

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
MARCH, 2017

All Levels

Of the 19 Upper St. Clair teams that competed in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament, a record high of 10 teams qualified to advance to the state competition. The advancing teams are comprised of students from all six Upper St. Clair schools.

First Place:

Vehicle Problem - Michael Conte, Armen Pettit, Jack Lowden, Anushka Sharma, Virginia Gaither, Taylor Latiolais, Tyler McClintock-Comeaux

Classics Problem - Sara Hess, Antara Cleetus, Shivani Jajoo, Bryce Keating, Joe Phillips, Chris Jahn

Vehicle Problem - Matthew Earley, Carter McClintock-Comeaux, Daniel Seewald, Philip Markovitz, Josilyn Seftchick, Grace Kelly, Marina Gzikowski

Performance Problem - Joseph Markovitz, Max Murtough, Constantine Tripodes, Brianna Lin, Victoria Cuba, Eric Wang, Sammie Seewald

Second Place:

Vehicle Problem - Collin Rosenberg, Geneva Eisinger, Lauren Ginsburg, Kurt Baran, Lily Simons, Ellie Simons

Vehicle Problem - Jacob Conte, Yash Jajoo, Maggie Lowden, Christina Conte, Gracie Lowden, Isabella Putorti, Vivek Babu

Balsa Problem - Jeffery Zhang, Anand Jani, Colin Green, Ben Ross, Holt Eberhardt, Devesh Jani, Harrison Barker

Classics Problem - Anastasia Gzikowski, Esha Lathia, Stella Moss, Ben Murtough, Jake Casares, Peter Markovitz, Ben Seewald

Performance Problem - Rachel Thomas, Shubham Patel, Garrett Ziegler, Neil Joon, Leah Levine, Katie Kucherawry, Janelle Knierim

Performance Problem - Taylor Gibbs, Lylah Kateeb, Camryn Friday, Natalia DiSora, Sadie Tomczyk, Chloe Faist and Anoushka Barve

High School

Senior Harvey Kane captured first place in the long jump at the 2017 Pennsylvania Track & Field Coaches Association Indoor State Championships on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, at Penn State University.

With a mark of 23 feet and half an inch, Harvey became the first Upper St. Clair athlete to win an Indoor Track State Championship and the only USC long jumper to ever hit the 23 feet milestone.

Upper St. Clair High School Associate Principal for Program Planning & Innovation Timothy M. Wagner, Ed.D. has been named an Early Career Awardee from the University of Pittsburgh School of Education.

The Early Career Award recognizes recent alumni with less than 10 years of professional experience for their outstanding accomplishments in the classroom, administration, support services and/or extra-curricular activities and programs.

Three Upper St. Clair High School students have been selected through competitive audition to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Choir. Mackenzie Damon, Jonah Glunt and Jack Smith will perform in the All-State Festival April 19-22, 2017, at the PMEA State Conference in Erie. Auditions for the All-State Choir were held during the PMEA Region 1 Choir Festival Feb. 22-24 at Gateway High School.

Seven Upper St. Clair High School wrestlers finished in the top five at the WPIAL Class AAA Section 2 Championships – including two section champs, Eli Grape and Thomas Kyle. The section championships were held Feb. 25, 2017, at Connellsville Area Senior High School. The top five finishers in each section and weight classification advance to the WPIAL Class AAA Tournament. Also competing at the WPIALs will be Jake Slinger, who earned a third place finish; Tyler Curtiss, who came in fourth; and fifth place finishers Dan Kyle, Harvey Rauch and Grant Walnoha.

The Upper St. Clair boys' and girls' swim teams finished third overall in the WPIAL Championships on March 2-3 at the University of Pittsburgh's Trees Pool. In addition, all USC relay teams, qualified to compete in individual events at the PIAA Championships on March 17, at Bucknell University.

Congratulations to the following swimmers that placed within the top ten at the WPIAL Championships.

Girls 200 Yard Medley Relay

3rd Place: Maeve Lersch, Maddie Yoos, Ynyra Bohan and Neele Minuth

Boys 200 Yard Medley Relay

4th Place: Jack Fitzpatrick, Nick Mudry, Jacob Jaime and Amatheon Bohan

Girls 200 Yard Freestyle

3rd Place: Abby Matheny

5th Place: Olivia Shaffer

Boys 200 Yard IM

1st Place: Jack Fitzpatrick

2nd Place: Nick Mudry

Girls 50 Yard Freestyle

4th Place: Maeve Lersch

Girls 100 Yard Butterfly

7th Place: Ynyra Bohan

Boys 100 Yard Butterfly

9th Place: Jacob Jaime

Boys 100 Yard Freestyle

7th Place: Brandon Novak

Girls 500 Yard Freestyle

2nd Place: Abby Matheny

3rd Place: Olivia Shaffer

Girls 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

2nd Place: Maeve Lersch, Neele Minuth, Olivia Shaffer and Abby Matheny

Boys 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

5th Place: Brandon Novak, Jacob Jaime, Ben Diffendal and Amatheon Bohan

Girls 100 Yard Backstroke

2nd Place: Maeve Lersch

4th Place: Lauren Connors

Boys 100 Yard Backstroke

2nd Place: Jack Fitzpatrick

Girls 100 Yard Breaststroke

6th Place: Maddie Yoos

Boys 100 Yard Breaststroke

4th Place: Nick Mudry

Girls 400 Yard Freestyle Relay

4th Place: Neele Minuth, Olivia Shaffer, Lauren Connors and Abby Matheny

Boys 400 Yard Freestyle Relay

6th Place: Brandon Novak, Ben Diffendal, David Frauen, Jack Fitzpatrick

A team of Upper St. Clair High School students took top honors in the 2017 Pittsburgh Data Jam competition on Feb. 23, 2017, at the University of Pittsburgh. Team members include Aditi Chattopadhyay, Mahima Reddy, Yash Lahoti, Kriti Shah and Brooke Christiansen. Upper St. Clair finished first among a field of more than 25 teams. USC team members were honored with a trophy and each will receive a FitBit.

Following her participation in the preliminary round of the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society 2017 Competition, Mahima Reddy has qualified to move on to the semi-final round of judging on Sunday, February 19th. Students from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware competed in the highly competitive first round of the high school division. The semi-final round will take place at The Mendel Theater of Drexel University in Philadelphia on April 8, 2017, with the final round on April 9, 2017.

In addition, Upper St. Clair High School has selected Mahima Reddy as this year's Good Citizen, making her eligible to apply for the scholarship program sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a national program that offers a Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest intended to foster and reward qualities of good citizenship. The scholarship portion of the program consists of a personal statement and an essay. Mahima entered the Scholarship Contest by writing an essay addressing the prompt, "How do the combined actions of many good citizens keep our nation moving forward?", for which she is currently a regional winner. Congratulations are extended to Mahima for her impressive achievement.

Upper St. Clair High School senior, Curt Leonard has been named a President's Volunteer Service Award winner and has earned national recognition for his exemplary service to the community. Curt was nominated by the Upper St. Clair High School Counseling Department in recognition of his volunteer service. The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their communities, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

Upper St. Clair High School senior Carly DeCock has been selected to perform in the All-Eastern Honors Treble Choir. Carly, a soprano 2, joins more than 800 of the most musically talented high school students in the eastern United States who will perform in the 2017 National Association for Music Education All-Eastern Honors Ensembles.

With assistance from her music teacher, Lorraine Milovac, Carly will prepare challenging music that will be performed under the leadership of prominent conductors during this biennial event. Performances will be held April 7-8, 2017, in Atlantic City.

The high school Speech and Debate Team has won the overall state championship in the 2017 PHSSL State Speech and Debate Tournament. Individual achievements include Rod Smith winning Commentary and the team of Caleb Troughtzmantz, Neale Misquitta, and Ethan Bowman winning Parliamentary Debate.

Several Upper St. Clair High School students earned honors in the High School Japanese Speech Contest on March 3, 2017, at the University of Pittsburgh. In the poster category, sophomore Maggie Bryant won first place honors and senior Eddie Celesti finished second. Earning second place in the speech contest was junior Anna Culhane and earning third place honors was senior Grace Eden.

More than 100 high school Japanese language learners of all levels compete in the regional speech and poster competition. Students participate in one of four speech levels according to their level of instruction. Students were accompanied by Japanese language teacher Sensei Junko Kapples.

Upper St. Clair School District has been selected as one of three national Grand Prize Winners in the 23rd annual Magna Awards program sponsored by the National School Boards Association's magazine, American School Board Journal, for its SHOP@USC program. The Magna Awards recognize school districts and their leaders for taking bold and innovative steps to improve the lives of their students and their communities.

SHOP, an acronym for Showing How Opportunity Pays, is a pioneering, student-run business, which operates fully through the collaboration between students with significant disabilities and their same age peers without disabilities. Congratulations are extended to the students of SHOP@USC, 17 of whom are part of the school's Life Skills Support Program, and their coordinator, Michelle Zirngibl.

Ft. Couch

A Fort Couch Middle School student has been named a semifinalist in the 2017 Pennsylvania State Geographic Bee. Eighth grader Atharva Barve scored among the top 104 on the qualifying exam that was administered to school-level champs throughout Pennsylvania.

The 2017 Pennsylvania Geographic Bee will be held on Friday, March 31, 2017, at The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The state winner will represent Pennsylvania in the National Geographic Bee finals May 14-17, 2017, at National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Two Fort Couch Middle School students were finalists in the Upper Division Scenes category in the 23rd Annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. Eighth graders Morgan Meddings and Kate McQuillan performed a scene from "The Two Gentlemen of Verona."

A panel of judges evaluated each performance and selected the finalists to compete in the Showcase of Finalists on Feb. 20, 2017.

Boyce/Ft. Couch

Principals Dan O'Rourke and Joseph DeMar accepted the Schools to Watch Awards on behalf of Boyce Middle School and Fort Couch Middle School, respectively. The schools were recognized at the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education State Conference on Feb. 26, 2017, in State College. This marks the fourth time that both schools have earned this honor.

Boyce

The following students were chosen to participate at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's Sing Fest on March 17, a day-long singing festival featuring elementary and middle school students from across Southwestern Pennsylvania. The festival is being held at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. All of the participants are members of the 6th grade chorus and musical programs at Boyce, under the direction of Mrs. Jennifer Noel Schetley.

Aashna Banerjee

Lily Gessel

Kady Haley

Ryan Higgs

Fifth grader Alex Sun earned the top score at the recent Pennsylvania Mathematics League contest at Boyce Middle School. Alex scored 31, narrowly defeating three competitors who trailed him by just one point. For the last five years Boyce Middle School's sixth graders have finished first or second in Pennsylvania. This year's statewide results will be announced later this spring. Following are the students that placed in the contest as individuals or with a team:

Accelerated Math Students

First Place: Alex Sun

Second Place: Rebecca Lang

Second Place: Phillip Markovitz

Second Place: Alex Todd

Third Place: Carter Chui

Third Place: Ben Wasson

Team Energy

First Place: Kyle Kerber

First Place: Ty Riemer

First Place: Drake Wangler

Team Predator

First Place: Noah Wagner

Second Place: Lauren Starr

Team Solar Power

First Place: Chase Neponuceno

Second Place: Priyanka Palayekar

Team Wind

First Place: Jason Lu

First Place: Ipsita Singh

Second Place: Owen Damon