

HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2019

THE 49TH CARLYNTON GRADUATING
CLASS ASSEMBLED MAY 31 IN THE
HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM FOR
COMMENCEMENT SERVICES



THE TOP 10



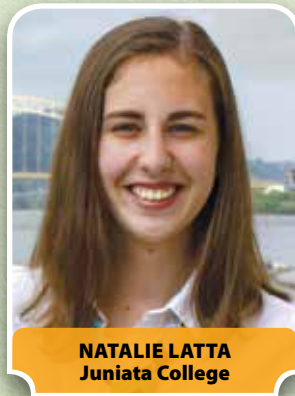
VALEDICTORIAN
Maria Smereka
Penn State University



VALEDICTORIAN
Rachel Welsh
Robert Morris University



ARABELLA HUNT
Ohio University



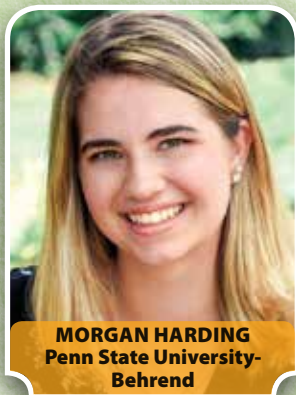
NATALIE LATT
Juniata College



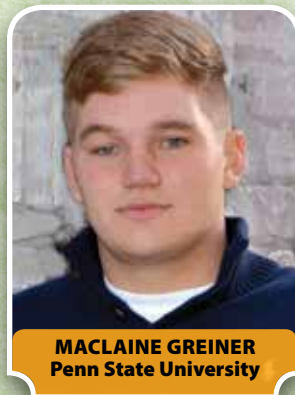
KATHERINE KOZY
St. Vincent College



CLAIRE SCHRIVER
Penn State University



MORGAN HARDING
Penn State University-
Behrend



MACLAINE GREINER
Penn State University



GABRIEL PREPELKA
Penn State University



MOLLY BADGER
Rochester Institute
of Technology

MEET OF THE CLASS OF 2019

NAMES, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- **Ryan Joseph Anक्रम**
- **Phoebe Jean Appel** – National Honor Society, Excellence in Advanced Placement Testing Award
- **Molly Rebecca Badger** – National Honor Society, Exemplary Achievement in French, Excellence in AP Biology Dissection
- **Madison Christine Baron** – Excellence in Anatomy Class
- **Amajae Queen Bey**
- **Bryce Mackenzie Bogats**
- **Maraya Lynn Barton** – U.S. Army Military Honors
- **Diamond Aleisha Brown**
- **Jasmine Danielle Caldwell** – U.S. Army National Guard Honors, Distinguished Athlete
- **Patrick Erin Kietz-Carlson** – Peer to Peer Award, Vice President of the Class Service Award, Broadcast Media Award
- **Julie Elizabeth Carothers** – Peer Mentor Recognition
- **Esterfany Yamileth Castellanos**
- **Samual Aldo Chickini**
- **Lydia Rain Coggin** – Gay-Straight Alliance Leadership Recognition
- **Brianna Fay Cyphert** – High School Consortium Award, SHASDA Award
- **Destiny Leigh Dean** – High School Consortium Award
- **Melina Nicolette DeRose**
- **Alexis Haylee Dixon** – Maggie Scholarship
- **Rory Dallin Edward Dougherty**
- **Nazokatkhon Ergasheva**
- **Kyle Patrick Fenton**
- **Catalina De La Cruz Gleason** – Art Appreciation Award
- **Kayla Nicole Glumac** – National Honor Society, Scholastic Excellence Award
- **Christopher Allan Goodman**
- **Kira Renee Gossard** – National Honor Society
- **Airys Marie Gould** – National Honor Society
- **Jamie Harrison Grant**
- **Maclaine Matthew Greiner** – National Honor Society, Distinguished Athlete, Male Scholar Athlete of the Year
- **Brandon Lee Griffin** – Parkway West CTC National Technical Honor Society
- **Haylee Jade Griffin**
- **Morgan Elizabeth Harding** – National Honor Society, Excellence in Advanced Placement Testing Award, Senior Class Representative Honors
- **Matthew John Harris** – Peer to Peer Award
- **Jeremy Michael Harshman** – Parkway West CTC High Honors, PA Skills Certificate, Challenge Award for STEM, Advanced Completer Award, ServSafe Certification, OSHA 10 Certification, National Technical Honor Society
- **Kassidy Mary Heidkamp**
- **Cameron Lee Heiser**
- **Brett Jordan Helfrick**
- **Matthew George Hilarzewski** – SHASDA Award, Parkway West CTC Perfect Attendance, Parkway Challenge Award, Parkway Honors
- **David Bruce Holderbaum** – National Honor Society, Broadcast Media Award
- **Savana Odessa Huehn**
- **Arabella Faith Hunt** – National Honor Society, Peer Mentor Recognition, Western PA Trial Lawyers Association Scholarship, Carlynton Federation of Teachers Textbook Grant, Excellence in Advanced Placement Testing Award, Surpassing 700 SAT Club, Exemplary Achievement in Social Studies
- **Isabel Grace Irwin** – National Honor Society, American Red Cross Scholarship
- **Alexis Bernice Jolly** – Yearbook Award
