



PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Learning in Action

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# 2023

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DR. BRIAN R. MILLER

## Greetings to the Pine-Richland Community!

The annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future at Pine-Richland. We have so much to be thankful for in our school district and community. That “thanks” begins with people and relationships. We have a community that values education. We are fortunate to have a highly trained staff committed to student success. We have students who demonstrate incredible levels of maturity and engagement in their learning.

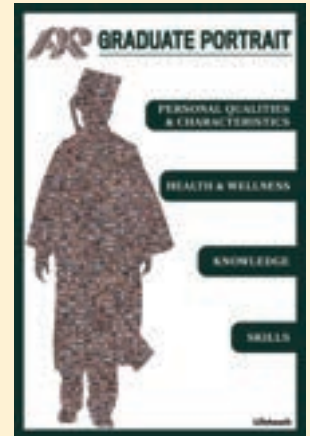
While it is often challenging to maintain perspective, we are fortunate to offer a wide range of diverse opportunities through our academic programs and extracurricular activities. We continue to expand our program of studies and course offerings for students. We have also continued to expand extracurricular programs both within and outside the school day. Highlights of those activities and the results are captured in our annual report. The range of programs helps to promote engagement from our students and also provides opportunities for parents to be connected to their children.

From a long-term planning perspective, the most significant initiative of the year was the completion of the 2023–2027 Pine-Richland Strategic Plan and Pennsylvania Department of Education Comprehensive Plans. We are committed to our mission to focus on learning for every student every day. We believe in the importance and impact of a quality education and positive school culture on the development of young people. This belief serves as a compass. The strategic plan serves as the map. Current and past plans served as a foundation for our planning process for 2023–2027. Over the course of a ten-month period, we had hundreds of stakeholders engaged in this public process. That process was led by a strategic plan steering committee composed of school board members, senior leaders and representatives of key workforce groups. The strategic plan was unanimously approved in June 2023 and will provide direction for the future. It reinforces our commitment to continuous improvement. Thank you to all members of the community who participated in this process.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! For everyone else, we look forward to the 2023–2024 school year. Thank you for your continued support of the Pine-Richland School District.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Miller, Ed.D., Superintendent



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## [DID YOU KNOW...?]

- > The *Pittsburgh Business Times* ranked **Pine-Richland School District** 9th in southwestern Pennsylvania based on Keystone and PSSA scores from 2022, 2021 and 2019 in its 2023 Guide to Southwestern Pennsylvania Schools.
- > *U.S. News & World Report* ranked **Pine-Richland High School** 7th in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, 26th in Pennsylvania and 863rd nationally in its 2022 rankings.
- > The district has a newly approved **Strategic Plan** for 2023–2027, resulting from the input of approximately 400 individuals over the 2022–2023 year, with an unwavering commitment to academic achievement and growth, starting with excellent instruction within the general education classroom. Learn more on page 3.
- > All 16 departments and programs within the district have completed an **In-Depth Program Review** to improve students’ learning experience through strategic actions informed by findings from peer-reviewed research, data analysis and interviews with exemplar programs and community connections. See more on page 4.
- > 2022–2023 was the first full year for the district’s **Sustainability Leadership Council**. Student representatives taking part in the council make up the first united six-school sustainability club. This year, students focused on recycling, moving the district to single-stream recycling that now includes plastics and aluminum alongside paper.

## Safety and Security

The district continues to take a strategic approach to school safety and security. Fostering a safe and positive school environment sets the foundation for learning. This year, we adopted the Raptor Emergency Response System to align with the Raptor Visitor Management System implemented during the 2018-2019 school year and updated emergency response language to align with standard response protocol terminology. Drills throughout the year reinforced building-specific routines and gave staff members opportunities to practice using the Raptor system. Emergency operations plans have been expanded to develop clear

response procedures in the event of an emergency during after-school athletic activities and have been reviewed and practiced by coaches and student-athletes. Training videos were created to support third-party partners to ensure all employees are aware of the district’s safety practices. The district continues to work closely with the Northern Regional Police Department (NRPD) and other first responders. Table top drills and other activities that encourage collaboration between the district and NRPD continue to strengthen systems and response protocols.



## Future-Focused Financial Health

The district leadership and governance team continues to manage and re-evaluate future-focused financial health given evolving economic conditions and capital needs. The district has been intentional for many years in considering a five-to-ten year view of overall finances. Public Financial Management has provided a third-party financial tool that forecasts a five-year budget perspective based on various assumptions. The district’s capital funding plan provides a ten-year forecast. The last tax increase for PRSD was 1.97% in 2017-2018, which was approved to offset capital expenditures while allowing the district to reduce debt as a percentage of the operating budget. Most recently, the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget was passed with no change in millage rate. Looking forward, we will continue discussions regarding a possible future tax increase as well as utilization of assigned fund balance for capital improvements to help offset some large capital projects. The key to these discussions hinge upon future-focused implications to the financial position of the school district.

## School Culture and Diversity



The School Culture and Diversity Leadership Council met throughout the school year and focused on providing feedback on school culture and diversity topics and making recommendations for specific actions that support a positive school culture. Topics have included developmentally appropriate messages delivered by building administrators to students that reinforce the culture we strive for in our schools that embraces diversity and inclusion and clearly outlines unacceptable behaviors and language. Through our core text evaluation process, diversity of author, genre and characters are now considered when making new core text recommendations. The concept of **cheer for our team** emerged from this collaborative work. Our athletic department and building principals work with coaches, students and booster groups to reinforce ways to cheer for our teams in energetic but respectful ways. Over the course of the second semester, student (8-12) and parent focus groups were conducted to share perspectives on school culture and diversity. This information will help guide future recommendations for improvement.



## In-Depth Program Review Study Phase

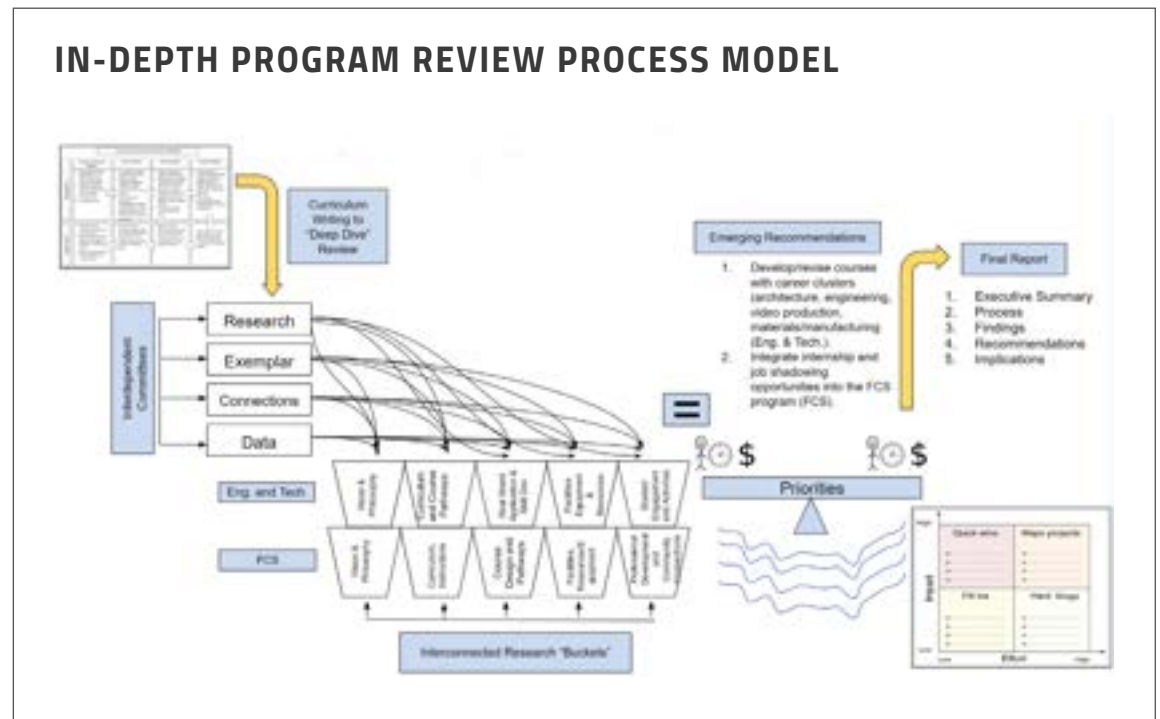
*Family Consumer Science, Engineering & Technology, Health Services and School Counseling*

The district's final four departments participated in the In-Depth Program Review (IDPR) process study phase. Teachers, nurses and school counselors researched current trends in their programs, spoke with other districts, interviewed college/university staff members and business leaders and reviewed data trends in their field. Students and parents were asked to share input through focus groups and electronic feedback. Final

reports and presentations for each department are available on our website. Scan the QR code below to see more. Now that the district has completed a full study of each program, we will review departmental recommendations from the initial study to determine depth of implementation and what adjustments are needed as we look to the future.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE MORE.



## In-Depth Program Review Implementation Phase



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIKE TUNNEL MURAL ON PAGE 18.

All but four departments were in the implementation phase of the IDPR process this year including new additions of art, world language and special education/ Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS). Our art teachers worked with local businesses and organizations to reinforce the final phase of an art project—presenting. Our students' creativity and talents were on display at Pine Community Center, throughout our campuses and now our students' artwork is a permanent part of the Pearce Mill Trail Tunnel for our community to enjoy for years to come.

Our world language staff collaborated on grade 4-6 curriculum to prepare for a new sequence of learning experiences for our students. Sixth grade students will begin a deeper exploration of French, German and Spanish this year, allowing them to spend even more time in their selected language in middle school as they prepare to fully immerse themselves throughout their high school careers. Special education teachers and support staff made significant gains this year with their IDPR goals. Adjustments were made to the elementary school's specialized programs (life skills, autism and emotion support) in an effort to provide students and families with resources and trained staff within our three schools. A number of intervention programs were identified and adopted to address the specific needs of our students with a goal of keeping students in their general education classrooms as much as possible. Finally, our high school has a PAES Lab (Practical Assessment Exploration System) that provides students in autism and life skills programs with hand-on occupational skill development opportunities. All other programs will continue their implementation work each year. The 2023-2024 school year will be the first year when all departments are working toward their identified goals. This focus on academic improvement will impact every student, and we are excited about the future of all of our programs.

## Sustainability



We continue to focus on evaluating opportunities to promote sustainability and reduce our environmental footprint. Last summer, we completed the replacement of HVAC units at each primary school, and this summer, we are replacing HVAC systems at the middle school, which helps to increase energy efficiency in each of these buildings. The Facilities Department has developed an internal Energy Committee to review

specific efficiency data. Additional funds have been set aside for exterior lighting and bulb replacement in order to continue the conversion of lighting fixtures to LED. Our Sustainability Leadership Council and student contingent, making up the Six-School Sustainability Club, continued their work on recycling efforts and promoting the message of sustainability to their school staff and students.

## District Debuts Three Electric School Buses

In a significant step toward increased sustainability, Student Transportation of America (STA) began transporting Pine-Richland students on new 2024 CE series buses in May. The electric buses average a range of 135 miles, and in optimal conditions, can reach 150 miles on one charge. In addition to the fuel savings, benefits of an electric school bus include the elimination of diesel fumes and minimal noise. They produce so little noise that an artificial humming noise was added for safety and will emit when the bus is driving at less than 20 miles per hour so that students can hear it approach.

Last spring, STA announced they had received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Driving PA Forward-Truck and Bus Fleet Program to pay for the new buses. The Make Ready infrastructure was provided by Duquesne Light from their Community and Fleet Charging Program. The program includes a rebate that partially covers the cost of the charging stations.



**JUNIOR BEN LYONS (LEFT) AND SENIOR JULIA PHILLIPS (RIGHT) WHO SERVE AS STUDENT LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY CLUB AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB, PREVIEWED ONE OF THE NEW BUSES AND LEARNED ABOUT ITS ELECTRIC FEATURES.**

## Development of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE 2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY.

The district actively engaged in the 2023-2027 strategic planning process throughout the past school year. Led by a 16-person steering committee composed of board members and district staff, the process included three community town hall meetings that had more than 400 parents, students, alumni, staff, community members and business owners in attendance. The 2023-2027 strategic plan focuses on teaching and learning, student progress and engagement, workforce development, finance and operations, pursuit of excellence and communications.

### *Process and Timeline*

Through an intense commitment of time and strategic prioritization, substantive progress was made in the development and completion of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Public school board and joint governance board meetings were held for the purpose of discussion and planning over the past nine months. In addition, three Town Halls were held on October 12, November 29 and January 17 at Eden Hall Upper Elementary School. Each town hall date included afternoon and evening sessions, both in person and virtually, and each session was specifically designed to collect input and feedback from diverse perspectives. Well over 400 participants represented all stakeholder groups. A key concept expressed through this entire process was line-of-sight. Work products from each step of the process are archived on the district website. After months of review, the board unanimously approved the Strategic Plan, PDE Comprehensive Plan and other state-required reports at the June 12, 2023, public meeting.

### *Strategic Plan Structure and Format*

Designed for the long-term planning horizon of 2023-2027, the Strategic Plan is organized in the following six categories: Teaching & Learning, Student Progress & Engagement, Workforce Development, Finance & Operations, Pursuit of Excellence and Communications. Each category contains two or more long-term goals that stretch across the four-year time frame. To accomplish each long-term goal, a series of short-term actions are noted in the columns and rows that show a progression of work over time. These actions reflect the high level focus of the plan. During implementation, each box is clarified through an action planning process. For additional context, a background section and rationale were added for each long-term goal. Please visit [pinerichland.org](http://pinerichland.org) or scan the QR code above to see the complete board-approved 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.



HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDED TOWN HALL SESSIONS TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE DIRECTION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

### *Belief Statement and Process Summary*

The district is committed to its mission to focus on learning for every student every day. We believe in the importance and impact of a quality education and positive school culture on the development of young people. This belief serves as a compass and the strategic plan serves as the map. Current and past plans have been built with input from stakeholders. It is possible to monitor our progress and focus over the past decade by reviewing past plans and the products of that work. These products serve as a foundation for our planning process for 2023-2027.



SIXTH-GRADERS BRYCE VAULA, JOSH NIYONZIGIRA AND LOGAN BRUNECZ PROVIDED A STUDENT VOICE AT THE STRATEGIC PLANNING TOWN HALL MEETINGS.



## Kelly Gustafson Named 2023 PSLA Outstanding Administrator



The Pennsylvania School Libraries Association selected **Kelly Gustafson**, principal of Wexford Elementary School, as their 2023 Outstanding Administrator. Mrs. Gustafson was chosen for her outstanding leadership in significantly improving school library services. She exceeded award criteria in the six American Association of School Librarian's National School Library Standards: Inquire, Include, Collaborate, Curate, Explore and Engage. PSLA noted that Mrs. Gustafson's "leadership and passion are exemplary for school libraries." She was nominated by **Beth Shenefiel**, librarian at Eden Hall Upper Elementary School, and **Andrea Clarkson**, librarian at Wexford Elementary School.

LEFT TO RIGHT: ANDREA CLARKSON, DR. BRIAN MILLER, KELLY GUSTAFSON, BETH SHENEFIEL

## Pine-Richland Schools Recognized by Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Network

The Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Network announced this past fall that all six Pine-Richland schools were recognized for the 2021-22 school year for meeting criteria for School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports for participation and implementation of RAMS Way. This is the second year in a row Pine-Richland School District has received this award thanks to the district-wide approach and integrity to improve outcomes for all students, staff, families and the community.



LEFT TO RIGHT: THIRD-GRADERS LIAM MCLANE, GAVIN WEBB, BRADY POWERS AND AIDEN HOPKINS DEMONSTRATE RAMS WAY BEHAVIORS IN THE HALLWAY.

## Ramon Riley Selected for National Educator Award



Pine-Richland High School art teacher **Ramon Riley** was honored in the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards with the National Educator Award as "an outstanding educator whose dedication, commitment and guidance are represented by student work selected for national honors."

## Cyndi Poole Awarded Outstanding Teacher of American History



Pine-Richland High School social studies and GATE teacher **Cyndi Poole** was awarded *Outstanding Teaching of American History* by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The award included a \$50 monetary prize for the school library to purchase American history resources for students.

## Eden Hall and Hance Honored in Women for a Healthy Environment's Healthy Schools Recognition Program

Eden Hall Upper Elementary and Hance Elementary were two of six schools selected by the Women for a Healthy Environment's Healthy Schools Recognition Program, which celebrates schools across western and central Pennsylvania that create green and healthy learning environments. This program focuses on school sustainability through physical place, educational programs and organizational culture.

