

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments April 2, 2025

PA OOTM State Finals

Pocono Mountain School District will host the Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind State Finals on the Swiftwater Campus on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from approximately 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Events will take place in the Pocono Mountain East High School, East Junior High School and Swiftwater Intermediate School. We have 150 teams from across the state competing in the State Finals. Nine teams from Pocono Mountain School District are also competing in the State Finals for the opportunity to compete at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. We hope you will be able to attend this amazing event on Saturday to cheer on our district teams.

West High School Update

On March 6th, several West High School athletes attended the Student-Athlete Leadership Conference at Moravian University. These student-athlete leaders were selected to participate with the goal of further developing their leadership skills and continuing to strengthen and transform our school culture. This conference will bring together over 200 student-athletes from 21 middle and high schools, providing a valuable opportunity for collaboration and growth. Please join us in congratulating all students selected: Brady Behr, Adrian Brito, Emma Campusano, Anthony De Pasqua, Marving Dienhoue, Riley Evans, Tru Godwin, Zyairrah Lanier, Julia MacPhee, Brody Williams, & Kaya Kaczmarek. In addition to attending, the following 4 students led athlete mental health workshops for middle school student-athletes: Riley Evans, Adrian Brito, Tru Godwin, & Marving Dienhoue.

On March 14th, West High School held its 6th Annual Black History Month Celebration for the school community. Members of the student body volunteered their time and talents to educate their peers and to pay homage to various African American leaders through the use of song, dance, spoken word, and even role play/acting.

Congratulations to the West High School jazz band who traveled to the Kutztown Area High School Jazz Festival on March 15th and had a great performance! There were 9 other outstanding bands there, and West High School won awards for having the best saxophone section and best rhythm section. Senior Nick Gesualdi won a solo award for his alto solos.

For the past 10 years, students in Creative Fashion 1 at West High School have created dresses out of new and gently used pillow cases to send to Africa. To date, they have sent 842 dresses. This year, they were fortunate to partner with professors and students from the University of Scranton who generously offered to take many of their dresses on their trip to Uganda. They were also fortunate to receive a few pictures of our dresses being worn by some beautiful little girls! We couldn't be more PMSD Proud!

Congratulations to West High School junior Emma Campusano who made the Pocono Record's All-Area first team for girls basketball. Congratulations to West High School sophomore, Jodi Bowen who made the Pocono Record's All-Area second team for girls basketball.

Congratulations to West High School and MCTI senior Ariela Nunez and West High School and MCTI freshman Analee Reyes who won first place at the PA Design and Media logo contest which was held at Northampton Community College on March 11th. Good luck to Ariela and Analee as they move on to compete in the Media and Design State Competition at Elizabeth College on May 20th.

On April 14th at 7:00 p.m. the Pocono Mountain East and West varsity baseball teams will play a special game at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders stadium. Please consider bringing your family for this special night out to support our student athletes. Tickets are \$10 each and include a free ticket to an upcoming Rail Riders game. Please reach out to our athletic departments to purchase tickets or visit our social media page for the link.

On March 28th, the West High School Scholastic Scrimmage team traveled to IU20 to compete in the Regional Pennsylvania Scholastic Scrimmage Academic Championship. The team included: Jack Hunnicutt, Mikhail Ragoobee, Ariana Rocha, and Katryn Feuerstein

In Esports News:

The PMW Blue Smash and PMW Silver Smash teams have clinched a berth in the PlayVS/PSEL State tournament for Super Smash Brothers.

This week the PMW PIEA Valorant team, the D1 Smash team, and the D2 Smash team compete in the semifinal rounds of conference finals. If each team wins, then they advance to the conference finals in Philadelphia on April 13th. After the conference finals, these teams will start competition in the PIEA state tournament.

The Pocono Mountain Science Department and the Science National Honor Society would like to invite everyone to the Third annual Night of STEM, which will be held at the West High School on Monday, April 14th from 5-8 pm. This event is open and free to everyone. There will be over 40 interactive tables for everyone to explore STEM related topics by students and community partners. Face painting will be available for a donation, and food trucks will be available to purchase dinner or snacks to have a Family Fun Night out. We hope to see everyone at our Third Annual Night of STEM!

