



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Tradition of Excellence

2026

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings to the Pine-Richland Community!

We were **proud to celebrate members of the Class of 2026** at the commencement ceremony on June 5, 2026. Given our **Tradition of Excellence**, the Pine-Richland diploma holds significant meaning within and outside of our community. We have often shared our vision that learning happens both inside and outside of the classroom. Learning reflects achievement and growth. Learning requires effort and persistence. As a result, we see evidence of excellence in academics, arts, music, theatre, athletics, and so many activities.



Contents

- 4 Strategic Plan
- 6 Staff and District News
- 13 Academic Achievement
- 16 Student Spotlight
- 34 Athletic Hall of Fame
- 35 Athletic Accomplishments
- 51 Around the District
- 55 Budget & Board Update
- 57 Annual Notices

With close to 4,600 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, it is our mission to help our students **pursue their path** after graduation and **make their mark** on the world. That goal is only possible with the support and collaboration of our families. **We care deeply about a school environment that is safe, positive, and welcoming for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or other differences.** Preparing students for their path is a reflection of our entire system as students move from primary school (Hance, Richland, or Wexford) to Eden Hall to the Middle School and finally the High School. This progression was evident in one of our more recent traditions on the last day of school for seniors. The seniors had the opportunity to walk the halls of each school for a "clap out" from the current students. It is a reminder of the past for our seniors and is motivation for our younger students. **This activity highlights the powerful impact of our staff on the lives of our students!**

In this edition, **the Annual Report is filled with results that demonstrate excellence.** That excellence is a reflection of the teamwork and collaboration that exists within our school community. It is an opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Here are just a few of the highlights you will read:

- ▶ Academic—*U.S. News & World Report*; National Merit; and Advanced Placement
- ▶ Arts—Scholastic Art Competition Gold Key, etc.
- ▶ Music—PMEA State Recognition in Orchestra, Band, and Chorus
- ▶ Theatre—*Chicago: Teen Edition* wins seven Gene Kelly Awards, including Best Show!
- ▶ Athletics—WPIAL champions, PIAA contenders, and 41 College letters of intent
- ▶ Academic Competitions—Speech and Debate, Forensics, and Mock Trial
- ▶ Community Service and Activities—Polar Plunge and Color Run



Another newer tradition is the PR Family Photo taken at the Class of 2026 Commencement Ceremony. It highlights the concept of **Education Excellence and Community Value.**

On behalf of the school district, we also want to **thank our community for its investment in our schools and educational programs.** Our Board approved the first millage increase at Pine-Richland since the 2017–2018 school year. It is only the second increase since 2013. While we had the third lowest millage rate in Allegheny County, the administration recognizes and appreciates the impact of a tax increase on the entire school and community. For the 2026–2027 budget alone, we cut close to \$2.5M in expenditures and/or alternative revenue increases through a variety of actions. Examples include:

- ▶ Reduced 19.5 (18.5 Positions Reduced Over Last Two Years) Positions Following Retirements or Resignations
- ▶ Reduced Spending for Texts/Resources and Technology
- ▶ Reduced Athletic Expenditures
- ▶ Reduced Building Budgets
- ▶ Increased Activity Fees to Offset Costs for Extracurricular Activities
- ▶ Increased Transportation Subsidies with Hazardous Route Qualification
- ▶ Increased Cost Sharing Revenue for AFJROTC, Other Third Parties, and Facility Use

As a school district, we will continue to face a significant and strategic challenge related to budget and operations.

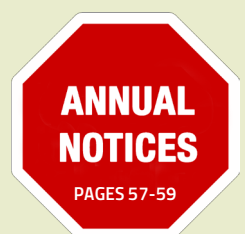
The impact of the common level ratio (CLR) is the primary reason for the concern. This issue is impacting local revenue for all public school districts in Allegheny County. Our school board recently passed two important resolutions related to advocacy. The first is a call for property tax reassessment in Allegheny County, given the CLR impact. The second relates to meaningful reform for cyber-charter costs, given reports from the Pennsylvania Office of the Auditor General. **There is a risk to excellence and sustainability of programming in academics, athletics, and activities.** Our district has a history of fiscally responsible decisions. It will take our continued attention and a collaborative effort to address these challenges.

Please invest time in the careful review of this Annual Report. This report summarizes key accomplishments in academics, arts, athletics, and so many other activities. It is the breadth and depth of opportunities that make Pine-Richland a special place. In addition, I want to draw your attention specifically to the annual notices that are outlined on pages 57 to 59. These notices help ensure clear communication of critical information tied to our legal and regulatory responsibilities.

Congratulations again to the Class of 2026! We look forward to the 2026–2027 school year. Thank you for your continued support of the Pine-Richland School District.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Academics

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES (ALIGNMENT, TIME, AND FEEDBACK)



Academic focus continued throughout the school year with an intentional commitment to the concepts of **alignment** (curriculum), **time** (instruction), and **feedback** (assessment). These key elements comprise the Model for Teaching and Learning. When placing these three elements on a Venn diagram, the center “star” intersection is where effective learning occurs if all elements are aligned and informing one another. We focus on this intersecting area through the development of lesson planning. This focus will be sustained in the 2026–2027 school year and is a unifying factor of excellent teaching and learning across all disciplines and programs.

IN-DEPTH PROGRAM REVIEW — MINI-REVIEW MATH AND ALL-DEPARTMENT IDPR IMPLEMENTATION



During the 2023–2024 school year, the district developed the In-Depth Program Mini-Review process, an accelerated form of the more comprehensive IDPR. All secondary mathematics teachers participated along with a cross-section of K-6 department chairs, math teachers, and administrators. The **first phase** of the review was designed to understand how the **Standards for Mathematical Practice** can integrate into every K-12 mathematics lesson. The committee engaged in professional development exercises and worked to implement the practices into their instruction. Each grade span analyzed existing goals 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 Mathematics program (e.g., PSSA, Keystone, AP Exams) and an evaluation of the implementation of the 2017-2018 IDPR recommendations. The **third and fourth phases** of the mini-review included conducting high-level research on K-12 Mathematics Education topics and interviewing selected Pennsylvania school districts to identify emerging trends. **Finally**, the committee reviewed findings from each phase of the process to identify grade-span recommendations to guide the department in continuous refinement and improvement. *Scan the QR code to read the report.*



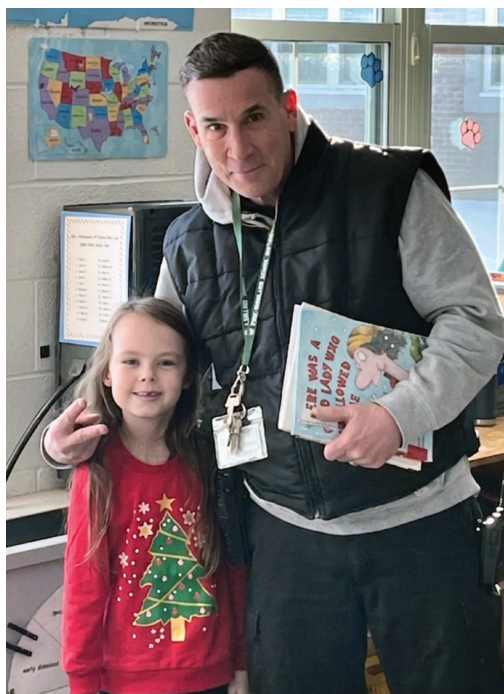
MATH TEACHERS WORK TOGETHER DURING THE IDPR PROCESS.

Future-Focused Financial Health and Decision-Making

Fiscal health and management are both strategic advantages and challenges at Pine-Richland. Since the fall of 2024, the district has held 18 public joint governance meetings focused on budget and future-focused finance. Local revenue conditions have changed due to the Common Level Ratio (CLR), and new growth is slowing in our community. The negative impact on revenue has been felt since 2023–2024. These conditions will continue to worsen as the cost of living increases. The district has been proactive in budget discussions and planning for action, identifying close to \$6 million in savings from structural and one-time actions during the 2026-2027 budgeting process.

The district continues to build and reshape our ten-year capital plan, completing over \$40 million in capital projects from 2016-2017 through 2025-2026. In the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 school years, the district planned \$12 million in capital projects, with the focus on HVAC upgrades to Wexford and Richland, flooring upgrades at the middle school, and Wexford and Richland roofing replacements. Currently, the 2027–2028 capital project plan projects \$8 million in projects, with \$4 million allocated to HVAC and roofing. See page 54 for more specific information about the 2026–2027 budget.

Safety, Security, and Positive School Culture



A safe, positive, and welcoming environment is critical for learning. This *focus on learning for every student every day* is our mission. To help build positive connections to people and activities, we offer a wide range of programs and services both inside and outside the classroom. These connections and the relationships formed through these activities are critical for strengthening a positive and welcoming environment. Each action we take that enhances a positive school culture also enhances our physical safety and security. We continue to build a positive school culture through RAMS Way across K-12. The 2025-2026 school year saw the introduction and identification of one or two dedicated RAMS Way Coordinators in each building to provide leadership and coordination of RAMS Way implementation in alignment with district-level PBIS initiatives. The district piloted the OpenGate metal detection system in all six of our schools and at evening athletic events. This system, which will not be used daily in any building, is a physical safety enhancement that can be used to screen individuals for prohibited items in a quick, non-intrusive manner, minimizing disruption to the school day while improving our ability to maintain a safe environment.

SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICER DAVE HARAJDA AND SECOND-GRADER GRACE GUZA

Health, Wellness, and Sustainability

Several committees and departments focus on the district's health, wellness, and sustainability goals, including our Health Services Team, Food Service Advisory & Wellness Committee, and Sustainability Leadership Club & Council. Our Health Services Team successfully updated Policy #210 to make life-sustaining medications more accessible to students during the school day and on field trips. The Food Service Advisory & Wellness Committee monitored the services of our new food service vendor, Chartwells K12. Students were pleased by the outcomes and even authored an article in the school newspaper about the MTO sandwich bar at the High School. The Sustainability Leadership Council and 6-School Sustainability Leadership Club actively promoted environmental wellness by celebrating the expansion of the district EV bus fleet by three, and through the installation of bluebird nest houses across all six campuses—an initiative inspired by Pine and Richland Townships earning official Bird Town



MEMBERS OF EDEN HALL'S SUSTAINABILITY CLUB EXPLORE ONE OF THE DISTRICT'S NEW EV BUSES.

designations. In December 2025, the Pine-Richland School District was honored to be the only Pennsylvania district named a Green Ribbon School District through the PA Pathways to Green Schools Program (see page 9 for more).

STAFF AND DISTRICT NEWS

New Staff

Central Administration



BRYAN DWOREK, ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE/ACCOUNTS
RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST



KAYTLYN SNEE, SPECIAL
EDUCATION SECRETARY



WE WELCOMED NEW STAFF MEMBERS AT OUR AUGUST ORIENTATION.

Wexford Elementary

Anna Bailey, Second Grade Teacher
Erica Czachowski, Paraprofessional
Jodie Guerra, Cafeteria/Recess Monitor
Bruce Ireland, Cafeteria/Recess Monitor

Richland Elementary

Cathy Augustine, Custodian
Elayna Clow, GATE Teacher
Jeanne Nindl, Cafeteria Monitor

Hance Elementary

Amy Black-Stockham, Paraprofessional
Janel Kilpela, Kindergarten Teacher
Kristin Miller, Building Secretary
Jennifer Nicotra, Paraprofessional
Valerie Shockling, Second Grade Teacher

Eden Hall Upper Elementary

Marie Dufalla, Librarian
Julie Jones, Paraprofessional
Julia Karns, World Language Teacher
Madison Knapp, Fifth Grade Teacher
Samuel Love, Custodian
Carly Over, Paraprofessional
Joseph Quade, Sixth Grade Teacher
Matthew Rees, Music Teacher
Megan Reid, Fourth Grade Teacher
Savannah Stanley, Learning Support Teacher
Michael Waitlevertch, Fifth Grade Teacher
Kristin Washington, Cafeteria/Recess Monitor
Leticia Wincko, GATE Teacher

Middle School

Juliana Cheung, Paraprofessional
Amanda Corna, Paraprofessional
Abbygail Crossley, Paraprofessional
Brandt Kepreos, Paraprofessional
Alexandra Kravitz, GATE Teacher
Zachary Mazur, Technology Education Teacher
Tira McCall, Science Teacher

High School

Tara Batykefer, Custodian
Erika Graham, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher
Lydia Songer, School Security Officer
Kenny Stark, Custodian
Jeremy Temple, English/Social Studies Teacher
Joshua Wolford, Custodian
Sam Wong, Chemistry Teacher

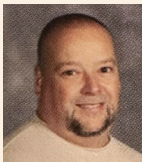
Retirements



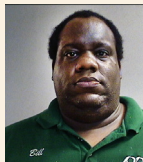
BONNIE ALLESKI,
TEACHER, RICHLAND
ELEMENTARY



DAVID BELCHICK,
TEACHER, PINE-
RICHLAND HIGH AND
MIDDLE SCHOOL



KERRY E. BOYD,
TEACHER, EDEN
HALL UPPER
ELEMENTARY



WILLIAM BRIM,
CUSTODIAN, PINE-
RICHLAND HIGH
SCHOOL



LEAH CONTI,
TEACHER, EDEN
HALL UPPER
ELEMENTARY



JUNE DIGIOIA,
TEACHER, PINE-
RICHLAND MIDDLE
SCHOOL



**LILIANA GLASER-
GOLIN**, TEACHER,
PINE-RICHLAND
HIGH SCHOOL



CAROL HUBER,
PARAPROFSSIONAL,
EDEN HALL UPPER
ELEMENTARY



CAROLYN HUTCHISON,
PARAPROFSSIONAL,
WEXFORD ELEMENTARY



VALERIE KLOSKY,
TEACHER, PINE-
RICHLAND HIGH
SCHOOL



DAVID LANE,
CUSTODIAN, EDEN
HALL UPPER
ELEMENTARY



BARRY MAZAR,
CUSTODIAN, PINE-
RICHLAND HIGH
SCHOOL



REBECCA MILLER,
TEACHER, WEXFORD
ELEMENTARY



TERRY OWENS,
TEACHER, PINE-
RICHLAND HIGH
SCHOOL



LISA PETRACK,
PARAPROFSSIONAL,
PINE-RICHLAND
MIDDLE SCHOOL



BRENDA PROVENZANO,
SECRETARY, PUPIL
SERVICES



CATHY SMALLWOOD,
PARAPROFSSIONAL,
WEXFORD
ELEMENTARY

Pine-Richland School District was ranked ninth in southwestern Pennsylvania and 21st in the state in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*' 2026 rankings. Rankings are based on Keystone and PSSA results from 2023 through 2025.

