

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments

March 5, 2025

Congratulations to our 9 PMSD Odyssey of the Mind teams who will be advancing to the State Finals after competing in the NEPA Odyssey of the Mind competition Saturday at the West High School.

Our teams advancing to the State Finals are as follows:

Problem 1: Vehicle Division II

1st Place - Pocono Mountain East Junior High School - Coaches Jennifer Fiore/Galen Smith

4th Place - Pocono West Junior High School - Coach Cheryl Feuerstein

Problem 2: Technical Division III

2nd Place - Pocono Mountain West High School - Coaches Kerri Tallmadge/Frank Bittman

Problem 3: Classics Division II

2nd Place - Swiftwater Intermediate School - Coaches Jennifer Beers/ Kim Cox

Problem 4: Structure Division II

2nd Place - Tobyhanna Elementary Center - Coach Dr. James Feuerstein

Division III

2nd Place - Pocono Mountain East High School - Coaches Jamie Schweppenheiser/ Chelsea Straub

Problem 5: Performance Division I

3rd Place - Clear Run Intermediate School - Coaches Barb Parzch/Heather Colgan Fastiggi

Division II

1st Place - Pocono Mountain East Junior High School - Coaches Jennifer Fiore/Galen Smith

Division III

1st Place - Pocono Mountain East High School - Coaches Jamie Schweppenheiser/ Chelsea Straub

A special thank you to Dr. Sweeney, who leads our district OOTM program, and the West HS Administration for their efforts in hosting a wonderful NEPA OOTM competition. The competition brought more than 400 students from 29 area K-12 schools and their families to our school. Thank you to all of our PMSD volunteers and staff who helped make the competition a success. Our next big opportunity to showcase PMSD, this time to the entire state, will be on April 5th, when PMSD hosts the PA Odyssey of the Mind State Finals on the Swiftwater Campus at the East HS, East Junior HS and SIS.

East High School Updates

Congratulations to East High School sophomore, Julia Mancini. Julia has been offered the position of Region H Vice President of the Pennsylvania Student Council Association. The Pennsylvania Student Council Association is broken up into regions across the state. Pocono Mountain East is part of Region H. Region H represents student councils from Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Pike, Luzerne, and Monroe Counties.

Congratulations to the Pocono Mountain East Science Olympiad team who finished 3rd in the EPC region, and first in Monroe County. The team secured 3 sets of medals.

1st place - Bungee Drop - Sophomore Abigail Malyszko and Freshman Miriam Thomas

2nd place - Codebusters - Seniors Lila Shelton and Connor Straub, and Junior Mahi Patel

3rd place - Tower - Juniors Mahi Patel and Samantha Christman

Two other events, the team finished 4th, one place out of medaling.

Experimental Design - 4th place - Seniors Lila Shelton and Connor Straub, and Junior Mahi Patel

Ecology - 4th place - Senior Piotr Pochron and Sophomore Julian Rivera.

The team next travels to its Regional Competition on March 12th, to try and earn a spot in the state competition.

On Saturday March 1st, students from Pocono Mt. East High School participated in the 64th Regional Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science at Wilkes University. There were 502 participants from 36 different schools and Pocono Mountain did amazing. All but 1 student received a first award with many receiving a perfect score. They also received some special awards.

Connor Straub, received the Advisory Board Award including a \$500 cash reward, an excellence award in Microbiology, a perseverance award for 6 years participating in PJAS and a perfect score.

Jasper Shelton, received an excellence award in Earth and Space and a perfect score.

Lila Shelton also received a perseverance award for 6 years participating in PJAS.

Also, as a school they earned the small school award which means out of the school who had at least ten participants they scored the most, with 93.3%. of our students earning a First Award.

All first awards will now travel to Penn State University on May 18th to compete at the State level. Congratulations to all!

The following students won awards:

Students	Award
Rachel Shaykevich	1 perfect score
Lila Shelton	1
Jasper Shelton	1 perfect score
Melody Plywaczewski	1
Julian Rivera	1
Sophia Ardizoni	1
Connor Straub	1 perfect score
Lucas Span	1 perfect score
Abigail Malyszko	1
Kailey Clifford	1
Frank Palmetta	2
Malia Spooner	1
Miriam Thomas	1 perfect score
Sheena Patel	1
Finn McGovern	1

Congratulations to East High School senior Victoria Kuteran on her TWO bronze medals at the District XI 3A Swimming Championships this weekend!

200 Yard Freestyle 3rd Place 1:58:94

100 Yard Freestyle 3rd Place 54:17

Congratulations to the following East High School FBLA members. They have qualified to attend the State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA from April 6th-9th.

Marcin Bienas

Chance Cortes

Kevin Davis

Emma Flood

AJ Formica

Giana Gambino

Destiny Hilliman

Nicholas Ingrassia

Amatul Ismail

Hojun Lee

Andrew Nyakundi

Piotr Pochron

Heidi Regan

Nyah Spooner

Zaya Youkhanna

Eric Zheng

We are very proud of your accomplishments.

West High School

Congratulations to West High School Junior, Noah Noguera for placing 6th at the District XI Boys Wrestling Championship within the 152 lb weight class on Saturday, February 22nd.

Also, Congratulations goes out to West High School freshman, Kyla Nyanti and sophomore, Tereza Curtiz who performed a duo interpretation in the PHSSL8 State Qualifier to try to qualify for the state competition for speech and debate on Saturday, February 22nd. This duo did not qualify at states but we look forward to them performing their speech at the West High School coffee house night in the spring.

On February 21st at Northampton Community College, the West High School Science Olympiad Team performed their award-winning performance at the EPC Science Olympiad competition. Kayla Moore and Adam Kostek placed third in Anatomy & Physiology, Maya dos Santos, Mikhail Ragoobee, and Jack Hunnicutt placed fifth in Codebusters, and John Mutia and Mikhail Ragoobee placed sixth in Disease Detectives. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations to the following West High School students that competed at the Regional Competition for (PJAS) Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, and earned the following awards.

Junior: Kailani Lopez- 2nd Place
Sophomore: Angelina "Kody" Ranko- 1st Place
Freshman: Lillianne Williamson- 1st Place

These students will be attending the PA State Competition in May at Penn State.

East Junior High School

Three East Junior High School students were inducted into the French National Honor Society last Thursday, February 27th. They are Nora Lewis, Jenavieve Butz, and Chloe Chen.

West Junior High School

On February 25, 2025 the West Junior High School celebrated the Harlem Renaissance. 7th grade students completed ELA research and writing projects, which culminated in poster projects. The Jazz Band performed a variety of songs, singers shared their vocal talents, and a number of the members of our Drama Club performed "Wax Museum" skits based off of their historical characters. Thank you to Ms. Conway, Ms. McManus, Ms. Kendrick, and everyone else who was involved in this family engagement event.