- **Alexander John Kalimon**
- **Daphne Mae Kalimon** – Carlynton Federation of Teachers Textbook Grant
- **Justin James Keys**
- **Anthony John Killen**
- **Samuel Owen Knabel** – Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence
- **Katherine Anna Kozy** – National Honor Society, Female Scholar Athlete of the Year, Female Athlete of the Year
- **Natalie Rene Latta** – National Honor Society, Student Government President Service Award
- **Nathan Alexander Latta** – Broadcast Media Award
- **Andrew James Levandoski**
- **Alawna Rae Mallory**
- **Aleah Rae Mallory**
- **Patricia Rose Maloy** – Maggie Scholarship, Peer to Peer Award
- **Brianna Rose Mathews** – Parkway West CTC Advanced Completer, PA Skills Certificate
- **Erica Lynn McGuire**
- **Bryson Joseph Mizia**
- **Nina Marie Muñoz** – Peer to Peer Award
- **Massimo Pasquale Notaro**
- **Miranda Rae Pinchot** – National Honor Society, Maggie Scholarship
- **Carter Mason Pojeta**
- **Gabriel Elliott Prepelka** – National Honor Society, NHS Pillar Society Award for 55 Hours of Community Service, Male Athlete of the Year
- **Bibechana Rai**
- **William Jarell Richardson** – Peer to Peer Award
- **Julia Isabella Roussos**
- **Lacey Jane Rybacki** – Peer to Peer Award, Treasurer of the Class Service Award
- **Madison Patricia Samangy** – Peer Mentor Recognition, President of the Class Service Award, Senior Class Representative Honors
- **Matthew David Schmeichel**
- **Claire Frances Schriver** – National Honor Society, Senior Class Representative Honors
- **Daniel Thomas Schultz** – National Honor Society, University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering Scholarship
- **Alvin Nicholas Sedlak** – Parkway West CTC Advanced Completer, PA Skills Certificate
- **Amber Rayne Sinagra**
- **Brendan Xavier Small**
- **Mason Orion Small** – National Honor Society, NHS Pillar Society Award for 101 Hours of Community Service, Surpassing 700 SAT Club
- **Maria Iryna Smereka** – Valedictorian, National Honor Society, NHS Leadership Award, NHS Pillar Society Award for 97 Hours of Community Service, Maggie Scholarship, Excellence in Advanced Placement Testing Award, Surpassing 700 SAT Club, Exemplary Achievement in English-Language Arts, Exemplary Achievement in Mathematics
- **Zachariah Dylan Spragg**
- **Samuel Anthony Steiner Jr.**
- **Colton Timothy Synowsky** – Peer Mentor Recognition
- **Zachary Dwayne Turner**
- **Amy Caroline Ulizzi**
- **Savannah Jo Vetter**
- **Caylee Anne Vistein**
- **Elias Sebastian Ward** – National Honor Society, Eagle Scout Award, Excellence in Advanced Placement Testing Award, Exemplary Achievement in Spanish
- **Andrew James Weimer** – National Honor Society
- **Rachel Lynne Welsh** – Salutatorian, National Honor Society, U.S. Congressional Leadership Award, Carnegie Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Award, Carlynton Federation of Teachers Textbook Grant, Excellence in Advanced Placement Testing Award, Surpassing 700 SAT Club, Student Government Vice President Service Award, Broadcast Media Award
- **Todd Andrew Westerhoff Jr.** – Parkway West CTC PA Skills Certificate, OSHA 10 Certification
- **Adam Jeffrey Whitaker** – Parkway West CTC Advanced Completer, PA Skills Certificate
- **Eliot Jay Wilpula**
- **Jenna Riley Williams**
- **Justin Power Wilson** – U.S. Marine Corps Honors
- **Kayla Marie Wilson** – National Honor Society, Yearbook Award, Broadcast Media Award
- **Alyssa Skyller Wright**
- **Jacob Tyler Yee**
- **Hanna Rose Zaletski** – Secretary of the Class Service Award, Senior Class Representative Honors