U.S. News & World Report ranked **Pine-Richland High School** second in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, eighth in Pennsylvania (top 2%), and 455th nationally (top 2.5%) in its 2025 rankings.

Pine-Richland High School life skills teacher **Kristen Pinkerton** and special education teacher **Alicia Metzger** were featured on the November 4 episode of *Talk Pittsburgh* on KDKA as part of their *Teach Me Tuesday* segment. Mrs. Pinkerton and Mrs. Metzger were joined by four students and one peer buddy during the virtual interview with hosts Heather Abraham and Mikey Hood, and highlighted programs designed to prepare students for life after graduation. The Life Skills Program at Pine-Richland High School serves students up to age 22 and aims to equip students with functional skills essential for independence. The curriculum includes vocational life skills and a goal progress support period for younger students, which focuses on mastering individual educational goals, social skills, and behavior intervention strategies. Scan the QR code to see the full segment.



TEACHERS AND STUDENTS PREPARE TO FILM THEIR *TEACH ME TUESDAY* SEGMENT.



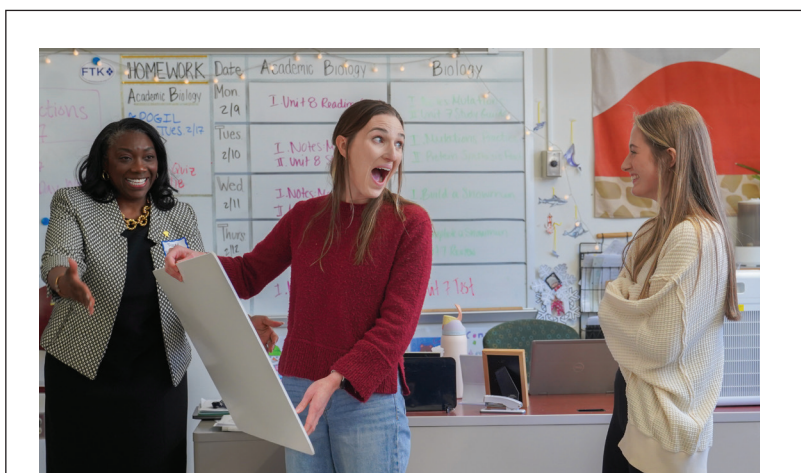
Paula Giran, principal of Hance Elementary, was named a 2026 Pittsburgh Penguins Most Valuable Principal by the Pittsburgh Penguins, Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, Grable Foundation, and Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The award recognizes principals who demonstrate an innovative approach to teaching and learning and an ongoing commitment to excellence. It reflects the profound impact of Mrs. Giran's leadership and her passion in creating exceptional opportunities for students. Mrs. Giran was one of 15 principals in Allegheny County selected for this honor.



PAULA GIRAN, PRINCIPAL OF HANCE ELEMENTARY



WILL GUESS, SECONDARY BAND TEACHER



Pine-Richland High School biology teacher **Amanda Vigliotti** was selected as the Pittsburgh Penguins and Highmark Most Valuable Educator Award recipient in February. Mrs. Vigliotti was nominated by sophomore **Emma Gallagher**, who wrote an essay describing her teacher's impact on her ninth-grade biology class, the welcoming environment she creates for her students, and how she goes above and beyond to prioritize her students' well-being and academic success. Mrs. Vigliotti was presented with a Sidney Crosby jersey and an all-expense paid trip to see the Penguins play the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden.

Will Guess, secondary band teacher, was inducted into the Nu (Pennsylvania) Chapter of the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity. Membership into Phi Beta Mu is via a nomination process with selection by professional colleagues who have observed and respected one's work over time. Mr. Guess was formally inducted at the 2026 PMEA Annual In-Service Conference and All-State Festival in late April.

STAFF AND DISTRICT NEWS



Three seniors participated in a new mentorship program at Richland Elementary. Seniors **Bella Fritz**, **Reese Lion**, and **Addilyn Nichols** used Pine-Richland High School's Senior Flex program to intern with Richland Elementary teachers **Bonnie Alessi**, **Melinda Bell**, and **Julia Strejcek** for a minimum of six hours per week. They worked in a variety of educational

settings, including general education classrooms, reading support, and other instructional environments. High school teacher **April Dull** coordinates the program through the Family and Consumer Sciences Department. Bella, Reese, and Addilyn all plan to pursue teaching degrees in college. Scan the QR code on the left to learn more.



Dr. Brian Miller, superintendent, was named the 2026 Outstanding School Administrator by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association. This award honors school administrators outside of the library profession who make a significant contribution to school library services and programs through their leadership.

Over the past several years, the **Pine-Richland School District** has partnered with the Autism Initiative through PaTTAN. The PaTTAN Autism Initiative offers systemic support designed to promote sustainable, district-wide improvements in practices for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as well as other students with significant social communication and language needs. This work centers on building internal capacity within districts, ensuring that effective, evidence-based practices are implemented consistently across all instructional environments, not solely within special education settings. Parents of students in classrooms that are working in this partnership must give permission. This work will continue and expand the partnership spanning grades K-12 by the end of the 2028-2029 school year. Our focus for the 2026-2027 school year will be to initiate the partnership at Pine-Richland Middle School while deepening our implementation at the K-6 buildings.

Pine-Richland High School was named to the 2025 AP School Honor Roll, earning Gold distinction for its commitment to college readiness and student success. This recognition, awarded by the College Board, highlights schools that excel in three critical areas: expanding college culture, assisting with college affordability through exam performance, and optimizing college readiness

by encouraging early and sustained participation in Advanced Placement (AP) coursework. To qualify for the Gold level, schools must meet rigorous benchmarks across all three metrics for their graduating class, which Pine-Richland achieved for the Class of 2025 and every year since the AP School Honor Roll began in 2023. Pine-Richland is one of only five public high schools in western Pennsylvania recognized with this honor.

Pine-Richland High School was awarded reaccreditation by the Middle States Association through 2033 via their Sustaining Excellence protocol, a path reserved for high-performing schools committed to using internal research to drive continuous improvement. The reaccreditation plan is centered on a school-wide action research project designed to keep PRHS at the forefront of modern education. PRHS is implementing the new Pennsylvania STEELS standards (Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability). By focusing on inquiry-based learning and phenomenon-based investigations, starting with a deep dive into the biology curriculum, PRHS is further ensuring that classroom experiences develop complex problem-solving skills necessary to navigate a rapidly changing world.

Pine-Richland School District was named a Green Ribbon School District through the PA Pathways to Green Schools program. The only school district named, and the only organization to earn recognition in all three pillars, Pine-Richland earned this distinction for its efforts to reduce environmental impact, promote the health and wellness of students and staff, and integrate effective environmental and sustainability education throughout the curriculum.



DR. KRISTEN JUSTUS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM, ACCEPTS THE GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARD IN DECEMBER.

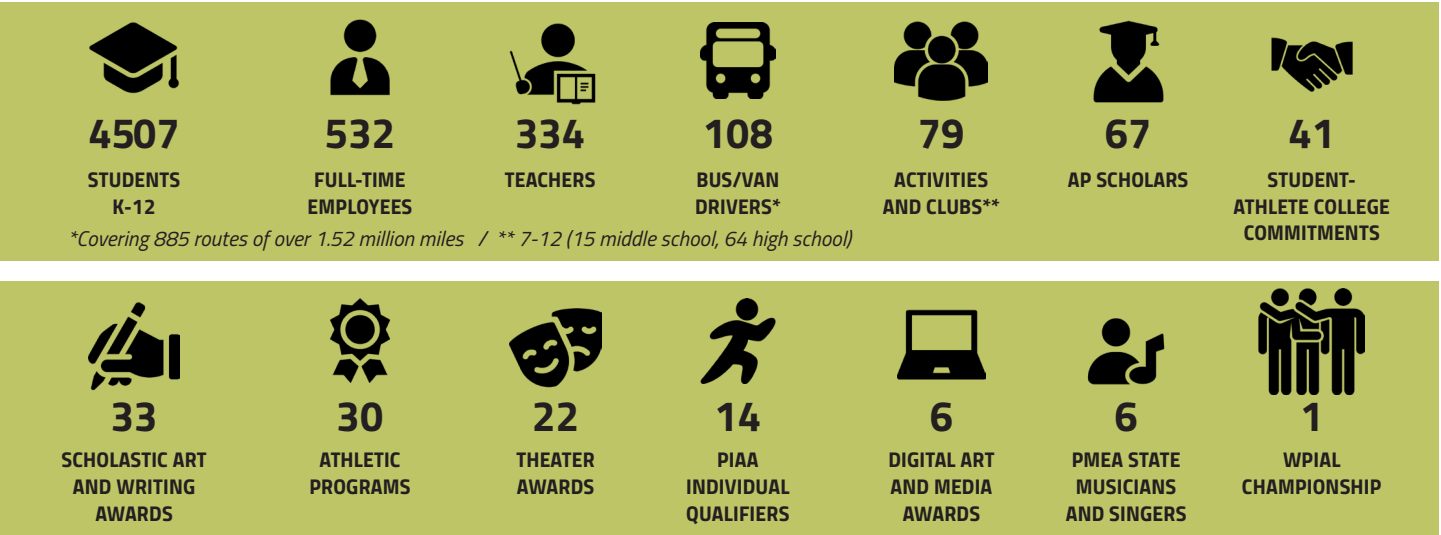


COLLEEN BEREZO, PRINCIPAL OF EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY, AND DR. EMILY DUNKER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, ASSIST SUSTAINABILITY CLUB MEMBERS KEARSTEN DOYLE AND VERONICA MCMICHAEL IN PLANTING FLOWERS, ONE OF THE DISTRICT'S MANY SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES.

Every year, eighth-grade students at **Pine-Richland Middle School** participate in a hands-on sewing and service-learning project in which they design and create handmade pillowcases for children receiving medical care. This year, the school celebrated more than 10,000 pillowcases donated by eighth-grade students since the project began 14 years ago. The pillowcases are donated to Children's Surgical Center North through Ryan's Case for Smiles, whose mission is to bring comfort and emotional support to hospitalized children through colorful, handmade pillowcases that brighten hospital rooms and provide a sense of care during difficult times.



Pine-Richland: By the Numbers



STAFF AND DISTRICT NEWS

Students at **Wexford Elementary School** raised \$14,705.67 for the 2025 KDKA Turkey Fund, which works in partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to distribute Thanksgiving meals to local families in need. Donations are matched by PNC. Each year, students are challenged to read as part of the school's Read to Feed program. Students pledge to read daily and track their books, while asking family and friends to sponsor their reading via donations that benefit local families. Over the last 21 years, Wexford Elementary has raised over \$500,000 for KDKA's Turkey Fund.



For the fourth year in a row, **Pine-Richland student art** was on display at Pine Community Center. Through their In-Depth Program Review (IDPR), the art department developed a goal of connecting with the community to benefit both students and the art department. This year's selection represented K-8 student work in line and dot art, ceramics, blending, stippling, origami, and much more.



Pine-Richland High School Student Government Association led the district in its annual Stuff-a-Bus toy drive, collecting toys for 96.1 KISS FM's Stuff-a-Bus event and helping the radio station fill a record 86 buses with toys. Student Transportation of America generously donated four buses to transport students to each district school to collect toys donated from the entire Pine-Richland community, and then drive the students and toys to Robinson Town Centre for delivery on December 5. All toys collected through the drive are donated to the annual U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.



Pine-Richland School District held a Dyslexia Simulation event in October to help facilitate understanding and awareness about dyslexia, an impairment that causes problems with reading, writing, and spelling. The event was hosted by the International Dyslexia Association of Pennsylvania and included stations to demonstrate how dyslexia impacts daily functioning for students in school.

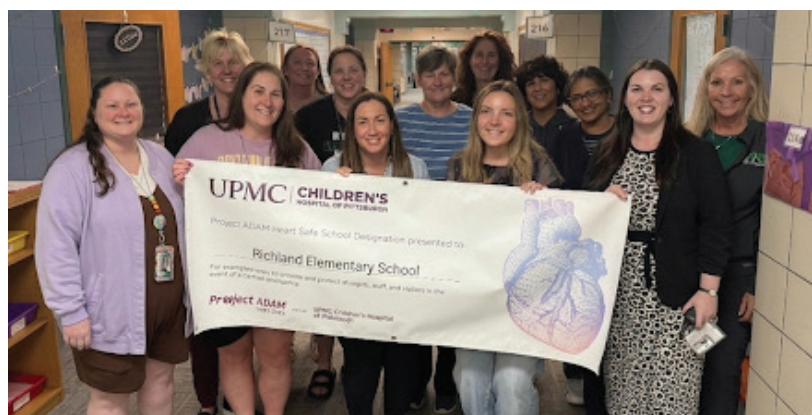
THE DYSLEXIA SIMULATION EVENT WAS HOSTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.



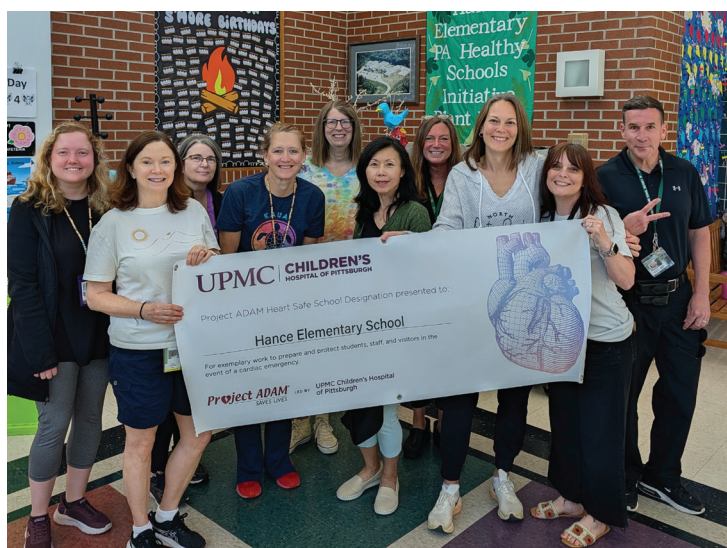
THE DISTRICT HOSTED ITS ANNUAL ALL-DISTRICT BAND CONCERT IN DECEMBER, SPANNING 4TH-12TH GRADES.

