From the Superintendent
Dr. John T. Rozzo

It is a privilege to serve as the superintendent of schools for the Upper St. Clair School District. I am honored to have been chosen to carry on the legacy of excellence for which our district has been continually recognized.

As my first year as superintendent quickly draws to a close, I want to once again pledge my commitment to providing our students and families with the highest quality of educational experiences that maximize the potential and talents of each student. Having served as a member of the district's administrative team since 2005, I recognize the importance of honoring the past while advancing the future. There is no greater responsibility than to be entrusted with the education and care of our community's children. As a father of three Upper St. Clair children, I know firsthand that this is a special place.

The enclosed annual report for 2018 highlights many of our achievements and accomplishments. As we all know, data only tell part of our story. I invite you to attend any of the numerous school concerts, performances, art exhibits and athletic competitions to enjoy the tremendous talents of our students.

Thank you to our students, families, staff, community members and our school board for making 2018 a remarkable year for Upper St. Clair.

Sincerely yours,

John T. Rozzo

John T. Rozzo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

USC

Our Students

Student Enrollment:
4,073 } up 37 from last year

Home Languages Spoken:
41

2018 Graduates seeking 2 or 4 year degree:
93.6%

Our Teachers

Number of Teachers:
289

Teachers with a master's degree or higher:
80%

Average years of teaching experience:
15

2015–2020 Strategic Plan
Visioning Team Goals (adopted Jan. 2016)

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

- Develop and implement Beliefs for Student Learners to guide programmatic and instructional decision-making.

- Establish consistent Professional Learning Community practices that are in alignment with our Beliefs for Student Learners.

Safety & Security

- Examine and prioritize safety and security needs for the district's physical plants.

- Systematically monitor and adjust policies and procedures to maximize the safety and security of students and staff.

- Enhance the implementation of programming and services that respond to students' personal well-being and safety concerns, as well as those that enhance student relationships and connectivity to school.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics)

- Increase the depth and breadth of STEAM curriculum offerings and improve the integration of STEAM across the curriculum.

- Enhance inquiry-based instructional practices and project-based learning opportunities.

- Equip teachers to educate students in STEAM areas by ensuring that they obtain STEAM content, pedagogy and technology experience through professional development.

Technology

- Determine the best practices and strategies for expanding 1:1 learning opportunities.

- Define the necessary infrastructure, tools and human capital to support the district's tagline, "Customizing Learning, Nurturing Potential and Delivering Excellence."

- Research and implement best practices for self-directed, self-paced and personalized learning in blended and online environments.

The High School Experience

- Establish a systematic process for teachers to collaborate, plan and deliver instruction that is responsive to the unique needs of all learners.

- Customize structures and learning opportunities to meet the academic and developmental needs of each learner by creatively using time, schedules and resources.

- Provide a comprehensive school experience in which students feel healthy, safe, engaged, supported, challenged and empowered.

- Leverage technology to create learning opportunities that empower students to become active learners in a dynamic and interconnected world.

School Safety & Security

Safety and security have been a main focus area for the Upper St. Clair School District throughout the last several years. As one of five main vision goals, it presents 20 percent of the district's 2015-2020 strategic plan.

"We have worked diligently across multiple fronts to create the safest possible environment," Amy Billerbeck, school board president, said. "It is indeed the most important 20 percent of our Strategic Plan; for the safety of our staff and our students is our highest priority.

In May 2018, Upper St. Clair School District welcomed a new chief of school police, Sean Bryson, who was a 20-year member of the Arlington County Police Department in Virginia and an Upper St. Clair graduate.

Based upon Chief Bryson's assessment and recommendation, the district expanded its school police force to provide a full-time, armed, highly trained, certified municipal police officer in each of the district's six schools.

The district's safety measures follow a continuum of enhancements that have been underway as part of the district's strategic plan.

"Our district has committed significant resources to help ensure that we are following best practices in the area of school safety," Dr. John T. Rozzo, superintendent of schools, said. "School safety is at the forefront of everything we do."

In addition to bolstering the district's school police force, the school board approved funding to increase student support services including a secondary school counselor and a school psychologist.