FUTURE PLANS

Graduates have enrolled in post-secondary institutions across the Commonwealth and beyond its borders, while others will attend community college and later transition to a four-year college or university. Several members of the Class of 2019 have decided to take a gap year by seeking employment and later deciding if and when to go to college, while others have found work they enjoy and hope to learn and grow within a company or business. Whatever the choice, the teachers, staff and administration extend best wishes to all graduates as they spread their wings to embrace a new venture.



Recognized for excellence in advanced placement testing, seniors Elias Ward, Morgan Harding, Phoebe Appel, Arabella Hunt, Maria Smereka, and Rachel Welsh aced the AP exam following the completion of college-credited coursework while in high school.

- **Allegheny College**
Alexis Jolly
- **Alvernia University**
Kassidy Heidkamp
- **Arcadia University**
Alyssa Wright
- **Community College of Allegheny County**
(with plans to transition to a four-year college/university)
Bryce Bogats Nina Munoz
Julie Carothers Massimo Notaro
Alexis Dixon Amber Sinagra
Nazokathkhon Zachariah Spragg
Ergasheva Colton Synowsky
Haylee Griffin Amy Ulizzi
Savana Huehn Caylee Vistein
Gaige Leach Jacob Yee
Aleah Mallory Hanna Zaletski
Patricia Maloy
- **Edinboro University**
Alexander Kalimon



Pictured with guidance counselor Scott Canty, Brianna Cypert and Destiny Dean received recognition for participation in the High School Consortium, a program designed to give high school juniors and seniors the tools to enter the job market following graduation within companies such as PNC Bank, Allegheny Health Network, FedEx, and more.

- **Geneva College**
Rory Dougherty Mason Small
- **Indiana University of PA**
Jasmine Caldwell, Army National Guard Reserves
- **Juniata College**
Natalie Latta
- **Kent State University**
Kayla Glumac Jenna Williams
Nathan Latta
- **Maryland Institute College of Art**
Catalina Gleason
- **North Carolina State University**
Elias Ward
- **Ohio Valley School of Nursing**
Melina DeRose
- **Ohio University**
Arabella Hunt
- **Penn State University**
Maclaine Greiner Claire Schriver
Isabel Irwin Maria Smereka
Gabriel Prepelka
- **Penn State University Beaver**
Julia Roussos
- **Penn State University Behrend**
Morgan Harding
- **Robert Morris University**
Brianna Cyphert Andrew Levandoski
Kira Gossard Rachel Welsh
Justin Keys
- **Rochester Institute of Technology**
Molly Badger
- **Slippery Rock University**
Samual Chickini Alawna Mallory
Airys Gould Madison Samangy
Daphne Kalimon Andrew Weimer
- **St. Vincent College**
Katherine Kozy
- **University of Maine**
Samuel Knabel
- **University of Pittsburgh**
Phoebe Appel Daniel Schultz
Miranda Pinchot
- **Vet Tech Institute**
Erica Mcguire Savannah Vetter