The Pine-Richland School District received the 2026 Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation. This national honor celebrates the district's outstanding commitment to providing a comprehensive music education and ensuring access to the arts as a vital component of a well-rounded curriculum. This achievement is a direct reflection of the dedication of our music educators, the talent of our students, and the unwavering support of the entire Pine-Richland community in creating an environment where every child can learn and grow through music.

This year, Hance, Richland, and Wexford Elementary Schools, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School, and Pine-Richland High School officially implemented Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory) protocols, earning the designation of a Heart Safe School. This initiative ensures that the buildings are fully prepared to respond rapidly and effectively in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest emergency. Key components of the initiative include strategic AED placement, expert training and oversight, actionable emergency protocols, and community and first responder partnerships. They join Pine-Richland Middle School with this designation. Our certified school nurses worked throughout the year to train staff.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY TEAM



HANCE ELEMENTARY TEAM

Pine-Richland School District was recognized by the Northeast Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Network as a Bronze Level District of Distinction. All six Pine-Richland schools were recognized by the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Network for achieving Tier I with Fidelity status for implementing and sustaining school-wide positive behavior interventions and supports through the RAMS Way program during the 2025-2026 school year. Hance and Eden Hall implemented Tier 2 interventions with fidelity, ensuring that students receive targeted supports consistently and in accordance with established interventions. These recognitions highlight Pine-Richland's commitment to creating a positive, supportive school environment that encourages positive behavior, reinforces expectations, and promotes respect and responsibility throughout the school, contributing to the well-being and success of all students.



Food Service

The district welcomed Chartwells K12 in 2025-2026 as its new food service provider along with a new director of dining services, **Ashley Lindhurst**. Throughout the school year, students were introduced to new menus, new food options, and theme days celebrating different cuisines.

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. Call 724-625-7773 to learn more.



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VISIT THE FOOD SERVICE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.



CHARTWELLS K12 TEAM MEMBERS

2026-2027 MEAL PRICES

	Paid K-6	Paid 7-12	Reduced K-12	Free K-12
Daily Meal	\$2.85	\$3.10	\$0	\$0
Breakfast	\$0 (proposed)	\$0 (proposed)	\$0	\$0

Facility Improvements



Notable facility improvement projects completed this school year include:

- ▶ Replacement HVAC at Richland and Wexford
- ▶ New flooring installed at Pine-Richland High School lobby and front halls
- ▶ Gym floor resurfacing and lighting at Pine-Richland Middle School

Projects underway this summer include a roof replacement at Wexford Elementary School, phase two of the Pine-Richland High School hall floor replacement, and concrete work.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH REPORT

Pine-Richland School District proudly announces another year of educational excellence and academic growth based on data presented in the 2025 Academic Achievement and Growth Report.

In last year's Academic Achievement and Growth Report, the district affirmed its goal to achieve within the top decile (top 10%) of public schools in Pennsylvania and mark at least one year's growth. This year, the district successfully met the goal of achieving within the top decile of Pennsylvania districts in all major tested areas and made significant progress toward its second goal to meet or exceed the growth standard set by the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS), meeting or exceeding the growth standard in eight of 10 student groups.

This consistent achievement is a testament to the focused efforts and collaboration among students, dedicated staff and supportive family and community members, and underscores the district's mission to focus on learning for every student every day.

HIGH-LEVEL FINDINGS

In comparison to the state average and top decile benchmark, **Pine-Richland students are performing at high levels on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystone Exams:**

- ▶ Pine-Richland **students performed in the top decile in all twelve PSSA-tested areas. Students met or exceeded target achievement across all grade levels and content areas.**
- ▶ Pine-Richland **students performed in the top decile in all three Keystone Exam-tested areas,** consistent with prior years.

- ▶ Pine-Richland **students met or exceeded the PVAAS growth standard in eight of 10 PSSA-tested areas.** This is an increase from 2024's results.
- ▶ Pine-Richland **students met or exceeded the PVAAS growth standard in all three Keystone Exam-tested areas,** consistent with 2024 results.
- ▶ On both the PSSA and Keystone Exams, Pine-Richland **students in special education with an IEP performed at levels much higher than the state proficiency average of special education students,** and in some cases, more akin to the general population's proficiency average.
- ▶ On both the PSSA and Keystone Exams, Pine-Richland **students who are economically disadvantaged exceeded the state proficiency average scores of all tested students** in all tests.

In comparison to state and national averages, Pine-Richland students are outperforming benchmarks on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), American College Test (ACT), and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.

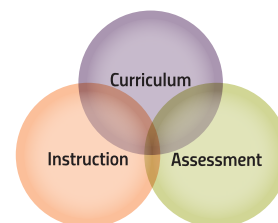
- ▶ Pine-Richland **students outperformed benchmarks and achieved at near historic levels on the SAT and ACT.**
- ▶ Over **1,300 AP exams** were taken by Pine-Richland students. **84% of students scored 3 or higher.**

Additionally, the report includes some non-traditional data on Pine-Richland's Portrait of a Graduate. Indicators such as acceptance rates, engagement, and college/career plans are included. The findings indicate that our graduates leave Pine-Richland ready to **pursue their paths.**



Pine-Richland has published the Academic Achievement and Growth Report annually since 2013 to provide transparency and insight into standardized academic metrics. The report includes emphasis on both achievement and growth and top decile comparisons where available, as well as a dual focus on measures of learning and data for action.

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 THIS QR CODE TO VIEW THE FULL REPORT.

PSSA and Keystone Information

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) tests student skill in math and English language arts in grades three through eight and in science in grades five and eight. The following performance levels are used: advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic.

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in algebra I (grades 6-10), biology (grades 9-10), and literature (grade 9).



AP Results and Findings

- The number of different students taking one or more AP exams was 552, higher than the five-year average (472).
- The percentage of students scoring a 3 or greater was higher (84%) than any other year dating back to 2017.
- The number of tests taken (1,303) is higher than the five-year average of 1,084.

Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	% Students Scoring 3+
2025	552	1303	84%
2024	500	1046	84%
2023	467	1001	77.5%

Extended School Year

Pine-Richland offered an Extended School Year (ESY) program for qualified students K-12 this summer at Eden Hall. We had 79 qualifying students supported by 41 staff members in nine classrooms. Students are divided based on age and need. Students also participate in activities with parent permission, including music therapy, pet therapy, occupational therapy groups, and vocational outings to local businesses to work on activities of daily living.

PSSA EXAMS

Math PSSAs			
Grade	Pine-Richland	Top Decile	Growth Target Met
3	83.6	Yes	N/A
4	76.8	Yes	No
5	76.7	Yes	Yes
6	71.3	Yes	Yes
7	62.5	Yes	Yes
8	53.8	Yes	Yes

ELA PSSAs			
Grade	Pine-Richland	Top Decile	Growth Target Met
3	73.7	Yes	N/A
4	78.7	Yes	Yes
5	70.4	Yes	Yes
6	79.3	Yes	No
7	81.5	Yes	Yes
8	72.5	Yes	Yes

Science PSSAs			
Grade	Pine-Richland	Top Decile	Growth Target Met
5	No results reported for 2025		
8	No results reported for 2025		

KEYSTONE EXAMS

Subject	Pine-Richland %At/Above Prof.	Top Decile	Growth Target Met
Algebra I	69.2	Yes	Yes
Biology	82.6	Yes	Yes
Literature	84.4	Yes	Yes
* First-time test takers			

SAT Results and Findings

- ▶ A consistent percentage of Pine-Richland students took the SAT at least one time compared to previous years.
- ▶ 2025 Pine-Richland graduates performed better than students across the state and globally.
- ▶ Average evidence-based reading/writing scores (608) were higher than average mathematics scores (601).
- ▶ Male students outperformed female students in both mathematics and evidence-based reading/writing.

 2025 SAT SCORECARD Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.		
2025	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Pine-Richland	608	601
Pennsylvania	555	529
All Test Takers	521	508

ACT Results and Findings

 2025 ACT SCORECARD (Maximum score is 36.) Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.					
2025	Math	Reading	English	Science	Composite
Pine-Richland	27.6	27.4	25.8	26.8	27.1
Pennsylvania	23.8	25.4	24	24.2	24.5
United States	18.9	20	18.4	19.6	19.4

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The number of students taking the ACT increased for the first time since 2017.

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.



Class of 2026



The Class of 2026 included 336 graduates who celebrated commencement on June 5. This year’s valedictorian was **Leah Wu**. **Mateen Hasan** was salutatorian, and **Nicole Ebner** was tertiary.



ANNABELLA ORLANDO IS ALL SMILES AT GRADUATION.



L TO R: NICOLE EBNER, MATEEN HASAN, AND LEAH WU

POST-GRADUATION PLANS		
2- or 4-year college	307	91.00%
Employment	13	3.90%
Gap or Service Year	3	0.90%
Career Education or Trade School	4	2.00%
Apprenticeship Program	2	0.60%
Unknown	1	3.00%
Military	6	2.00%

Academic Excellence

AP SCHOLARS

Twenty seniors earned AP Scholar status, earning a score of three or higher on at least three AP exams: **Molly Baker, Aubree Bennett, Sophia Brisendine, Ashlyn Casale, Meghan Cerny, Aubriana Constantakis, Ava Coons, April Derks, Maddalena Dorigo, Bridget Gilardi, Sophia Herndon, Serafina Julio, Faith Kellogg, Christopher Lattari, Zaid Muddassar, Kelsey Neill, Morgan Radi, Ariella Ruediger, Sylvia Stout, and Caroline Zancosky.**

Twenty-six seniors earned AP Scholar with Honor status, earning a score of three or higher on at least four AP exams: **Nicholas Annal, Davin Biagini, Brynn Bosack, Fiona Casale, Willow Cribbs, Megan DeKunder, Isabella**

DeRenzo, Elise Duckworth, Nicole Ebner, Jessica Hu, Maunish Jani, Alex Kastner, Andrew Kirkpatrick, Jiwon Lee, Grace Lennie, Elizabeth Liebe, Sai Pooja Muruges, Joel Neuhart, Ryan Noir, Anastasia Punosevac, Dalisay Quemado, Katelyn Rickard, Maya Rippole, Riley Shafer, Lucas Thompson, and Brady Wilson.

Twenty-one seniors earned AP Scholar with Distinction status, earning a score of three or higher on at least five AP exams: **Sanika Das, Brooke Deegan, Giuliana DeRenzo, Corin English, Cadence Foote, Mia Fritz, Mateen Hasan, Evelyn Lawler, Ryan Moore, Deeya Nayyar, Brian Ock, Chase Ogden, Alexis Ross, Caroline Sander, Arrash Sheikh, Navbir Singh, Doolin Stober, Jonathan Sweet, Kara Wang, Leah Wu, and Ella Yanni.**

NATIONAL MERIT

Seniors **Mateen Hasan** and **Deeya Nayyar** earned National Merit Scholarship finalist status by ranking in the top 15,000 scores of more than 1.3 million students.

Eighteen Pine-Richland seniors earned commended status from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These students scored in the top 50,000 of more than 3.5 million students who took the PSAT/NMSQT National Merit Qualifying Test last year: **Nicholas Annal, Sanika Das, Brooke Deegan, Megan DeKunder, Aaron Farrar, Cadence Foote, Maunish Jani, Alex Kastner, Faith Kellogg, Ryan Moore, Kelsey Neill, Brendan Plowey, Maya Rippole, Alexis Ross, Arrash Sheikh, Jonathan Sweet, Brady Wilson, and Leah Wu.**



MATEEN HASAN



DEEYA NAYYAR



NICHOLAS ANNAL



SANIKA DAS



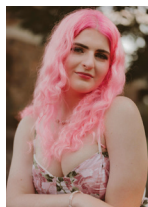
BROOKE DEEGAN



MEGAN DEKUNDER



AARON FARRAR



CADENCE FOOTE



MAUNISH JANI



ALEX KASTNER



FAITH KELLOGG



RYAN MOORE



KELSEY NEILL



BRENDAN
PLOWEY



MAYA RIPPOLE



ALEXIS ROSS



ARRASH SHEIKH



JONATHAN SWEET



BRADY WILSON



LEAH WU

PERFECT SCORES

Nine seniors earned a perfect score on an SAT or ACT exam this year: **Sanika Das** (ACT English and ACT Reading), **Mia Fritz** (ACT Math and ACT Science), **Bridget Gilardi** (ACT Reading), **Maunish Jani** (ACT English and ACT Science), **Alex Kastner** (SAT Math), **Deeya Nayyar** (ACT Reading and SAT Math), **Alexis Ross**, (ACT English), **Jonathan Sweet** (SAT Math), and **Brady Wilson** (ACT English).

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Each year, Pine-Richland High School faculty recognizes academic achievement with department awards. This year's awardees include: Air Force JROTC: **Blake Danik, Brandon Gainey, Tim Ha, and Reagan Kirik**; Art: **Aubree Bennett, Lucy Bish, Brynn Bosack, Cadence Foote, Saija Latta, Alexis Ross, and Ariella Ruediger**; Business: **Giuliana Contini and Douglas Van Meter**; English: **Christina Cilka, Mackenzie Dry-Henich, Massimiliano Filiaggi, Brandon Gainey, Kamryn Holderman-Berger, and Andrew Sharp**; Family and Consumer Science: **Isabella Fritz and Olivia Petroff**; Math: **Grant Alberts, Megan DeKunder, Maunish Jani, Deeya Nayyar, and Jonathan Sweet**; Music: **Ava Coons—Band, Ryan Moore—Band, Conor Barcaskey—Choir, Sophia Priore—Choir, Isabela Pader—Orchestra, and Morgan Radi—Orchestra**; Science: **Deeya Nayyar**; Social Studies: **Jimena Belda Alcazar, Lauren Bionda, Fiona Casale, Colby Fuchs, Abigail Fuller, Katelyn Rickard, Natalie Stewart, and Jonathan Sweet**; Society of Women Engineers: **Annabella Orlando**; Technology Education: **Micah Weir**; and World Language: **Leah Wu—French, Landon Russell—German, and Brooke Deegan—Spanish.**

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Ninety-four Pine-Richland High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society on October 28, the largest class of inductees in Pine-Richland history.