"This staffing increase better supports our students' social and emotional well-being as well as enhances student relationships and connectivity to school," Amy Pfender, director of student support services, said.

The district's elementary and middle schools embrace the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which is designed to improve peer relations and increase connections among students, staff members and each other.

Middle school students, grades 5-8, participate in a designated guidance class as part of their regular class schedule. School counselors provide information and instruction on a variety of developmentally appropriate topics including online safety, social media, study skills, appropriate online behavior, conflict resolution, responsible decision-

making as well as drug and alcohol prevention.

Upper St. Clair High School has taken a proactive approach to creating a positive school climate. High school students have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of their classmates through their involvement in the Natural Helpers, Peer Mentor, Peer Tutoring, Partners in Physical Education, Partners in SHOP, SMART Desk and Leadership Academy programs.

In addition, the school district has a video security system with more than 240 cameras across the district. The system is accessible by district administrators, principals, school police, and the Upper St. Clair Township police and fire departments. All school buses are also equipped with audio/video surveillance.

All six schools feature secure entrances, a visitor management system and communication systems that provide direct links between and among school staff, law enforcement and emergency responders.

Most recently, the Safe2Say Something anonymous reporting system was launched in coordination with local law enforcement and the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General.

Safe2Say Something teaches middle and high school youth – and the adults around them – how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and "Say Something" to a trusted adult, call 911 or use the Safe2Say Something anonymous reporting system.

2018-19 Budget

The Upper St. Clair School Board approved the 2018-19 final budget totaling $83,620,353 in June 2018. The budget included a millage increase of 0.7043 mills – resulting in a 2018-19 millage rate of 25.8603 mills.

School safety is a major priority within the 2018-19 budget, which includes increased staffing and training to enhance student support and school safety efforts. In addition to adding a school counselor, psychologist and school police officers, provisions were made for a complete review of the guidance curriculum relative to social/emotional learning.

The budget also includes provisions for additional teachers and curricular enhancements. In the fall of 2018, the school district expanded its 1:1 learning initiative to include Chromebooks for all high school students – achieving the district's goal to provide all students in grades 5-12 a developmentally appropriate learning device.
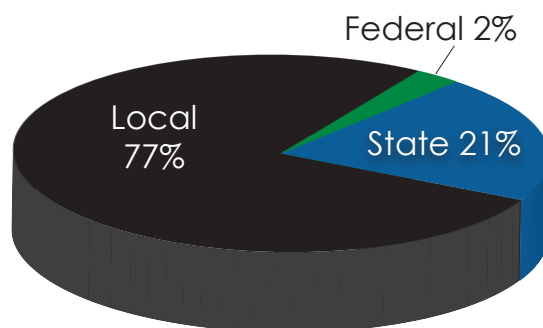
The 2018-19 spending plan represents an increase of $3.9 million over the previous year. Notable increases were in the areas of salary and benefits, special education and transportation. More than $400,000 is attributed to mandated increases to the Public School Employees Retirement System, which has increased by 74 percent just over the last five years.

Nearly half of the millage increase – 0.319 mills – is allocated to offset the debt service payment for the capital construction projects currently underway, which includes the construction of a new 8-lane pool; the addition of a multi-use complex adjacent to the high school stadium; and the completion of Boyce athletic field facilities. Construction began in the spring of 2018 and will be completed in August 2019.
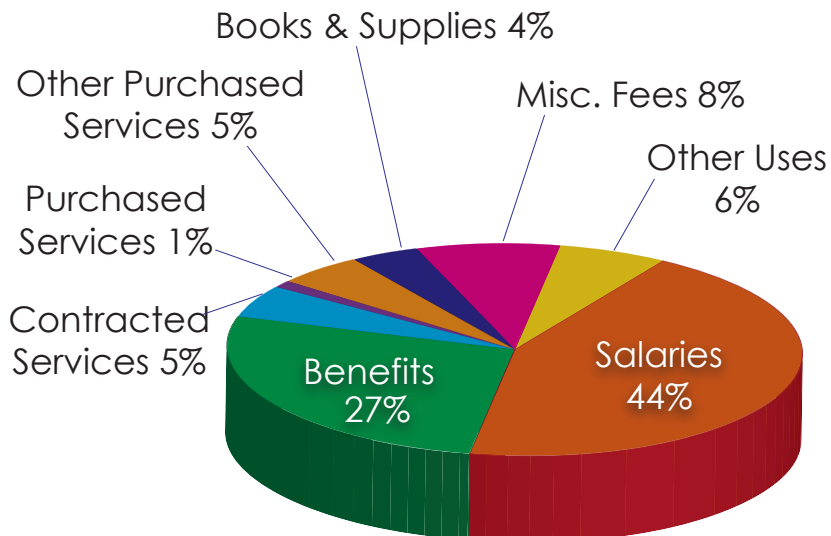
Several other capital improvement projects include tile floor replacement in the gymnasiums at Baker and Streams elementary schools; security camera installation at Fort Couch Middle School; replacement of two gas kilns with electric kilns at the high school; and various maintenance items throughout the district.

