

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
JUNE, 2018

Staff

An Upper St. Clair High School English teacher was recently recognized by the Duquesne University School of Education. Elizabeth Cecelia was honored with the Alumni Leading Teacher Program Excellence Award.

The award is given to an alumna whose performance demonstrates excellence in one of the three themes of the Leading Teacher Program: leadership, diversity and technology.

Ms. Cecelia was honored with a plaque and will be featured in the Duquesne University School of Education's magazine.

High School

Upper St. Clair High School senior Jonah Auslander was recently awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship. Jonah will participate in the summer NSLI-Y program, administered by American Cultural Exchange Service, in Moscow, Russia.

Jonah, along with 14 other American high school students from across the United States, will spend six weeks in Moscow studying the Russian language intensively while living with a Russian host family and participating in local cultural activities.

Upper St. Clair High School junior Paarth Shankar placed ninth at the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament held May 26-27, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Paarth, a national semifinalist, competed in the Extemporaneous Speaking event.

In addition to Paarth, three other Upper St. Clair High School students finished among the top 50 in their respective events. The team of seniors Wyatt Keating and Shebl Rosati placed 37th in Duo Interpretation of Literature and sophomore Shanthi Krishnaswamy placed 44th in Original Oratory.

Two members of the Upper St. Clair High School class of 2018 have earned college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and their respective universities.

Michael R. Hrehocik earned a National Merit Rochester Institute of Technology Scholarship. He plans to pursue a degree in game design and development.

Spencer Miller, who will study mathematics, earned a National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

Middle/High School

Two Upper St. Clair teams placed among the top 10 in their divisions at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, held May 23-26, 2018, at Iowa State University.

In their fourth trip to the OM World Finals, Upper St. Clair High School students earned third place for their performance and seventh place overall. Their team, which competed in division three (high school) includes ninth graders Victoria Cuba, Brianna Lin, Joseph Markovitz, Max Murtough, Sammie Seewald, Constantine Tripodes and Eric Wang.

A team of Boyce Middle School students earned a ninth place finish in division one (elementary). The team is comprised of fifth graders Jake Casares, Anastasia Gzikowski, Esha Lathia, Owen Mucho, Ben Murtough and Ben Seewald, and fourth grader Peter Markovitz. This marked the team's first time competing in the OM World Finals.

Both teams advanced to the World Finals by placing among the top two at both the regional and state tournaments in the spring.

Middle School

Sixth grader Libby Eannarino and eighth grader Daniel Wang were crowned Grand Champions at the regional 24 Challenge competition on May 8, 2018, at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Libby finished first in the grade 6 division and Daniel took first place in the seven/eight division.

More than 80 students in grades four through eight from Allegheny County competed at the AIU's regional competition. In addition to Libby and Daniel, seven other Upper St. Clair middle school students competed at the regional competition – all of whom advanced to the semifinals.

- **Grade 5:** Shawn Khurana and Joshua Anand
- **Grade 6:** Shubham Patel and Dhruv Saggi
- **Grade 7:** Keshav Narasimhan, Qadir Khan and Ipsita Singh

In addition to the regional 24 Challenge competition, several Upper St. Clair students successfully competed in the local South Hills Tournament on April 30, 2018, at West Jefferson Hills School District.

At the sixth grade level, Libby Eannarino, Shubham Patel and Dhruv Saggi finished first, second and third, respectively. In the fifth grade division, Joshua Anand came in fourth. And, in the seven/eight division, Fort Couch students Keshav Narasimhan, Daniel Wang and Qadir Khan swept first, second and third, respectively.

A team of Fort Couch Middle School students took top honors in the recent Fluid Power Challenge – earning first overall and best teamwork in the engineering competition, which was held at the Community College of Allegheny County – North Campus in McCandless Township. Several Fort Couch students worked on the project with the following representing Upper St. Clair's two submissions at the competition: Phillip Markovitz, Evan Sarkett, Matt Earley, Collin Eccher, Ritvik Shah, Evan Tefft, Isha Sinha and Adam Zheng.

The National Fluid Power Association Fluid Power Challenge is a competition that encourages middle school students to solve an engineering problem using fluid power.

On Challenge Day, each team submits its design and then must build the machine and prepare for the timed competition. Prizes are awarded for the best portfolio, teamwork, design and overall winner.

A team of seventh graders from Fort Couch Middle School earned first place honors at the statewide 2018 STEM Design Challenge on May 18, 2018, at Harrisburg University. Team members include Matthew Earley, Phillip Markovitz, Quinton Miller, Evan Sarkett and John Scherer.

The Fort Couch team developed and built a robotic arm that could help around the house by doing dishes, cooking, and many other things while being powered by a piezoelectric floor throughout the house.

Boyce Middle School sixth grader Luke Bishop recently achieved a perfect score of 25 in the international Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle School program.

Within Luke's division, there were 79,280 participants with only 196 of whom achieved a perfect score. His accomplishment was recognized with the George Lenchner Award, a special medallion named for the organization's founder.

In addition, five Boyce students earned the Gold Pin for scoring among the top two percent with a score of 23 or 24. Gold Pin awardees include fifth graders Jamie Barrett, Sam Berger and Esha Lathia; and sixth graders Alex Sun and Arjun Suresh.

Silver Pins were earned by 11 students who scored among the top 10 percent. Earning Silver Pin awardees include Reese Copenhaver, Ryan LaRocco, Tyler McClintock-Comeaux, Leona Chen, Mahir Parmar, Eitan Schwartz, Yuhong Shi, Grace Myers, Brian McFerran, Arya Patel and Shiven Verma.

Overall, Boyce Middle School's team won the school's sixth consecutive plaque for placing in the top 10 percent.

Boyce Middle School's accelerated math team was named to the National Math Olympiad Honor Roll for placing among the top 10 percent of all competing teams. This marks the sixth consecutive year for this honor.