

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS APRIL 2019

STREAMS

Students participated in the 3rd Annual Singing Saturday, a program of the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus, on March 30th at North Hills Middle School. During the day-long singing event, more than 140 fourth and fifth grade students from across the region performed seven multi-part choral pieces.

Students include:

Beckett Cummins

Ryan Katukota

James (Jack) Tencer

ALL DISTRICT

Upper St. Clair School District has been named among the nation's Best Communities for Music Education, by the NAMM Foundation, for the 4th consecutive year. Upper St. Clair is one of only 14 school districts in Allegheny County, 92 in Pennsylvania and 624 from across the country to earn the distinction. According to the NAAM Foundation, this award recognizes that Upper St. Clair School District is leading the way with learning opportunities, as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children. The NAAM Foundation is a nonprofit organization supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its members around the world.

FORT COUCH

Students placed Third in the 2019 Pittsburgh Regional PA Media and Design Competition on March 20th at Senator John Heinz History Center. During the competition, students presented their programming, design and film projects.

Students include:

Third Place: Shiven Verma

(Middle School Programming Category)

Third Place: Autumn Ma and Reese Roesenthaler

(Middle School Web Page Design)

A team of students took Top Honors in the recent Fluid Power Challenge on March 22nd at the Carpenters Training Center in Robinson Township, PA. The team won First Overall, Best Teamwork and Best Design.

Presenting students include:

Alexander (Alex) Todd

John Scherer

Reese Copenhaver

Ty Lagoni

Phillip Markovitz

Matthew (Matt) Earley

Colin Eccher

Mahir Parmar

A team of students placed First in the 6-8 grade division at the regional STEM Design Challenge on March 6th at Duquesne University. The STEM Design Challenge tasks teams of students with designing and building a structure using K'Nex, which address a given challenge. Teams are required to use at least one motor and can not exceed 1,400 K'Nex pieces. They will now compete at the state-level competition in Harrisburg on May 17th.

First place students include:

Matthew Early

Phillip Markovitz

Quinton Miller

Evan Sarkett

A team of students was selected as one of 24 regional winners at the 27th Annual ExploraVision Program, which is the largest K-12 science competition designed to build problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills. The students proposed a breakthrough project – Coronary Artery Disease Prevention System (C.A.D.P.S.) – that would treat and/or prevent coronary artery disease through the use of nanobots.

The team included:

Carter McClintock-Comeaux

Daniel Wang

Peer Khan

CENTRAL OFFICE

Upper St. Clair School District's Director of Business and Finance, Scott Burchill, has been elected to the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) Board of Directors. Mr. Burchill leads the District's business office and oversees the areas of transportation, food service, operations and maintenance. He will begin his term on the PASBO Board on July 1, 2019.

HIGH SCHOOL

Gifted Education Teacher, Patricia Palazzolo, has been named one of three K-12 educators to receive the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Foundation Educator Achievement Awards. She is being honored for her efforts to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The awarded educators will be recognized with a crystal apple at AIAA Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.

Students placed First and Second in the 2019 Pittsburgh Regional PA Media and Design Competition on March 20th at Senator John Heinz History Center. During the competition, students presented their programming, design and film projects. Those who won First place will compete in the state competition at Dickinson College this May.

Students include:

First Place: Phoebe Chen, Sophie Chen and Shana Reddy

(Web Design Category – Their website, Drop of Life, was created from scratch and provides information about the causes, effects, and solutions for the clean water crisis in both developing and developed countries.)

Second Place: Nikhil Shetty

(Graphic Design and Logo Category)

Student, Annabel McQuillan, was selected through competitive audition to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All State Choir. She placed Second Chair, out of 26 students, in the Alto 2 Section of Region Choir. She will perform at the All-State Festival April 3-7.

Upper St. Clair High School was recently honored with a Golden Globe Award from the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association as part of its PSMLA Exemplary Program (PEP) Awards Showcase. Upper St. Clair is one of only three high schools in Allegheny County to earn the Golden Globe. The PEP Awards honor exemplary Pennsylvania high school world language programs. More than 85% of Upper St. Clair High School students are enrolled in world language courses that include French, German, Spanish, Latin, Chinese and Japanese.

Student, Phoebe Chen, has been named the First Place winner of the 2019 Center Ohio Flute Association (COFA) Competition in the Junior Division. She performed Henri Büsser: Prelude Scherzo, Op. 35 and George Philipp Telemann: Fantasia No. 1 in A Major. The Competition was held on April 6th at Ohio State University, School of Music.

The Make-A-Wish Student Club recently presented nearly \$5800 to Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The donation will more than fully fund one wish for a qualifying child. Members of the USC Make-A-Wish Club will next be manning a booth at the Upper St. Clair Community Day on May 18th – all proceeds will be added to next year's Make-A-Wish donation.

Students recently raised \$58,476.69 through the Third Annual USC Mini-THON – exceeding their \$50,000 goal. 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. Mini-THON kicked-off at 6:30pm on Friday, April 5th and nearly 350 high school students were on their feet, in support of families who are battling childhood cancer.