In January 2019, for the second year in a row, the school board approved a resolution limiting any 2019-20 tax increase to within the inflationary index determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Passage of the resolution assures taxpayers that any proposed increase to the real estate tax rate will not exceed 2.3 percent or 0.5947869 mills.

2018-19 Budgeted Revenue: $83,613,295

Federal 2%
Local 77%
State 21%

2018-19 Budgeted Expenditures: $83,620,353

Books & Supplies 4%
Other Purchased Services 5%
Misc. Fees 8%
Purchased Services 1%
Other Uses 6%
Contracted Services 5%
Benefits 27%
Salaries 44%

National Exams

129
129 USC students earned the designation of AP Scholar – including nine National AP Scholars. These students earned recognition for their exceptional achievement in the college-level Advanced Placement Program.
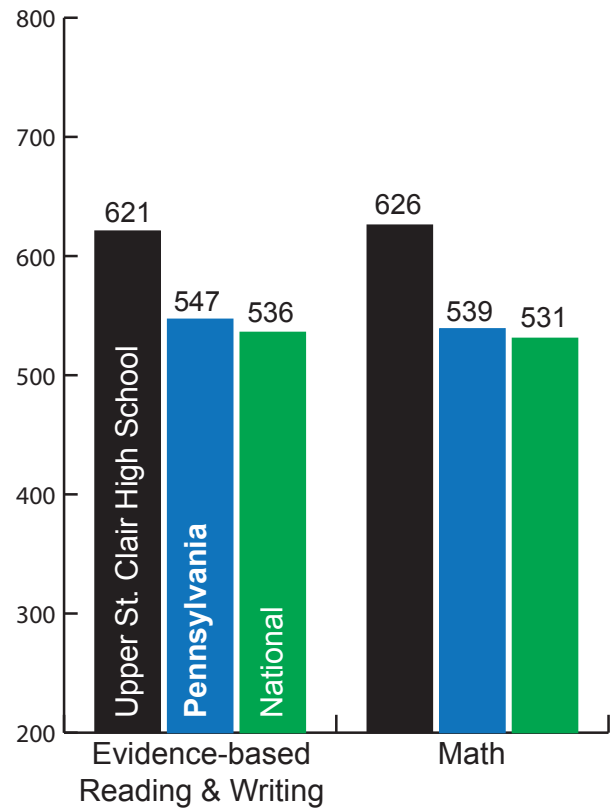
20
Twenty seniors were recognized by the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Four were named Semifinalists – scoring in the top one percent of all test takers – and 16 earned recognition as Commended Students. Students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT during the fall of their junior year.
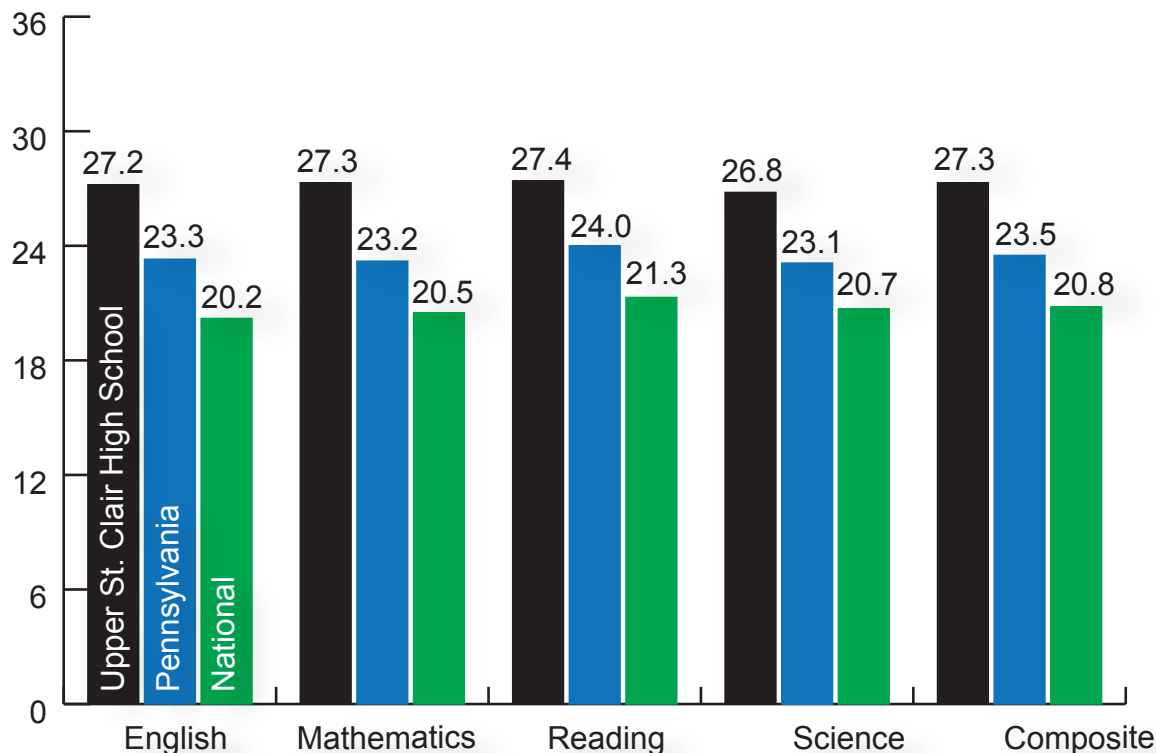
158
158 new members were inducted into the Upper St. Clair High School chapter of the National Honor Society.

