien Wright*





SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

MARCHING BAND



The Southmoreland Marching Band held its end-of-season banquet. Thank you to our boosters, parents, staff, and—most of all—our students for an outstanding year. Best of luck to the Class of 2026. Remember, you will always have a place at Southmoreland.





November Scottie Scholar Award



The Scottie Scholar Award is presented to a student who exemplifies outstanding service to the school and community, along with notable academic achievement.

The student selected for the month of November is Alyssia Hixson. Alyssia is an active member of the Penn State 4.0 Club, Interact Club, Spanish Club, Bible Club, and YEA Club.

Through the Interact Club, Alyssia participates in Reading Under the Lights and is currently working on a passion project with the Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh. As a member of the YEA Club, she volunteers once a month by shadowing Mrs. Scott, a special education teacher at the Primary Center, and takes part in Reading Buddies every Friday.

In addition, Alyssia has been a dedicated member of the Southmoreland Musical for the past three years and plans to participate again this year.

Congratulations to Alyssia Hixson, our November Scottie Scholar Award recipient!





November Spirit of Southmoreland Award

The Spirit of Southmoreland Award recognizes students who embody service, pride, integrity, responsibility, ingenuity, and tenacity.

We are proud to announce the November recipient: Alexa Pandullo.

Alexa was selected for her exceptional dedication to our school and community. She serves in numerous leadership roles, including President of the Interact Club, President of the National Honor Society, Bible Club Secretary, Student Council Historian, Senior Class Historian, and YEA Representative. She is also involved in Varsity Cheerleading, Marching Band Color Guard, Spring Musicals, Highlander Choir, and many academic clubs.

Alexa's accomplishments include being a Daily Courier Teen of the Week, School Board Representative, SHS Student Ambassador, Penn State 4.0 Club member, RYCA Recipient, Scholar Athlete, and All-American Cheerleader. She also volunteers widely through Interact events, community programs, and holiday activities.

Alexa's leadership, commitment, and positive spirit make her an outstanding representative of Southmoreland.

Congratulations, Alexa!





December Scottie Scholar Award



The Scottie Scholar Award is presented to a student who exemplifies outstanding service to the school and community while achieving notable academic success.

The student selected for the month of December is Audrey Johnson.

Audrey is highly involved at Southmoreland and has served as Marching Band Drum Major for the past two years, Band Council President, Tri-M Honor Society Vice President, and BotsIQ Vice President. She is an active member of the Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Highlander Choir, SHS Musicals, Community Theater, SHS Girls Tennis, Interact Club, National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, and BotsIQ. Audrey has also been selected for WCMEA County Choir, WCMEA County Band, PMEA District Band, and Fay-West Honors. Her achievements include recognition as a Scottie Scholar Athlete, membership in the Penn State 4.0 Club, and receiving departmental awards in Science, English, and Music. Congratulations to Audrey Johnson, our Scottie Scholar Award winner for December.





December Spirit of Southmoreland Award

The Spirit of Southmoreland Award is presented to a student who exemplifies the qualities of service, pride, integrity, responsibility, ingenuity, and tenacity. The student selected for the month of December is Ty Whoric.

Ty was chosen for his many acts of service to the school and community. He is actively involved in football, basketball, Highlander Choir, Interact Club, Champions Club, and Leadership Council. Ty serves as Vice President of the National Honor Society, is a member of the Penn State 4.0 Club, and participates in WCMEA County Chorus. He is a four-year varsity letter winner in both football and basketball, was selected for Homecoming and Snow Court, earned All-Conference honors in football, and All-Section honors in basketball. Congratulations to Ty Whoric, the Spirit of Southmoreland winner for December.





January Scottie Scholar Award



The Scottie Scholar Award is presented to a student selected for outstanding service to both the school and the community, as well as notable academic achievement. The January Scottie Scholar Award recipient is Allison Stinnett.

Allison is an active member of the Athletic Leadership Council, Penn State 4.0 Club, YEA Club, and Bible Club. She competes with the Mt. Pleasant Aqua Club and is a member of the Southmoreland Varsity team. A highly accomplished athlete, Allison is a two-time county champion, WPIAL medalist, and state medalist. She will continue her academic and athletic career at Bowling Green State University.

Beyond her achievements in the pool and classroom, Allison is deeply committed to service. She volunteers with Rise Against Hunger, is a member of Living Evidence Church, assists at junior high swim meets, and has volunteered her time at the Tri-N-2-Beat Type 1 Diabetes Community Triathlon.

Congratulations to Allison Stinnett, Scottie Scholar Award winner for January.





January Spirit of Southmoreland Award



The Spirit of Southmoreland Award is presented to a student who demonstrates the qualities of service, pride, integrity, responsibility, ingenuity, and tenacity. The student selected for the month of January is Isabella Grabiak.

