

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS MAY 2019

BAKER

Baker Elementary was named the Rookie Site of the Year for the Kids of STEEL Program – a honor bestowed on the largest new site to the program. The announcement was made on May 4th at the starting line for the Pittsburgh Kids Marathon. The kids of STEEL program is an award-winning, physical activity and nutrition program offered free of charge to any interested classroom, school or youth organization. Over 110 students participated this year under the leadership of a school nurse and PTA volunteer, as well as many other Baker staff members and parent volunteers.

STREAMS

Sarah Sakowitz is one of 27 finalists in the 2019 WQED Writers Contest. Her story “The Dragonfly That Lived,” was selected from more than 1,000 entries from throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland and Delaware. Winners of the 2019 Writers Contest will be announced at the Winners Red Carpet celebration on Friday May 31st at WQED’s Fred Rogers Studio in Oakland.

BOYCE

The sixth-grade girls’ basketball team (team black) finished third in the state tournament, finishing the season 48-1. The team won both the Chartiers Valley and the South Hills Basketball League Championships. In addition, the girls finished first in each of the tournaments they competed in, including the West Allegheny Best of the West, The South Fayette February Frenzy, as well as the Upper St. Clair Tournament, which they hosted.

FORT COUCH

Two students earned high honors at the recent Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs Festivals Piano Competition on April 20th in Pittsburgh.

Winning students:

Leona Chen – First Place in respective level & First Place in overall competition among all levels.

Eva Twedt – First Place in respective level & Second Place in overall competition among all levels.

Three students earned individual honors at the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which was held March 29-30th at Heinz Field.

Winning students:

Ava Halligan & Mariyam Baytar – Sponsor award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for their project “Does the number of turbine blades affect the amount of energy produced?”.

Joseph Donnelly – Sponsor award from the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh for project “The Speed of Light in Gelatin”.

Noah Stein has been selected to compete for Team Pennsylvania at the U16 National Duals. Noah will wrestle in the 88-pound weight class in the national tournament June 11-15th in Spokane, Washington. Noah is one of only two Pennsylvania wrestlers selected to compete in his weight-class. In total, Team Pennsylvania is comprised of 27 wrestlers from 17 weight classes.

HIGH SCHOOL

Four students recently earned recognition in the 2019 Secondary School Chemistry Contest, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society. Winning students will be honored at the organization’s Annual Awards Dinner in May at Duquesne University.

Students included:

Christian Chiu – First Place

Richa Mahajan – Second Place

Julia Brubach – Second Place

Nicholas Devlin – Third Place

Junior, Lucas Gillespie, placed second in the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Championship in the Building Construction Category. Approximately 1400 students from throughout Pennsylvania participated in the 52nd SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Leadership Conference, which was held April 10-12th in Hershey, PA.

A team of students placed first at the Cultural Communications Alliance's Marketing Competition on April 30th at the University of Pittsburgh. Teams in the competition were tasked with preparing a marketing strategy to introduce GNC's Earth Genius SuperFoods Supreme to Japan.

Team members included:

Olivia Fera

Claudia Ng

Madeline Nolen

Katherine Li

Richa Mahajan

Two teams of students qualified to advance to the National Future Business Leaders of America competition, set for June 29-July 2nd in San Antonio, Texas. The Emerging Business Issues Team finished third in the Pennsylvania Competition. The Business Ethics Team placed fourth. The top four in each category at the state-level competition qualified for nationals. The FBLA State Leadership Conference was held April 8-10th in Hershey, PA.

Teams included:

Emerging Business Issues Team – Third Place

Mallika Matharu

Meghan Joon

Arushi Khaitan

Business Ethics Team – Fourth Place

Mathena Jencka

Anika Sinha

Olivia John

Two students earned individual honors, including one scholarship – at the Covestro Pittsburgh Science & Engineering Fair, which was held March 29-30th at Heinz Field.

Winners included:

Shanthi Krishnaswamy – Scholarship award to University of Pittsburgh, Bradford and Sponsor award from the U.S. Navy/U.S. Marine Corps for Project "A Self-Sustaining Aquaponic System".

Shana Reddy – Sponsor award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for Project "Investigating the Ecological Impact of Ocean Acidification".

Two students were named South Hills Area School Districts Association (SHASDA) Student Performance Award winners. They were honored during the Annual SHASDA Conference on April 27th at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe. Each year SHASDA presents awards to two students from each participating high school, who have demonstrated significant improvement in student performance and/or have overcome obstacles in their academic careers.

Students included:

Madison Zediker

Riley Davis

The Upper St. Clair High School has earned the rank of the top two percent of high schools in the nation, according to the US News and World Report. The newspaper released its list of 2019 Best High Schools on April 30th. Ranked ninth in Pennsylvania, Upper St. Clair is the highest-ranking high school in Allegheny County. Nationally, Upper St. Clair ranks 444th out of the 23,265 high schools in the nation— among the top two percent.

Two students have been selected to participate in the Student Leader Program, sponsored by Bank of America. Aicha Bellaoucha and Harley Robinson will be interning at the Sarah Heinz House and will also attend the Student Leaders Summit July 8-13th in Washington, D.C. This summer marks the first year that the program has operated in Pittsburgh.

Five students recently completed the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute (WSHI), a free program for high school juniors from throughout the region, who demonstrate a strong interest in science and engineering and who are high scholastic standing. WSHI provides a forum for talented high school juniors to gain exposure to the latest advances in science, technology and engineering.

Participants include:

Julia Brubach

Eri Hayakawa

Katie Hobart

Ian Rankin

Elena Schwimer

ALL DISTRICT

According to the 2019 Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools, published by The Pittsburgh Business Times, the Upper St. Clair School District ranks first among 102 school districts throughout the seven-county Pennsylvania region and third among the commonwealth's 500 school districts. The rankings, which were released on May 7th, are based upon PSSA and Keystone Exam scores – three years of data were used, with the current year given the most weight.

The Upper St. Clair Community raised \$3,358 to benefit the Tree of Life Synagogue victims and their families. Funds, which will be sent to the Jewish Federation, were raised through the sale of Kindness Matters shirts and sweatshirts. The Kindness Matters was designed by 2018 Upper St. Clair High School alumna, Catherine Sanford and produced by the school's Shop@USC program.