Art



Twenty-three Pine-Richland High School students were awarded in the 2026 regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition, winning 37 awards for outstanding art achievement. Seniors **Jimena Belda**, **Aubree Bennett**, **Lucy Bish**, **Brynn Bosack**, **April Derks**, **Cadence Foote** (2), **Saija Latta**, and **Marianna Zahorchak**, and junior **Abigail Hengelsberg** received Gold Key Awards. Silver Key Award winners include seniors **April Derks**, **Kaylee Koch**, and **Saija Latta** (2). Five students were awarded for their portfolios: senior **Cadence Foote** earned a Gold Key Award, senior **Saija Latta** earned a Silver Key Award, and seniors **Christina Cilka**, **Alexis Ross**, and **Ariella Ruediger** earned Honorable Mentions. Gold and silver award-winning works and winning portfolios were displayed at Carnegie Mellon University's Fine Arts Building, and award winners were honored in a ceremony on March 7. A full list of students and their awards is posted on the district news site. *Scan code to see a full list of students.*



Pine-Richland High School students earned five awards in the annual Digital Media Arts Consortium's Student Competition Awards at Robert Morris University on April 15. This program recognizes and showcases outstanding student work in digital media such as video, photography, and journalism. Pine-Richland's winners included PRTV Club, Award of Excellence, Live Event; juniors **Madison Began**, **Piper Brooks**, and **Amelia Doughty**, and sophomore **Audra Farrar**, Best Directing, 48 Hour Film Competition; senior **Marianna Zahorchak**, Award of Excellence, Opinion/Editorial Article; juniors **Madison Began** and **Piper Brooks** and sophomore **Audra Farrar**, Award of Excellence, Video as Art; and junior **Amelia Doughty**, Best in Category, Animation/Stop Motion. *Scan the QR code to see the winning pieces.*



Juniors **Amelia Doughty** and **Piper Brooks**, both Advanced Video students, took home a third-place finish and a \$500 prize in the West View Water Authority's seventh annual video/photo contest. The contest challenged high school students and amateur filmmakers across its service area to create content educating the public on vital topics related to water, the environment, and school spirit. *Scan the QR code to watch their video.*

Career Education

Students of the Month at A.W. Beattie this school year include seniors **Reid Carter**, early childhood education, **Tyler Gubitosi**, HVAC, **Taylor Kane**, cosmetology, **Phillip Lemchak**, automotive technology, and **Elissa Lucchino**, health and nursing sciences; juniors **Katelyn Beatty**, veterinary services, **Mauro Didiano** (twice), carpentry and building construction, **Matthew Hoy**, automotive collision technology, **Gilanny Matos Nunez**, cosmetology, **Zachary Nicely**, carpentry and building construction, **Miles Smith**, advertising design, **Tatiana Stedina** (twice), culinary arts, and **Noah Urmann**, culinary arts; and sophomores **Elaine Craft**, SMART-EST, **Charon Fredell**, early childhood education, **AJ Guiffre**, HVAC, **Nevaeh Patrick**, health and nursing services, **Logan Rich**, emergency response technology, **Sofia Robinson**, early childhood education, and **Evan Schesler**, automotive collision technology.

Three Pine-Richland High School A.W. Beattie students earned awards at the Pennsylvania Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Student Leadership Conference held March 23-25. Senior **Reid Carter**, early childhood education, earned the state championship for Public Policy Advocate. Junior **Tatiana Stedina**, culinary arts, earned the state championship in Culinary Arts. Senior **Cayden Cutone**, culinary arts, earned silver in Food Art. Tatiana and Reid qualified to compete in July in the National FCCLA Competition in Washington, D.C.



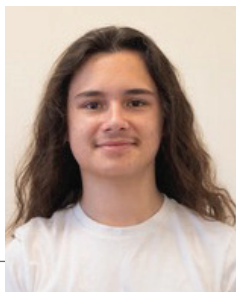
REID CARTER



TATIANA STEDINA



CAYDEN CUTONE



TYLER GUBITOSI



CHASE PETULLA



LIAM DOWNEY



OWEN MARTIN

Four Pine-Richland High School students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society through A. W. Beattie: seniors **Tyler Gubitosi**, HVAC, and **Chase Petulla**, carpentry building construction, and juniors **Liam Downey**, robotics engineering technology, and **Owen Martin**, carpentry building construction. The National Technical Honor Society recognizes the achievements of top career and technical education students. A. W. Beattie students must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale in their home school districts, have at least a 95% in their program, be a member of a service organization or participate in an extracurricular activity, and meet attendance requirements.



ELISSA LUCCHINO CELEBRATES COMMENCEMENT FROM A.W. BEATTIE.



Senior **Taylor Kane** was named Student of the Year in the A.W. Beattie cosmetology program.



SENIOR QUINTEN SUMMERS WORKS ON A WELDING PROJECT AT A.W. BEATTIE.

History



RYANN, ARIEL, LORELAI, ATHARVA, AND MATTHEW

Two Pine-Richland Middle School GATE teams placed in the History Bowl at the Heinz History Center on November 17. Taking first place and scoring a whopping 98/100 was the eighth-grade team of **Ariel Brotherson, Matthew DeVito, Ryann Mandel, Atharva Nagrath, and Lorelei Vernon**. Placing third with an impressive 87/100



ADALYN, NATALIA, AND AVERY

was the seventh-grade team of **Natalia Laurenson, Adalyn Russler, and Avery Sudo**. In this one-day competition hosted by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, student teams worked through exhibits to solve challenges, answer thought-provoking questions, and flex their creative thinking and writing skills.



Juniors **Caroline Prisk, Bianka Roman, Ella Trygar, and Janya Ullal** earned first place in Senior Group Performance at the National History Day Pittsburgh competition at the Heinz History Center in March for their project "Revolt in Russia: Bolshevik Style." They advanced to the state competition in Scranton in April. Junior **Rosina Sciulli** placed fourth in the Individual Exhibition category for her project, "Science over Tradition: The Flexner Report and the Professionalization of Medicine."

CAROLINE, ELLA, BIANKA, AND JANYA

Leadership

Rich-Mar Rotary recognized six seniors as Students of the Month for outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and community service: **Isabella Fritz, Cooper Hockenberry, Alex Kastner, Deeya Nayyar, Addilyn Nichols, and Simon Wynn**.



COOPER, DEEYA, AND ALEX



SIMON, ISABELLA, AND ADDILYN

School counselors and Caring Team members from Eden Hall Upper Elementary and Pine-Richland Middle School were invited to present as keynote speakers at the Children's Grief Awareness Day Summit in October. Students and counselors shared how the day is recognized at Eden Hall and how students who recently moved from Eden Hall to PRMS plan to continue the work and recognize the day in their new school. Presenters from Eden Hall included fourth-grader **David Sidoni**, fifth-graders **Riley Chance** and

Maria Marks, and sixth-graders **James Mirasola** and **Lucia O'Malley**. Presenters representing Pine-Richland Middle School included seventh-graders **Gianna Marks**, **Dominick Stinelli**, and **Rainey White**. Students were accompanied by school counselors **McKenna Gonzalez**, **Lauren Hawrylak**, **Jennifer Miller**, and **Jennifer Mullaugh**. Children's Grief Awareness Day is observed annually on the third Thursday of November to raise awareness of the needs of grieving children and to support children who are grieving a loss.



COMMANDER BOB SCHLEIDEN, NATALIE CORBIN, AND MICHAEL CURREN

Eighth-graders **Natalie Corbin** and **Michael Curren** received the American Legion School Award from Richland American Legion Post 548. 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. Commander Bob Schleiden from Post 548 presented the award to the students.



WYATT, RACHEL, CLAIRE, LUCIA, AND LORELEI

Eighth-graders **Wyatt Brown**, **Lucia Cordero**, **Claire King**, **Rachel Mowry**, and **Lorelei Vernon** earned the Pittsburgh Foundation Award for kindness, consideration of others, and willingness to help.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

LEADERSHIP CONTINUED



Senior **Isabella Fritz** was named Best Buddies Chapter President of the Year for Western Pennsylvania. This award recognizes a student leader who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the mission of Best Buddies through exceptional leadership, inclusion, and chapter engagement. Isabella was recognized at the Best Buddies Friendship Walk on March 7 at Highmark Stadium.

ISABELLA FRITZ WITH PEER BUDDY KENNY HOY

Senior **Ava Coons** and junior **Alaina Cafardi** were named 2026 Outstanding Young Citizens by *Trib Total Media*. Alaina was named a Top 10 Gold Medalist.

The Outstanding Young Citizens 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.



AVA COONS



ALAINA CAFARDI



NATASHA KUCIAK



CARA MURRAY

Junior **Natasha Kuciak** was selected to attend the Air Force JROTC Flight Academy this summer. This is an eight-week summer aviation training program conducted at partnering universities. Upon successful completion of the program, students are awarded a Private Pilot's Certification. Flight Academy is intended to inspire and encourage high school youth toward aviation careers.

Juniors **Natasha Kuciak** and **Cara Murray** were selected to attend the 2026 United States Air Force Academy Summer Seminar, a highly selective, immersive leadership and cadet-life experience held each June at the United States Air Force Academy, where rising high school seniors live like cadets and get a firsthand look at the Academy's academic rigor, physical challenges, and culture. Students are selected based on demonstrated leadership experience in extracurricular and community activities, athletics, and academics.



JORDYN, EMMA, AND ELLIE

On April 8, leaders from Pine-Richland's Peer-to-Peer club participated in Project Impact at Point Park University and earned the Heart of Service Award. Junior **Jordyn Mandel**, sophomore **Ellie Manganello**, and senior **Emma Volianiuk** presented at the event about the club's annual Color Run and how it brings the community together while promoting mental health awareness.

Senior **Simon Wynn** was named the 2026 American Legion Pennsylvania Eagle Scout of the Year. This award highlights scouts who best represent the values of the Scout Oath and Law through their accomplishments, character, and commitment to community.



SIMON AND COMMANDER BOB SCHLEIDEN

Music

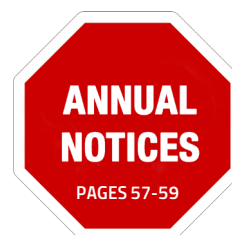
Senior **Sophia Priore**, juniors **Karcher Dosch** and **Avi Sasso**, and sophomore **Zoey Campbell** (first chair) qualified for PMEA All-State Choir April 22-25. This is the largest number of students Pine-Richland has ever sent to All-State Choir. Sophia is also only the fourth student in Pine-Richland history to earn an invitation to All-State Choir three times.



SOPHIA, ZOXY, KARCHER, AND AVI

Seniors **Giuliana DeRenzo**, **Josh Oklejewski**, and **Sophia Priore**, juniors **Karcher Dosch** and **Juliette Pala**, and sophomores **Zoey Campbell** and **Avi Sasso** were selected to perform in the PMEA Region I Choir held February 19-21. Seniors **Davin Biagini**, **Giuliana**

DeRenzo, **Josh Oklejewski**, and **Sophia Priore**, juniors **Karcher Dosch**, **Raegan Dosch**, and **Avi Sasso**, and sophomores **Zoey Campbell** and **Juliette Pala** were selected to perform at the PMEA District 1 Chorus Festival on January 8-9.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MUSIC CONTINUED

Juniors **Noah Ezolt** and **Alex Goss** and sophomore **Lily Orellana** were selected to perform with the PMEA District 1 Jazz Band on December 12 and 13 at Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center.



ALEX, LILY, NOAH



RYAN, CHASE, ALEX, CODY

Senior **Ryan Noir** and junior **Cody Leeper** were selected for the PMEA Region Band March 19-21 at Upper St. Clair High School. Senior **Ryan Noir** and juniors **Chase Bisti**, **Alex Goss**, and **Cody Leeper** were selected to perform with the PMEA District 1 West Band February 5-7 at South Park High School. Senior **Ryan Noir** and junior **Alex Goss** were selected for the PMEA Honors Band Festival, November 21-23, at North Hills High School.



RYAN AND ZOEY

Eighth-graders **Nathan Leckey** and **Rachel Mowry** represented Pine-Richland at the PMEA District 1 Junior High Orchestra Fest on March 13-14 at Hampton Middle School. Eighth-graders **Myriam Bell** and **Penny Robbizaro** represented Pine-Richland at the PMEA Jr. High District Band on April 11 at Trinity High School.

MYRIAM AND PENNY



Senior **Ryan Noir** and sophomore **Zoey Campbell** qualified for PMEA All-State Orchestra. This is Ryan's second straight year participating in the All-State Orchestra. Senior **Ryan Noir** and sophomores **Zoey Campbell** and **Anamaria Pomirleanu** represented Pine-Richland at the PMEA District Orchestra Festival, January 23-24, at Mount Lebanon High School. Senior **Morgan Radi**, junior **Eleanor DeMann**, and sophomores **Zoey Campbell** and **Anamaria Pomirleanu** were selected to perform in the 2025 PMEA Honors String Orchestra Festival at North Allegheny Senior High School on November 15-16.



Edén Hall Upper Elementary School hosted the PMEA District 1 Elementary String Fest on March 27, welcoming 120 students from around the region, including 11 Edén Hall students: fifth-graders **Penny Budzisz** and **Matthew Keller** on bass; sixth-graders **Juls Elardo**, **Sophia Simon**, and **Amelia Willis** on violin; 6th graders **Ashmi Chatterjee**, **Lucia O'Malley**, and **Allen Yang** on viola, and sixth-graders **Sydney Campbell**, **Cora Hurt**, and **Robert Zeng** on cello.

Five Edén Hall sixth-graders were selected to participate in the PMEA Band Fest at South Fayette High School on May 9: **Braedyn Cenci**, **Mackenzie Cunningham**, **Caroline Lattari**, **Lucy McKay**, and **Greyson Walczak**.



Pine-Richland High School's **Wind Ensemble** was adjudicated at Heinz Hall on March 16 for this year's PMEA Music Performance Assessment. The Wind Ensemble earned an overall Superior rating while performing Grade 5 literature—an advanced level of music typically performed by collegiate ensembles. The PMEA Performance Assessment is an educational event where student ensembles perform for experienced music educators and receive ratings and feedback.