Isabella was chosen in recognition of her many acts of service to both the school and the community. She serves as Class Secretary and Student Council Secretary and is an officer in the National Honor Society. In addition, Isabella is an active member of Spanish Club, YEA, Interact Club, Game Changer Sports Ministry Club (officer), Champions Club, Bible Club, Buddy Day, Leadership Council, and Shop with a Cop. Isabella has also volunteered her time at numerous community events, including National Night Out, Reading Under the Lights, the Scottdale Fall Festival, and the WPIAL Food Drive.





February Scottie Scholar Award



The Scottie Scholar is presented to a student recognized for outstanding service to the school and community, as well as notable academic achievements.

The February recipient is Logan Deluca. Logan is an active member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and the Penn State 4.0 Club. In addition to taking multiple AP classes, he has volunteered for numerous events, including Rise Against Hunger, Reading Under the Lights, Scottdale Light Up Night, and various activities supporting the Scottdale Library.

Logan plans to attend WCCC for one year before transferring to another college to pursue an accelerated program.

Congratulations to Logan Deluca, our Scottie Scholar of the Month for February!





February Spirit of Southmoreland Award



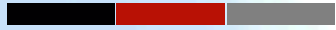
The Spirit of Southmoreland Award is presented to a student who exemplifies the core values of service, pride, integrity, responsibility, ingenuity, and tenacity. These qualities reflect the very heart of what it means to be a Scottie. We are proud to recognize Reed Pollard as the Spirit of Southmoreland Award recipient for the month of February. Reed has consistently demonstrated outstanding service to our school and community. He is a member of the Penn State 4.0 Club and the National Honor Society, an All-Section soccer player, and an active member of Student Council. Reed also represented our school on Snow Court and continues to give back by volunteering at youth soccer camp and at Picnic in the Park for the past five-plus years. Reed's leadership, commitment, and willingness to serve others truly embody the Spirit of Southmoreland. Congratulations to Reed Pollard, our February Spirit of Southmoreland Award winner!





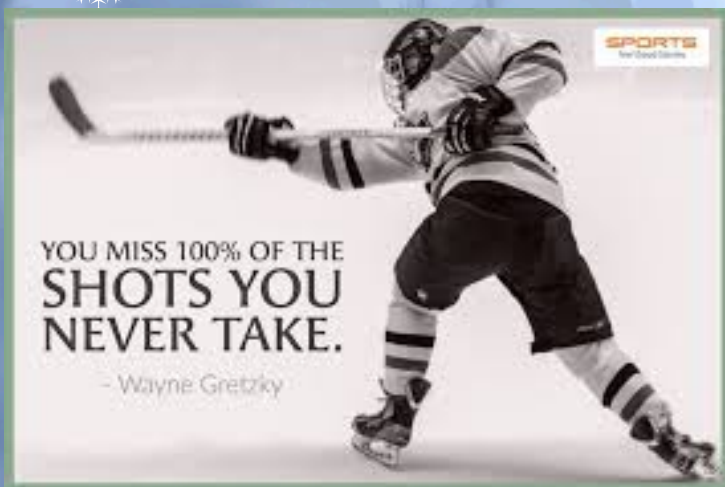
SOUTHMORELAND ATHLETICS

Winter Sports Highlights



by Brian Pritts, Athletic Director

- Boys Basketball won back to back Section Championships for the 1st time in over 30 years. The team has not lost a section game in over 2 years! They will be making their 3rd straight appearance in the WPIAL Playoffs!
- Boys Wrestling qualified for the WPIAL playoffs & won another playoff match. The team is preparing for the individual tournaments to qualify for WPIALs & PIAAs.
- The Girls Wrestling Team had a solid season & is gearing up for the WPIAL Tournament.
- We have 3 swimmers who qualified for the WPIAL playoffs & competed February 26-27th at Pitt.





Congratulations!