Hance earned High Honor Roll with Distinction, the school's second recognition from Women for a Healthy Environment. The organization specifically noted Hance's sustainable reading garden, pictured to the right, which features more than 30 age-appropriate titles focusing on sustainability.

Eden Hall was selected for the third time in the program's six-year existence, earning High Honor Roll status for sustainable campus features such as skylights, native plants and trees and a school-wide energy savings program.



## Eden Hall and Hance Named America's Healthiest Schools

Eden Hall Upper Elementary and Hance Elementary were among the 406 schools nationwide named America's Healthiest Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. The recognition, awarded by Alliance for a Healthier Generation, celebrates schools' dedication to supporting the health and well-being of students, staff and families. Both schools were awarded for:

- > Increasing Family & Consumer Engagement
- > Improving Nutrition & Food Access
- > Enriching Health Education
- > Promoting Tobacco-Free Schools
- > Supporting School Health Services

Additionally, Hance was awarded for **Strengthening Social-Emotional Health & Learning** while Eden Hall was awarded for **Cultivating Staff Well-Being**.

The Annual Report is available electronically at [pinerichland.org](http://pinerichland.org). If you wish to be added to our list to no longer receive a paper copy, please email [ehasinger@pinerichland.org](mailto:ehasinger@pinerichland.org).



FIFTH-GRADERS CHARLIE DEMIANCZYK, JAMES KOPEC, GELIS STRAUB AND ALEX MENICUCCI COLLECT ITEMS FOR RECYCLING WITH ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JOE DOMAGALA.



THIRD-GRADER BRAYA VALKAVITCH, A MEMBER OF THE SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, RECYCLES PAPER AS PART OF DISTRICT-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES.

## Kelly Gustafson Named Most Valuable Principal



**Kelly Gustafson**, principal of Wexford Elementary, was named Most Valuable Principal by the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation. Mrs. Gustafson is one of 15 principals out of over 100 nominated to be selected for this honor, which recognizes principals who demonstrate an innovative approach to learning, a continuous strive for excellence and a passion for their school and students.



## Art Department Collaborates with Pine Community Center to Showcase Student Art

Pine-Richland's art department started a collaboration with Pine Community Center this school year. 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. Because many community members do not have an opportunity to see student art, our art teachers wanted to ensure that the entire community had an opportunity to stop in and see what students are creating. Art teachers **Holly Angeloff** (Middle School), **Katelynn Tronetti** (Eden Hall), **Jennifer Jankowski** (Wexford and Hance) and **Katie Laslavic** (Richland and Hance) selected 2D student artwork from grades 1-8 to display in the community center along the track level with the goal of making community connections to showcase student art for the benefit of both students and the community as a whole. Art displays were updated throughout the year.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ARTWORK ON DISPLAY AT THE PINE COMMUNITY CENTER

## Every Student Received a Library Card in New Partnership



Pine-Richland School District partnered with Northern Tier Regional Library and the Allegheny County Library Association to provide every Pine-Richland student with a public library card this spring. Library cards offer free access to libraries across Allegheny County, including a full collection of eBooks and informational databases to assist with school research and supplement resources available at the school library or media center. In May, school librarians shared with students how to take advantage of the many resources available through this partnership.

FOURTH-GRADER MASON GODEK PERUSES BOOKS IN THE EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY LIBRARY.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY'S STAFF HELD A WELLNESS CHALLENGE TO TRACK THEIR STEPS AND WALK 4.9 MILLION STEPS FROM RICHLAND TO DISNEYLAND DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL. THIRTY-FIVE STAFF MEMBERS PARTICIPATED, WALKING 5.4 MILLION STEPS (2,733 MILES), IN ONLY 20 DAYS! STAFF TRACKED THEIR STEPS ON A MAP IN THE LOBBY, AND STUDENTS CHECKED THEIR DAILY PROGRESS AND CHEERED THEM ON EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

## District Facility Improvements 2022-2023

- > Creation of a new maker space within the Eden Hall Upper Elementary library
- > Full renovation of the Richland and Wexford Elementary School libraries
- > Installation of an amphitheater cover at Hance Elementary
- > New brightly colored paint in the Richland Elementary stairwells
- > Middle school auditorium upgrades
- > Renovation of restrooms at Richland Elementary
- > Full high school gym renovation (started in the spring of 2023)
- > Installation of new HVAC at the middle school (summer 2023)
- > Track resurfacing at Pine-Richland Stadium (summer 2023)

## Wexford and Richland Debut New Libraries

Both Wexford Elementary and Richland Library kicked off the 2022-2023 school year with renovated library spaces. Richland added brightly colored carpeting and furniture to fit an open and light theme. The previous Richland High School shelving units were replaced with shelving more appropriately sized for young students. The bulkhead was removed and ceilings replaced to create a brighter atmosphere, while new LED lighting reflects the district's commitment to sustainability. The Wexford renovation allows for interactive learning. Tables and chairs can be moved around for different types of learning—

individual or group work, and new shelving allows for students to more easily find what they are interested in reading. New paint and carpet brighten the library space. The renovation was a collective effort with PROF and the Wexford PTO to engage students in collaborative inquiry and literacy with librarian **Andrea Clarkson**.

**“When students come into this area, I want them to be excited and ready for teaching and learning to take place.”**

*Andrew Hovanec, Richland Elementary School librarian.*



WEXFORD'S LIBRARY WAS DESIGNED WITH FLEXIBLE, INTERACTIVE LEARNING IN MIND.



THE RICHLAND ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IS MORE OPEN AND BRIGHT.

## Eden Hall Opens Think Tank

Eden Hall Upper Elementary's library opened this year with a new maker space for students to work on creative craft and technology projects. What used to be the library's computer lab is now the dedicated Eden Hall Think Tank. The vision for the room is to be a space for learners to think critically and creatively, collaborate and share in order to solve problems and better understand their world. The new space offers new furniture and abundant storage for myriad craft and tech supplies. Students can do everything from sew to work with Sphero coding robots. Each of these changes in the library began with the district's In-Depth Program Review Process, an approach to continuous improvement and innovation within each program offered K-12. Librarian **Beth Shenefiel** was excited to use the space for hands-on, project-based learning experiences planned in collaboration with classroom teachers in support of the curriculum.





## District Welcomes New Employees

During the 2022-2023 school year, Pine-Richland was pleased to promote Dr. **Maura Paczan** from lead psychologist to director of student services, and Dr. **Greta Kuzilla** from principal of Hance Elementary to assistant director of student services and special education.

### PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

New faces at Pine-Richland High School included assistant principals **Tracy Kuchnicki** and **Jacob Cawley**, custodian **Thad Barber**, health and physical education teacher **Michael Bashioum**, paraprofessional **Sandra Basso**, paraprofessional **Samantha Carlin**, physics teacher **Nicholas Chelmu**, paraprofessional **Beth-Ann Cole**, building secretary **Loni Gillis** who moved from Eden Hall, biology teacher **Makenna Krebs**, physics teacher **Kelly O'Leary**, special education teacher **Scott Ruppert**, and custodian **Elizabeth Wolff**.

### PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pine-Richland Middle School welcomed science teacher **Natalie Condo** and secretaries **Robin Tino** and **Nora McChesney**, who moved from Richland Elementary.

### EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

New hires at Eden Hall Upper Elementary include principal **Colleen Berezo**, assistant principals **Emily Rose Dunker** and **Zachary Rice**, building secretary **Maritza Armstrong**, paraprofessional **Brittany Booth**, school nurse **Margaret Boulanger**, personal care assistant **Dawn Kanish** who moved from Hance/Wexford, paraprofessionals **Kristen Lichius**, **Dana Nicodemus** and **Lisa Rizzo**, and cafeteria monitor **Bridgette Rogers**.

### HANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Paula Giran**, former assistant principal of Eden Hall, was named principal of Hance Elementary, joining new staff including first grade teachers **Barbara Ansell** and **Jordan Barclay**, second grade teacher **Marcella Dunn**, special education teacher **Jamie Grossman**, third grade teacher **Samantha Hervoyavich**, paraprofessionals **Sarah Kapusta** and **Kristin Karsh**, kindergarten teacher **Jennifer Kinross** who moved from Wexford to Hance, school nurse **Michelle Ressler**, and third grade teacher **Sarah Skowronski**.

### RICHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This year's new faces at Richland Elementary include paraprofessional **Mandy Jouppi**, second grade teacher **Brandy Cox**, cafeteria monitor **Daisilyn Rios**, building secretary **Marcella Russell**, paraprofessional **Nitu Singh**, and personal care assistant **Debra Zafar**.

### WEXFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wexford Elementary added two paraprofessionals to the team this year: **Tanya Cilka** and **Angela Dejesus**.

The district also welcomed **Kayla Martin**, who teaches English as a second language to K-8 students throughout the district.



DR. MAURA PACZAN  
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT  
SERVICES



DR. GRETA KUZILLA  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF  
STUDENT SERVICES AND  
SPECIAL EDUCATION



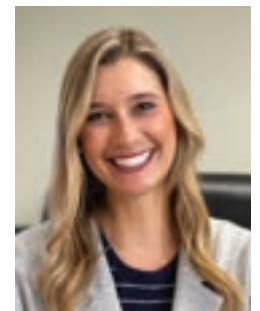
TRACY KUCHNICKI  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL



JACOB CAWLEY  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL



COLLEEN BEREZO  
PRINCIPAL, EDEN HALL  
UPPER ELEMENTARY



EMILY ROSE DUNKER  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, EDEN  
HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY



ZACHARY RICE  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY



PAULA GIRAN  
PRINCIPAL, HANCE  
ELEMENTARY



## PR Honors Retirees

Pine-Richland said goodbye to 14 employees this year as they entered retirement. **Noel Hustwit**, director of student services and special education, retired. **Maria Riggle**, K-8 English as a second language teacher, also said goodbye. High school retirees included **Linda Fulmer**, food service supervisor, **Shirley Govan**, paraprofessional, **Kathy Morrow**, secretary, **Heather Rogus**, physics teacher, **Christine Scherer**, physical education and health teacher, and **Jim Wolford**, custodian. The middle school said goodbye to **Lynn Ross**, secretary. **Lynne Christy**, paraprofessional from Eden Hall, retired. At Hance, retirees included **Ilene Greenblatt**, special education teacher, **Pam Magill**, first grade teacher, and **Amy Strayer**, paraprofessional. Wexford bid farewell to **Chip Sargent**, computer science teacher. On behalf of the district and school board, the administration shared its appreciation of each retiree who has dedicated his or her time and talent to serving the students of Pine-Richland School District.



LYNNE CHRISTY



SHIRLEY GOVAN



ILENE GREENBLATT



NOEL HUSTWIT



PAM MAGILL



KATHY MORROW



MARIA RIGGLE



HEATHER ROGUS



LYNN ROSS



CHIP SARGENT



CHRISTINE SCHERER



JIM WOLFORD

## 2023-2024 PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEAL PRICES



	PAID K-6	PAID 7-12	REDUCED K-12	FREE K-12
DAILY MEAL	\$2.60	\$2.80	\$0.40	\$0
RAM MEAL	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$0.40	\$0
BREAKFAST	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$0.30	\$0

LEFT: STUDENTS ENJOY BREAKFAST AT EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

## How to Set Up Food Services Account for Children

Please note that a free online account can be set up at [schoolcafe.com](https://schoolcafe.com) to monitor student balances and to request automatic low-balance email reminders. If paying by check, please provide the student's name and student ID number. Checks should be written out to Pine-Richland Cafeteria Fund (PRCF) and mailed to the PR Food Services Department, which is located at 702 Warrendale Rd., Gibsonsia, PA 15044. If you would like to place any restrictions on your student's meal accounts, please contact us at 724-625-3550.

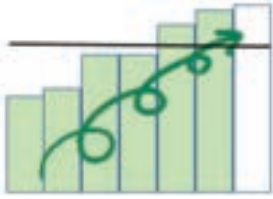
## Participate in Food Service Advisory & Wellness Committee

Please consider contacting Sodexo Food Services Manager **Ryan Wilson** at 724-625-3550 to serve on the Pine-Richland Food Service Advisory and Wellness Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide information about food services at Pine-Richland and to gather feedback and suggestions from the larger community to share with the food service management team. The committee also addresses the

wellness needs of the students, which include nutrition, activities, and/or mental health. The committee is made up of administrators, board members, teachers, parents, and students. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in discussions regarding menu planning, food products, nutrition, and needs associated with the sustainability of food service to serve the needs of the community.

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & GROWTH REPORT

## District Presents Tenth Annual Academic Achievement & Growth Report



The mission of the Pine-Richland School District is to focus on learning for every student every day. The vision at PRSD emphasizes the fact that learning is

reflected in both achievement and growth. We believe that learning happens differently for different people, requiring flexibility and variation in the approach. Learning also requires effort and persistence, as well as the support of everyone.

Monitoring and measuring learning results within our district is paramount to our cycles of learning and the improvement of our educational approach, through curriculum, instruction and assessment efforts, as well as the differentiation and intervention necessary for learners of all abilities and varied backgrounds to succeed. Pine-Richland is a learning organization, in which continuous improvement is embraced and deeply ingrained in the culture. Our journey in the pursuit of excellence has been informed by the National Institute for Standards and Technology Baldrige Performance Excellence framework. Within the Baldrige Performance Excellence framework, "LeTCI" is used as an acronym to describe evaluation factors for reviewing results (i.e., Levels, Trends, Comparisons and Integration). We utilize those elements when gathering data for analysis to ensure appropriate benchmarking and the ability to assess performance levels and trends over time, with the ability to segment that data by relevant grade levels, disciplines and subgroups.

While data analysis is an ongoing process for us to drive improvements to our curriculum, instruction, and even the assessments themselves throughout the

school year, we pause each fall to create a reflective, aggregate profile of the outcomes for the prior school year within the Academic Achievement and Growth Report. Teams consistently leverage real-time formative data to drive instruction within the classroom level and leverage lag data from standardized assessments both at the classroom and building level for course recommendations and intervention mapping. Over time, these concepts of using both real time and lag data to ensure appropriate student learning opportunities to improve outcomes has been coined "Data for Action" within the Pine-Richland School District. We do not simply curate sets of data to admire statically; we view these sets of facts as criteria from which to launch measurable educational programming and hold ourselves accountable to successful outcomes.

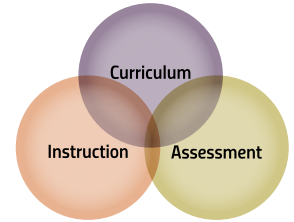
This collaboratively-authored report includes the most densely detailed net results for the district, allowing individuals to quickly analyze the learning outcomes in the district at the highest level.

The aggregate, summative district standardized testing results, in addition to the ones we monitor throughout a given school year, provide us with direction as to the next areas of improvement we can target, as we prioritize our relative areas of strength and opportunity. Senior leaders, principals, Academic Leadership Council members and other teacher leaders own the analysis process together.

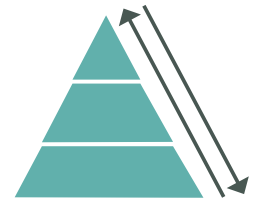
Data contained in this report is used as an input to the internal findings citations by the data subcommittee during our In-Depth Program Review Process when we study our K-12 programming within departments or support areas to prioritize recommended improvement actions for systematic implementation and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

Stakeholder surveys are conducted annually to assess satisfaction levels among students, parents and staff members. A portion of the survey questions focuses on elements of learning. Buildings review this data annually as they are setting goals for their collective focal areas. Our focal question continues to be "How do we focus on academic learning for every student every day?" The learning system at Pine-Richland School District is illustrated by the Model for Teaching and Learning image, allowing us to focus on Data for Action.

### 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



SEVENTH-GRADER DANYIL VOLIANIUK COMPLETES AN ASSIGNMENT.



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

## Key Highlights of This Year's Report

- > A companion document for both the PSSA and Keystone standardized testing results has been published in recognition of the need to review historical performance on these assessments with a lens towards specific subgroups (e.g. special education, ethnicity, economic status, and gender) between the years of 2018-2022 given concerns about the impact of the pandemic on student learning outcomes.
- > Aggregate, summative district standardized testing results, in addition to the ones we monitor throughout a given school year (e.g. universal screening results), provide us with direction as to the next areas of improvement we can target as we prioritize our relative areas of strength and opportunity.
- > Continued focus on data for action in its third year with an expansion of common assessments to include collaborative analysis and revision to instructional strategies, curriculum and identified resources and/or the assessment structure and questions to be more effective in our approach to learning.