2018 SAT averages

	Upper St. Clair High School	Pennsylvania	National
Evidence-based Reading & Writing	621	547	536
Math	626	539	531

2018 ACT averages

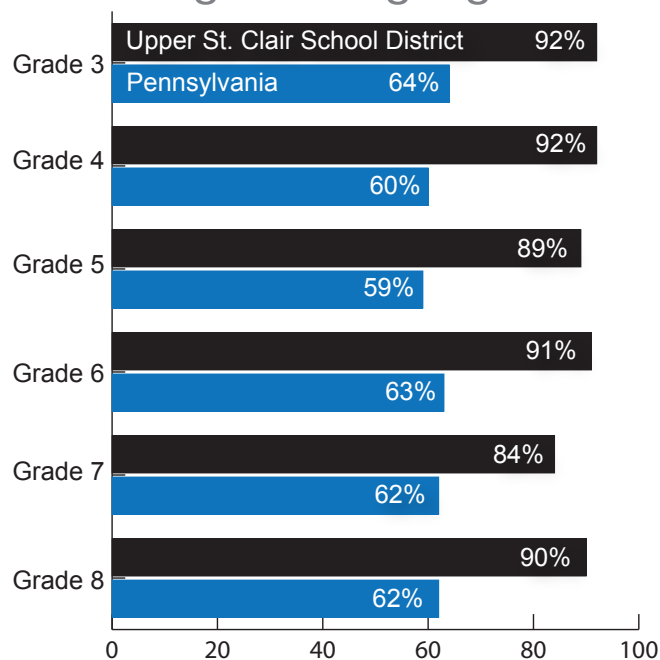|	Upper St. Clair High School	Pennsylvania	National
English	27.2	23.3	20.2
Mathematics	27.3	23.2	20.5
Reading	27.4	24.0	21.3
Science	26.8	23.1	20.7
Composite	27.3	23.5	20.8

