

Superintendent's Student and Staff Accomplishments January 16, 2018

Schools that Teach Visit: The Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera, toured Swiftwater Elementary Center as part of the Governor's Schools that Teach visit to Pocono Mountain School District on January 3. Pocono Mountain was the first stop of the new year for Secretary Rivera. We were honored to host Secretary Rivera and participate in a roundtable discussion with him and our legislators on public education issues.

All-Eastern Honors Ensembles: Congratulations to our two students from Pocono Mountain School District who were selected to perform with the 2019 National Association for Music Educators All-Eastern Honors Ensembles in April. East High School senior, Athena Rajnai, will perform as an Alto 2 with the All-Eastern Honors Mixed Chorus, and West HS junior, Marissa Kane, will perform with the All-Eastern Honors Concert Band. Marissa is one of only two alto saxophonists from Pennsylvania selected for the ensemble.

Athena and Marissa were the only students from Monroe County chosen to perform with the All-Eastern Honors Ensembles this year. They were among 780 of the most musically talented high school students in the Eastern Division selected for honor.

The Honors Ensembles will hold public performances on April 7, 2019, in the Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh.

Marywood Honors Band: Congratulations to the 36 Pocono Mountain East and West Junior High musicians who were accepted to participate in the Marywood Junior Honors Band Celebration at Marywood University. Pocono Mountain's students comprised 27% of the Honors Band this year. The District also had 12 student musicians make the top honors band, four students earned first chair in two bands and three students earned second chair.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards: Congratulations to West High School senior Billy Christine for winning three awards, including a Gold Key, in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. All three pieces were part of his Advanced Placement Art 3D portfolio. His work will be exhibited at the Everhart Museum in Scranton in February.

School to Work Community Service: The Pocono Mountain School District School to Work Program coordinated three district-wide community service projects during the first semester of our school year that were a huge success. All three projects had participation from every district building and department. The students collected 371 pairs of pajamas for foster children, 345 blankets for nursing homes and adult day care programs, and 110 stockings for soldiers and veterans.

January is School Board Director Recognition Month:

Public education is more than just learning the basic math, science, English and history; it's a platform for students to reach their potential. It inspires hope for a new generation and a successful future. This institution exists in part because individuals volunteer their time to make informed decisions about the issues facing public schools. Every January we celebrate these everyday heroes – the nine elected school board members who serve our students and educational system.

School directors volunteer, on average, 20 hours a month to help run the schools in our community. The school board makes difficult decisions for the betterment of our students. They vote on multi-million dollar budgets, hire staff, select textbooks, review bus schedules and curriculum, to name a few.

Thank you to our School Board Directors.

Champion Coaches Award: