

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

January 2022

HIGH SCHOOL

An Upper St. Clair High School junior has been named among the 18 Under Eighteen honorees by Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania (JA). Yoshna Venkataraman, along with the other 17 honorees from throughout the region, will be recognized at a reception on Feb. 22, 2022, at the National Aviary. Yoshna was nominated by Dr. Stephen Torquato, Jr., Upper St. Clair High School social studies teacher, National Honor Society advisor and yearbook co-advisor. As a student-leader, Yoshna is involved with several organizations including Student Council, the school's Junior Mentors program, and is the founder of the Mending Mindset, an organization that focuses on mental health awareness at USCHS.

Several Upper St. Clair High School musicians were recently selected by competitive audition to participate at upcoming Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 1 chorus and jazz festivals.

The **PMEA District 1 Chorus Festival** will be held Feb. 9-11, 2022, at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. The following Upper St. Clair students were selected to participate:

- Kaitlyn Clougherty, Soprano 1
- Rebecca Lang, Soprano 1
- Ella Elkoni, Alto 1
- Hannah James, Alto 1
- Hannah Rieger, Alto 1
- Skyler Bruno, Alto 2
- Santina Guarino, Alto 2
- Sia Iyer, Alto 2
- Edy McCurrie, Alto 2
- Adam Levine, Bass 1

The **PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz Band Festival** will be held Feb. 4-5, 2022, at Seton Hill University. Participants from Upper St. Clair include:

Band 1

- Patrick Wherry, Trumpet 5
- Brian McFerran, Trombone 2
- Rebecca Lang, Bass

Band 2

- Gabe Pacella, Trumpet 1
- Carter Chui, Trumpet 3
- Ben Wasson, Trombone 4 (Bass)
- Jason Lin, Piano

The following High School students made the Director's List of Honor Students for the first quarter of 2021-2022 at Parkway Career and Technical Center:

- Luca Afanador – Cyber Security
- Shane Ayoub – Auto Body
- Rachale Caskey – Veterinary Assistant
- Lia Cortolillo – Auto Body
- Samuel Keating – Auto Body
- Jacob Lowe – Diesel
- Zachary Musser – EST
- Nicholas Pantelidis – EST
- Lily Stevenson – Cosmetology
- Gabriel Tran – Graphic Arts
- Stephen Williams - Welding

FORT COUCH

Two teams of Fort Couch Middle School students recently tied for first place in the 6th-8th grade division of the regional History Bowl at the Senator John Heinz History Center. The following students made up the eighth-grade team:

- Sofia Alfredson Themudo
- Chloe Bird
- Sara Gillespie
- Kaia Petrick
- Ellie Simons

The seventh-grade team participants include:

- Molly Biedrzycki
- Emma Eannarino
- Lizzie Myers
- Hayley Zeringue

“Throughout the day-long event students used their knowledge of the humanities, along with problem solving, reasoning, critical thinking skills and creativity as they completed four competitive experiences,” Connie Gibson, gifted education coordinator, said.

Poems from two Fort Couch Middle School students were recently selected for publication in the Creative Communication poetry contest. Published poets include seventh graders Anelise Castrodale and Erin Wells. Erin's poem, “Demons,” and Anelise's poem, “Take Me Back,” will be published in a student poetry anthology. Only the top 45 percent of poetry entries are included in the anthology.

A team of Fort Couch Middle School students placed second in the Core Values competition while another Fort Couch team earned special recognition in the Regional FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotics Grand Championship. The event was held on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, at Sewickley Academy.

The team that earned second place, among 33 teams in the Core Values competition include the following students:

- Ian Putorti
- Daniyal Badaruddin
- Callum Pollock
- Preston McLeod
- Ryan Katukota
- Miles Unger

The team named themselves The Unreliable Delivery Service.

The team that received special recognition for their Innovation Project include the following students:

- Jillian Paoly
- Sofia Alfredson Themudo
- Zahra Khan
- Adam Henry
- Liam Dunn
- Jacob Clougherty

The team named themselves Transportation Haven and they were tasked with improving the transportation of products.

BOYCE

A Boyce Middle School student placed first in the annual CalcuSolve competition for grades 5-6. Sixth grader John Whitman was the only participant among approximately 350 students to achieve a perfect score. The online event was held Nov. 18, 2021.