## PSSA and Keystone Information

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

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the following subject areas:

- > Algebra I (PR grades 7-10)
- > Biology (PR grades 9-10)
- > Literature (PR grade 9)



### PSSA RESULTS

Grade	Math		ELA		Science	
	Pine-Richland	Top 10%	Pine-Richland	Top 10%	Pine-Richland	Top 10%
3	84.7	77.1	89.8	78.9		
4	74	72.4	78.5	80	95.4	93.7
5	53	65	76.3	80.2		
6	69.1	57.9	78.2	78.7		
7	47.6	47.6	78.8	78		
8	48	40.3	80.1	75.5	75.5	72.2

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

### Subject

### Year

### % At/Above Prof.

Subject	Year	Pine-Richland	State
		Algebra I	Spring 2022
Algebra I	Spring 2021	68.9	37.2
Biology	Spring 2022	81.8	48
Biology	Spring 2021	81.5	45.9
Literature	Spring 2022	86.4	60.6
Literature	Spring 2021	87.1	58.2

## AP Results and Findings



### 2022 AP TEST SCORECARD

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

Pine-Richland	Total AP Students	Total AP Tests Taken	% Students Scoring 3+
2022	435	965	78%
2021	504	1108	71%
2020	458	971	81%


- > The percentage of students scoring a 3 or greater increased to 78% the 2nd highest percentage in the past 7 years.
- > Students took AP exams in 23 different subjects during the 2022 school year. Of those 23 subjects, the average score was 3.5.
- > In the 18 subjects with greater than ten test takers, the average score was 3.4.

\*2023 results not available at time of publication.




## SAT Results and Findings

- > For the 2022 SAT, Pine-Richland students outperformed global and state groups.
- > Pine-Richland male students (604) outperformed female students (580) in the mathematics section; whereas female students' average performance on evidence-based Reading and Writing was higher than male students' average score (F-593, M-586).
- > Scores for all students in ELA and mathematics fell slightly below the six year average:
  - > Six year average math: 600 (PR 2022 - 591)
  - > Six year average ELA: 593 (PR 2022 - 589)

 <b>2022 SAT SCORECARD</b> Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.		
2022	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Pine-Richland	589	591
Pennsylvania	551	540
All Test Takers	529	521

## ACT Results and Findings

 <b>2022 ACT SCORECARD</b> (Maximum score is 36.) Pine-Richland results are compared to national and state scores.					
2022	Math	Reading	English	Science	Composite
Pine-Richland	25	26	25.8	24.9	25.6
Pennsylvania	23.7	25.2	24.3	24	24.4
United States	19.3	20.4	19	19.9	19.8

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

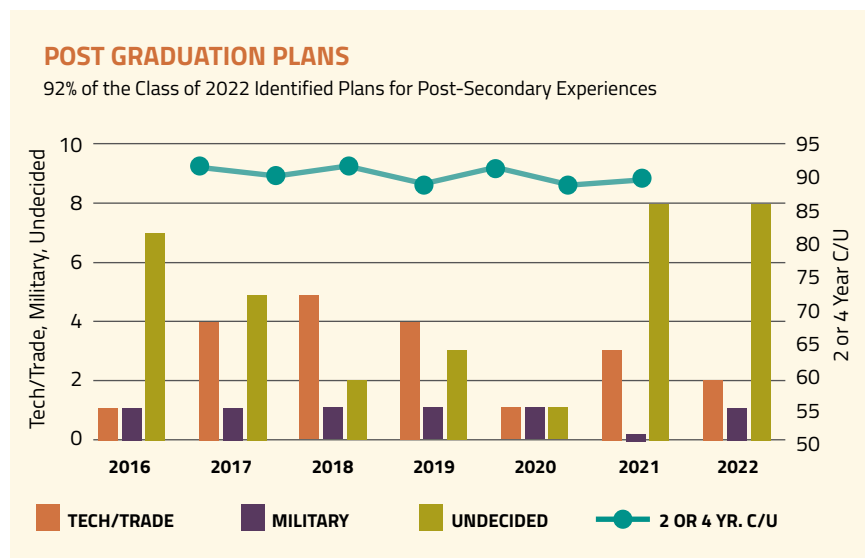
## Future Ready Index

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

The Future Ready PA Index:

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

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



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Academic Excellence



LUKE KASTNER  
FINALIST



JACOB LUKEZ  
FINALIST



BENJAMIN RISHEL  
FINALIST



ANDREW SALVADORE  
FINALIST

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named four Pine-Richland High School seniors as 2023 National Merit Finalists: **Luke Kastner**, **Jacob Lukez**, **Benjamin Rishel** and **Andrew Salvadore**. Only 15,000 students nationwide earned this distinction. **Luke**, **Jacob** and **Andrew** were three of only 7,000 students to earn National Merit Scholarships through the program. Sixteen Pine-Richland High School seniors earned Commended status: **Matthew Andersen**, **Joseph D. DeRenzo**, **Jack Duckworth**, **Jack J. Exline**, **Adam Kirsch**, **Avinash Kottakota**, **Nolan Martin**, **Sreyashi Mondal**, **Anjaly Palathunkal**, **Javin Parker**, **Elaine Qian**, **Elizabeth Shaffer**, **Benjamin Tamburri**, **John Varghese**, **Alexander Vasile** and **Colin Zvejnieks**. Students were recognized for their outstanding achievement on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



SOPHIA MENKE

Three seniors were recognized for earning perfect scores on the SAT and ACT: **Luke Kastner** earned perfect scores on the SAT Math and ACT Math exams, **Sophia Menke** earned a perfect ACT Reading score and **Colin Zvejnieks** earned a perfect score on the SAT Math exam.

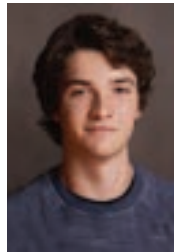


KENDAL CHILCOAT

Senior **Kendal Chilcoat** was awarded the prestigious Nordenberg Leadership Scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh. This program is designed to reward the best and brightest student leaders from Pennsylvania high schools who have demonstrated excellent leadership skills, innovative thinking, intellectual curiosity and community involvement. Recipients of the Nordenberg Leadership Scholarship receive a full-tuition scholarship and a provision of resources for a rich collegiate experience with opportunities for academic achievement, leadership development, civic engagement and interaction with organizations and corporations in the Pittsburgh region.



JOSEPH DERENZO  
COMMENDED



JACK DUCKWORTH  
COMMENDED



JACK EXLINE  
COMMENDED



ADAM KIRSCH  
COMMENDED



AVINASH KOTTAKOTA  
COMMENDED



NOLAN MARTIN  
COMMENDED



SREYASHI MONDAL  
COMMENDED



ANJALY PALATHUNKAL  
COMMENDED



JAVIN PARKER  
COMMENDED



ELAINE QIAN  
COMMENDED



ELIZABETH SHAFFER  
COMMENDED



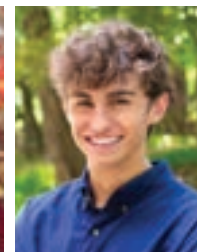
BENJAMIN TAMBURRI  
COMMENDED



JOHN VARGHESE  
COMMENDED



ALEXANDER VASILE  
COMMENDED



COLIN ZVEJNIEKS  
COMMENDED

**Stay informed by signing up for Pine-Richland School District e-newsletters. Visit [pinerichland.org/email](http://pinerichland.org/email) to register. Did we miss something? Share student and staff accomplishments with [ehasinger@pinerichland.org](mailto:ehasinger@pinerichland.org).**





## CLASS OF 2023

Pine-Richland High School hosted graduation for 339 seniors on June 9, 2023. **Elizabeth Shaffer** was named valedictorian, **Amber Murphy** was named salutatorian and **Kayla Karmanos** was named tertiary. 119 students graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher, 140 students were four-year honor roll students and 61 students were members of the National Honor Society.

VALEDICTORIAN ELIZABETH SHAFER, SALUTATORIAN AMBER MURPHY AND TERTIARY KAYLA KARMANOS ARE ANNOUNCED AT THE SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY ON JUNE 7.



SENIOR CHOIR MEMBERS PERFORM AT COMMENCEMENT.

## Arts & Music

In the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition, senior **Noah Moskala** was honored with a Gold Medal as well as an American Visions Medal for "exceptional work in painting" for his painting *Duality*. In the regional competition, 18 Pine-Richland High School art students won 61 awards. These awards are considered the nation's longest-running and most prestigious fine arts awards for students. Gold Key winners included seniors **Kayla Karmanos** (6), **Kate Lindrose** (4) and **Noah Moskala** (1, named Best of Show and nominated for the American Vision Award) and juniors **Katherine Beck** (1), **Ella Guo** (3) and **Riley Turner** (3). Silver Key winners included **Ella Guo** (1), **Kayla Karmanos** (7), **Kate Lindrose** (3), **Noah Moskala** (3), junior **Phoenix Schwierking** (1) and **Riley Turner** (1). Honorable mentions were awarded to seniors **Layne Chapman** (1), **Hailey Dolny** (2), **Kayla Karmanos** (3), **Kate Lindrose** (2), **Noah Moskala** (4), **Rachel Muth** (1) and Mary Skundrich (1), and to juniors **Logan Alexander** (1), **Walker Clack** (1), **Klaus Gergerich** (1), **Samantha Katruska** (1), **Eliza Muchnok** (1), **Phoenix Schwierking** (1), **Riley Turner** (3), **Nelli Vaiko** (1) and **Annie Wu** (1).

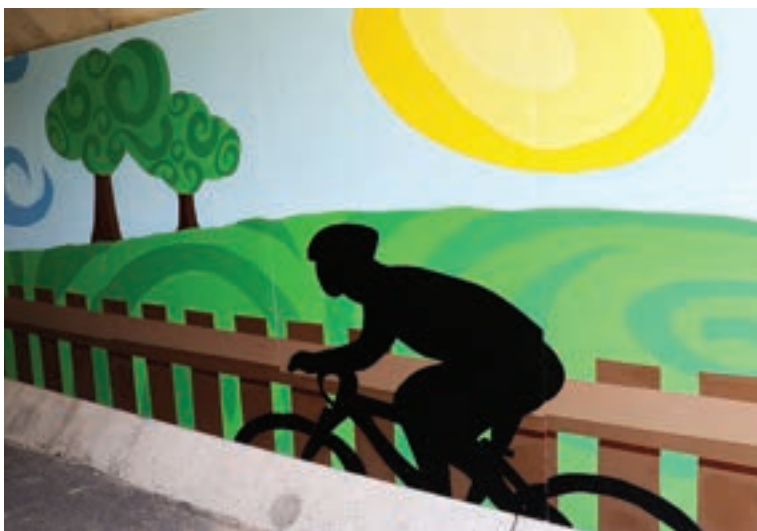


STUDENTS ATTENDED THE REGIONAL AWARD CEREMONY AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY ON FEBRUARY 25: (FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) PHOENIX SCHWIERKING, RILEY TURNER, ELLA GUO AND SAMANTHA KATRUSKA; (BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) TEACHERS RAMON RILEY AND MARY ANNE ANDREASSI, KATE LINDROSE, NOAH MOSKALA, KATHERINE BECK, KLAUS GERGERICH, NELLI VAIKO AND KAYLA KARMANOS.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

In a collaboration with Pine Township, members of Pine-Richland High School's Art Club painted a 64-foot long mural on 16 4'x6' PVC panels for the Pearce Mill Trail Tunnel. This community mural was born out of Pine-Richland's In-Depth Program Review process with a goal to establish and strengthen community art experiences and connections, including establishing relationships with local organizations to display final products, as well as establishing a rotation of community art experiences beyond the classroom. Painters included Art Club officers and members: President **Kayla Karmanos** (12), Vice President **Noah Moskala** (12), Secretary **Eliza Muchnok** (11) and Treasurer **Sydney Schultz** (11); juniors **Klaus Gergerich**, **Riley Turner**, **Nelli Vaiko** and **Marissa Zirckel**; sophomores **Megan Berger** and **Kiera Moskala**; ninth-graders **Genevieve Ciancio**, **Faith Kellogg**, **Julia Kirkbride**, **Saija Latta**, **Nia Nadipalli**, **Ariella Ruediger**, **Kahler Salva** and **Nico Wesolosky**; and art teacher **Mary Anne Andreassi**.



Three Pine-Richland students were selected for the PMEA District 1 Honors Band in November at North Hills High School: junior **Gabi Boudreau** (trumpet), sophomore **Lilliana Bogle** (bassoon) and ninth-grader **Ryan Noir** (clarinet). The band included the top student musicians from Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

LILLIANA BOGLE AND RYAN NOIR PARTICIPATED IN PMEA DISTRICT 1 HONORS BAND.



FOR MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH, ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SHARED THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT MUSIC MEANS TO THEM ON MUSIC NOTES, CLOVERS AND OTHER SHAPES THAT WERE ARRANGED TO SPELL OUT MUSIC.



STUDENTS REHEARSE FOR THE PMEA REGION 1 CHOIR FESTIVAL.

Pine-Richland High School hosted the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region 1 Choir Festival in February with 169 students from 55 Pennsylvania school districts participating. Singers from Pine-Richland include seniors **Rylee Branscum**, **Layne Chapman**, **Drew Delaney**, **Bethany George**, **Gina Giordano**, **Sophia Giordano**,

**Ava Grande**, **Sofya Greig**, **Grace Hazlett**, **Sydney Jones**, **Korey Moore**, **Mollie Owen**, **Julia Phillips** and **Madelyn Rickard**; juniors **Chloe Chiang** and **Owen Russell**, sophomores **Mackenzie Mercuri** and **Tessa Rodgers**, and ninth-grader **Katelyn Rickard**. These students auditioned for the opportunity to participate in this prestigious event.



PINE-RICHLAND STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE AV HONORS BAND CONCERT IN JANUARY.

In January, several Pine-Richland middle and high school students were selected by audition to be part of the Allegheny Valley (AV) Honors Band at Fox Chapel Area High School. Participants in the AV Junior High Honors Band included ninth-graders **Ashlyn Casale** (flute) and **Ryan Noir** (clarinet); eighth-graders **Eddie Chen** (alto sax), **Samuel Gentile** (tenor sax), **Alex Gross** (trumpet), **Cody Leeper** (trumpet 1) and **Chase Bisti** (percussion); and seventh-grader **Marissa Mann** (clarinet). Participants in the AV Senior High Honors Band included seniors **Lily Rockacy** (flute) and **Emma Zaffuta** (flute); juniors **Greg Mustovic** (trumpet) and **Regis Welsh** (trombone); and sophomores **Lilliana Bogle** (bassoon), **Grace Humphrey** (clarinet), **Will Tamburri** (French horn) and **Elaina Anderson** (euphonium).



EMILIA LAZZARO, JULIANA LO, JULIANA HUNKELE, HAYA ALQASSAB, CLAIRE CASSISI AND MADDIE VIGNA PERFORM WITH THE PMEA ELEMENTARY STRINGS FEST.

In March, six Eden Hall students represented Pine-Richland at the PMEA Elementary Strings Fest at North Hills Middle School: fifth-graders **Claire Cassisi** (violin) and **Maddie Vigna** (bass) and sixth-graders **Haya Alqassab** (violin), **Juliana Lo** (violin), **Juliana Hunkele** (viola) and **Emilia Lazzaro** (bass).



Senior **Grace Hazlett** earned a spot in the PMEA All-State Festival Orchestra in April. This is the second consecutive year that Grace, who plays the viola, has earned a place in this prestigious orchestra.



Seventh-grader **Tisha Joshi** earned the highest score in the state of Pennsylvania on a Level 4 practical piano performance examination administered by the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. The nationally standardized piano examination requires students to memorize three pieces of solo piano repertoire from different time periods, play technical requirements such as scales and etudes, and sight read, and also tests ear training.



