

Superintendent's Student and Staff Accomplishments March 6, 2019

State Qualifiers: Congratulations to Pocono Mountain East Cardinal swimmer, Lauren Fenn, and East Cardinal Wrestler, Steven Storm, for qualifying to compete at States.

- Lauren, a senior, took first place in the District 11 backstroke, becoming the only Class 3A champ in swimming from PMSD.
- Steven, a junior, took third in the District 11 138 weight class.

PA Junior Academy of Science: Pocono Mountain students did very well at the Regional PA Junior Academy of Science competition on Saturday. East High School students earned 14 First Awards and 3 Second Awards. East Junior High School students earned 10 First Awards and 6 Second Awards. West High School students earned 3 First Awards.

WHS Speech & Debate: All five students from the West High School Speech and Debate team qualified last weekend to compete at the Nationals in Milwaukee over Memorial Day. Congratulations to the West Policy Debate Team members Jamise Sealey, Gabriella Quinones, Kaylie Dunlap and Paulina Tes. Also, freshman, Lizzie O'Donnell place first and senior Faith DeJesus qualified in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Advocacy Award: Congratulations to West High School junior and National Art Honor Society member, Kayla Garofolo, who won the Advocacy Award in the 2019 Pennsylvania Art Education Association's Youth Art Month design contest. Kayla's design will be displayed on a large banner at the PA State Capital as part of the celebration on May 1st, for the Pennsylvania Arts and Culture Advocacy Day, in Harrisburg.

Upcoming Event:

NEPA Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament: Pocono Mountain School District will host the Northeast Regional PA Odyssey of the Mind tournament at the West High School on Saturday, March 9, from 8 a.m. until approximately 6 p.m. We will have 100 teams from the region competing in this creative problem solving competition.

Cyber Legislation Proposal: I wanted to make our community aware of new legislation designed to eliminate wasteful spending and save the taxpayers an estimated \$250 million in unnecessary cyber school tuitions.

Under Senate Bill 34, families would be required to pay out of pocket for their children to attend cyber charter schools if their home district offers a cyber program of equal scope and content. A similar bill is being proposed in the PA House of Representatives. These bills, if passed, would greatly benefit Pocono Mountain students and taxpayers. Our District offers a comprehensive K to 12 cyber program and a hybrid program that allows our cyber students to take some classes in our brick and mortar schools. We ask our community members to please contact their legislators and express support for this legislation, which will ensure students graduate with a Pocono Mountain School District diploma, attend a rigorous cyber program, and have all of the activities available as our students attending our schools. In addition, this measure would save our District several million dollars in unnecessary cyber school tuition.