Pine-Richland Middle School's bands, orchestra, and choirs took home eight awards, including six first-place awards, at the annual Music in the Parks festival in Hershey on May 19. **7th/8th Grade Orchestra** earned first place, Middle School String Orchestra, with a superior rating, and was named Overall Junior High/Middle School String Orchestra. **Seventh Grade Band** earned first place, Middle School Concert Band II, with an excellent rating. **Eighth Grade Band** earned first place, Middle School Concert Band I, with an excellent rating, and was named Overall Junior High/Middle School Concert Band. **Seventh Grade Choir** earned first place, Middle School Mixed Choir II, with an excellent rating. **Eighth Grade Choir** earned first place, Middle School Mixed Choir I, with a superior rating. **PRfect Pitch** earned first place, Middle School Women's Ensemble, with a superior rating. Eighth-grade orchestra member and violinist **Claire Cassisi** was named Outstanding Soloist for her work on a piece she performed with the eighth-grade choir.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Performance



Twelve students were awarded honorable mentions in the Pittsburgh Public Theater's annual Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest held February 13 at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. Seniors **Mackenzie Dry-Henich** and **Grace Lennie** were awarded for their scene from *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Ten students were recognized for monologues: seniors **Jarah Casciani**, *Othello*, **Elise Duckworth**, *Hamlet*, and **Aubrey Myers**, *Richard III*, juniors **Saf Cadenhead**, *Romeo and Juliet*, **Aubrey Crist**, *Twelfth Night*, and **AJ Horrocks**, *King Lear*, and ninth-graders **Brendan Martin**, *Macbeth*, **Pritha Mukherjee**, *The Taming of the Shrew*, **Desolina Postreich**, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and **Karly Trezza**, *Macbeth*. More than 1,000 students from 80 area schools participated in the Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest.

THE ELECTION



Pine-Richland High School presented *The Election* in November. After the student body president resigns in disgrace, Mark Davenport (played by **Conor Barcaskey**) expects an easy win in a special election against nerdy straight-A student Christy Martin (played by **Elise Duckworth**). But a mysterious Super PAC gives her an unlimited budget, and things quickly go from bad to worse.

The Election garnered the cast and crew three Prime Stage Drama Awards and ten total nominations. **Elise Duckworth** won for Best Actress, **Liana DeLisio** won for Best Sound, and **Kahler Salva** and **Rachel Brito** won for Best Props. Additional nominations included Best Production, Best Actor—**Conor Barcaskey**, Best Supporting Actor—**Brendan Plowey**, Best Stage Managers—**Alli Andresky**, **Vincenzo Gaeta**, and **Anjana Palathunkal**, Best Lighting—**Zoe Furrow**, Best Program Design—**Juliette Pala**, and Best Run Crew.



BEETLEJUICE JR.

In January, Pine-Richland Middle School presented *Beetlejuice JR.* Lydia Deetz (played by **Brynn Kohley**) is a teenager grieving the loss of her mother as she moves into a new home with her father. There, she encounters the spirits of the previous owners, Adam (played by

Nathan Angelo) and Barbara (played by **Izzy Woodburn**), and a demon named Beetlejuice (played by **Mckenna Byrne**), who attempts to assist her in scaring away the house's new inhabitants.



CHICAGO

Pine-Richland High School presented *Chicago: Teen Edition* in March. In Roaring Twenties Chicago, Roxie Hart (played by senior **Elise Duckworth**) murders a lover and convinces her husband to take the rap until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and Velma Kelly (played by junior **Loren Prisuta**) vie for the spotlight and the headlines.

Chicago: Teen Edition earned seven Gene Kelly Awards: Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Crew/Technical Execution, Outstanding Dance Ensemble, Outstanding Lighting Design, Outstanding Vocal Ensemble, Outstanding Student Orchestra, and Outstanding Actress—**Loren Prisuta** as Velma Kelly. **Loren Prisuta** also was awarded Best Dancer at the Jimmy Awards in June.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)



Eleven Pine-Richland students placed in the Top 20 nationally in their grade level in the international Math Kangaroo competition: **Bennett Black** and **Oscar Lokay**, 3rd grade, Hance; **Dominic Yurechko**, 2nd grade, Richland; **Vedyan Raghu**, 3rd grade, Richland; **Lillianne Zhang**, 2nd grade, Wexford; **Vincent Montalbano**, 3rd grade, Wexford; **Elias Dias**, **Naomi O'Leary**, and **Nikesh Pondugula**, 4th grade, Eden Hall; **Caleb Kupec**, 5th grade, Eden Hall; and **Max Hermeling**, 6th grade, Eden Hall. Each year, tens of thousands of students from the United States take part in this mathematics contest designed to inspire students to develop problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking.

FAR LEFT: LILLIANNE AND VINCENT
LEFT: BENNETT AND OSCAR

Two sophomores were honored with awards from the National Center for Women in Technology (NCWIT). **Keerthana Visveish** earned the 2026 Western Pennsylvania NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award. **Tisha Joshi** was named a 2026 Western Pennsylvania Rising Star. The NCWIT Aspirations in Computing High School Award honors high school students for their computing-related achievements and interests and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award recipients are selected based on their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing, as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, persistence, and future plans.



KEERTHANA VISVEISH



TISHA JOSHI



AARAV, JACKSON, ABHAYA, AND LUKE

Two Pine-Richland Middle School teams competing in TSA TEAMS placed first and second in the state and qualified for the national tournament in Maryland in late June. The eighth-grade team of **Luke Guo**, **Jackson Lion**, **Aarav Pattan**, and **Abhaya Tuladhar** placed first in Pennsylvania. The seventh-grade team of **Shivum Arora**, **Ved Bansal**, **Thomas Jones**, and **Ajay Ramakrishnan** placed second. Two high school teams tied for first in the state in the essay competitions: Team A (which also placed fifth in mathematical modeling and 10th overall) included sophomores **Hans Jhamb**, **Tisha Joshi**, **Eunsol Ko**, and **Abheek Tuladhar**, and Team D included sophomores **Soha Garg**, **Sailesh Senthil**, and **Owen Tan**. The sophomore team of **Sonaya Arora**, **Piya Dargan**, **Anamaria Pomirleanu**, and **Keerthana Visveish** placed first in mathematical modeling, while the senior team of **Sanika Das**, **Giuliana DeRenzo**, **Evy Lawler**, and **Ella Yanni** placed second. This senior team also placed 9th in the state. TEAMS challenges teams of middle school and high school students to collaboratively solve real-world engineering issues by applying their STEM knowledge in practical and creative ways.



Sophomore **Armaan Thukral** earned the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 857 Air Academy Scholarship, a full scholarship to attend the Air Academy Camp in Wisconsin this summer. Only one applicant is granted this scholarship from Chapter 857 each year. Aimed at flight enthusiasts ages 14-18, the camp offers flight simulations, interactive workshops, aviation demonstrations, and classroom instruction.

Several members of Pine-Richland High School's Technology Student Association placed at the regional competition in January. Seniors **Blake Danik** and **John Moschitta**, and juniors **Andrew Gillis**, **Karisha Patel**, and **Jacob Simon** placed first in Robotics. Juniors **Bhargava Abhinav**, **Raju Kurapati**, **Dylan Lane**, and **Nick Nejad**, sophomore **Abheek Tuladhar**, and eighth-grader **Abhaya Tuladhar** placed second in Robotics. Senior **Sanika Das** placed first in Prepared Presentation. Senior **Micah Weir**, sophomore **Aayush Nayyar**, and ninth-grader **Max Weir** placed first in Systems Control. Seniors **Mateen Hasan**, **Evelyn Lawler**, and **Brian Ock** placed fourth in Systems Control. Junior **Karisha Patel** placed third in CAD Architecture and in CAD Engineering. At the 2026 PA-TSA State Conference in April, **Sanika Das** placed fourth in Prepared Presentation, and the team of seniors **Mateen Hasan**, **Evelyn Lawler**, and **Brian Ock** placed ninth in System Control Technology.



Junior **Eshan Kazi** was selected as a Rensselaer Medal Award recipient for excellence in math and science education. The Rensselaer Medal includes a \$40,000 per year merit scholarship that is guaranteed for four years if he chooses to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute after graduation.



Eight seniors placed third in the Southwest Pennsylvania IQ Preliminary BotsIQ competition this spring on Team Nom Nom: **Blake Danik**, **Michael Desjardins**, **Edmond DiCocco**, **Evelyn Lawler**, **Annabella Orlando**, **Blade Stolicke**, **Maximus Ulyas**, and **Micah Weir**. BotsIQ students work in teams during the academic year to design and build 15 lb. combat robots (bots) to battle in a gladiator-style competition.



ESHAN KAZI AND DR. FRANK HERNANDEZ

Speech and Writing



MODEL UN CLUB AT THE WESTMINSTER COLLEGE MODEL UN TOURNAMENT.

Senior **Andrew Kirkpatrick** won best delegate, and senior **Brooke Deegan** and sophomore **Mark Corbin** won best position papers at the annual Duquesne University Model UN Tournament in February, competing against 18 other public and private high school teams. Seniors **Abigail Fuller** and **Andrew Kirkpatrick** earned the Outstanding Delegate Award at the Westminster College Model United Nations Tournament in April. They were recognized for their exceptional performance in the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference simulation, where they navigated complex economic issues related to international trade and post-war reconstruction.



Second-grader **Skylar Sanford-Dolly** earned first place in the WQED Kids Writer's Contest for her story, *Dragon Drinks*.



Pine-Richland High School's Forensic Speech and Debate Team placed first in the Mid-Size School (11-20 entries) Overall Sweepstakes at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Tournament held March 20-21. Nine students also earned individual honors: junior **Eshan Kazi**, 2nd place in humorous interpretation, senior **Maddie Gross**, 2nd place in poetry, senior **Arrash Sheikh**, 2nd place in extemporaneous speaking, sophomore **Saanvi Santpure**, 2nd place in commentary, sophomore **Sonaya Arora** and junior **Bianka Roman**, 4th place in news broadcasting, sophomore **Anusha Chatterjee**, 5th place in programmed oral interpretation, sophomore **Krishna Thakkar**, prose semifinalist, junior **Darren Lee**, storytelling semifinalist, and senior **Neil Kakkassery**, impromptu semifinalist.

World Language



Six Pine-Richland High School World Language students placed at Slippery Rock University's annual World Language Competition on October 7: junior **Raphael Bencun**, 1st place, Spanish level 2, senior **Davin Biagini**, 2nd place, Spanish level 4, junior **Piper Rios**, 2nd place,

Spanish level 3, sophomore **Mariana Ramirez**, 3rd place, Heritage Language Learner, sophomore **Hans Jhamb**, 3rd place, Spanish level 2, and junior **Rachel Brito**, 3rd place, French level 3.



L TO R: LAUREN BIONDA, DEEYA NAYYAR, SOPHIA BRISENDINE, KELSEY NEILL, RACHEL BRITO, AND LEAH WU. NOT PICTURED: MARISSA MANN

Seven Pine-Richland High School students placed on the National French Exam. Seniors **Sophia Brisendine** and **Leah Wu** earned gold; junior **Rachel Brito** earned silver; senior **Kelsey Neill** earned bronze; seniors **Lauren Bionda** and **Deeya Nayyar**, and sophomore **Marissa Mann** earned honorable mentions.



L TO R: LEAH WU, SOPHIA BRISENDINE, DEEYA NAYYAR, LAUREN BIONDA, AND KELSEY NEILL

Five seniors were inducted into the National French Honor Society: **Lauren Bionda**, **Sophia Brisendine**, **Deeya Nayyar**, **Kelsey Neill**, and **Leah Wu**. The National French Honor Society is an academic honor society for high school students that recognizes outstanding achievement in French while promoting cultural awareness and continued language studies.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WORLD LANGUAGE CONTINUED

Eight students were inducted into the National German Honor Society this year: seniors **Vincenzo Gaeta**, **Andrew Kirkpatrick**, **Christopher Lattari**, **Carter McKissick**, **Brendan Plowey**, **Landon Russell**, and **Kara Wang**, and junior **Nick Nejad**. Delta Epsilon Phi (ΔΕΦ) National Honor Society for High School Students of German recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of learners of German.



L TO R: LANDON RUSSELL, VINCENZO GAETA, BRENDAN PLOWEY, KARA WANG, ANDREW KIRKPATRICK, NICK NEJAD, CARTER MCKISSICK, AND CHRISTOPHER LATTARI



Twelve sophomores participated in the National German Exam, an annual assessment administered by the American Association of Teachers of German. Each year, more than 15,000 high school students across the country take this rigorous exam, which measures reading and listening skills through authentic German-language materials. **Tisha Joshi** and **Anamaria Pomirleanu** earned Gold, scoring in the 90th percentile of all students nationwide. **Zoey Campbell** earned Silver, scoring in the 80th percentile. Nine additional students earned recognition awards, including **Caroline Gregorowicz**, **Ellie Lehair**, **Saanvi Santpure**, and **Brooke Wollenschlaeger**, who earned Achievement Awards, and **Arav Amin**, **Ethan Corbin**, **Mark Corbin**, **Josie Dember**, and **Vienna Restelli** who earned Participatory Awards.

Sophomore **Anamaria Pomirleanu** earned the prestigious American Association of Teachers of German scholarship to participate in this year's AATG National German Exam Study Abroad Program, a highly competitive opportunity that recognizes top-performing German students across the country. She has the opportunity to spend two weeks in Germany,

living with a host family and attending school alongside a German student, fully immersing herself in the language and culture. To qualify, Anamaria scored a perfect 100% on the National German Exam, advanced to the semifinalist level through an interview conducted entirely in German, and demonstrated her proficiency through the STAMP language assessment.

**ANNUAL
NOTICES**

PAGES 57-59



Seventeen Pine-Richland High School students were inducted into the National Spanish Honor Society this spring: seniors **Conor Barcaskey, Davin Biagini, Willow Cribbs, Jordan Crutchfield, Brooke Deegan, Giuliana DeRenzo, Isabella DeRenzo, Maddalena Dorigo, Cori English, Isaac Kraus, Anastasia Punosevac, Alexis Ross, Navbir Singh, Jonathan Sweet, and Ella Yanni;**

junior **Sara Alvarez;** and sophomore **Mariana Ramirez.** The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica is an academic honor society for high school students that recognizes outstanding achievement in Spanish and Portuguese while promoting cultural awareness and continued language studies.



L TO R: SAM CORLEY, WHITNEY CALHOUN, J.J. MCCABE, PIYA DARGAN, LUCA NAPOLITANO, ANUSHA CHATTERJEE, ADALYN MARTIN, KEERTHANA VISVEISH, AND SHAUN MAINI

In March, 12 Spanish III Honors students placed on the National Spanish Exam: junior **Adalyn Martin** earned gold; junior **Raphael Bencun** and sophomores **Anusha Chatterjee, Hans Jhamb, and Hannah Tannert** earned silver; sophomores **Whitney Calhoun, Sam Corley, Keerthana Visveish, and MJ Wollenschlaeger** earned bronze; and sophomores **Piya Dargan, Shaun Maini, and Luca Napolitano** earned honorable mentions. Sophomores **Sienna DeRenzo and J.J. McCabe** earned participation awards.