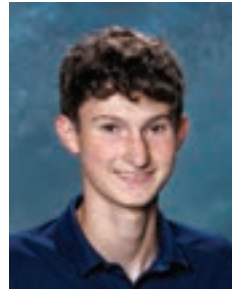
## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



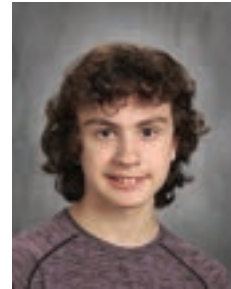
WILL TAMBURRI AND LILLIANA BOGLE



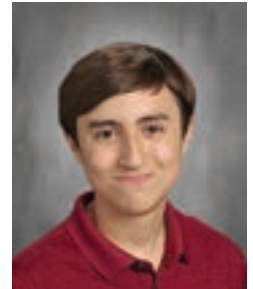
ASHLYN CASALE



RYAN NOIR



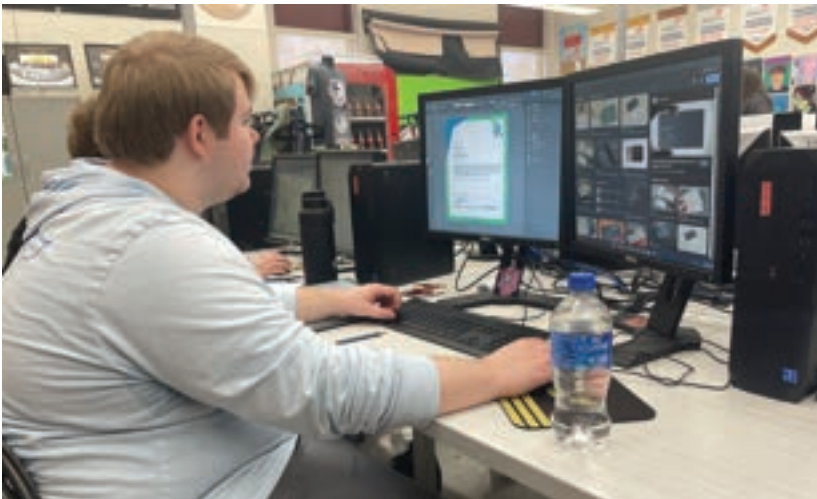
ALEX GOSS



CODY LEEPER

Sophomores **Lilliana Bogle** (bassoon) and **Will Tamburri** (French horn) performed in the PMEA District 1 Senior High Band West at Trinity High School in February. Four Pine-Richland students were selected to perform in the PMEA District I West Junior High Band Festival in March: ninth-graders **Ashlyn Casale** and **Ryan Noir**, and eighth-graders **Alex Goss** and **Cody Leeper**.

## Career Education



LAYNEY CHAPMAN



MADELINE SLAYTON

Pine-Richland High School students named Student of the Month at A.W. Beattie this school year include seniors **Robert Aguglia**, **Connor Berg**, **Layney Chapman**, **Daniel Connolly**, **Mark DeLouis**, **Mara Hopf**, **Austin Kruljac**, **Bradley Menke**, **Grace Neuhart**, **Jeffrey Tourney** and **Hunter Wierzbowski**; juniors **Nathan Bateman**, **Alexis Nickl**, **Jasmine Robinson**, **Madeline Slayton**, **Logan Trembulak** (twice), **Chloi Zi** and **Adam Zwastetzky** (twice); and sophomores **Jessica Bui** and **Chase Mizgorski**. **Layney Chapman** and **Madeline Slayton** were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. **Alexis Nickl** was named secretary of SkillsUSA. **Grace Neuhart** won a \$1,000 Rex Wright Memorial Scholarship in Pennsylvania's SkillsUSA Ad Design competition. At the SkillsUSA district competition, **Mark Wolfe** earned a silver medal and a \$2,000 scholarship in automotive technology, and **Robert Aguglia** earned a bronze medal for t-shirt design. **Mark Wolfe** and senior **Connor Berg** earned awards from PJ Dick-Trumbell-Lindy Paving Corporation and UPMC Passavant in a partnership with The Challenge Program. Junior **Alijah Christner** was part of a three-person team from A.W. Beattie that took first place at the SkillsUSA state competition for Career Pathways Showcase: Industrial and Engineering Technology. His team went on to compete at the National SkillsUSA Conference in Atlanta in June.



ROBERT AGUGLIA (TOP) AND MARK WOLFE (BOTTOM) EARNED MEDALS AT SKILLSUSA.



## History, Foreign Language and Geography

In March, 10 Pine-Richland High School students competed in National History Day at the Heinz History Center: senior **Katie Yanni**, junior **Jocelyn Curreri**, and ninth-graders **Brooke Deegan**, **Roarie Hertzog**, **Kaylee Koch**, **Evelyn Lawler**, **Deeya Nayyar**, **Ryan Noir**, **Alexis Ross** and **Ella Yanni**. **Jocelyn** and **Alexis** advanced to the National History Day in Pennsylvania State Contest at the University of Scranton in April, where **Jocelyn** placed 1st in the individual exhibit category and was invited to the national NHD competition in June at the University of Maryland, College Park.



JOCELYN CURRERI



ALEXIS ROSS



LEVINA JITHESH



CLAIRE DOSCH



NADIA HINES



LYLA YOON



KENNEDY LUTZ



ERIN MURRAY



RYAN KIM



SARAH SHAFFER



SANIKA DAS



DEEYA NAYYAR



KELSEY NEILL



IAN BOWEN



ELIZA LAZARRO



UDI ALKOKAR



CHLOE CHIANG



AIDEN JONES



MATTEO ROVERA



BRIANNA THEL



JACK EXLINE

Eight sophomore Spanish III Honors students placed on the Level 3 National Spanish Exam, competing against students across the country: **Levina Jithesh** (Gold), **Claire Dosch** (Silver), **Nadia Hines** (Silver), **Lyla Yoon** (Silver), **Kennedy Lutz** (Bronze), **Erin Murray** (Bronze), **Ryan Kim** (Honorable Mention) and **Sarah Anne Shaffer** (Honorable Mention).

Eleven French students placed on the National French Exam, competing against students across the country, including ninth-graders **Sanika Das** (Silver), **Deeya Nayyar** (Silver) and **Kelsey Neill** (Bronze), sophomores **Ian Bowen** (Silver) and **Eliza Lazarro** (Bronze), juniors **Udi Alkolkar** (Honorable Mention), **Chloe Chiang** (Honorable Mention), **Aiden Jones** (Honorable Mention), **Matteo Rovera** (Bronze) and **Brianna Thel** (Honorable Mention), and senior **Jack Exline** (Bronze).

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Leadership

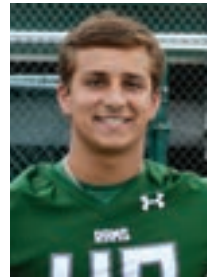
Seniors **Matthew Carper, Isabella Christner, Max Heckert, Ryan Palmieri, Gianna Rotelli, John Rottinghaus, Katie Yanni** and **Francesco Zottola** were named Outstanding Young Citizens by Trib Total Media. This program recognizes high school juniors and seniors in Western Pennsylvania who demonstrate exemplary character and leadership, dedication to community service and outstanding academic achievement.



MATTHEW CARPER



ISABELLA CHRISTNER



MAX HECKERT



RYAN PALMIERI



GIANNA ROTELLI



JOHN ROTTINGHAUS



KATIE YANNI



FRANCESCO ZOTTOLA



BOB SCHLEIDEN, COMMANDER OF RICHLAND AMERICAN LEGION POST 548, PRESENTS AWARDS TO BIANKA ROMAN AND THOMAS TENCH.

Eighth-graders **Bianka Roman** and **Thomas Tench** were selected to receive the American Legion School Award for demonstrating honor, courage, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. Two eighth graders are selected annually by the Pine-Richland Middle School faculty for this award.



JOSHUA SWARMER, LANGDON OTT, ALLISON RISHEL, SOPHIA ZOTTOLA, ELLA FINEBURG AND MICHAEL PIFER

Six Pine-Richland Middle School eighth graders were selected for the Eva K. Williams Memorial Fund award through The Pittsburgh Foundation: **Ella Fineburg, Langdon Ott, Michael Pifer, Allison Rishel, Joshua Swarmer** and **Sophia Zottola**. Students were chosen for their kindness and consideration toward others, as well as for volunteer work.



Senior **Breanna Franchak** was named a 2022 Heisman High School Scholarship School Winner by The Heisman Trophy Trust. The Heisman High School Scholarship recognizes and rewards outstanding scholar-athletes who understand that the most important victories happen not just on the field, but in their schools and communities as well.



Seniors **Katie Gianni** and **Sophia Menke** earned President's Volunteer Service Awards. Katie earned a gold award for completing over 250 hours of community service and a bronze award for completing more than 100 volunteer hours. Sophia earned a silver award for volunteering more than 175 hours.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FIMADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

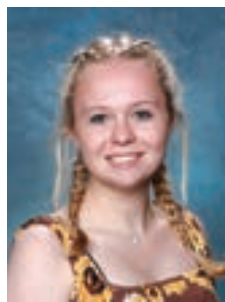


**SOPHIA MENKE (LEFT) AND KATIE YANNI (RIGHT) STAND WITH PRINCIPAL FRANK HERNANDEZ AT THE SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY.**

In March, the Peer-to-Peer club was presented with the Students in Action 2022 Public Service Pitch Day Award for Best Written Reflection by Multiplying Good.



**PEER-TO-PEER MEMBERS ELISE MILLER, KATIE YANNI, SARAH FABER AND NICOLE SNYDER AND SPONSOR LESLIE STRAUB ACCEPT THE GROUP'S AWARD FROM MULTIPLYING GOOD'S COURTNEY STEIN.**



Junior **Mackenzie Roy** was selected to attend Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy this summer. During the eight-week

program, cadets learn about aviation and flight and train for private pilot certification. Sponsored by the Air Force, the program includes a \$20,000 scholarship that covers instruction, room and board and transportation.

Pine-Richland/Mars JROTC placed highly in several meets this year, including the McDowell High School Drill Meet in Erie in February. Each team placed at the event, including first place finishes for the JV Unarmed Drill Team commanded by Cadet **Bella Gillette**, Female Color Guard commanded by Cadet **Alanna Shaw** and JV Color Guard commanded by Cadet **Ryan Galbraith**. Also in February, they competed at Parkersburg South in West Virginia, taking first place overall, as well as first place in JV Unarmed Drill Team commanded by Cadet **Bella Gillette** and Varsity Unarmed Drill Team commanded by Cadet **Bella Christner**. In March, JROTC competed at Tecumseh High School near Dayton, Ohio, placing third in the Varsity Armed Drill Team commanded by Cadet **Emma Terpstra**.



Cadet Senior Airman **Blake R. Thompson**, a Pine-Richland High School junior, was awarded the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Silver Valor Award on November 22. The Silver Valor Award is the second-highest award a cadet can receive and is awarded for a voluntary act of heroism. Blake was nominated for saving a swimmer from drowning last summer.

**BLAKE THOMPSON (CENTER) STANDS WITH CHIEF MASTER SGT. MICHAEL G. GASPARETTO (LEFT) AND MAJOR MICHAEL MORRISON (RIGHT).**

Senior **Gianna Rotelli** was selected to receive an Air Force J-100 Character-in-Leadership Scholarship. She is one of 100 cadets nationwide to receive this scholarship. The J-100 program provides recipients with four years of paid tuition at any college or university with an AFROTC detachment, \$10,000 annually for university housing, an annual \$675 book stipend and a monthly cadet stipend. On National Signing Day in November, Gianna committed to the University of Louisville to continue her track and field career and major in psychology and criminal justice while participating in Air Force ROTC.



**GIANNA AND CHIEF MICHAEL GASPARETTO**



**AFJROTC CADETS FOLLOWING THE TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL DRILL MEET.**



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## LEADERSHIP CONTINUED

Senior **Cale Klaff**, junior **Andy Forrester** and sophomore **Luke Anderson** were named Young Ambassadors of Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful: The program, new to Pennsylvania, aims to build community stewardship by inspiring, engaging and empowering young Pennsylvanians to keep their communities clean and beautiful.

IN APRIL, CALE, ANDY AND LUKE ORGANIZED A CLEAN-UP EVENT AT PINE-RICHLAND STADIUM, REMOVING MORE THAN 35 POUNDS OF TRASH FROM UNDER THE BLEACHERS.



## Performance

Pine-Richland High School's production of *Clue On Stage* won four awards in the Prime Stage Drama Awards, including Best Overall Production,

Best Actor (**Jack Exline**), Best Supporting Actress (**Brianna Thel**) and Best Prop Design (**Mary Skundrich**).



PRIME STAGE CAST AND CREW



ABOVE: SENIORS JACK EXLINE AND RYLEE BRANSCUM STARRED AS BUDDY AND JOVIE IN *ELF* THE MUSICAL IN MARCH.



ABOVE RIGHT: PINE-RICHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PERFORMED *LEGALLY BLONDE, JR.* IN APRIL.



RIGHT: PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PERFORMED *CLUE ON STAGE* IN THE FALL.



The 6th Grade Girls' Basketball team took 3rd place in the Pennsylvania Middle School Basketball Championship earlier this year. This is the 2nd year in a row the team has traveled to State College to compete in the state championship.

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, seniors **Joseph DeRenzo**, **Breanna Franchak**, **Liam Gastonguay**, **Jaimee Joshi**, **Cale Klaff**, **Sreyashi Mondal** and **Sarah Pifer** were recognized by the Rich-Mar Rotary for outstanding academic, club and service achievements.



SARAH PIFER, JOSEPH DERENZO AND BREANNA FRANCHAK



SREYASHI MONDAL AND LIAM GASTONGUAY



PRHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JAKE CAWLEY, JAIMEE JOSHI, CALE KLAFF AND PRINCIPAL FRANK HERNANDEZ



THEATER STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE AND SCENE CONTEST.

Seventeen Pine-Richland High School students competed in the Pittsburgh Public Theater's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest at the O'Reilly Theater in February. Hundreds of students from across the region compete annually in this competition. Juniors **Brianna Thel** and **Lauren King**, sophomore **Aaron Hayden** and ninth-grader **Mackenzie Dry-Hennich** earned honorable mentions in the competition.

All 14 members of the 2022-2023 Pine-Richland High School Dance Team participated in the Universal Dance Association (UDA) Home Technique Summer Camp last July at PRHS, where they received several awards and qualified for the UDA National Competition in February 2023. The team received a Blue Ribbon and Superior rating, the highest honor, for their Home Team routine, which qualified the team for the UDA Nationals in Orlando in February. Senior captains **Elizabeth Nielsen** and **Olivia Roccia** both earned the UDA Varsity Spirit All American Award for excellence in the All American Dance Competition. They were invited to perform in the Varsity Spirit Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in Honolulu in December 2022, the Orlando Thanksgiving Tour in November 2022 and London's New Year's Day Parade. The team and coach **Kathy Deal** received the Squad Credentialing Award, presented in recognition of active participation in and completion of the Varsity Spirit Summer Camp Dance Squad Credentialing Course for school dance teams. This was developed in conjunction with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and provides leadership training, safety awareness, proper technique and progressions, as well as specialized training in the five traditional roles of a Spirit Leader, Ambassador, Athlete, Performer, Role Model and Spirit Raiser.



FIRST ROW: UDA INSTRUCTOR MAURA, SENIOR OLIVIA ROCCIA, SENIOR ELIZABETH NIELSEN AND UDA INSTRUCTOR EMILY; SECOND ROW: JUNIORS ELLA SCHNEIDER, ALETA AMEND, CHARLOTTE BAIC AND LILY HEILIGENSTEIN; THIRD ROW: SOPHOMORES ARIANNA LEDUC, VICTORIA ROCCIA, MAURA SCIULLO, SOPHIA REIGHARD, COURTNEY GOCHIS AND SAVANNAH LOFINIK; BACK ROW: NINTH-GRADERS SOPHIE WHITING AND CAMILLA RAND



Pine-Richland Middle School eighth-grader **Loren Prisuta** performed with the national tour of *Hits! The Musical* in March and April. Loren was one of 29 performers ages 10 to 22 to be selected out of the 7,000 who auditioned.



## Science & Technology

In February, 39 high school and middle school students participated in the TSA TEAMS engineering competition, which challenges student teams to work collaboratively to solve real-world engineering challenges and apply math and science knowledge in practical and creative ways. Four middle school teams, led by Mrs. **Kathy Deal**, and four high school teams, led by Dr. **Cyndi Poole** and Mr. **Len Caric**, earned spots in the national TEAMS competition in Louisville, Kentucky, this summer. Students invited to the national competition include seniors **Breanna Franchak** and **Sreyashi Mondal**; junior **Eunice Son**; sophomores **Colin Barrett**, **Vincent Bucek**, **Sean Burk**, **Allen Chen**, **Thomas DeVito**, **Ari Kralios**, **Nathan Lee** and **Michael Tunder**; ninth-graders **Giuliana DeRenzo**, **Mateen Hasan**, **Brian Ock** and **Ella Yanni**; eighth-graders **Chase Bisti**, **Max Donatelli**, **Ansel Iski**, **Max Kohser**, **Kate Mazefsky**, **Allie Rishel** and **Ava Wenzel**; and seventh-graders **Sonaya Arora**, **Soha Garg**, **Ian Hays**, **Jack Petulla**, **Kurt Schielke**, **Sailesh Senthil** and **Jesse Thompson**.