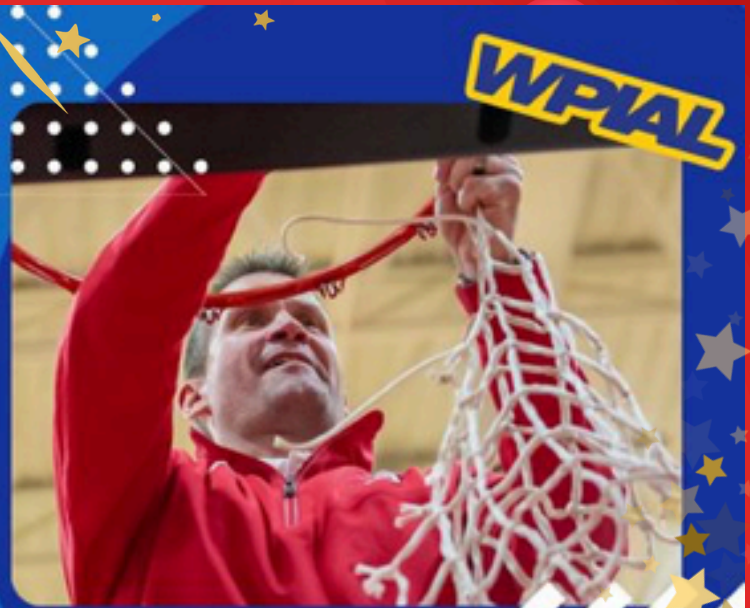
2025 AD OF THE YEAR

BRIAN PRITTS

Southmoreland High School

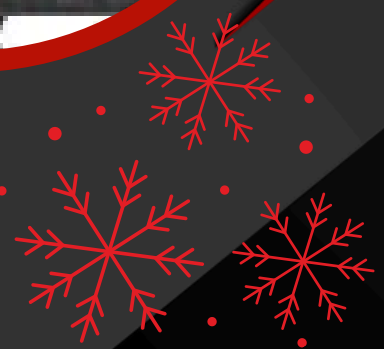
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Mr. Pritts never fails to make every student feel included, even on our worst days. He takes the time to talk to us until we're laughing, and every morning we're greeted with a smile, a fist bump, and a warm welcome by name. He makes school events genuinely fun, and he has a special way of bringing the entire school together, laughing, connecting, and enjoying each other instead of arguing. His positivity is something we all feel, and it truly makes a difference.





SOUTHMORELAND ATHLETICS





SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS 2026

Executive Session Start Time will be 6:00 or 6:30 PM
Discussion/Voting Meeting Start Time is 7:00 PM
Location - Southmoreland Middle School Cafeteria
200 Scottie Way, Scottdale, PA 15683

January 20, 2026
February 17, 2026
March 17, 2026
April 21, 2026
May 19, 2026
June 23, 2026 Regular & Budget Voting Meeting
August 18, 2026
September 15, 2026
October 20, 2026
November 17, 2026

DECEMBER 1, 2026 is scheduled as the
Reorganization/General
Business Purposes Meeting



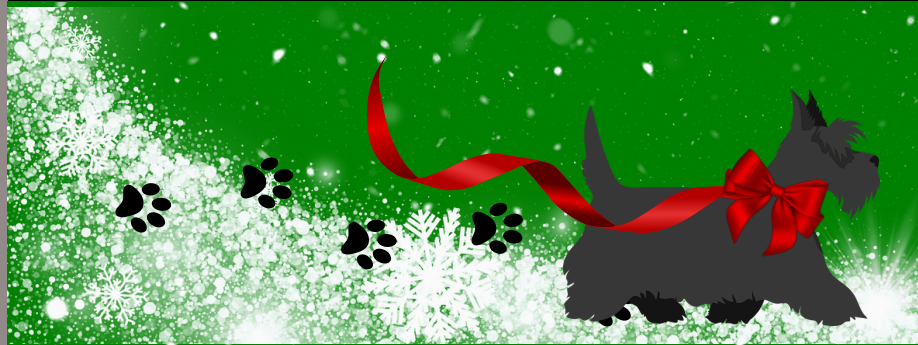
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Dr. Jason Boone**
Superintendent
- Dr. Daniel Clara**
Assistant to the Superintendent
Director of Special Education
- Ms. Pam Mondock**
Business Manager
Transportation Director
- Mrs. Melissa Redinger**
School Psychologist
- Mr. Steve Smithula**
Director of Technology
- Mr. Greg Keefer**
Supervisor of School Police
- Mr. Brian Pritts**
Athletic Director
- Mr. Calvin Trader**
Director of Facilities and Operations
- Mr. Zachary Malavite**
Director of Food Service
- Mrs. Charity Colebank**
High School Principal
- Ms. Kaely Potochnik**
High School Assistant Principal
- Mr. James Klugh**
Middle School Principal
- Ms. Sara Yantko**
Dean of Students/SMS & SES
- Mr. Daniel Krofcheck**
Elementary School Principal
- Mr. Ron Heitchue**
Primary School Principal



SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mr. Samuel Accipiter
- Mr. Nathan Alexander
- Mr. John Eutsey, President
- Dr. Catherine Fike
- Mrs. Stephanie Geyer
- Mr. Richard Grabiak
- Mrs. Mellisa Moore
- Mr. Scott Olsen, Vice-President
- Mr. David Thomas



Southmoreland School District's Newsletter will accept news submissions of school or community interest. Please send them to Mrs. Lori Herman at ssdnewsletter.net, please include your name and phone number in your message.

SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



WWW.SOUTHMORELAND.NET



Facebook.com/SouthmorelandSD



@SDSouthmoreland



**"CULTIVATING LIFELONG LEARNERS
READY FOR AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD"**