Statewide Exams

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment used to measure students' attainment of academic standards. Students in grades 3 through 8 are assessed in English Language Arts and math. Students in grades 4 and 8 are also assessed in science.
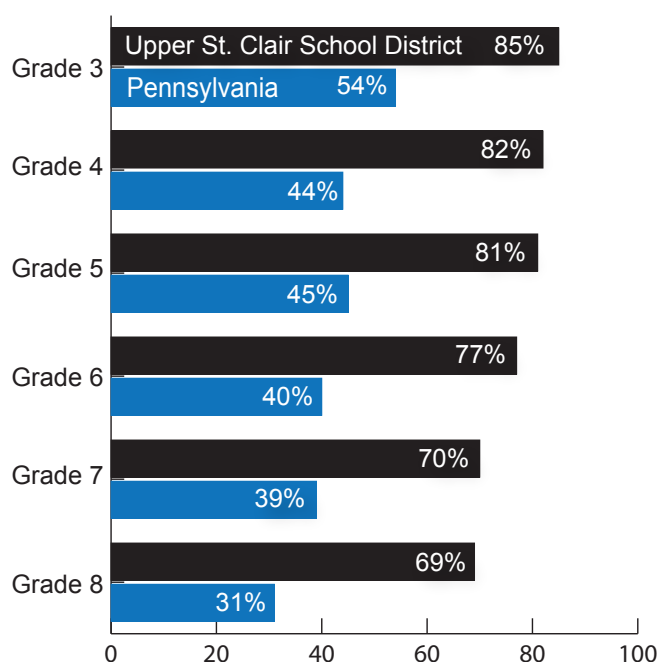
Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to measure proficiency in algebra, literature and biology. Exams are administered as students complete each course. For most students, biology is completed in grade 9; literature in grade 10; and Algebra I ranges from as early as grade 6 through grade 9.
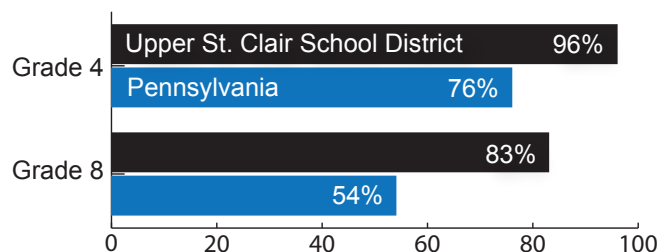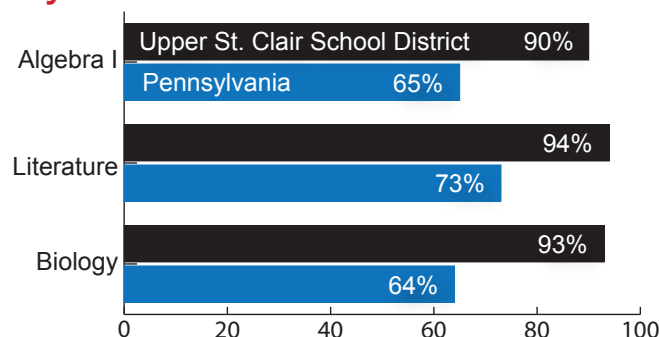

PSSA: English Language Arts

Grade	Upper St. Clair School District	Pennsylvania
Grade 3	92%	64%
Grade 4	92%	60%
Grade 5	89%	59%
Grade 6	91%	63%
Grade 7	84%	62%
Grade 8	90%	62%

PSSA: Mathematics

Grade	Upper St. Clair School District	Pennsylvania
Grade 3	85%	54%
Grade 4	82%	44%
Grade 5	81%	45%
Grade 6	77%	40%
Grade 7	70%	39%
Grade 8	69%	31%

PSSA: Science

Grade	Upper St. Clair School District	Pennsylvania
Grade 4	96%	76%
Grade 8	83%	54%

Keystone Exams

	Upper St. Clair School District	Pennsylvania
Algebra I	90%	65%
Literature	94%	73%
Biology	93%	64%

Where are they now?