STUDENTS SOLVE PROBLEMS AS PART OF THE ONE-DAY COMPETITION.



LEFT TO RIGHT: MIA TUCCIARONE, CONNOR FOOTE, NICOLAI EZOLT, HELEN MAO (NORTH ALLEGHENY), DAVID MAO (NORTH ALLEGHENY), MICHAEL LATTARI, AVYU NAGRATH

Juniors **Nicolai Ezolt**, **Connor Foote**, **Avyu Nagrath**, **Mia Tucciarone** and **Michael Lattari** competed with a STEAM Studio team in the 2023 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, winning 2nd place overall out of 46 teams, following their 1st place win in the high school division at the Pennsylvania State Finals. At the World Finals, the team also won 1st place in the long-term problem competition.

TV and video production students won awards in the 2023 Digital Media Arts Consortium's Student Competition April 20 at Robert Morris University. Juniors **Quinn Martin** and **Logan Blackwell** won Best Writing for the 48 Hour Film Competition, senior **Francesco Zottola** won the Founders Award, and PRTV Club won the Award of Excellence for Live Event. Videos were judged by industry professionals, RMU faculty and high school teachers.



TV AND VIDEO PRODUCTION STUDENTS ATTEND THE DMAC AWARDS PROGRAM ON APRIL 20.

Senior **Sreyashi Mondal** received a National Honorable Mention for the 2023 National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. Senior **Tara Staresinic** was named an Affiliate Winner. These awards honor 9th-12th grade students for their computing-related achievements and interests. 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, tenacity in the face of barriers to access and future plans.



SREYASHI MONDAL



TARA STARESINIC





PIYA AND KEERTHANA ARE SHOWN WITH THEIR TEAMMATES AT THE LEGO LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Pine-Richland Middle School seventh graders **Piya Dargan** and **Keerthana Visveish**, along with five other area students, won 2nd place in the Razorback Open Invitational in May, following their 1st place win at the Western Pennsylvania FIRST Lego League Championship. In addition to robotics, the girls were scored on core values and an innovation project that focused on energy. Their team created a Piezo Paw (provisional patent pending), a dog shoe that uses a piezoelectric component to harness mechanical energy created by the dog's movement. It has multiple applications and can be applied to domestic and farm animals as a green energy solution. As part of their core values, through various charities, the team helped teach and inspire young girls at a Bhutanese refugee camp and through the Charlie Batch Foundation about STEM opportunities and breaking the glass ceiling for girls in STEM.

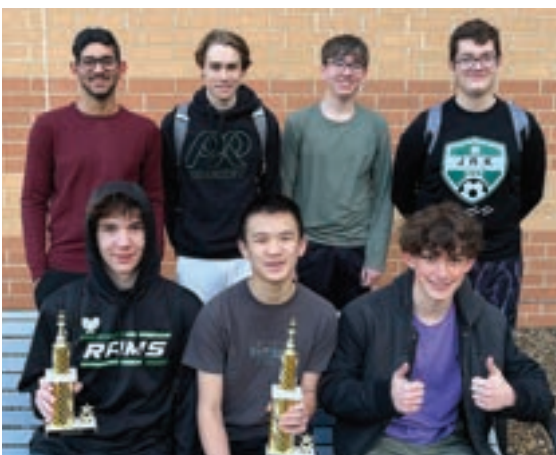


Senior **Sreyashi Mondal** was honored as part of 18 Under Eighteen for Junior Achievement. This honor highlights the notable talents and achievements of eighteen of the region's most incredible young people. The class of 2023 includes students from ages 10-18 from Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria and Washington Counties. Sreyashi was selected for her work in STEM, particularly her role in Girls of Steel, as well as her work with MIT alumna and Pitt professors analyzing COVID indicators, which led to her receiving the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair Certificate of Excellence Sponsor Award.



Eighth-graders **Max Kohser** and **Cameron Wincko** won first place in the Stock Market Game this fall and were honored in a ceremony at Butler Community College. During the 10-week competition, Max and Cameron turned their initial \$100,000 game dollars into \$140,855.44, beating the S&P 500 by a whopping 30.6%.

Nine Pine-Richland High School students attended Penn-Trafford High School's Chess Invitational in February. The Pine-Richland A team came in 2nd place, while the B team took 3rd. Individual winners included sophomore **Allen Chen** (A), who placed 3rd, ninth-grader **Brady Wilson** (A), who placed 5th, and junior **Hayden Keegan** (B), who placed 2nd.



LEFT TO RIGHT STANDING: SHUBHAM TEWARI, BRADY WILSON, SEAN BURK, IAN HURT, AND SEATED: HAYDEN KEEGAN, ALLEN CHEN, WILL TAMBURRI. NOT PICTURED: NAVBIR SINGH AND QUINTON MONARCH.

In January, sixth grade students presented in the Architectural Apprenticeship at Chatham University Eden Hall Campus to representatives from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and Chatham University as well as to professional architects. The students were tasked with converting the Morledge House Garage into a bike shop, outdoor recreation space or space to support the university's farm team. Designs were required to be sustainable, preserve the existing building and meet the needs of the client (Chatham University). Throughout the four month program, students were asked to produce different types of drawings at 1/8" scale, a model of the redesign at 1/4" scale, and a final presentation of ideas, drawings and models using TinkerCAD, a 3D digital design platform. The program kicked off in September with an opportunity to tour the garage, meet with clients to understand their needs, and time for research on green building, environmental sustainability and repurposing old buildings. Winning teams in five categories included: Best Overall Project—Apex Architecture (**Aiden Jaimson, Kiaan Biswas, Josh Zacharias, Heath Ramirez**); Best Drawings—Carbon Blueprinters (**Josh Niyongizira, Landon Johnson, Tyler Coyne, Atharva Mandre**); Best Landscape Design—Underworld Architects (**Sahil Dangwani, Egor Yushkevich, Anson Yang, Farris Ahmed**); and Best Interior Design and Most Sustainable—Deluxe Design Architects (**Britta Sudo, Sophia King, Alana Seifert, Raina Murcko**).



STUDENTS VISIT THE MORLEDGE HOUSE GARAGE TO BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABLE CONVERSION.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Speech & Writing



ABBY EWING



CATRINA KNOX



BROOKE DEEGAN



ELIZABETH LIEBE

Seniors **Abby Ewing** and **Catrina Knox** and ninth-graders **Brooke Deegan** and **Elizabeth Liebe** were honored in the regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition for poetry. These awards are considered the nation's longest-running and most prestigious fine arts awards for students. **Catrina** won a Gold Key Award and Silver Key, while **Abby** won a Silver Key Award and Honorable Mention. **Brooke** and **Elizabeth** each won Silver Key Awards. Regional winners were recognized in a ceremony in February.

Bekah Green's College in High School (CHS) Argument class attended a Spring Argument Forum at the University of Pittsburgh. Juniors **Henry Wojcik** and **Maura Flynn** were chosen to represent Pine-Richland to compete against other students from nine different schools in Pennsylvania. Both made it to the final round, with **Henry** winning overall.

CHS ARGUMENT STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH'S CAMPUS.



CHS ARGUMENT STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH'S CAMPUS.

In May, members of the Cultural Communications Alliance earned second place at the 2023 High School Student International Marketing Competition held at the University of Pittsburgh: juniors **Jocelyn Curreri**, **Yuvraj Kaloya**, **Avyu Nagrath** and **Eunice Son**, and sophomore **Ian Hurt**. In this annual event, student teams work throughout the school year to prepare marketing pitches that are presented to fellow competitors and a panel of judges from academic and business communities. Sponsored by **Kristin Hough** and **Dawn Herbst**, Pine-Richland's team has placed in the top three of this event every year since 2016.

Junior **Kevin McLoughlin** placed 4th in poetry performance at the annual Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Competition at Bloomsburg University.



SOPHIA DEJESUS

At the 2023 Digital Media Arts Consortium's Student Competition at Robert Morris University in April, junior **Sophia DeJesus** won the Excellence for Opinion Writing award for her movie review in the high school newspaper, *The Rampage*.



# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

The mission of Pine-Richland Athletics is to enhance and support the overall educational mission, vision and values of the district. Our athletic program serves as an integral component of the school district with a commitment to academic excellence and a healthy learning environment for everyone. Athletics enhance the intellectual and social development of everyone involved in helping each person grow through experiences and to prepare for the next steps.

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

The Pine-Richland School District and PR community have immense pride in the athletic history of our teams and student-athletes. Our history is filled with quality competition, outstanding success, unparalleled facilities and integrity. The 2022-2023 school year was competitive and exciting, led by the strong leadership of our graduating seniors. You've paved the way for those who will follow, and we're excited for the next group of leaders to step to the forefront in achieving new heights in 2023-2024!

*Sincerely,*  
J.M. Gironda  
*Director of Athletics*



J.M. GIRONDA  
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

## Baseball



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

This year's team was crowned WPIAL 6A Section 1 Champions and competed through the second round of WPIAL playoffs. Seniors **Jacob McGuire** and **Owen Henne** and sophomore **Anthony Mengine** were recognized as 1st Team All-Section. Coach **Kurt Wolfe** was named Big 56 6A Section Coach of the Year. **Owen Henne** signed to play shortstop at Seton Hill University. **Joey Perry** signed to play catcher at Seton Hill University.



# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Basketball

The Boys' Basketball team put forth tremendous effort this season, led by seniors **Josh Gimbel, Owen Luellen and Andrew Lamendola**, and look forward to even more success next year. Senior **Owen Luellen** was named a Berger and Green Week 3 High School Hoops Scholar Athlete of the Week.

2022-2023 PRHS BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

The Girls' Basketball team qualified for WPIAL playoffs for the first time in two years under new head coach **Gabby Baldasare**. Junior **Madison Zavasky** was named to the Pennsylvania Big 56 class 6A All-Section 1st Team, and senior **Sarah Pifer** was named to the 2nd Team. **Madelyn Laird** signed to play center at Shippensburg University.

2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

## Bocce



2022-2023 PRHS BOCCE TEAM

Pine-Richland's Unified Bocce Team advanced to the semifinal regional playoffs, participating in the Three Rivers Unified Bocce regional tournament held at Geneva College in March.



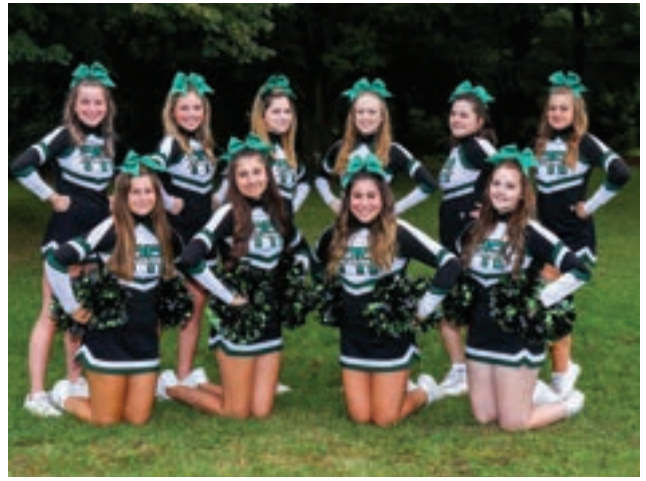
## Cheerleading

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2022-2023 COMPETITIVE CHEER TEAM

This season, the Competitive Cheer team placed 3rd or higher at all regular season competitions. They earned their PIAA bid with a flawless routine at WPIALs, leading them to compete in the PIAA State Championship on January 27 and 28, placing 8th out of 40 teams. They also competed in the UCA National Competition held in Orlando, Florida, in February, advancing to the semi-final round where they performed two great routines. This fall, **Luccia Harpalani** will cheer for Duquesne University.



2022-2023 PRHS JUNIOR VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM



2022-2023 PRHS VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM

## Crew

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144



2022-2023 PRHS CREW TEAM

In May, Pine-Richland participated in the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championships in Milford, Michigan, competing against 51 schools. Senior **Aidan Tobin**, junior **Dante Pittorino**, and sophomores **Owen Jones**, **Parker Melhorn**, **Dante Pittorino** and **Aidan Tobin** placed third in the A-Finals in their first time ever rowing a coxswain-less boat. **Asher Landis** signed to row for Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and **Kyriaki Tziouvannis** signed to row for Duquesne University.



# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Cross Country

2022-2023 PRHS BOYS  
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS  
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

This was another fantastic season for the Cross Country team. Our student athletes gave incredible effort and made great progress throughout the season. Most impressive is how close the team is and how the runners encourage every team member to be their best, which is a big part of the team's success and the success of each individual runner. The girls' team finished 7-0, winning the section for the second time in three years. The boys' team finished 3-4. The team is young with tremendous potential. Both the girls' and boys' teams competed in the WPIAL Championships where the girls' team placed 3rd out of 31 AAA teams

with senior **Natalie McLean** finishing second overall with a time of 18:33, a record for the Pine-Richland girls' team. The boys' team finished in 13th place. The girls' team advanced to the PIAA State Championships in Hershey for the third consecutive year, placing 14th. **Natalie McLean** won the PIAA AAA State Cross Country Individual Championship with a time of 18:46, becoming the first state cross country champion in school history. Senior **Breanna Franchak** signed to run cross country and track and field at Dickinson College. **Natalie McLean** signed to run cross country and track and field at Georgetown University.



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SEE  
A PRTV INTERVIEW WITH  
NATALIE FOLLOWING HER  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN.



**Natalie McLean** won the Foundation Invitational in September with one of the top 15 times ever run on the Hershey Parkview State 5K course. She also had the second fastest time of a Pennsylvania runner this

season, finishing the Legends Invitational in Ohio in October in 17:30, only one second behind the fastest time. In honor of her state championship, **Natalie** and her family were invited to the Pennsylvania State Capitol for recognition from Pennsylvania State Representative **Rob Mercuri**.

The cross country program's goal is to have an enjoyable program that is welcoming and encouraging to all student-athletes and to promote a love of running in our student-athletes who will hopefully become lifelong runners. The team's goal is to be able to compete to qualify for states every year. The team is excited for next season and continued success. The future is bright for our cross country program!



## Fencing

This was a great season for the Girls' and Boys' Fencing teams. The teams had full rosters, were very competitive and enjoyed competing against other local schools in the High School League. The Boys' team was only two wins away from making the playoffs. The Girls' team lost several matches with a score of 5-4, with everything coming down to the last bout. The team is very competitive, and things look good for next year. The team improved unity by adding PR team socks to their uniforms, enjoying team dinners after several local meets and participating in the Spring Pep Assembly. Next year, the team will look to its starters from last year to step up, and expect our newer athletes to continue to improve. And we need more athletes to get involved in fencing! We will build on the successes of this past season, and look forward to next year.



2022-2023 PRHS FENCING TEAMS

## Field Hockey

For the fourth consecutive year, the Field Hockey team won the 3A WPIAL Championship, topping North Allegheny 3-0 in their 16th shutout of the season.

Sophomore **Georgia Rottinghaus** was named one of October's National Field Hockey Coaches' Association Scholastic Players of the Month. **Georgia** was also selected for the 2023 Junior Nexus Championship in July in Virginia Beach. Senior **Danielle Deer** was named to the 2022 NFCA High School Impact Senior Team. **Danielle**, senior **Kayla Karmanos** and junior **Tyler Kopp** were named NFCA Division III Scholars of Distinction. Named to the 2022 National Field Hockey Coaches Association High School Academic Squad were seniors **Danielle Deer**, **Kayla Karmanos**, **Madie Lennon** and **Emma Westerhoff**, and juniors **Jessica Albertson**, **Mikayla Saversky** and **Tyler Kopp**. **Georgia Rottinghaus** was named

to the 2022 Pennsylvania High School Coaches' Association All-State 2nd Team, and **Danielle Deer** received honorable mention. Players named to the 2022 State All-Academic Team include seniors **Rylee Branscum**, **Danielle Deer**, **Kayla Karmanos**, **Madie Lennon**, **Emma Westerhoff** and **Mary Wymard**, and juniors **Jessica Albertson**, **Tyler Kopp**, **Sara Neuhart**, **Khushi Saini** and **Mikayla Saversky**. **Danielle Deer** was named All-WPIAL. WPIAL 3A All-Stars include seniors **Danielle Deer**, **Georgia Rottinghaus** and **Mary Wymard**, and junior **Jessica Albertson**. Senior **Emma Westerhoff** received honorable mention.



