

## COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

February 2020

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

A team of Upper St. Clair High School students – Botsburgh #11792 – has qualified to compete at the Pennsylvania FIRST Tech Challenge Championship on Feb. 29 and March 1, 2020, at Red Lion Area Senior High School, located near York, Pa. Team members include:

Nathan Scher, Junior

Varun Damarla, Sophomore

Sambhav Saggi, Sophomore

Sujay Shah, Sophomore

Nitish Sharma, Sophomore

Sahil Bhalodia, Freshman

The students are coached by Hunaid Nulwala, Ph.D., Ketan Shah and Alan Scher as well as Upper St. Clair senior Moez Nulwala, who serves as a mentor. The FIRST Tech Challenge is an international robotics competition for students in grades seven through 12. Botsburgh qualified for the state competition by placing third in the Inspire Award category at the West Central Pennsylvania Qualifier on December 7, 2019, in Johnstown. The team was recognized for hosting several community events at the Upper St. Clair Township Library aimed at introducing Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) to young children.

Two Upper St. Clair High School students recently earned first place finishes at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region 7 competition on February 1, 2020, at Duquesne University – advancing to the state-level competition. Freshman Keshav Narasimhan completed independent research and a presentation titled, “A Mathematical Model to Predict Crohn's Flare-Up.” Junior Sophia Shi, who participated in a research internship with the UPMC Aging Institute last summer, focused her research/presentation on, “Regulation of Deubiquitinase Activity in Mitophagy.” Students earning a first-place award are invited to present their experiment at the state competition May 17-19, 2020, at the Pennsylvania State University in State College.

Two Upper St. Clair students were award winners in the Parkway West Career & Technology Center SkillUSA District Competition. The place winners are:

Lucas Gillespie – 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Building Construction

Gabrielle Caudill – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Cosmetology

As a First Place Winner, Lucas will advance to state competition April 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in Hershey, PA.

### **BOYCE**

A team of Boyce Middle School students recently placed first at the annual Science Bowl at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The team members included sixth grader Ayan Singh Amin and fifth graders Erika Metzger, Mackenzie Pope and Jonah Zahalsky.

## **FORT COUCH / EISENHOWER**

Two Upper St. Clair students recently took home first-place trophies in their respective sections at the 22nd Tri-State Junior Chess Open. Fort Couch Middle School eighth grader Jack Lowden topped the Advanced Beginner section while Eisenhower Elementary second grader Brayden Wong captured the Intermediate section.