University of Akron
University of Alabama
Allegheny College
American University
Appalachian State University
Baldwin Wallace University
Belmont University
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Brigham Young University
Brown University
Bucknell University
California University of Pennsylvania
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
Carlow University
Case Western Reserve University
Charleston Southern University
College of Charleston
Chatham University
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
Clemson University
Columbia University
Community College of Allegheny County
Community College of Denver
Cornell University
University of Dayton
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Duquesne University
Eastern Kentucky University
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
University of Florida
Gannon University
The George Washington University
Grove City College
Harvard University
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Indiana University at Bloomington
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
James Madison University
John Carroll University
Kent State University
University of Kentucky
La Roche College
Lehigh University
Marietta College
Mercyhurst University
Messiah College
Miami University, Oxford

class of 2018 USC

Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
New York University
North Carolina State University
University of North Texas
Northwestern University
University of Notre Dame
Oberlin College of Arts & Sciences
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Palomar College

Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania State University Erie
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Pittsburgh Technical College
Point Park University
Purdue University
Robert Morris University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Francis University
Saint Louis University
Saint Vincent College
San Diego State University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seton Hill University
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida, Tampa
University of Tampa
Temple University
University of Texas, Austin
Thiel College
Tulane University
United States Air Force Academy
Vanderbilt University
University of Vermont
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Wake Forest University
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington & Lee University
Waynesburg University
Weatherford College
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
West Virginia University
College of William and Mary
Williams College
The College of Wooster
Xavier University
Yeshiva University
Youngstown State University

2018 Highlights . . . .

District & School Recognition

- For the third year in a row, Upper St. Clair School District was named among the nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. USC is one of only 14 school districts in Allegheny County, 84 in Pennsylvania and 583 from across the country to earn the distinction in 2018.

- Upper St. Clair High School ranks among the top high schools in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report. The newspaper released its list of 2018 Best High Schools on May 9, 2018. Ranked 16th in Pennsylvania and fourth in Allegheny County, Upper St. Clair High School was recognized with a Silver Medal.

- Boyce Middle School is one of 158 schools to be recognized as a Title I Distinguished School in the 2018-19 school year by the Pa. Department of Education, Division of Federal Programs.

Leadership

- Dr. Sharon Suritsky, assistant/ deputy superintendent, was named a 2018 AASA Women in School Leadership Award honoree in the Central Office/Principal category.

- Amy Pfender, director of student support services, received the 2018 University of Pittsburgh School of Education's Distinguished Departmental Alumni Award from the Department of Administrative & Policy Studies.

- The Pennsylvania Principals Association named Dan Beck, high school assistant principal, to its newly established Assistant Principal at Large board position. He will represent the perspective of assistant principals as related to the work of an educational leader; serve as a key practitioner's voice on the Board of Directors; as well as providing input related to the needs and concerns of assistant principals.

- High school social studies teacher Ben Edwards received the Outstanding Educator Award from the University of Chicago. The Office of College Admissions grants the award to teachers who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the education and personal development of their students.

- High school science teacher Douglas Petrick was named a 2018 WileyPLUS Nexty Award Winner in the category of Best Overall Course. The award recognizes instructors who have developed exemplary courses that are evaluated on four major areas: course design, assessment, integration of adaptive practice, and overall usage metrics.

- High school English teacher Elizabeth Cecelia was honored with the Alumni Leading Teacher Program Excellence Award from the Duquesne University School of Education. The award is given to an alumnus whose performance demonstrates excellence in one of the three themes of the Leading Teacher Program: leadership, diversity and technology.

- Jennifer Kirk, high school counselor and curriculum leader, was honored with the 2018 Chi Sigma Iota, Delta Upsilon Chapter Outstanding Site Supervisor Award from the Duquesne University Counseling Program.

- Two Boyce Middle School teachers received the Promising Practitioners Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education. English language arts teachers Amy Homer and Morgan Olsen were recognized at the PAMLE 2018 Conference in State College.

Upper St. Clair High School students raised $41,098 through its second annual Mini-THON – exceeding their goal of $30,000. The event benefits Four Diamonds, an organization that assists children who are battling cancer and their families at Penn State Health Children's Hospital in Hershey.