

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments May 7, 2025

Teacher Appreciation Day: Yesterday, Tuesday, May 6th, was National Teacher Appreciation Day. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of our teachers in the Pocono Mountain School District. As we know, teaching requires flexibility, resilience, and many other important attributes. Probably the most important attribute for your students is your warm smile and greeting, your encouragement, and your support. Teaching is a unique profession where the impact you have on others, your students, will never be forgotten. Thank you for choosing to be a teacher especially within the Pocono Mountain School District who can make a difference in the lives of every student. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and commitment to the education and wellbeing of our Pocono Mountain School District students. This week the administration is treating the teachers to ice cream in celebration of Teacher Appreciation.

MC Community Night: I would like to thank all of our student groups, teachers, administrators and board members who participated in the Monroe County Children's Roundtable Community Night last night at Northampton Community College - Pocono Campus. The event connects our families to services, volunteers to organizations needing help, is a great networking event for the many support agencies throughout the county. Approximately, 100 community service organizations participated in Community Night. Our district was well represented at Community Night through our student groups and student musicians. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to Community Night.

Once again, this year the District Clothing Drive was a huge success! Special thanks go out to Dr. Wade and his two assistants Robin Miller and Rise Werbel, as well as the students who assisted on the Community Drop Off and for the students who came down to load the truck. We, as a District, collected over 6300 pounds of clothing and other items. We raised \$1,270.20 to benefit the schools' clothing closets.

I am very proud to announce that two of our district teachers, Victoria Savo from SIS and Neil McGovern from WHS were honored as the Outstanding Science teachers chosen from many outstanding nominations for the ESU Sigma XI organization.

West High School Update

Congratulations to our West High School students who were named outstanding students of the quarter at MCTI for marking period 3. They were honored at a ceremony at MCTI on April 2nd. Students honored included: Emily Ramos, Dominik Bierdziewski, Shawn Belfon, Joel Maisonet, Steven Farrell, Hailey Rodriguez, Alexander Desjardin, Logan Schulz, and Kassius Mitchell.

Congratulations to West High School senior, Henry Bothwell for receiving the 2025 Scholar Athlete Wrestling Award at the District 11 Coaches' Banquet on Sunday April 27th.

Congratulations to the West High School National Art Honor Society students who won the Monroe County Bar Association's Law Day Creativity Contest: 1st place for her original song was Merissa Moore, 2nd place for her original poem was Julia Tomaska, and 3rd place for her drawing was Addison Nat. To celebrate their incredible achievements, the Law Day Ceremony will be held on May 9th at the Monroe County Courthouse. Additionally, the Law Day Committee extended a special invitation to Merissa to perform her original song at the event.

Congratulations to these outstanding students for their hard work and creativity!

Both the West High School combined concert choir and show choirs came home with SUPERIOR ratings from their adjudication which was held at Hershey Park on May 2nd. Congratulations on their excellent performances! The West High School spring choral concert is scheduled for Friday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. for anyone who would like to come hear some outstanding music by our talented students.

Congratulations to West High School sophomore, Eden Seese, 2024-2025 winner of the Voice of Democracy audio essay sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Eden attended a banquet this past weekend where she was presented by the local VFW post 509 with a \$1,200 award for winning first place locally and second place at the district level.

East High School Update

We would like to congratulate the following East High School students for competing in the April 2025 SkillsUSA State Conference and Competitions held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center:

Alana Burnette for placing First in the Nurse Assisting Competition. We wish you the best of luck at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference being held in Atlanta, Georgia from June 23-27, 2025. **Sofia Brisbois** for placing Second in the Portfolio Competition. **Kacper Nicka** for placing First in the Technical Drafting Competition. We wish you the best of luck at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference being held in Atlanta, Georgia from June 23-27, 2025. **David Vergara** for placing Second in the Information Tech Servicing Competition.

We would also like to congratulate the following East High School students for competing in the Career Development Conference held at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport on April 15, 2025:

Giana Gambino and her teammates for placing First in the Floriculture Competition as well as placing Seventh in the Individual Event.

Breanna Santomauro and her teammates for placing First in the Nursery/Landscaping Competition as well as placing Fourth in the Individual Event. We wish you all the best of luck at the PA FFA Summer Convention at Penn State in June 2025.

Congratulations to East High School sophomore, Jaiden Cumberbatch! Jaiden was selected to represent Pocono Mountain East HS at the Steelstacks HS All-Star Jazz Band sponsored by Moravian University and the Artsquest Center in Bethlehem. He will rehearse once a week in the month of July and perform during Musikfest at the Musikfest Cafe. Congratulations Jaiden!