

Superintendent's Student & Staff Accomplishments

October 2, 2024

Hurricane Helene: On behalf of our entire school district, I wanted to send our thoughts and prayers to the victims of Hurricane Helene. It's heartbreaking to see the devastation and loss of what seems to be entire communities in Western North Carolina and the severe damage and tremendous loss suffered in other states including Tennessee, Florida and Georgia. Let's please observe a moment of silence for those families who have lost loved ones or who are desperately still trying to find their loved ones in the aftermath of this catastrophic hurricane. Thank you.

Special Dress Down Day: To support the victims of Hurricane Helene in Asheville and Western North Carolina, we will be holding a special pop-up district-wide dress down day this Friday, October 4. All funds raised will be donated directly to the Asheville/Buncombe County Salvation Army. Community members wishing to help us support the victims of Hurricane Helene may drop their cash donations off at the main offices of any of our schools or at the administration building by close of business on Friday.

Pocono Mountain West Junior High School Update: On Monday, September 23rd, West Junior High School 7th and 8th Grade students had the opportunity to meet with Trooper Tristan Bennett and learn more about bullying, cyberbullying, cell phones and social media, and the dangers of vaping. Thank you to the Pennsylvania State Police for this great presentation and for taking time out of their day to teach West Junior High students. Also, thank you to School Resource Officer, Daniel Smelas, for coordinating the presentation.

Pocono Mountain West High School Update: West High School Senior, Franklin Ramos, received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program for his performance on the 2023 SAT and for having demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success.

A Beautiful Tomorrow: West High School hosted A Beautiful Tomorrow assemblies on Tuesday, October 1. The assembly uses music and high-energy interactive performances to focus on positivity, good decision making, anti-bullying, and developing healthy relationships. The assembly was presented to all grade levels and was very well received by the students. The lead performer Jason Lewis stayed at the West High School after performances and interacted with students and answered questions during their lunch periods.

West PRIDE Attendance Challenge: Congratulations to the West High School PRIDE September Attendance Challenge winners Drake Daguio, Christine Kennedy, Miley Brandi, Joshua Chetram, Cayleigh Keller, Ariana Gonzalez-Monrroy, Keoni Dickinson, Deith Echevarria, Haeley Montero, and Anthony Garrza-Fonseca. These students all had either perfect attendance or no unlawful absences for the whole month of September. Each student meeting these requirements was entered into a raffle. Eight students won free food and drinks at Wawa, and 2 students won a 4-pack of passes to Kalahari. Thank you to the Mount Pocono Wawa and Kalahari for sponsoring this challenge.

Pocono Mountain East High School Update: East High School received their first delivery from CHOP (Children's Hunger Outreach Program) for the school's Food Pantry. CHOP is an amazing program and they have provided a great deal of food to help East students who use the Food Pantry. It is a grab and go program. There are breakfast items, dinner items, and snacks for

the kids. Students take what they need for the night and come back the next day if they need more.

East High School Bonfire: East High School will host the 3rd Annual Bonfire on Thursday, October 10th at 6 p.m. All fall athletic teams will be recognized during the bonfire. The East High School Banner Singers and Pocono Mountain East Marching Band will perform during the bonfire. Please join the East High School students, staff, and families as they prepare for the Bucket Game against Pleasant Valley.

National Merit Scholarship Program: Congratulations to East High School Senior, Lila Shelton, for being named as a Semifinalist in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Lila's name was included in a recent news media release by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Tobyhanna Elementary Center Appreciates The Clymer Library: Mrs. Augenstein and Ms. Jeffer began taking advantage of the valuable community resource that Tobyhanna Elementary Center has right across the street this month. Their Kindergarten classes began their monthly visits to The Clymer Library. Mrs. Augenstein and Ms. Jeffer collaborate with Miss Love, the Clymer Library librarian, to plan and implement thematic literacy activities that coincide with TEC's ELA curriculum and standards. The children love the chance to take a walk over to the library to hear stories, songs and complete various activities and crafts. This month's theme was Fall trees and the children listened to stories,

made their very own Fall tree book and took a poll on the kind of tree they would like to see if they could see any kind of tree. The children gain such a love of literacy as well sense of community through this collaboration. They cannot wait until their next visit.

Swiftwater Elementary Center Partnership with East High School ATH Life Program: Swiftwater Elementary Center is proud to share its on-going partnership with the East High School ATH Life Program. Cardinal students visit SEC monthly for HIGH FIVE FRIDAYS. East students come to greet Kindergarten through Grade 3 students as they enter the school. In September, the East Golf Team, Tennis Team, Yearbook Club and Cardinal mascot and handlers were part of this memorable line-up. It is such a wonderful opportunity for the East High School students to showcase their leadership skills and role model qualities. Special thanks to Mr. Chris Gilroy, the ATH- Life Coach, for coordinating many of these worthwhile activities with the east campus schools.

Flexible Instructional Day Plan: During the 2024-2025 School Year, Pocono Mountain School District will be utilizing Flexible Instructional Days (FID) which may be used in place of a school day that would be canceled because of inclement weather or another emergency. On a FID, students will follow their in-person instructional schedule, complete in each class the daily attendance question, attend all live sessions, and complete all learning activities/assignments provided by their teachers at home. The FID guidelines are available on the district website at www.pmsd.org under the PMSD News Section.