West Junior High School Update

WJHS Students participated in the 24 Challenge Competition with their advisors, Ms. Mecca and Ms. Williams. Nick Trindade, Elijah Washington and Arabella Pigg advanced to Regionals for grades 7 & 8! Elijah and Arabella placed in the top 3 and Arabella won it all for 7th/8th grade. Great job to everyone and good luck to our students who are moving on to Regionals.

WJHS and SIS SGA came together on Tuesday, March 25 at WJHS to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, in support of an SEC student to make his Wish Come True. PMSD Staff took on the Harlem Wizards in a high-flying, entertaining basketball game full of tips, tricks and dunks. Thank you to Mr. Brogan for coordinating the event, and thank you to all of our volunteers for their time and effort throughout the night.

East High School Update

I would like to congratulate our Divisional and All-conference All Stars for the EPC Winter Season:

Monroe Division First Team

Rayshawn Harris & Parker Scoz – Boys Basketball

Zanaiya Days – Girls Basketball

Chris Gerheart & Kayden Skibber – Wrestling

Monroe Division Second Team

McKenna Snyder – Girls Basketball

All EPC Conference Second Team

Rayshawn Harris – Boys Basketball

All EPC Conference Third Team

Parker Scoz – Boys Basketball

Victoria Kuteran - Swimming

Congratulations to the following students for being selected as Outstanding Students of the 3rd Quarter at Monroe Career and Technical Institute.

Chase	Abjornson	Electrical Technology
Bennett	Crouthamel	Carpentry
Andrew	Steffy	Outdoor Power Equipment Technology
Beckett	Cordero	9th Grade - Civics
Blake	Cotner	Carpentry
David	Vergara	Computer Networking/Security
Kyle	Jarrett	Criminal Justice
Joshua	Boss	Welding

Monday, April 1st was Monroe County's birthday and the kick off to the America 250 year long celebration. Banner Singers had the honor of performing at the ceremonial celebration, in which they met state and local government officials, and Ms. Pennsylvania. In the ceremony, students learned important facts about America's history in relation to the evolution of the Monroe County judicial system.

If you see these students, please congratulate them on a job well done.

Declan Angulo
Jacob Franzo
Ava LaMantia
Jessica Lauer
Lauren Maula
Laila Pena
Nashla Pena
Sarah Wehr
Aloah Woodrow

TEC Update

4th graders at TEC have "adopted" an assisted living facility called Country Meadows. For various holidays and seasons the students make cards or crafts for the residents. The facility LOVES it and so do the students. Residents each get a card/project at meal time and they rave about them and even hang them on their doors. The students are truly showing their understanding of our PRIDE program's "E" for empathy.

TEC's teachers and staff members are slowly becoming world class PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONS due to the encouragement and coaching of 3rd grade teacher, Eric Argot. The Tuesday after school activity has proven to be a great team building and stress reliever for all involved.

Clear Run Elementary Center Update

Clear Run Elementary Center celebrated reading in a big way this year. During the first two weeks of March, the PTO sponsored a Read-A-Thon. The class with the most logged minutes at each grade level was visited by a local author. On Tuesday, April 25th, local author Janice Kenyatta, shared her book "Just As It Is!" with Ms. Franz's kindergarten class. The story is about a little African American girl whose parents inspired her early in life to love and appreciate her natural features, including her hair, just as it is! Each student received an autographed copy of the book, as well as an Abena doll. On Monday, April 31st, Chrysa Smith met with first graders from Ms. Sedlak's class. Students were entertained with stories from her poodle posse and all students went home with an autographed series of her books. Also, on Monday, April 31st, students from Ms. Evans's second grade class celebrated their accomplishment with a virtual visit from beloved author Alan St. Jean. Earlier in the year, all of the second graders took part in a writing activity with him and were excited to receive personalized copies of his OinkADoodleMoo series.

On Friday, April 28th, Clear Run Elementary Center partnered with Mudita Gaming Lounge at the Crossings for a special Family Game Night. Families had access to all sorts of board games (Checkers, Battleship, Guess Who, Connect 4, Spoons, Jenga, and Uno to just name a few) and video games. For an additional fee, some students also decided to challenge themselves to VR (Virtual Reality) access.