2022-2023 PRHS FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY



THE FIELD HOCKEY TEAM CELEBRATES WINNING THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP.





## ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY

### Football

After a 1-3 start, the Football team won 12 games in a row, winning the WPIAL 5A Championship over Upper St. Clair, 43-3, followed by the PIAA 5A State Championship over Imhotep Charter with a score of 28-14. Senior **Ryan Palmieri** was named PIAA Class 5A Football Player of the Year and *Post-Gazette* Player of the Year, and was also named to the KDKA Super 7. **Ryan Palmieri** and junior **Ryan Cory** were named to the *Post-Gazette* Fab 22. Seniors **Jake Beam**, **Max Heckert**, **Isaiah Kerns** and **Ryan Palmieri** and juniors **Ryan Cory** and **Ethan Pillar** were named All-State. Named to the Big 56 Northeast Conference 1st Team were seniors **Jake Beam**, **Max Heckert**, **Isaiah Kerns**, **Andrew Mellis**, **Ryan Palmieri**, junior **Ryan Cory** and sophomore **Grant Argiro**. Named to the 2nd Team were seniors **Brad Gelly**, **Joey Perry** and **John Rottinghaus**, juniors **Vasilios Balouris** and **Ethan Pillar**, and sophomores **Tanner Cunningham** and **Sam Heckert**. Named Honorable Mention were senior

**Aiden Hasley** and juniors **Evan Johnson** and **Bryce O'Brien**. Coach **Jon LeDonne** was named 5A Coach of the Year. Seniors **Matt Nicely**, **Ryan Palmieri** and **John Rottinghaus** were invited to play in the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association East-West All-Star game. Seniors **Max Heckert** and **Isaiah Kerns** were selected to play in the Big 33 Football Classic. Coach **LeDonne** was named the Steelers' High School Coach of the Year and was their nominee for the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. Seven players committed to play football at the collegiate level: **Jacob Beam**, offensive line, Sacred Heart University; **Brady Carrigan**, tight end, Walsh University; **Max Heckert**, linebacker, Slippery Rock University; **Isaiah Kerns**, center, University of Charleston; **Matthew Nicely**, long snapper, Wheeling University; **Ryan Palmieri**, safety, Sacred Heart University; **John Rottinghaus**, defensive line, Duquesne University.



SCAN TO SEE POST-GAME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.



IN HONOR OF THEIR PIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, THE TEAM WAS INVITED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE CAPITOL FOR RECOGNITION FROM PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROB MERCURI.



## Golf

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY GOLF TEAM



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS VARSITY GOLF TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

This season, senior **Blaise Macsiantonio** placed 11th in the WPIAL Boys' Golf Tournament and qualified for the PIAA 3A Boys' Individual Championships.

The Girls' Golf team saw tremendous improvement individually and as a team throughout the season. They finished with the lowest scores occurring at the end of the year and achieved a section win for the first time in two years. They are a program on the rise! In addition to building a strong program for the future, more than half of the team earned academic honors.

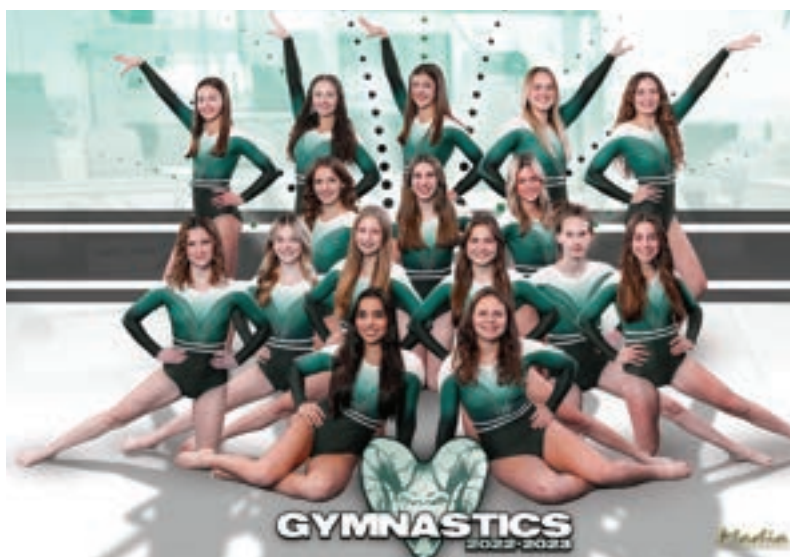


2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS GOLF TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 744

## Gymnastics

The team finished 2nd In the WPIAL Championships, up four places from just last season. Sophomore **Annamaria Samuels** earned the WPIAL gymnastics title for Intermediate I vault and finished 8th on beam. Junior **Nadia Constantakis** placed 4th in the advanced all-around, as well as 4th on bars, 5th on floor, 6th on vault and 7th on beam.



2022-2023 PRHS GYMNASTICS TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Hockey

After a difficult start to the season, the Rams turned things around to win nine straight games. They earned a playoff position and advanced to the semifinals following a quarterfinal win against Seneca Valley. Seniors **Josh Folmer** and **Shawn Peacock** and junior **Zach Howard** were selected to play in the PIHL AAA All-Star Game on January 29. The coaching staff is very proud of the team's accomplishments during the 2022-2023 season.



2022-2023 PRHS VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM



2022-2023 PRHS JUNIOR VARSITY ONE HOCKEY TEAM



2022-2023 PRHS JUNIOR VARSITY TWO HOCKEY TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Lacrosse



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

Determination. That is the one word that comes to mind when reflecting on the Boys' Lacrosse season. This season certainly had its ups and downs, and any lesser team could have easily given up hope on the season after a 3-6 start. However, these boys were determined to face the adversity and approached the second half of the season with a new mindset for success. As a result, they finished the second half of the season with a 7-2 record, resulting in an overall record of 10-8, good enough for 5th seed in WPIALs and the opportunity to host a home playoff game. Senior **Andrew Mellis** was named All-Section Midfielder, senior **Carter Ravotti** was named All-Section Defenseman and junior **Cooper Zancosky** was named All-Section Attackman. These players were the statistical team leaders for each of their respective positions. They also demonstrated good sportsmanship and leadership qualities for the betterment of their teammates. Senior **Will Albrecht** signed to play at Westminster College.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY



The 2023 Girls' Lacrosse team won the WPIAL Championship, defeating Mt. Lebanon 13-12. The team was named WPIAL 3A Section 2 Champions and advanced to the second round of the PIAA playoffs. Senior **Caroline Gentile** was named All American. **Caroline Gentile** and sophomore **Madeline Mill** were named to the All WPIAL team. **Caroline Gentile**, **Madeline Mill** and ninth-grader **Cate Gentile** were named 1st Team All Section. Senior **Emma Westerhoof** was named to the 2nd Team All Section. Seniors **Lily Hynds** and **Hannah Young** were named All Academic. **Cate Gentile**, **Madeline Mill** and sophomore **Erica Waite** were named to the 2023 Pittsburgh National Team. Coach **Shannon Drennon** was named USA Lacrosse Pittsburgh Coach of the Year and was selected to coach the 2023 Pittsburgh National Team. Milestones this season included **Caroline Gentile** and **Hannah Young** each with 100 career goals and 100 season points, **Madeline Mill** with 100 season draw controls, **Cate Gentile** with 100 season points, and **Claire Dosch** with 100 season saves. **Caroline Gentile** signed to play midfield at Lafayette



2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



College. **Lily Hynds** will play at Ave Maria University. **Mary Wymard** will play at John Carroll University. **Hannah Young** will play at Mercyhurst University.

## Soccer

The Boys' Soccer program is currently reaching new heights coming off of their first WPIAL Championship in school history. Players named to the Big 56 All-Section 1st Team include seniors **Ben Rishel** and **Colin Zvejnieks** and junior **Cadan Bennett**. Senior **Cale Klaff** was named to the 2nd Team. **Cadan**



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

**Bennett**, **Ben Rishel** and **Colin Zvejnieks** were named to the All-WPIAL team, while Coach **Jordan Wiegand** was named 4A Coach of the Year.

This program takes place all year long and gives players the opportunity to develop and grow within the game. In the off season, players can take on as much soccer as they choose to participate in. We have established a top notch learning environment and culture for all of our participating student athletes. If you have any interest, we strongly encourage you to come check out the program during the summer and meet the coaching staff and your potential teammates! Students entering grades 7-12 who are interested in trying out this fall and participating in our off season programming this summer should email Head Coach **Jordan Wiegand** at [jwiegand\\_ramscoach@hotmail.com](mailto:jwiegand_ramscoach@hotmail.com).





# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Soccer

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

On the Girls' Soccer team, senior **Stephanie Cornelius** was named to the 2022 Big 56 All-Section 1st Team. Seniors **Gianna Koss** and **Kate Lindrose** and ninth grader **Emerson Kline** were named to the 2nd Team. Seniors **Kiley Hassinger** and **Manon Prokesch** were named Honorable Mention. Seniors **Stephanie Cornelius** and **Gianna Koss** were named to the All-WPIAL Team. **Stephanie Cornelius**, **Gianna Koss** and **Manon Prokesch** were named the WPIAL All-Section

Team. Six seniors signed letters of intent to continue their soccer careers at the collegiate level: **Ava Boyd**, forward, Michigan State University; **Stephanie Cornelius**, center midfielder, St. John's University; **Kiley Hassinger**, goalkeeper, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; **Gianna Koss**, outside back, University of Kentucky; **Emma Van Meter**, goalkeeper, University of Pittsburgh; and **Hannah Young**, midfield, Mercyhurst University.

## Softball

PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEON PHOTOGRAPHY



2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

This year, the Softball team was led through a very challenging season by their captains, juniors **Jocelyn Langer** and **Mackenzie Gillis** and sophomore **Calle Henne**. The young team pushed through with all the determination and drive one would expect from a much more experienced team. With their team chemistry, strong bond and the will to never give up, the girls made it to the WPIAL 6A Semifinals. Junior **Jocelyn Langer** was named to the Big 56 1st Team, and junior **Isabella Sulesky** was named to the Big 56 2nd Team. With endless support from the booster program and a continuation of hard work, the future is very bright for Pine-Richland Softball.

## Swimming

Eight Pine-Richland swimmers competed in the PIAA State Championship: seniors **Delaney Allen**, **Justin Bogacz**, **Matthew Carper**, **Mila Cribbs** and **Elizabeth Shaffer**, junior **Reece Rupert**, and sophomores **Gavin Rupert** and **Sarah Anne Shaffer**. **Matthew Carper** placed 8th in the 100 Breaststroke and in the 200 Individual Medley. **Sarah Anne Shaffer** placed 8th in the 100 Breaststroke. **Elizabeth Shaffer** placed 11th in the 100 Breaststroke and **Justin Bogacz** placed 9th in the 100 Fly.

In the WPIAL Girls' Championship, the team placed 6th overall. **Sarah Anne Shaffer** placed 1st (breaking the district pool record) and **Elizabeth Shaffer** placed 5th in 100 Breaststroke. **Delaney Allen**, **Mila Cribbs**, **Elizabeth Shaffer** and **Sarah Anne Shaffer** placed 5th in the 200 Medley Relay. Sophomore **Anna Schomaker** placed 5th in the 500 Freestyle. **Sarah Anne Shaffer** placed 7th in the 200 Individual Medley. **Delaney Allen**, **Anna Schomaker**, **Elizabeth Shaffer** and **Sarah Anne Shaffer** placed 8th in the 400 Freestyle Relay. Senior **Emily Smallwood** placed 9th and sophomore **Kendyll Jerry** placed 10th in 1 Meter Diving.

In the WPIAL Boys' Championship, the team placed 9th overall and set six school records (denoted with \*).



2022-2023 PRHS SWIMMING TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY

**Matthew Carper** placed 2nd in the 100 Breaststroke\* and 5th in the 200 Individual Medley\*. **Justin Bogacz** placed 3rd in the 100 Butterfly\*. **Justin Bogacz**, **Matthew Carper**, sophomore **Gavin Rupert** and junior **Reece Rupert** placed 5th in the 400 Freestyle Relay\* and 8th in the 200 Freestyle Relay\*. **Reece Rupert** placed 6th in the 100 Butterfly and 7th in the 100 Backstroke.

**Matthew Carper** will swim for the United States Coast Guard Academy, and **Elizabeth Shaffer** signed to swim at Carnegie Mellon University.

## Tennis



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS VARSITY TENNIS TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF LA PHOTOGRAPHY

The Boys' Tennis team ended the spring season with a 5-1 record in their section and in sole possession of second place. In the WPIAL playoffs, two doubles teams—junior **Nathan Bang**/sophomore **Ian Hurt** and junior **Udi Akolkar**/ninth-grader **Ryan Moore**—competed in the section doubles tournament and both qualified for the doubles tournament. The team did not name captains this year but were led by seniors **Jack Duckworth**, **Adam Fink** and **Amitva Pal**.



## ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS TEAM

The Girls' Tennis team had a successful year and finished their season with a winning section record of 6-1 and a trip to the WPIAL quarterfinals. They won their first playoff match against Greater Latrobe by the score of 4-1 before eventually losing a hard played match to Shady Side Academy in the quarterfinals. Senior **Lily Hynds** and sophomore **Kendall Kirkland** represented the team at the section singles tournament at North Allegheny High School in early September. **Kendall** placed third in the tournament and advanced to the WPIAL singles tournament. The team also sent two separate teams to the section doubles tournament in late September: **Lily Hynds** and junior **Rachel Smith**, and juniors **Kiana Strahotin** and **Samy Ravichandran**. **Lily** and **Rachel** took second place earning a chance to participate in the WPIAL doubles tournament.



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144

### Track & Field

Several members of the Track and Field team competed in the PIAA State Championships in Shippensburg with many top ten finishes. Senior **Natalie McLean** placed 2nd in the girls' 1600 meters and in the girls' 3200 meters, senior **Sonja Stugart** placed 6th in girls' high jump, junior **Nadia Constantakis** placed 8th in girls' pole vault; seniors **Brad Gelly**, **Evan Royal** and **Luke Rudolph** and junior **Nick Hartwick** placed 10th in the boys' 4x100 meter relay; and sophomore **Emery Moye** placed 10th in boys' high jump.

In the WPIAL Championships, **Natalie McLean** placed 2nd in the girls' 1600 meters, breaking her school record by 5 seconds; **Sonya Stugart** placed 2nd in high jump; **Nadia Constantakis** placed 4th in pole vault; the girls' 4x100 relay team of seniors **Danielle Deer** and

**Ava Romano** and sophomores **Georgia Rottinghaus** and **Abby Satina** placed 4th; **Natalie McLean** placed 5th in the girls' 3200 meters; and **Georgia Rottinghaus** placed 6th in the girls' 100 meters. Sophomore **Ryan Beam** placed 2nd in javelin; the boys' 4x100 relay team of **Brad Gelly**, **Nick Hartwick**, **Evan Royal** and **Luke Rudolph** placed 3rd; sophomore **Ben McLean** placed 3rd in the boys' 800 meters; **Emery Moye** placed 4th in high jump; **Luke Rudolph** placed 6th in the boys' 100 meters; and **Nick Hartwick** placed 7th in the boys' 200 meters, tying his school record.

**Breanna Franchak** signed to run at Dickinson College. **Natalie McLean** signed to run distance at Georgetown University. **Gianna Rotelli** signed to throw javelin at the University of Louisville.



## Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee had a fantastic season this year. The team took down many challenging teams and made the playoff semifinals before a tough loss to Upper Saint Clair. They attended two different tournaments this spring, battling against many great North Carolina teams in the Queen City tournament and finishing off the year competing in the Pennsylvania state tournament where they played hard and managed to break seed against extremely challenging Philadelphia teams.



2022-2023 PRHS ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRANT WALTRIP

## Volleyball



2022-2023 PRHS BOYS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHY 144

The Boys' Volleyball team put forth tremendous effort this season, led by seniors **Korey Moore** and **John Varghese**, and look forward to even more success next year.