Pine-Richland School District values the learning that occurs both inside and outside of the classroom. Student-athletes experience personal growth and develop resiliency when engaged in the diverse opportunities provided through their chosen sport or sports. The Pine-Richland Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2019 to honor and recognize those associated with Pine-Richland athletics who have experienced significant accomplishments in their chosen sport or sports. Congratulations to our Class of 2025 inductees!

JANET CHAPPELL

Tennis Coach



BEN DINUCCI

Class of 2015—Football



BRANDON HUNT

Class of 1999—Football, Baseball, and Track and Field



BRITTANY PIKUR (ADAMS)

Class of 2004—Soccer, Basketball, and Lacrosse



JOHN KARR

Class of 2006—Baseball, Football, and Basketball



2006 BASEBALL TEAM

The 2006 team included **Evan Affinito, Colin Durborow, Tony DiPasquale, Steve Freehling, John Karr, Dan Koller, TJ Kuban, Bryan Leones, Brian Miller, Brett Mollenhauer, Mike Morgan, Ryan Nussbaum, Cono Passione, Dan Passione, Derek Schleiden, Frank Sonetti, Chris Thrasher, and Dan Yesenosky**, and coaches **Kurt Wolfe, Troy McCurdy, and Jeff Hack**.



Scan the QR code to learn more about this year's class of inductees



ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Baseball

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL PAVELY



2025-2026 PRHS BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

This year's team finished as Section III Champions with a 15-5 overall and 10-0 section record. They advanced through the WPIAL 5A Quarterfinals.

Seniors **Kyler Bell**, **Ben Husted**, and **Logan Plummer**, and junior **Austin Cwynar** were named First Team All-Section. Seniors **Grant Alberts** and **Luke Grana**, and junior **Carson King** were named Second Team All-Section.

Logan Plummer was named 5A Player of the Year. Coach **Kurt Wolfe** was named 5A Coach of the Year.

Logan Plummer played for the West Team in the PA State All-Star Game on June 21.

Several senior players committed to continue their baseball careers at the collegiate level: **Grant Alberts**, Franciscan University of Steubenville; **Kyler Bell**, University of Tampa; **William Franchak**, Saint Vincent College; **Jayse Grilli**, Saint Vincent College; **Ben Husted**, Denison University; **Joseph Kamenicky**, Thiel College; and **Logan Plummer**, Mercyhurst University.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL PAVELY



2025-2026 PRHS BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

Basketball BOYS

The Varsity team had a record of 11-12 and advanced to the first round of the WPIAL 6A playoffs.

Senior **Grant Spacciapoli** was named to the Big 56 Section 1 6A First Team, and senior **Eli Catalano** was named to the Big 56 Section 1 6A Second Team. **Grant Spacciapoli** was a KDKA Super 7 finalist and earned the TJ McConnell Leadership Award.

Grant Spacciapoli committed to play basketball next year at The Pennsylvania State University, and **Eli Catalano** committed to play basketball at Case Western University.



2025-2026 PRHS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Basketball GIRLS



2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM



This year, the Girls' Basketball team went 15-8 and earned first place in Class 6A Section 1. They fell to Seneca Valley in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs.

Junior **Mia LeDonne** (above) was named the Big 56 6A Section 1 Conference Player of the Year. Senior **Cate Gentile**, **Mia LeDonne**, and sophomore **Rebekah Shaffer** were selected Big 56 First Team. Junior **Zoe Cook** was selected for the Big 56 Second Team. **Mia LeDonne** was a KDKA Super 7 finalist. Coach **Hailey Zeise** was named the Big 56 6A Section 1 Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year.

Bocce

This season, Pine-Richland's Unified Bocce team finished the season with an undefeated 6-0 record in head-to-head matches. Team 1 went 9-3 to earn the #1 seed, while Team 2 went 8-4 and won the Section Championship to secure Pine-Richland's second consecutive Allegheny North Division title. Team 2 advanced to the Regional Playoffs, finishing 7th in their bracket and approximately 14th out of 140 teams in the region.

The team participated in the annual Special Olympics Polar Plunge, working with Best Buddies and the Air Force JROTC to raise more than \$4,700 for Special Olympics PA.



2025-2026 PRHS BOCCÉ TEAM



POLAR PLUNGE PARTICIPANTS

Cheerleading



2025-2026 VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM



2025-2026 COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING TEAM

This year, the Competition Cheer team competed in WPIALs and earned a bid to UCA Nationals.

Senior **Ella Armstrong** committed to the University of Oregon for acrobatics and tumbling. Senior **Camryn Matta** committed to Duquesne University for cheer. Senior **Avery Stieg** committed to cheer at Syracuse University.

Crew



2025-2026 CREW TEAM

Pine-Richland's Crew teams had a number of top-three finishes this year, including at Head of the Ohio, where the Women's U17 4+ took first and the Women's U17 8+ earned third place. At Head of the Muskingum, the team earned third in the Women's U19 2x and in the Women's U17 4+. The team also took third in the Women's Varsity 2x at the Speakmon Memorial Regatta. At the North Allegheny Indoor Springs, Pine-Richland placed first in Women's Novice Lightweight and 6th/7th Grade Men, second in Women's JV Lightweight, 6th/7th Grade Men, and 6th/7th Grade Women, and third in 6th/7th Grade Women.

Senior **Madeline Gross** committed to row at the University of Toledo.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cross Country

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL PAVELY



2025-2026 PRHS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL PAVELY



2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

This was another successful, fun season for the Cross-Country team with their largest team ever (34 boys and 33 girls).

Both teams placed highly at invitationals. The Girls' team finished 9th at WPIALs, while the Boys' team placed 17th. Junior **Charlie Kapanowski** qualified for the PIAA Cross-Country State Championship held on November 1 after placing 17th at the WPIAL Championships.

Senior **Ella Yanni** committed to running cross country and track and field at the University of Rochester.

Dance



Pine-Richland High School's Dance Team won several awards and qualified for the Universal Dance Association's (UDA) National Dance Competition in early 2026 following performances at the Varsity Spirit UDA Camp July 15-17. All dancers earned superior ratings and blue ribbons for three routines. Senior captains **Alyssa Mancine**, **Camilla Rand**, and **Sophie Whiting** were recognized as All-Americans.

Field Hockey

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY144



2025-2026 PRHS
FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

RIGHT: THE FIELD
HOCKEY TEAM
CELEBRATES
ITS WPIAL
CHAMPIONSHIP.



The Field Hockey team won its seventh-straight WPIAL Championship on October 28, defeating Norwin.

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* named senior **Anna Merlack** the 2025 Field Hockey Player of the Year, and junior **Claire Mill** was named WPIAL Field Hockey Offensive Player of the Year.

Anna Merlack and senior **Emma Wallace** were named to the 2025 National Field Hockey Coaches Association High School Impact Senior Team.

The Pennsylvania High School Field Hockey Coaches Association All-State honors were awarded to four members of the WPIAL Class 3A championship team. **Anna Merlack** was named to the Class 3A Second Team, while seniors **Kaelin Koehler** and **Maddy Merlack**, and junior **Alyssa Baculik** earned honorable mention honors.

Alyssa Baculik, junior **Emily Iams**, **Anna Merlack**, and **Claire Mill** were named All-WPIAL.

WPIAL 3A First Team All-Stars selections included seniors **Anna Merlack** and **Emma Wallace**, and juniors **Alyssa Baculik**, **Emily Iams**, and **Claire Mill**. Seniors **Kaylee Bang**, **Kaelin Koehler**, and **Maddy Merlack** received honorable mentions.

Seniors **Alyssa Baculik**, **Kaylee Bang**, **Chandler Camp**, **Ella Dunlap**, **Kaelin Koehler**, **Madeline Luisi**, **Paige Luisi**, **Anna Merlack**, and **Maddy Merlack**, and juniors **Riley Gainor**, **Reyah Griffin**, **Emily Iams**, **Allison Kapanowski**, **Claire Mill**, **Cara Murray**, and **Naomi Stewart** were named as Scholars of Distinction on the 2025 NFHCA High School National Academic Squad.

Three seniors signed to continue their field hockey careers in college: **Kaelin Koehler** committed to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, **Anna Merlack** committed to Allegheny College, and **Maddy Merlack** committed to York College of Pennsylvania.

Flag Football

Pine-Richland Girls' Flag Football was founded in 2026. This inaugural team included 27 girls who played a 14-game WPIAL schedule. Junior **Alaina Cafardi** earned the Jerome Bettis Leadership Award, presented by the Pittsburgh Steelers, The Mentoring Partnership, and Giant Eagle. This award recognizes high school girls who play flag football around the region who go above and beyond to be leaders in their communities and offer support and encouragement to their teammates and peers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSS PHOTOGRAPHY

Football

PHOTO COURTESY OF SLICK 6 SPORTS

2025-2026 PRHS VARSITY
FOOTBALL TEAM

The Football team returned to the 5A WPIAL Championship this season, marking their fourth consecutive appearance in the title game, where they narrowly fell to Peters Township.

The 2025 PA Football Writers' Class 5A All-State Team included seniors **John Curran** and **Jay Timmons** and juniors **Aaron Strader** and **Khalil Taylor**. Pennsylvania Football News Coaches All-State Honorees included **John Curran**, **Aaron Strader**, **Khalil Taylor**, **Jay Timmons**, senior **Da'jaun Webb** and junior **Dajour Webb**.

Khalil Taylor was named the Trib HSSN 5A Player of the Year and a Rivals All-American. **Aaron Strader**, **Khalil Taylor** and **Jay Timmons** were named to the Trib HSSN Terrific 25. **Da'jaun Webb** and senior **Braylen Price** were selected to the Big 33. **Aaron Strader** was nominated for the Willie Thrower Award, recognizing the top high school football quarterback in western Pennsylvania.

Northeast All-Conference First Team Offense selections featured seniors **John Curran**, **Maclane Miller**, **Jalen Neals**, and **Braylen Price**, and juniors **Aaron Strader** and **Khalil Taylor**. Northeast All-Conference First Team Defense selections included seniors **Grant Pillar**, **Jay Timmons**, and **Da'jaun Webb**, and juniors **Colten Andrighetti** and **Dajour Webb**. Northeast All-Conference Second



SENIOR MAC MILLER RUNS THE BALL DURING A GAME AGAINST SENECA VALLEY.

Team Offense and Defense selections included seniors **Hans Meijer** and **Dylan Turcan**, and junior **Tyler Hays**. **Jon LeDonne** was named the Northeast All-Conference Coach of the Year.

Several players committed to continuing their athletic careers at the next level: **John Curran**, University of Pittsburgh; **Maclane Miller**, PennWest Clarion; **Jalen Neals**, Duquesne University; **Grant Pillar**, PennWest Edinboro; **Braylen Price**, William & Mary; **Jay Timmons**, The Ohio State University; **Dylan Turcan**, PennWest California; and **Da'jaun Webb**, Mercyhurst University.

Golf BOYS

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT WILLIAMS



2025-2026 PRHS VARSITY BOYS GOLF TEAM

The Boys' Golf team completed their 32nd consecutive winning season with a record of 13-5 and placed third in the section, missing the team playoffs by just one stroke in a loss to Mars. Five players qualified for the first round of WPIAL Individual Finals: seniors **Cooper Hockenberry** and **Owen Thompson**, and juniors **Adam Henne**, **Mike Pifer**, and **Sam Schneck**.

Juniors **Michael Pifer** and **Sam Schneck** qualified for the WPIAL Finals. **Michael Pifer** finished seventh, qualifying for the PIAA Finals.

Senior **Owen Thompson** committed to golf next year at Mount Aloysius.

Golf GIRLS

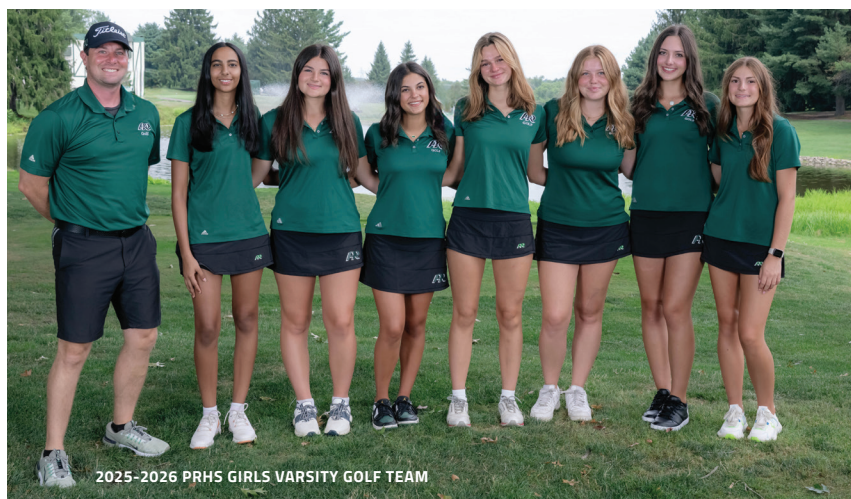


PIYA, SIENA, KATE, AND MARIN



2025-2026 PRHS JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS GOLF TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT WILLIAMS



2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY GOLF TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144

This season, the Girls' Golf team placed fourth in the team WPIAL Championship. Juniors **Kate Mazefsky** and **Siena Smith** and sophomores **Piya Dargan** and **Marin Raupp** qualified for the WPIAL Girls' Golf Individual Championships. **Siena Smith** advanced to the PIAA State Championships and placed 25th.

2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY GOLF TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144

Gymnastics



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

THE 2025-2026 GYMNASTICS TEAM PARTICIPATED IN REGIONAL COMPETITION WHILE BUILDING SKILLS, CONFIDENCE, AND TEAMWORK.

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.



Hockey

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2025-2026 PRHS VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2025-2026 PRHS JUNIOR VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM

The Ice Hockey team advanced through to the semifinals in the AAA Penguins Cup, narrowly falling to Seneca Valley. Seniors **Cullen Campbell**, **Michael Desjardins**, and **Doug Van Meter**, and juniors **Noah Taggart** and **Carson Verszyla** were named 2026 PIHL Hockey All Stars. Coach **Jordan Yoklic** was selected as assistant coach of the All-Star team.



