

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS  
MAY, 2018

**Middle School/High School**

Students in grade 6 through 12 earned high honors in the recent Pennsylvania Math League contest. Boyce Middle School sixth graders finished second among 79 Pennsylvania schools. This marks the seventh consecutive year that Boyce has finished first or second in the math competition.

Sixth grader Alex Sun placed fourth overall and his classmates Arjun Suresh and Shiven Verma tied with the eighth highest scores in the commonwealth.

Fort Couch Middle School students also earned high honors with seventh graders finishing third among 62 schools. Jason Lu and Carter McClintock-Comeaux tied for fifth place and Alexander Todd tied for 20th place.

Fort Couch eighth graders placed fourth among 63 schools. Daniel Wang tied for sixth place and Shanning Zhou tied for 15th.

This year, Upper St. Clair High School was among those recognized as Cumulative High Scoring Schools across the commonwealth with a tie for sixth place. Three USC students placed in the top 10 of Pennsylvania's Cumulative High Scoring Students including sophomore Braden Yates, tied for fifth place; junior Sam Ding, tied for seventh place; and senior Spencer Miller tied for eighth place.

The PML specializes in conducting math contests designed to stimulate student interest and confidence in mathematics.

At Boyce, students also earned recognition for achieving top scores among their school-level peers.

**Category 1: Fifth Graders studying 6th Grade Math**

- 1st Place (tie): Grace Myers and Eitan Schwartz
- 2nd Place: Yuhong Shi

**Category 2: Sixth Graders studying 7th and 8th Grade Math**

- 1st Place: Alex Sun
- 2nd Place (tie): Arjun Suresh and Shiven Verma

**Category 3: Sixth Graders studying 6th Grade Math**

- 1st Place: Daniel Seewald
- 2nd Place: Dhruv Saggi

Two teams of Upper St. Clair students from Boyce Middle School and the High School are headed to Iowa State University to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals set for May 23-26, 2018. To qualify, the teams finished first in their respective problem/division at the state finals on April 7 at Pocono Mountain School District.

The Boyce team, which solved the Division I technical problem, includes Jake Casares, Anastasia Gzikowski, Esha Lathia, Peter Markovitz, Owen Mucho, Ben Murtough and Ben Seewald. The high school team tied for first place in the Division III classics problem. Team members include Victoria Cuba, Brianna Lin, Joseph Markovitz, Max Murtough, Sammie Seewald, Constantine Tripodes and Eric Wang.

High School freshman, Ishaan Shah, recently placed fourth in the Earth/Space/Environment Category of the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Ishaan also received 3 sponsor awards for his project *Maximizing Output of a Microbial Fuel Cell*. Ishaan also presented his project at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition in February and will present at the PJAS State Competition in May at Penn State University.

Junior Sam Ding earned special recognition for Excellence in the Scientific Method for his project, "Investigating Clinical Variables in Breast Cancer using Bayesian Networks."

Also earning Excellence in the Scientific Method recognition was sophomore Shanthi Krishnaswamy who presented her project, "The Effect of Enzymes on Plants."

Additionally, nine students from Fort Couch received sponsor awards for their project submissions:

Matthew Early – *Piezo Cake*

Phillip Markovitz – *Piezo Cake*

Evan Sarkett – *Piezo Cake*

Dev Patel – *Wind Turbine Models and Production of Electricity*

Ritvik Shah – *Wind Turbine Models and Production of Electricity*

Sujay Shah – *Wind Turbine Models and Production of Electricity*

Shana Reddy – *Combating Carbonic Acid: Preventing Ocean Acidification*

Varun Damarla – *The Best Airplane Design*

Nitish Sharma – *The Best Airplane Design*

### **High School**

Congratulations are extended to Alexander Wolfe, a recent graduate of Upper St. Clair High School for earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Alex's Eagle Scout Award project consisted of building a retaining wall and installing benches at the Children's Theater in South Park. Alex was honored at a recognition ceremony on May 20, 2018.

Congratulations are extended to the following students that are listed on the Parkway West Career & Technology Center Director's List of Honor Students for the Third Quarter of the 2017-2018 school year:

Gabrielle Caudill	Cosmetology
Lillian Caudill	Public Safety
Lucas Gillespie	BCT
Daniel Jaffee	ITE
Anna Perry	DMM
Domenic Petito	EST
Rebecca Swiech	Culinary Arts

Four Upper St. Clair High School juniors recently completed the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute, a program for high school juniors from throughout the region who demonstrate a strong interest in science and engineering and who are of high scholastic standing. Participating students include Kaitlyn Kanas, Arushi Khaitan, Claire Kohler and Serena Luo.

Congratulations are extended to high school seniors, Nathan Zadrozny and Kate Bellas who were recently honored at the SHASDA Conference held on Saturday, April 28. Nathan and Kate were chosen to receive the student awards for Upper St. Clair. The theme of the conference was "Hurdling Obstacles and Embracing Opportunities." The SHASDA conference recognizes two high school students from each of the member school districts who have demonstrated significant improvement in student performance and/or have overcome obstacles in attaining their present status.

Upper St. Clair High School senior Sahil B. Doshi has been named a National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship recipient – one of only 2,500 in the country. Students entered the scholarship competition by completing the PSAT, the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, during their junior year. Sahil will be attending Northwestern University this fall where he plans to major in biomedical engineering.

A team of Upper St. Clair High School sophomores placed third at the Cultural Communications Alliance's Marketing Competition on May 1, 2018, at the University of Pittsburgh's College of Business Administration. Team members include Shanthi Krishnaswamy, Gabi Spina, Jami Stout, Sunny Chai and Eri Hayakawa.

The Cultural Communications Alliance works with Pittsburgh area high school teachers to introduce international business concepts to their students using an international case competition. Upper St. Clair students, who were coached by Spanish Teacher Joanna Darakos, worked throughout the year to research and create the plan.

Upper St. Clair High School sophomore Eri Hayakawa recently earned second place in the Pittsburgh Annual Secondary School Chemistry Contest, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society.

Taught by high school science teacher Dr. Dominick Frollini, Eri competed in the first-year chemistry, large schools category. Eri and Dr. Frollini were honored at the organization's annual awards dinner on May 14, 2018, at Duquesne University.