The Pine-Richland Girls Volleyball team had a historic season, winning the Class 4A WPIAL Championship for the first time in 12 years and advancing to the PIAA semifinals. Seniors **Kaili Doctor** and **Katie Yanni** and sophomore **Isabelle Hoppe** were named to the 2022 Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association All-State Team, the Big 56 First Team, WPIAL All Stars 1st Team, and the WPIAL All-Section 1st Team. Senior **Sophia Menke** and junior **Sofia Morse** were named to the Big 56 2nd Team and WPIAL All-Section Team. **Sofia Morse** was named to the WPIAL All Star 2nd Team. Senior **Gabrielle Gathers** and ninth-grader **Megan DeKunder** were named to the WPIAL All-Section 3rd Team. **Kaili Doctor** signed to play outside hitter at North Carolina A&T State University. **Sophia Menke** signed to play middle hitter at Kenyon College. **Katie Yanni** signed to play outside hitter at Case Western Reserve University.



2022-2023 PRHS GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM



THE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM CELEBRATES WINNING THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP.



# ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Wrestling



2022-2023 PRHS VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM



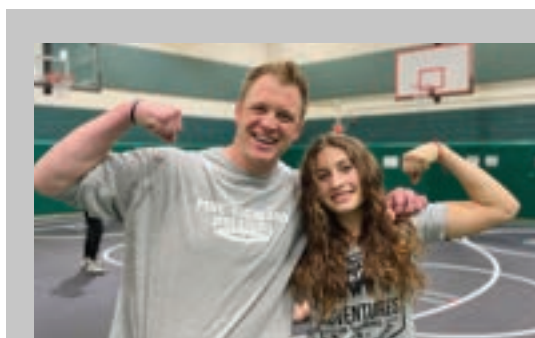
2022-2023 PRHS JUNIOR HIGH WRESTLING TEAM

Seniors **Anthony Ferraro** and **Joey Schneck** and sophomore **Vaughn Spencer** represented Pine-Richland in the PIAA State Wrestling Championship, the first time Pine-Richland ever sent three wrestlers to states. **Anthony** placed 3rd, while **Joey** finished 5th and tied the single season school record for wins. At the WPIAL Championship, **Vaughn** placed 1st, and **Anthony** and **Joey** both placed 3rd. **Joey** broke the Pine-Richland season pin record. Ninth-grader **Mac Miller** broke Pine-Richland's freshman win record. The Wrestling team placed 2nd in the annual Allegheny County Wrestling Championship in January. **Anthony Ferraro** and **Joey Schneck** and **Vaughn Spencer** won individual championships. **Joey Schneck** won the **Ron Garrison** Brotherhood of Wrestling Award for Sportsmanship for the second consecutive year. The Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Association (PWCA) named seniors **Jacob Lukez** and **Joey Schneck** to the All-State Academic 1st Team and **Anthony Ferraro** and **Vaughn Spencer** to the 3rd team. **Anthony Ferraro** competed in the 49th Annual Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic as a selected member of the WPIAL All Star Team, winning an 11-5 victory over his Ohio All Star Team opponent. Sophomore **Dominic Ferraro** won 1st place at the Pennsylvania USA Wrestling Freestyle State Championships in May. He is a selected member of the PA USA Wrestling Junior National Team. **Anthony Ferraro** signed to wrestle at Edinboro University. **Joey Schneck** signed to wrestle at the University of Maryland.



JOEY SCHNECK, ANTHONY FERRARO AND VAUGHN SPENCER ADVANCED TO STATES FOLLOWING THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADIA PHOTOGRAPHY



COACH CALEB KOLB AND PR'S FIRST MEMBER OF THE GIRLS' TEAM, EIGHTH-GRADER GIADA CAMPANELLA.

This year, Pine-Richland announced the formation of a Girls' Wrestling Team, becoming the 74th girls' team in the state. Girls in grades 7-12 interested in joining should contact Coach **Caleb Kolb** at [coach.c.kolb@rams.pinerichland.org](mailto:coach.c.kolb@rams.pinerichland.org).

## 2023 SPORTS REGISTRATION DATES

Students in grades 7-12 should register for sports using Healthy Roster.

- > **Fall Sports Registration** - Due Friday, August 4
- > **Winter Sports Registration**  
Due Friday, November 10
- > **Spring Sports Registration**  
Due Friday, February 23



SCAN TO LEARN MORE.

Families must use Healthy Roster to register for each sport season and to provide all PIAA and AHN paperwork for interscholastic and club sports for grades 7-12 only. This is a one-stop-shop for families, allowing for clear communication and an efficient use of our resources.

**All physicals must be dated after June 1, 2023, and need to be completed and submitted prior to the official start of practice.**

# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Pine-Richland Athletic Hall of Fame honors and recognizes those associated with Pine-Richland athletics who have experienced significant accomplishments in their chosen sport or sports. Members of the fourth annual class of 2022 were inducted prior to the PRHS football game on October 11, 2022, and included the following inductees:



The **2005 Girls' Soccer team** won the PIAA State Championship, the first-ever state championship for Pine-Richland Girls' Soccer. They ended their regular season ranked number one in their section with an 8-3-1 record and were the number one seed in the WPIAL playoffs. In the PIAA State Championship game, Pine-Richland defeated Owen J. Roberts High School, the undefeated number one ranked team in the country, 1-0.

## **BLAKE LALLI**, Class of 2001



In baseball, **Blake Lalli** led the Rams to a 16-3 record as a senior after posting a .571 batting average. He was named to the Tribune-Review's Terrific Nine All-Star team as a junior and senior, was a three-year letterman, and was named to the All Conference and All Area teams in his junior and senior years. **Mr. Lalli** played baseball

at Gardner-Webb University and made his MLB debut in 2012 with the Chicago Cubs.

## **LAUREN LAMENDOLA**, Class of 2012



**Lauren Lamendola** competed in both diving and gymnastics. She was a two-time WPIAL diving champion and won a WPIAL team gymnastics championship. She won the PIAA State Diving Championship her senior year and was selected to the All-State Swimming and Diving Team twice and was a two-time high school All-American diver. **Ms. Lamendola** went on to dive for the University of South Carolina.

## **BOB MCCURRY**, Class of 1969



**Bob McCurry** was a four-sport athlete, participating in football, shot put, basketball and wrestling. As a senior, **Mr. McCurry** was an instrumental part of the football team's 9-1 record, then the best in Richland's history, leading them to a victory in the AIC Runner-Up

game. **Mr. McCurry** was named to the AIC All-Star team, Press All-Star Team, honorable mention Big 33 and AIC Conference A MVP. **Mr. McCurry** joins his brothers **Jack** and **Paul** in the Hall of Fame.

## **SARAH MORGAN BOYLE**, Class of 2002



**Sarah Morgan Boyle** played volleyball and basketball and ran track. She led the volleyball team to a WPIAL Championship in 2001 and was WPIAL MVP. **Mrs. Boyle** was named Star Athlete and Player of the Year in Girls' Volleyball by the Tribune-Review in 2001.

She continued her volleyball career at the University of South Carolina and then played internationally for the Klagenfurt Volleyball Club in Austria.

## **ED NOVAK**, Class of 1958



**Ed Novak** was nominated as both an athlete and cross country coach, participating in football, basketball, track and field and baseball. He was assistant coach of the 1988 Richland High School state-championship girls' cross country team and head coach of the 1989 WPIAL championship girls' cross country team, as well as head coach of the 1992 WPIAL championship boys' cross country team.

He joins his son Jay in the Hall of Fame.



## AROUND THE DISTRICT



MORE THAN 30 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENTERED THE SODEXO FUTURE CHEFS CHALLENGE AND SIX FINALISTS PREPARED THEIR DISHES FOR JUDGING. FOURTH-GRADER MICHAEL DERENZO'S VEGGIE VOLCANO TOOK FIRST PLACE.



STUDENTS OF ART TEACHER KATIE LASLAVIC AT HANCE AND RICHLAND PAINTED SNOW PLOWS FOR PINE TOWNSHIP. RICHLAND'S THIRD GRADERS USED A MONOPRINT METHOD OF STAMPING A PAPER PLATE FILLED WITH GREEN PAINT, THEN DECORATED TO FIT THE RAMS WAY THEME. HANCE STUDENTS USED THE SCHOOL'S "BEE BRAVE, BEE KIND, BEE A FRIEND" THEME. FIRST GRADERS PAINTED COLORFUL CIRCLES THAT WERE DECORATED BY SECOND AND THIRD GRADERS.



PRMS' 8TH GRADERS ENROLLED IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SEWED OVER 200 PILLOWCASES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, WHICH WERE DONATED TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NORTH VIA RYAN'S CASE FOR SMILES. THIS IS THE 8TH YEAR THAT PRMS HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM.



PRHS' MARCHING BAND PERFORMED IN THE KENTUCKY DERBY FESTIVAL PEGASUS PARADE IN LOUISVILLE ON APRIL 30.

WEXFORD SECOND GRADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL ART CLUB PAINTED A NEW MURAL INSPIRED BY THE PICTURE BOOK *MAYBE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL: HOW ART TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD*, WHICH TELLS THE STORY OF A GRAY URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS TRANSFORMED WITH A BEAUTIFUL MURAL THAT BRINGS COLOR, HOPE AND JOY TO THE COMMUNITY.







EDEN HALL UPPER ELEMENTARY FOURTH GRADERS PARTICIPATED IN A SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TO DEMONSTRATE SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE ACCRUED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.



GERMAN LANGUAGE STUDENTS VISITED BERLIN ON AN IMMERSION TRIP IN DECEMBER. NEXT YEAR, STUDENTS WILL VISIT MUNICH.



STUDENT SECTION LEADERS AND PINE-RICHLAND MINI-THON RAISED OVER \$3,000 FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER BY SELLING GOLD T-SHIRTS FOR A HOMECOMING GOLD OUT.



RICHLAND ELEMENTARY'S STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES DONATED \$17,117 TO KDKA'S TURKEY FUND, WHILE WEXFORD ELEMENTARY'S STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES DONATED \$16,689.75. BOTH DONATIONS WERE MATCHED BY PNC BANK, TOTALLING \$67,613.50, ENOUGH TO HELP FEED MORE THAN 3,300 FAMILIES.



AT THE END OF THE PEER-TO-PEER CLUB'S ANNUAL COLOR RUN TO RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION, PARTICIPANTS GATHER TOGETHER TO CREATE AN EXPLOSION OF COLOR WITH CHALK.



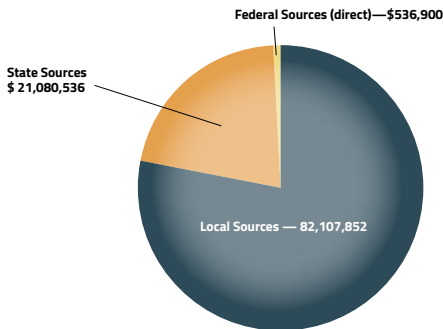
RICHLAND'S FIRST GRADERS HOSTED THEIR ANNUAL SING-A-BRATION FOR THEIR FAMILIES. TEACHERS ALSO SHARED VIDEO CLIPS OF STUDENTS LEARNING IN MUSIC CLASS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. AS A SPECIAL TREAT, SENIORS WHO WENT TO RICHLAND ATTENDED AND GOT TO WATCH THEIR FIRST GRADE PERFORMANCE FROM 2012.



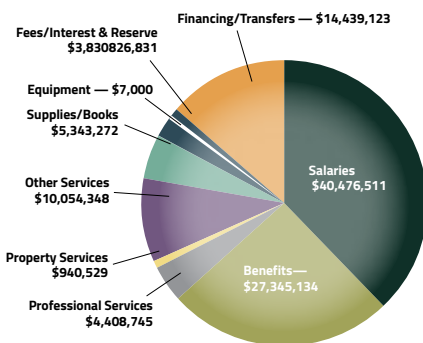
# BUDGET & BOARD UPDATE

## Board Approves Budget for 2023-2024 with No Tax Increase

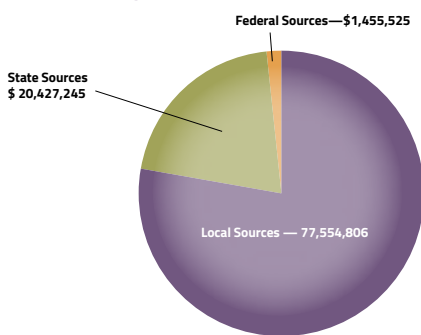
### 2023-2024 Budgeted Revenue



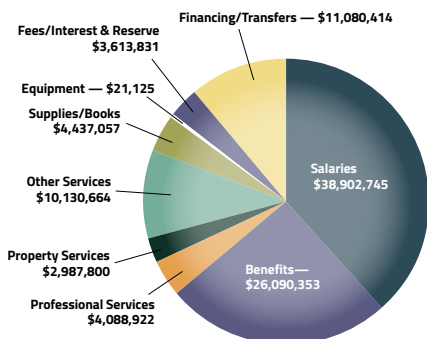
### 2023-2024 Budgeted Expenditures



### 2022-2023 Budgeted Revenue



### 2022-2023 Budgeted Expenditures



The Pine-Richland School Board approved the general fund budget for the 2023-2024 school year with total expenditures of \$106,845,488 and total revenues of \$103,725,288 with utilization of fund balance for capital improvements in the amount of \$3,120,200. The board maintained the following tax rates for the fiscal year 2023-2024 with no increase:

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

### COST-SAVING MEASURES

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

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

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the district terminated three swap transactions resulting in savings to the school district. The district will continue to monitor each debt instrument for additional refunding opportunities to achieve savings and lower interest costs, if possible.

### INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES

- > The board approved the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution for the upcoming tax year. The resolution provides for property tax reduction through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion," which is provided by the state gaming industry/casinos. Residents should have an application on file with Allegheny County indicating the house they live in is their homestead. They will also receive a reduction in assessed value for their school tax. Each approved homestead will receive a real estate tax reduction in the amount of \$217.35.
- > In January 2023, the board approved a property tax rebate program for all qualifying senior citizens, widows and widowers for the 2022 calendar year. The application reflected a due date of June 30, 2023. If the filer meets the criteria, he or she could see anywhere from \$250 - \$650 in tax rebates.

### BUDGET BALANCING ACT IMPACTED BY VARIABLES

As you know, balancing the budget can be extremely difficult. Some of the variables that factor into the district's budget include:

**Salaries & Wages** – Personnel costs for administration, faculty and support staff represent 63.48% 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 34% of salary costs from 35.26% in 2022-2023. That translates to about \$48,973 (or \$7,867 in increased costs to the district after receiving state funding for retirement contributions) in the 2023-2024 budget. This rate is set by the PSERS Board of Trustees and mandated by state legislation.

**Premium Costs** – Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium medical premium costs will increase by 14% for covered employees. Dental and vision insurance premiums will increase by 3%. Overall group health insurance expenditures for the District are budgeted to increase by \$1,078,045.

**Tuition Expenditures** – The district is required by law to pay tuition costs, which are projected at \$1,107,421 for 2023-2024, for students who reside in Pine-Richland to attend cyber/charter schools. None of these costs are reimbursed by the state. For more information on the budget, visit [pinerichland.org/budget](http://pinerichland.org/budget).

## Board Update



BOARD PRESIDENT GREG DITULLIO, SUPERINTENDENT DR. BRIAN MILLER, BOARD VICE PRESIDENT AMY TERCHICK, BOARD TREASURER MARC CASCIANI AND DIRECTOR DR. CARLA MEYER DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS DURING THE APRIL 17 BOARD MEETING.

Sixth-grade students **Maria Leontiadis**, **Everett Walker** and **Max Miller** spoke at the January 9 board meeting as part of Board Appreciation Month about their four-school project called *Kindness Has a Domino Effect*. Each elementary school collected boxes of cereal to donate to Inspired Hearts and Hands. The cereal boxes were used to teach lessons about the domino effect as well as lessons about kindness. The project culminated with each school spelling out a letter in RAMS and demonstrating the domino effect.



SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS PETER LYONS, JOE CASSIDY, DR. MATTHEW MEHALIK, LISA HILLMAN AND CHRISTINA BRUSSALIS DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS DURING THE APRIL 17 BOARD MEETING.



BOARD TREASURER MARC CASCIANI SPOKE AT GRADUATION ON JUNE 9. IN HIS SPEECH, MR. CASCIANI TALKED ABOUT MR. ROGERS AND THE STORY BEHIND 143, WHICH HAS BECOME PART OF MR. ROGERS' LEGACY.