ALL-STAR TEAM PARTICIPANTS



Ella Tarasovich committed to play women's ice hockey at Western University.

Lacrosse BOYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF SLICK 6 SPORTS

2025-2026 PRHS BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

The Boys' Lacrosse team advanced all the way to the WPIAL 3A Championship, where they lost to Shady Side Academy. They played in the first round of the PIAA State playoffs.

Juniors **Nick Jones** and **Nate Komoroski** were named All-WPIAL and All-Section. Senior **Callan DeGrands** and juniors **Chris Lentz** and **Ben Brooks** were named All-Section Honorable Mention. **Nick Jones** was named a USA Lacrosse All-American.

Lacrosse GIRLS



PHOTO COURTESY OF SLICK 6 SPORTS

2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

This year's team fell to Mt. Lebanon in the WPIAL Championship. They advanced to the second round of the PIAA State playoffs.

Senior **Cate Gentile** and junior **Claire Mill** were named All-American. **Cate Gentile** and juniors **Mallory Boivin** and **Claire Mill** were named All-WPIAL. **Cate Gentile**, senior **Reis Valenty**, **Mallory Boivin** and **Claire Mill** were named Section 2 First Team. Seniors **Lucy Kucinic**, **Cara Murray**, and **Ella Tarasovich** were named WPIAL Section 2 Second Team. Sophomore **Lily Meehleib** was named WPIAL Section 2 Honorable Mention.

Throughout the season, numerous varsity players reached major statistical milestones. Midfielder **Cate Gentile** executed her 300th goal and broke the all-time WPIAL record for career points, surpassing 420 points and standing at 486 points during the 2026-2027 PIAA Playoff run. Midfielder **Claire Mill** hit 100 goals, reaching 161 goals by the end of the season, and attacker **Mallory Boivin** secured 200 goals on home turf.

Cate Gentile committed to play lacrosse at Virginia Tech. **Claire Mill** will enter her senior season as a University of Pittsburgh lacrosse commit.

Soccer BOYS

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY144



2025-2026 PRHS BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

The Boys' Soccer team clinched a playoff spot with a big 5-1 win over Butler to land the fourth and final spot. They upset Mt. Lebanon in the first round of the playoffs on the road in penalty kicks, then lost to the WPIAL Champion Fox Chapel team 1-0 on the road.

Seniors **Jordan Crutchfield** and **Sammy Beuse** and junior **Ryan Cashman** were named All-WPIAL and All-Section First Team. **Jordan Crutchfield** was also named to the Big 56 First Team.



RYAN, JORDAN, AND SAMMY

Soccer GIRLS

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

The Girls' Soccer team ended the regular season in second place in the section, earning the #4 seed and first-round bye with a record of 14-3-1. The girls only allowed four goals during the regular season. In the playoffs, the team fell to the WPIAL Champion North Allegheny team in a penalty kick shootout.

Senior **Emme Kline** was named All-State. Seniors **Shea Best**, **Lily De Jesus**, **Emme Kline**, and **Riley White** were named All-WPIAL. **Shea Best**, senior **Aubree Bennett**, **Emme Kline**, senior **Elle Cassidy**, **Lily De Jesus**, and **Riley White**, junior

Lily Rosenwasser, and sophomore **Charlie Kline** were named All-Section. **Shea Best**, **Emme Kline**, and **Riley White** received Big 56 First Team Honors, while **Aubree Bennett**, **Lily De Jesus**, **Charlie Kline**, and **Lily Rosenwasser** received Big 56 Second Team Honors.

Six seniors committed to play soccer in college next year: **Molly Baker**, St. Francis University; **Aubree Bennett**, Allegheny College; **Shea Best**, United States Naval Academy; **Lily De Jesus**, Duquesne University; **Emme Kline**, Old Dominion University; and **Riley White**, Niagara University.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Softball



2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

This year's team advanced to the semifinals of the WPIAL playoffs.

Seniors **Abbey Laurent** and **Serafina Julio** and ninth-grader **Noelle Ionadi** were named to the WPIAL 6A All-Conference First Team. Junior **Norah Cherry** was named to the Second Team.

Two seniors committed to play softball in college: **Serafina Julio**, Converse University; and **Abbey Laurent**, St. Michael's College.

Swim and Dive



2025-2026 PRHS SWIM AND DIVE TEAM

The Girls' Swim team finished the dual meet season with a 7-3 record, led by sophomore **Whitney Calhoun** as the team's high point scorer. The Boys' Swim team finished with a 4-6 record, with ninth-grader **Aiden Jamison** leading as the team's high point scorer.

Several swimmers qualified for the WPIAL Individual Championships. Girls' team qualifiers included seniors **Riley Shafer** and **Teagan Yurocko**; juniors **Bree Arthur**, **Lyla Boulanger**, **Brooke Rupert**, and **Alli Schomaker**; sophomores **Whitney Calhoun** and **Adeline Schmitt**; and ninth-grader **Sutton Shafer**. Boys' team qualifiers included seniors **Davin Biagini** and **Andrew Kirkpatrick**; juniors **Gabe Gard**, **Matt Uzelac**, and **Cam Wincko**; sophomore **Tyler Cain**; and ninth-graders **Aiden Jamison**, **Sam Ross**, and **Bryce Vacula**. Sophomore **Charlotte DeGrands** and ninth-grader **Blake Buhl** qualified for the WPIAL 3A Diving Championship.



RILEY SHAFER

At the WPIAL Championships, the Boys' team placed 15th overall. The Girls' team placed third for the second consecutive year with 210 points and qualified all three relay teams and individual swimmers **Whitney Calhoun**, **Alli Schomaker**, and **Riley Shafer** for the PIAA State Championships.

The Girls' Team placed 19th at the PIAA State Championships. The 400 Freestyle Relay team placed 11th, earning All-State Honorable Mention. Additional honorable mention honors were earned by **Whitney Calhoun**, **Alli Schomaker**, and **Riley Shafer**. **Whitney Calhoun** earned All-State honors in the 200 Freestyle, placing 8th and setting a team record (1:53.05). She led the team with 19 points.

Riley Shafer was named the Berger and Green Scholar Friday Night Rivals Athlete of the Week on August 30. This honor recognizes student success on the field and in the classroom.

Tennis BOYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY144

This season, the team took third place in their section, qualifying for the WPIAL team playoff, where they lost to Fox Chapel. Senior **Ryan Moore** and sophomore **Arav Amin** finished in fourth place in the Section Doubles Championship and qualified for the WPIAL Doubles Championship. Junior **Darren Lee** and sophomore **Eisen Faust** also qualified for the Section Doubles Championship. **Ryan Moore** and **Arav Amin** qualified for the Section Singles Championship and lost in the second round.

Tennis GIRLS

The Girls' Tennis team finished the season with a 10-4 record and a 7-1 season record. They advanced to the quarterfinals of the WPIAL team playoffs. Sophomore **Sonaya Arora** qualified for the WPIAL Singles Tournament. **Sonaya Arora**, senior **Deeya Nayyar**, and sophomore **Eve Pellathy** qualified for the section doubles tournament.

2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Track and Field



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL PAVELY

This season, 30 athletes qualified for WPIALs in 18 events, either individually or as part of a relay team.

This year's WPIAL medalists included senior **Sam Beuse**, 300M Hurdles; junior **Brady Hunkele**, 400M; junior **Reyah Griffin**, 100M Hurdles and Triple Jump; and the team of senior **Ella Yanni** and ninth-graders **Cassie Barg**, **Jordyn Riley**, and **Brooklyn Knox** in the Girls' 4X800M.

Reyah Griffin (100M) and junior **Charlie Kapanowski** (3200M) competed in the PIAA Championships at Shippensburg University on May 22-23.

Three students set school records this year: **Brady Hunkele** in the 400M (49.852), **Charlie Kapanowski** in the 3200M (9:14.21), and junior **Khalil Taylor** in the 100M (10.83) and 200M (21.95).



Teagan Yurocko committed to Delaware State University for triathlon.

AT LEFT: 2025-2026 PRHS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

Volleyball BOYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PSLUCK 6 SPORTS

2025-2026 PRHS BOYS VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Senior **Doolin Stober** was named All-WPIAL First Team. Senior **Ben Ward** was named All-WPIAL Second Team. **Doolin Stober** was named WPIAL All-Section First Team. Seniors **Brody Kirik** and **Ben Ward** were named All-Section Second Team. Seniors **Carlton Fogliani** and **Lucio Sherron** were named All-Section Third Team.

Four seniors committed to play volleyball at the collegiate level: **Brody Kirik**, St. John Fisher University; **Lucio Sherron**, Washington & Jefferson College; **Doolin Stober**, The Ohio State University; and **Ben Ward**, Saint Thomas Aquinas College.

Volleyball GIRLS

The Girls' Volleyball team had an impressive run this season, advancing all the way to the PIAA 4A Girls' Volleyball Championship Final, falling to undefeated Spring-Ford 3-1.

Senior **Isabelle Hoppe** was named the 2025 Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year and was named to the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association Class 4A All-Star team, the only player in the state recognized all four years of high school. **Isabelle Hoppe** was named WPIAL All-Section First Team. Junior **Piper Vogel** was named WPIAL All-Section Second Team, and senior **Megan DeKunder** was named WPIAL All-Section Third Team.

Isabelle Hoppe and **Megan DeKunder** were named to the Big 56 All-Section First Team. Senior **Valerie Menke** and junior **Piper Vogel** were named to the Big 56 All-Section Second Team. Senior **Ella Learish** and junior **Avery Dougherty** were named to the Big 56 All-Section Third Team.

Isabelle Hoppe earned a spot on the 2026 Under Armour NEXT All-America Volleyball Game, the premier showcase of elite high school volleyball talent in the country.



2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT WILLIAMS



ISABELLE HOPPE COMMITTED TO CONTINUE HER VOLLEYBALL CAREER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN. SHE IS SHOWN HERE WITH COACH ANGELA SEMAN.



THE GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM ADVANCED TO THE PIAA CHAMPIONSHIP.

Wrestling BOYS

The Pine-Richland High School Boys' Wrestling team continues to build momentum with strong individual performances throughout the postseason.

At the Allegheny County Tournament, sophomore **Bennett Ferraro** led the way with a third-place finish, while ninth-grader **Sammy Pelletier** secured sixth place. The success carried into the Section Tournament, where **Bennett Ferraro** captured a Section Championship. Junior **Max Kohser** earned third place, while **Sammy Pelletier** and ninth-grader **Matt Jones** fought through tough brackets to finish sixth, helping all four wrestlers qualify for the WPIAL Championships.



2025-2026 PRHS BOYS WRESTLING TEAM

At the WPIAL Championships, **Bennett Ferraro** defeated the #1-ranked wrestler in the state and went on to finish as the WPIAL Runner-Up, and advanced to the Regional Championships.

Bennett Ferraro and **Max Kohser** were named to the 2025-2026 Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic Team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SLICK 6 SPORTS

Wrestling GIRLS



2025-2026 PRHS GIRLS WRESTLING

The Girls' Wrestling team finished in the top six of every tournament this year, ending the season with a team win percentage of .568 and sending two wrestlers to the PIAA Championship. As a team, they finished third at WPIALs, fourth at regionals, and seventh in the state out of 107 schools.

Sophomore **Aariona Strader** placed first in the WPIAL Individual Championship, first in the West Regional Tournament, and second in the PIAA State Championship. Junior **Giada Campanella** placed fourth at WPIALs, third in the West Regional Tournament, and fourth at the PIAA State Championship.

Four additional wrestlers placed in the WPIAL Individual Championship and qualified for regionals: junior **Aya Vainshtein** and ninth-graders **Ava Diulus**, **Avery Goutmann**, and **Raina Murcko**.

Giada Campanella and **Aariona Strader** were named to the Trib HSSN Girls' Wrestling All-Star Team and selected to the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic Team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SLICK 6 SPORTS

AROUND THE DISTRICT

HIGH SCHOOL

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL'S MARCHING BAND VISITED DISNEY WORLD IN APRIL FOR THEIR ANNUAL SPRING TRIP.



PEER-2-PEER CLUB HOSTED ITS 10TH ANNUAL COLOR RUN IN MAY TO RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION.



THE KEY-INTERACT CLUB HOSTED ITS ANNUAL WALK FOR WATER IN MAY TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP SUPPORT THE DRILLING OF A WELL IN A VILLAGE IN GHANA.



PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL'S CAPPELLA GROUP, RAMBUNCTIOUS, HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SING "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" AND "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL" AT PNC PARK ON MAY 19 FOR ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S NATURALIZATION CEREMONY. 97 INDIVIDUALS FROM 32 COUNTRIES WERE SWORN IN AS AMERICAN CITIZENS AT THIS CEREMONY.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



TWENTY-FIVE PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL GATE STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPECIAL STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH) CAREER EVENT ON OCTOBER 30, HOSTED BY THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS AND EMCEED BY CHARLIE BATCH.

EDEN HALL



EDEN HALL STUDENTS CELEBRATED THEIR ANNUAL WORLD CULTURES DAY ON MAY 15, WELCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS REPRESENTING DOZENS OF COUNTRIES.



THE WINNING BOBLOPHILES, EDEN HALL'S SIXTH-GRADE FIRST-PLACE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TEAM, BECAME THE FIRST TEAM IN SCHOOL HISTORY TO WIN BATTLE OF THE BOOKS ALL THREE YEARS.



PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATED THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL WITH OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS.



FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS ENJOYED A DAY OF SCIENCE FUN IN THE REALLY AMAZING MINDS OF SCIENCE (RAMS) EVENT.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

HANCE



ABOVE: HANCE STUDENTS INVITED VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS TO SCHOOL FOR A BREAKFAST AND PARADE IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY. THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS COLORED SIGNS AND POSTERS TO THANK ALL OF THE VETERANS IN ATTENDANCE.

LEFT: HANCE CELEBRATED THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL ON JANUARY 30. STUDENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED AS THEIR FUTURE SELVES.

RICHLAND



FIRST GRADERS HOSTED THEIR ANNUAL SINGABRATION ON MAY 18 FOR PARENTS AND RICHLAND'S 2026 GRADUATES.

RICHLAND STUDENTS ENJOYED A SPECIAL RAMS WAY REWARD IN ART CLASS WITH GLOW WEEK, FEATURING FUN ROOM DECORATIONS AND SPECIAL GLOWING ART PROJECTS.



