

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
FEBRUARY, 2017

High School

Congratulations to the following choir students for successfully auditioning into PMEA Region Choir, on February 23 - 25 at Gateway High School:

Eva Schenker (Soprano 1)
Carly DeCock (Soprano 2)
Mackenzie Damon (Alto 1)
Jonah Glunt (Tenor 1)
Logan Reynolds (Tenor 1)
Wyatt Keating (Tenor 2)
Christian Jones (Bass 1)
Andrew Rauber (Bass 1)
Connor Halloran (Bass 1)
Jack Smith (Bass 2)

Two Upper St. Clair High School juniors were named among the 11 winners of the 2017 Young Artists Auditions, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Concert Society. Violinist Minori Hayakawa and pianist Ariana Chiu earned the opportunity to perform in a recital on March 26 at Carnegie Mellon University and will each receive an Anna and Benjamin Perlow Scholarship to help further their musical education.

The Parkway West Career and Technology Center has been awarded the Career Technical Education Excellence Award. Each year the Pennsylvania Department of Education recognizes those schools that have at least 75% of their students who participated in the Student Occupational Competency Testing Program achieve a score at the Advanced Level. This will be Parkway's second year in a row receiving this prestigious award. Dr. Darby L. Copeland, Executive Director at Parkway, accepted the award at the CTE Celebration Dinner on February 16th.

Congratulations to high school junior, Robbie Halpner on having his composition, *Tarantella*, chosen as a winning selection in the High School level in PMEA's 2017 Composition Program. The piece will be performed at the PMEA State Conference in Erie in April.

Congratulations are extended to the following National Merit 2017 Finalist Students:

Paul Abrams
Amna Amin
Aditi Chattopadhyay
Devon Garcia
Macey Kaplan
Arushi Kewalramani
Tanmayee Mahajan
Malcolm Miller
Murphy Miller
Vicki Wang
Claire Zalla

Congratulations are extended to the Parkway West Career and Technology Center Director's List of Honor Students for the second quarter of the 2016 – 2017 school year:

Lucas Gillespie – BCT
Alyssa Perry – Health Assistant
Anna Perry – DMM
Julie Swiech – Veterinary Asst. II

The Upper St. Clair High School dance team earned first place honors in the large-school varsity jazz division at the JAMfest Dance Super Nationals, Feb. 18-19, 2017, in Covington, Ky.

The USC dance team, coached by Megan Kamberis, competed against schools from 10 states. The team's victory at JAMfest caps off an undefeated season, having earned first place at all competitions.

In addition, five dance team members competed as soloists. Faley Bulazo placed second and Emma Artnak placed fourth in the senior lyrical division. Anna DiPasquale placed second and Peyton Ciesco placed third in the junior lyrical division. And, Jesse Quiroga placed sixth in the junior jazz division.

Upper St. Clair varsity dance team members include Cara Amatangelo, Emma Artnak, Faley Bulazo (captain), Ashley Burkett, Peyton Ciesco, Taylor Depolo, Kalina Deutsch, Anna DiPasquale, Julia Geisler, Sammy Koller, Maria Lugares, Melanie McGinniss, Emma Mertz, Jesse Quiroga, Tia Watts, and Lexie Wirth.

Ft. Couch

A team of Fort Couch Middle School students finished second among a field of 28 teams in the 2017 Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition held on Jan. 21, 2017, at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. The Fort Couch team's presentation was led by eighth graders Christian Chiu, Richa Mahajan and Sophia Shi.

In addition to second place, the Fort Couch team earned three special awards including Excellence in Systems Integration, given by Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania; Best Management of Water Resources, from AECOM; and 17-Year Anniversary School, presented by ESWP and Carnegie Science Center.

Boyce

On February 4, 2017, a team of Boyce students competed in the regional America Bowl held at Baldwin High School. The students competed against approximately thirty other area school districts and captured 1st place. The team consists of fifth grade students Marco Carone, Louis Gargani, Shiven Verma and Jhoran Laffin.

Elementary/Middle School

Congratulations to all the Upper St. Clair students who participated in their school's spelling bee this past January. The five first-place winners will go on to represent Upper St. Clair and their respective school at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee to be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Robert Morris University.

School- by- school results are as follows:

Baker – 1/9/17

First Place - Ryan Popp
Second Place - Hannah Del
Third Place - Lily Pritts
Fourth Place - Avery Neal
Fifth Place - Sofia Jahn

Boyce – 1/31/17

First Place - Alexander Todd
Second Place - Keshav Narasimhan
Third Place - Matvey Zoukovski
Fourth Place - Carter McClintock-Comeaux

Fifth Place - Jhoran Laffin

Eisenhower – 1/26/17

First Place - Olivia Hong

Second Place - Noah Gidas

Third Place - Eitan Schwartz

Fourth Place - Jamie Barrett

Fifth Place - Shresht Rawat

Ft. Couch – 1/18/17

First Place - Christian Chiu

Second Place - Shana Reddy

Third Place - Alex LeKachman

Fourth Place - Arunprakash Vasudevan

Fifth Place - Dev Patel

Streams – 1/23/17

First Place - Rohan Mehta

Second Place - Shriya Narasimhan

Third Place - Caleb Guarino

Fourth Place - Violet Rizer

Fifth Place - Carlee Santel