MARIA LEONTIADIS, EVERETT WALKER AND MAX MILLER SPOKE AT THE JANUARY 9 BOARD MEETING.



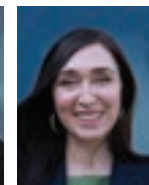
MR. GREG DITULLIO  
BOARD PRESIDENT



MRS. AMY TERCHICK  
BOARD VICE  
PRESIDENT



MR. MARC CASCIANI  
BOARD TREASURER



MRS. CHRISTINA  
BRUSSALIS, DIRECTOR



MR. JOHN JOSEPH  
CASSIDY, DIRECTOR



MRS. LISA HILLMAN  
DIRECTOR



MR. PETER LYONS  
DIRECTOR



DR. MATTHEW  
MEHALIK, DIRECTOR



DR. CARLA MEYER  
DIRECTOR

- > Pennsylvania school boards are governed by nine elected directors. On December 5, 2022, the Pine-Richland School Board reorganized, re-electing Mr. **Greg DiTullio** as president and Mrs. **Amy Terchick** as vice president. The board also re-appointed:
  - > Mrs. **Lisa Hillman** as the legislative representative to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for a one-year term through November 2023.
  - > Dr. **Matthew Mehalik** as a representative to the A.W. Beattie Career Center Joint Committee for a two-year term expiring December 2024. Mr. **Joseph Cassidy** is the second A.W. Beattie representative. His term expires December 2023.
  - > Mrs. **Amy Terchick** as a representative to the Pine Township Parks and Recreation Board for 2023.

- > Mrs. **Christina Brussalis** as the 2023 liaison to the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Board of Trustees.
- > Mr. **Peter Lyons** as a Food Service Advisory and Wellness Committee representative.
- > Mrs. **Dana Kirk**, director of financial and operational services, as a delegate to Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee with Mr. **Marc Casciani** as an alternate.
- > Mr. **Casciani** was re-elected in May 2023 to serve as board treasurer.
- > Also serving on the Pine-Richland School Board is Dr. **Carla Meyer**. Mrs. **Barbara Williams** serves as board secretary.

Review director biographies and find more school board information at [pinerichland.org/board](http://pinerichland.org/board).





## Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Highlights

The Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund (PROF) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 education foundation committed to enriching and investing in the experiences of every Pine-Richland student through staff grants, student scholarships and community partnerships.



THE WORLD WAR II SOLDIER BOX PROJECT PROVIDES AUTHENTIC ARTIFACTS FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN FROM IN SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES.

- > Since 2013, PROF has awarded nearly **\$364,000 in grant funds** to Pine-Richland staff. Funding priority projects for student enrichment is a key component of our mission. This year, PROF awarded the largest grant fund to date – **\$28,000 to develop the Eden Hall Discovery Center and outdoor classroom** in partnership with the Eden Hall PTO and the district. Other impactful grants included a **laser engraver, library enrichment materials** and a **Conversation Corner** at PRMS; **books and a sustainable library project** at Hance Elementary; and a **World War II Soldier Box** project at PRHS.

- > In that time, PROF partnered with community organizations and businesses to award **\$384,500 in cash scholarships** to graduating seniors. PROF's scholarship sponsors provide game-changing funds to students while also recognizing their outstanding achievements during their time at Pine-Richland. This year's scholarship recipients were awarded a total of **\$45,000**, including two PROF-trustee sponsored scholarships totaling \$5,000.
- > PROF proudly partners with community businesses for our Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. NexTier Bank; Huntington Bank and Trumbull all provide funding for **Advanced Technology, STEAM Grants and hands-on learning experiences**. We welcome the opportunity to share the benefits of the EITC program with area businesses. Please visit [prof-fund.org](http://prof-fund.org) for more information.

PROF's trustee board is comprised of dedicated volunteer community leaders: President **Eric Giesecke**, Treasurer **Brian Sava**, Governance Officer **Richard E. Bauer, DMD, MD, Keri Brown, Laura L. Carlson, Leslie Craven, Jennifer Gebrosky, Amy Gillespie, Jennifer Husted, Kelsey Mercuri, Stacey Silipo** and **Robin Tino**. PROF's Executive Director is **Deborah Lund**.

## PROF and Community Partners Award \$45,000 in Scholarships

On June 7, 2023, PROF awarded 20 scholarships totalling \$45,000 to 24 Pine-Richland High School seniors. Scholarship recipients were recognized in areas including service and volunteering, leadership, interest in STEM and fields that help others, resiliency, performing arts, musical talent and kindness, financial need and more. PROF trustees also sponsor two scholarships: the **PROF Impact Scholarship** that awards students based on community involvement and potential impact, and a **PROF Community Scholarship** highlighting student experiences and interactions with PROF-funded education grants and interaction with faculty or fellow students.

Christian Cochran Memorial Scholarship—What's Good About Today?  
**Jack Exline**

Diversity in Science and Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Scholarship – **Sreyashi Mondal**

FBLA Scholarship – **Benjamin Rishel**

Hance Elementary PTO Scholarship – **Joshua Folmer**

Kenneth M. Young Public Safety Scholarship – **Kendal Chilcoat**

Killian Cavanaugh Memorial Scholarship – **Benjamin Rishel**

Kyle Pomerleau Memorial Scholarship – **Ryan Daniels** and **Breanna Franchak**

Martha King Memorial Scholarship – **Emily Campbell, Emma Carter, Kendal Chilcoat, Bethany George** and **Kyle Pritchard**

Monica Young Memorial Scholarship – **Gabrielle Lachimia**

Pasquelli Insurance and Erie Insurance Scholarship – **Kayla Karmanos**

Pine-Richland High School PTO Scholarship – **Kesar Sampat**

Pine-Richland Musical Booster Scholarships – **Jack Exline, Alexander Frisina** and **Marissa Piper**

Pine-Richland Choral Scholarships – **Sydney Jones** and **Marissa Piper**

William B. Machiko Scholarship – **Bethany George**

PROF Impact Scholarship – **Kendal Chilcoat** and **Catrina Knox**

Richland Elementary PTO Scholarship – **Emma Zaffuta**

Rich-Mar Rotary Club Scholarships – **Alexa Cardinali, Kendal Chilcoat** and **Gianna Nicotra**

Ryan Malady Memorial Scholarship – **Alexa Cardinali** and **Jacob McGuire**

Veterans Memorial Scholarship – **Gianna Nicotra**

Wexford Elementary PTO Scholarship – **Javin Parker**



PROF TRUSTEES AWARDED \$45,000 TO STUDENTS DURING THE SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



In September, a mural dedicated to 2007 graduate **Meghan Klingenberg** was installed in the Spirit Room at Pine-Richland Stadium. Meghan captained the Girls' Soccer team and helped lead the team to the PIAA State Championships in 2005 and 2006 and went on to represent the United States on the U.S. National Olympic Team and play professionally with the National Women's Soccer League.

PAINTED BY MIKE SULLIVAN, THE MURAL IS PART OF THE PITTSBURGH LEGENDS MURAL SERIES CREATED BY THE LEGACY ARTS FOUNDATION.



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MURAL AND DEDICATION.



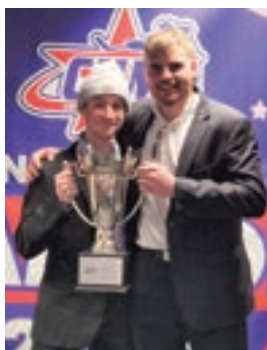
2022 graduate **Norah Carter** was awarded the \$10,000 Community Service Scholarship from Passavant Memorial Homes last summer. Norah was selected for her experience leading initiatives to support Operation Christmas Child, collecting over 800 canned goods and over 150 coats for local charities, and raising over \$5,000 for Riding for the Handicapped of Western PA. Norah also used her passion for mental health awareness to help other youth cope during the COVID-19 pandemic. She developed and facilitated five educational workshops for tweens and teens that focused on resilience, healthy behaviors and adaptive coping using the 4-H Thoughts Matter and Health Rocks curricula.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE PEDERSEN

2017 graduate **Jake Pedersen** made his Broadway debut in March, starring opposite Ben Platt as Frankie Epps in *Parade*. Last year, Jake performed in the national tour of *Wicked*.

JAKE PEDERSEN, RIGHT, PERFORMS WITH ERIN ROSE DOYLE IN PARADE.



RICHARD AND JOEY FOLLOWING THEIR CHMA CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY.

2017 graduate **Joey DiTullio** and 2019 graduate **Richard Wild** played in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) National Tournament with Indiana University of Pennsylvania in March following their College Hockey Mid-America Playoff championship win.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER HORNER, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

2019 graduate **Matt Wood** was selected in the 4th round of the Major League Baseball draft last July by the Milwaukee Brewers. Matt, a catcher, played for Penn State following his Pine-Richland career.

MATT WOOD, RIGHT, CELEBRATES WITH PINE-RICHLAND BASEBALL COACH KURT WOLFE, LEFT.



# ANNUAL NOTICES

## Introduction

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

Each year the district publishes these notices along with other pertinent information families need to know about school district operations and expectations at [pinerichland.org](http://pinerichland.org). Families without internet access should contact PR Communications Director Erin Hasinger at **724-625-7773**, ext. **6202**.

## Annual Notices

You can visit [pinerichland.org/annualnotices](http://pinerichland.org/annualnotices) for more about student services and more details on the following:

- > Armed Forces Recruiting
- > Attendance
- > Bullying/Cyberbullying
- > Child Abuse
- > Concussion Management
- > Diabetes Management
- > Education for Homeless Youth
- > Electronic Devices
- > Enrollment of Students
- > Federal Programs Title I
- > Food Allergy Management
- > Free and Reduced Lunch  
(Visit [compass.state.pa.us](http://compass.state.pa.us) for info & application)
- > Gifted Education Services & Screening & Evaluation
- > Hazing
- > Health Examinations/Screenings
- > Homebound Instruction
- > Home Education Programs
- > Independent Educational Evaluations
- > Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
- > Interscholastic Athletics
- > Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners
- > McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- > Medication
- > Meetings
- > Migrant Students
- > Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA)
- > Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)
- > Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records
- > Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors
- > Protected Handicapped Students: Chapter 15
- > Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students
- > Right to Know Act
- > School Wellness
- > Screening, Evaluation & Placement Procedures
- > Searches
- > Services for Preschool-Age Children with Disabilities
- > Services for School-Age Exceptional Children
- > Services for Students in Nonpublic Schools

- > Special Education
- > Special Notice Regarding Directory Information
- > Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
- > Student Records
- > Student Recruitment
- > Student Rights & Responsibilities
- > Student Services
- > Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- > Tobacco & Vaping Products
- > Video and Photographs\*
- > Weapons

*\*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 PR Director of Communications at [ehasinger@pinerichland.org](mailto:ehasinger@pinerichland.org).*

## Attendance

The board requires that school age students enrolled in district schools attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by the district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. You can visit [pinerichland.org/Page/1842](http://pinerichland.org/Page/1842) for more about **Policy 204**. The district revised this policy in 2021.

## Discipline Code

The purpose of the PRSD Discipline Code is to present standard behavioral expectations based on school board policy for all students in the district. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the PRSD Discipline Code and to review these documents with their children. Parents, guardians, and students are also referred to Board Policy 218 of the board policy manual for additional information regarding the discipline code, student conduct, and consequences of inappropriate or proscribed behaviors and conduct. In the event of any conflict between the terms of the discipline code and any board policy, the applicable board policy will control and take precedence. To review this document, which contains everything from attendance, unlawful harassment, bullying to bus expectations, visit [pinerichland.org/disciplinecode](http://pinerichland.org/disciplinecode).

## Public Outreach & Awareness System (Child Find)

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

## Discrimination and Harassment

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

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

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

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

The board also declares it to be the policy of this district to comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX prohibiting sexual harassment, which is a form of unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex. Such discrimination shall be referred to throughout this policy as Title IX sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX to the district may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or both.

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

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a report, and the investigation related to any form of discrimination or retaliation, including Title IX sexual harassment, shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, Policy 103 and related administrative regulations, and the district's legal and investigative obligations.

## Complaint & Investigative Processes

The school board encourages students and parents/guardians who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment to promptly report such incidents to designated employees in accordance with PR School Board Policy 103: Nondiscrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students and 103.1: Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities, which can be found on the PR Policy Manual, which is linked to the district's website. Complaints of discrimination or harassment shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action will be taken for substantiated allegations. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, 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, 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 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 x6201**

### **Section 504 Coordinator**

Dr. Maura Paczan  
Director of Student Services  
Richland Elementary  
3811 Bakerstown Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
**724-443-7230 x6503**

Related policies include:

#### **Policy 103**

Nondiscrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

#### **AR 103A**

Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice Complaint Procedures

#### **AR 103B**

Nondiscrimination in School & Classroom Practice - Gender & Gender Identity

#### **AR 103C**

Title IX Sexual Harassment Procedures & Grievance Process

#### **Policy 103.1**

Nondiscrimination: Qualified Students with Disabilities

#### **AR 103.1**

Nondiscrimination Qualified Students w/Disabilities Grievance Process

#### **Policy 104**

Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices

#### **Policy 247**

Hazing

#### **Policy 249**

Bullying/Cyberbullying

#### **Policy 824**

Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries  
Visit [pinerichland.org/nondiscrimination](http://pinerichland.org/nondiscrimination) for more details on the above procedures and policies.

### **Surveillance Cameras & Audio Recordings**

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

### **Food Service & Student Wellness**

For more information on the free and reduced meal program and online application go to, [compass.state.pa.us](http://compass.state.pa.us)

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

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

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

### **Child Abuse (Policy 806)**

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

### **Complaint Process (Policy 906)**

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

### **Confidentiality**

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

### **Public Attendance at Events (Policy 904)**

The board welcomes the public at all activities and school-sponsored events, but, the Board also acknowledges its duty to maintain order and preserve school facilities during such events. To view Policy 904 visit [pinerichland.org/community](http://pinerichland.org/community) and click on Public Attendance at Events. The overview will contain more information about tobacco use, free admittance, and service animals.

### **Student Insurance**

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. You can visit [pinerichland.org/insurance](http://pinerichland.org/insurance) for more information on the student insurance carrier.

Parents/guardians looking for help for health insurance can review more information about the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP

is there for your kids with quality, comprehensive health insurance coverage for routine doctor visits, prescriptions, dental, eye care, and much more. Visit [pinerichland.org/insurance](http://pinerichland.org/insurance) for more information.

### **Student Fundraising**

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

### **Student Survey**

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

### **Student Assistance Program (Policy 236)**

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

### **Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response (Policy 819)**

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

### **Board Policies & Discipline Code**

All school policies can be accessed at any time by visiting [pinerichland.org/policies](http://pinerichland.org/policies). Policies are updated in a cyclical manner. Families should review the policy manual and discipline code annually. You can find the discipline code by visiting [pinerichland.org/disciplinecode](http://pinerichland.org/disciplinecode).



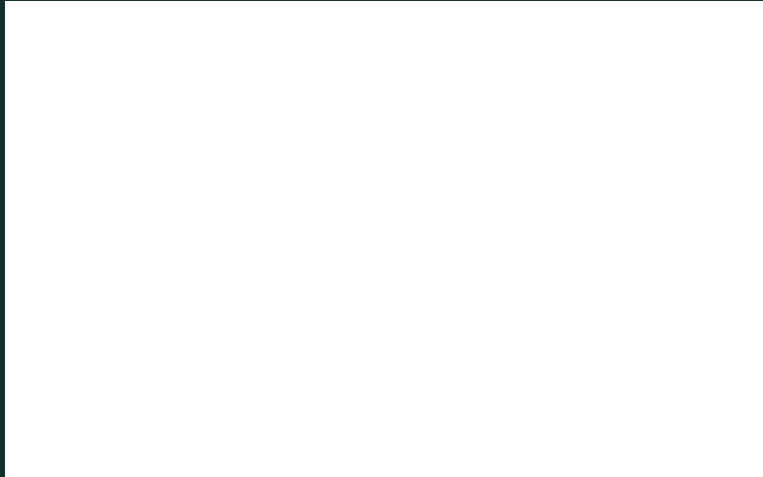


**PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

702 Warrendale Road

Gibsonia, PA 15044

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## **FAREWELL TO 2022-2023**

**KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS GRACE GORNICK, ELLA WALK AND ROSA LEONE SPOKE AT GRADUATION AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLASS OF 2035 AS PART OF PINE-RICHLAND'S ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT TRADITION.**