WEXFORD

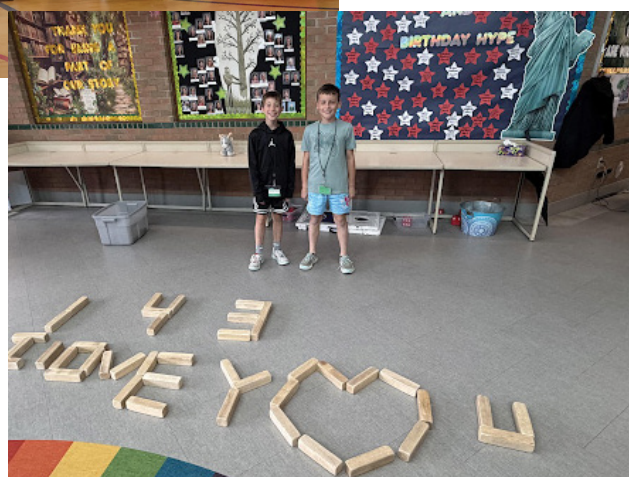


AUTHOR JOHN PATRICK GREEN AND ILLUSTRATOR PAT LEWIS VISITED WEXFORD ELEMENTARY, AS WELL AS OUR OTHER K-6 SCHOOLS, TO TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR CAREERS AND THEIR POPULAR INVESTIGATORS SERIES.

STAFF



THE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICA TEAM JOINED TOGETHER TO SUPPORT ANTI-BULLYING WEEK IN NOVEMBER, WEARING MATCHING T-SHIRTS AND SUPPORTING ANTI-BULLYING BEHAVIOR.



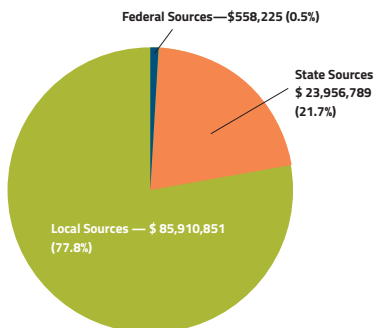
STUDENTS AND STAFF AT WEXFORD CELEBRATED 143 DAY ON MAY 23. 143 DAY IS PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICIAL STATE DAY OF KINDNESS, INSPIRED BY MR. ROGERS' CODE FOR I LOVE YOU (1 LETTER FOR "I", 4 LETTERS FOR "LOVE", AND 3 LETTERS FOR "YOU").

MEMBERS OF THE PINE-RICHLAND EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERED WITH INSPIRED HEARTS AND HANDS ON DECEMBER 8, SPENDING SEVERAL HOURS WRAPPING GIFTS.

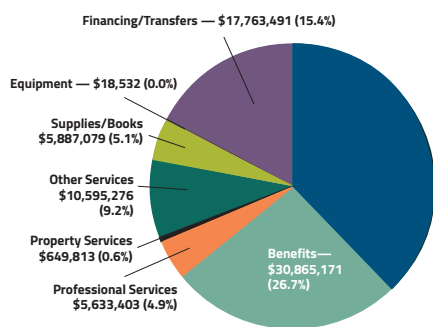
BUDGET & BOARD UPDATE

Board Approves Budget for 2026-2027

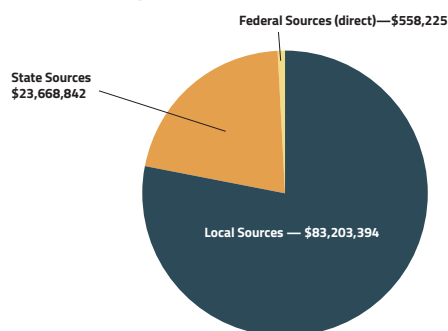
2026-2027 Budgeted Revenue



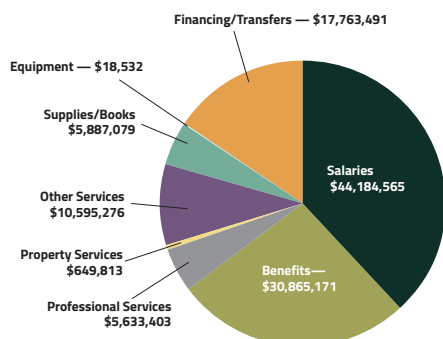
2026-2027 Budgeted Expenditures



2025-2026 Budgeted Revenue



2025-2026 Budgeted Expenditures



The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2026-2027 school year with total expenditures of \$115,398,705 and total revenues of \$110,425,864. The budget includes an estimated tax millage rate of 20.6228. This represents 5.29% millage increase from the current fiscal year, the district's first tax increase since 2017. An increase of millage to the full base index of 3.5% plus the PDE-approved \$1,157,454 (additional 1.79%) in special education exceptions will help the district offset the impact of the Common Level Ratio (CLR) prior to eventual county-wide reassessments in future years.

- ▶ Real Estate Tax rate of 20.6228 mills (increase from 19.5867)
- ▶ 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:

Staffing Reductions Due to Attrition
Reduction in Athletic Budget
Reduction in Text/Resources
Reduction in Building and Department Budgets
Reduction in Technology Refresh and Replacement Cycle
Advertisements

Increase in Facility Rental, Athletic Ticket, Student Activity, and Parking Fees
Tiered Booster Contribution for Advertising and Sponsorship
Increased Transportation Subsidies with Hazardous Route Qualification
AFJROTC Cost Sharing with Mars Area School District

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the district was unable to capitalize on any bond refunding opportunities, even with decreasing interest rates, as the rates did not meet savings thresholds to prompt a refunding. The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for additional refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible. Lower interest rates and use of fund balance for major capital projects will also reduce interest earnings in the next fiscal year and beyond. Fortunately, the district has maintained a proactive and disciplined approach to managing debt that was partially responsible for an S&P ratings upgrade in recent years.

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 of \$293.03.
- ▶ In early 2026, the board approved a property tax rebate program for all qualifying senior citizens, widows, and widowers for the 2025 calendar year. The application reflected a due date of June 30, 2026. 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:

Common Level Ratio – The CLR court ruling in Allegheny County continues to level and decrease real estate assessment values in all Allegheny County public school districts, including the Pine-Richland School District. Over the past three fiscal years, this has impacted the real estate revenues negatively. At Pine-Richland, 80% of overall revenue is generated from local sources. Real estate revenue is the largest element of that local income.

Salaries and Wages – Personnel costs for administration, faculty, and support staff represent 65% 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 33.59% of salary costs from 34% in 2025-2026. 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 by \$352,546 in 2026-2027. State funding reimburses the district fifty percent of these costs.

Premium Costs – Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium medical premium costs will increase by 8.3% for covered employees. Dental and vision insurance premiums will increase by 3% and 0%, respectively. Overall group health insurance expenditures for the district are budgeted to remain level in 2026-2027 due to attritional savings over the past two budget processes.

Tuition Expenditures – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$1,346,990 for 2026-2027, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools. None of these costs are reimbursed by the state.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE
THE 2026-2027 BUDGET.

Board Update



SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT: LIZ DELOSA, AMY CAFARDI, ASHLEY FORTIER, LESLIE MILLER, MELISSA VECCHI;
STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT: RANDY AUGUSTINE, PHIL MORRISSETTE, MICHAEL WIETHORN, MARC CASCIANI

Pennsylvania school boards are governed by nine elected directors. Pine-Richland School District's school directors include **Mr. Randy Augustine**, **Mrs. Amy Cafardi**, **Mr. Marc Casciani**, **Mrs. Liz DeLosa**, **Mrs. Ashley Fortier**, **Mrs. Leslie Miller**, **Mr. Philip Morrisette**, **Mrs. Melissa Vecchi**, and **Mr. Michael Wiethorn**.

Mr. Augustine, **Mrs. Cafardi**, **Mrs. DeLosa**, and **Mrs. Vecchi** were sworn in to a four-year term on December 3, 2025.

The board elected **Mrs. Fortier** as president and elected **Mrs. Vecchi** as vice president for 2026. **Mr. Casciani** was re-elected in May to serve as board treasurer.

The board also appointed:

- ▶ **Mrs. DeLosa** as the legislative representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) for a one-year term through November 2026. In May, **Mrs. DeLosa** and **Mrs. Fortier** were elected as voting delegates for PSBA's 2026 Delegate Assembly.
- ▶ **Mrs. Vecchi** as a representative to the A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Committee for a two-year term expiring December 2027. **Mrs. Miller** was appointed as a two-year term representative in December 2024. Her term expires in December 2026.
- ▶ **Mrs. DeLosa** as a representative to the Pine Township Parks and Recreation Board for 2026.
- ▶ **Mr. Augustine** 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.

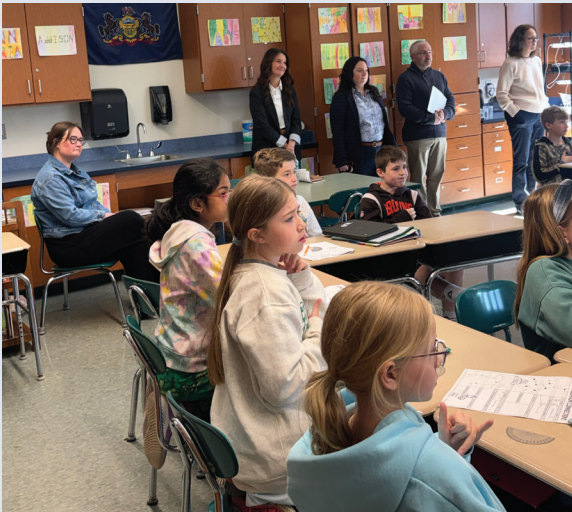


TREASURER MARC CASCIANI ADMINISTERS THE OATH OF OFFICE TO MR. AUGUSTINE, MRS. CAFARDI, MRS. DELOSA, AND MRS. VECCHI.

BUDGET & BOARD UPDATE



Throughout the year, school board members made several visits to Pine-Richland schools to visit classrooms, learn more about facility improvement projects, and see learning in action. This year's visits included seeing the planetarium in use during an astronomy class, observing English language arts and math instruction at multiple grade levels, and panel discussions with teachers.



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 provides a free and appropriate public education for all students, including students requiring special education services.

This includes the 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.

The district publishes these notices annually, 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**.

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. Visit www.pinerichland.org/attendance for more information about Policy 204.

Discipline Code

The purpose of the PRSD Discipline Code is to present standard behavioral expectations based on 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 should refer to Board Policy 218 in 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 addresses everything from attendance, unlawful harassment, bullying, to bus expectations, visit www.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 services within the school district's jurisdiction. The district provides details of where to find more information about the district's special education and early intervention programs through announcements on PRTV (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, 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 to both.

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.

Discrimination or Harassment Complaints & Investigative Processes

The 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 Board Policy 103: Nondiscrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students and Policy 103.1: Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities, which can be found in 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 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 and administrative regulations 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 234

Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students

Policy 247

Hazing

Policy 249

Bullying/Cyberbullying

Policy 824

Maintaining Professional Adult/Student
Boundaries

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

Surveillance Cameras & Audio Recordings (Policies 810.2 and 817)

Under 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 monitors 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.

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.

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 www.pinerichland.org/health-services and click on Child Abuse Policy.

Public 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 adopted Policy 906 to establish procedures for seeking an appropriate resolution to complaints. To review more details about the complaint process, visit www.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 www.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 www.pinerichland.org/policy-904. The overview contains 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 provides comprehensive health insurance coverage for routine doctor visits, prescriptions, dental, eye care and more. Visit www.pinerichland.org/parent-resources/school-safety/student-insurance for more information on both.

Student Fundraising (Policy 229)

Fundraising activities must comply with **Board Policy 229 (Student Fundraising)** and must be submitted online to the building principal or director of athletics through a district-approved Google form for approval. 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 www.pinerichland.org/boosters for policy information and forms.

Student Survey (Policy 235.1)

Board Policy 235.1 states 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 www.pinerichland.org/survey-policy.

Student Assistance Program (Policy 236)

The district reinforces the connection between emotional well-being and student success through a continuum of 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 offer 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 www.pinerichland.org/sap for more information about SAP.

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.

Board Policy 819 supports the provision of a comprehensive district program designed to promote behavioral health and prevent suicide. The Board directs the district to offer 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 entire policy on the Policy Portal.



SCAN TO SEE
ANNUAL NOTICES
ON OUR WEBSITE

Annual Notices

Visit www.pinerichland.org/annual-notices for more about student services, and:

- ▶ Attendance
- ▶ Bullying/Cyberbullying
- ▶ Child Abuse
- ▶ Concussion Management
- ▶ Confidentiality
- ▶ Diabetes Management
- ▶ Discrimination and Harassment
- ▶ Electronic Devices
- ▶ Emergency Preparedness and Response
- ▶ Enrollment of Students
- ▶ Exemption from Instruction
- ▶ Federal Programs Title
- ▶ Food Services (Includes free and reduced lunch, visit compass.dhs.pa.gov)
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights
- ▶ Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries
- ▶ McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- ▶ Medication
- ▶ Migrant Students
- ▶ Nondiscrimination/Title IX
- ▶ Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
- ▶ Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)
- ▶ Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records
- ▶ Opioid Antagonist
- ▶ Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/ Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
- ▶ Protected Handicapped Students: Chapter 15
- ▶ Public Attendance at School Events
- ▶ Public Records (Right to Know Act)

- ▶ Public Complaint Process
- ▶ Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students
- ▶ School Wellness (including food allergies)
- ▶ 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 Accident Insurance
- ▶ Student Assistance Program
- ▶ Student Fundraising
- ▶ Student Records
- ▶ Student Recruiting
- ▶ Student Rights & Responsibilities
- ▶ Student Services
- ▶ Student Surveys
- ▶ Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- ▶ Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response
- ▶ Surveillance Cameras and Audio Recordings/ Video and Photographs
- ▶ Threat Assessment
- ▶ Title I Parent and Family Engagement
- ▶ Tobacco & Vaping Products
- ▶ Weapons

Board Policies & Discipline Code

All school policies can be accessed at any time by visiting www.pinerichland.org/school-board-policies. Policies are updated cyclically. Families should review the policy manual and discipline code annually. Review the discipline code at www.pinerichland.org/discipline-code.



SCAN FOR BOARD POLICIES

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



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

702 Warrendale Road

Gibsonia, PA 15044

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TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

PINE-RICHLAND CELEBRATED THE COMMENCEMENT OF 336 STUDENTS ON JUNE 5.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