During a senior recognition ceremony, Justin Wilson received a special award and stole from U.S. Marine Sgt. Roger Marcantonio. Justin will begin serving in the U.S. Marine Corps when he reports for training camp in October.

- **Waynesburg University**
Patrick Carlson
Matthew Hilarzewski
- **Westminster College**
Kyle Fenton
- **York College of Pennsylvania**
Kayla Wilson
- **Employment**
Ryan Ankrom David Holderbaum
Amajae Bey Anthony Killen
Lydia Coggin Brianna Matthews
Destiny Dean Bryson Mizia
Christopher Nicholas Sedlak
Goodman Zachary Turner
Jamie Grant Todd Westerhoff
Brandon Griffin Adam Whitaker
Cameron Heiser
- **Military**
Maraya Barton – U.S. Army
Carter Pojeta – U.S. Army
Justin Wilson – U.S. Marine Corps.
- **Real Estate Licensing**
Lacey Rybacki
Brendan Small – Fortune Builders



Senior class officers Lacey Rybacki, Hanna Zaletski, Patrick Carlson, and Madison Samangy were recognized at the senior recognition ceremony for their time, commitment, and service to the senior class by overseeing activities and events during the school year.



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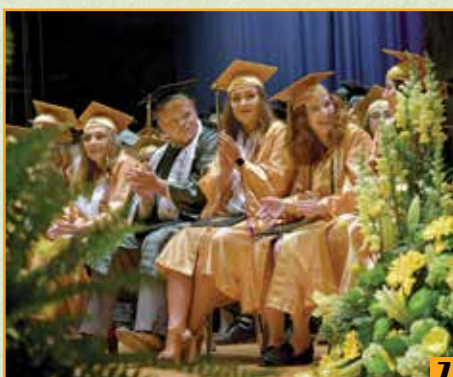
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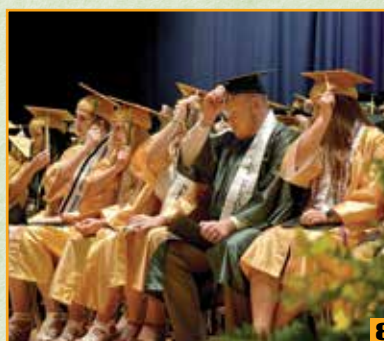
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1. Graduates Jacob Yee, Alyssa Wright, Kayla Wilson, and Jenna Williams brought up the end of the line as they stood in single file in the gym before processing into the auditorium for commencement services.

2. School Director Joe Appel had the honor and pleasure of presenting a diploma to his daughter, Phoebe Appel. This year, four school board members had the privilege of presenting a diploma to a daughter at the graduation ceremony.

3. Valedictorian Maria Smereka, as an honored speaker, addresses peers and an audience filled with proud parents, family, and friends during the commencement ceremony.

4. Wearing a big grin, salutatorian Rachel Welsh accepts her diploma from Principal Michael Loughren.

5. As his name is announced, graduate Christopher Goodman walks across the stage to accept a diploma from Principal Michael Loughren.

6. Two high school educators has the distinct honor of watching their daughters graduate from Carlynton; math teacher Michael Kozy and high school chemistry teacher Carrie Badger (pictured), who congratulated her daughter, Molly, as she walked across the stage to receive a diploma.

7. A comment made by a commencement speaker brought applause and smiles to the faces of the graduates.

8. The traditional changing of the tassel from the left to the right side of the cap solemnly signified the end of high school and a step toward a future of endless possibilities.

9. Graduates shouted with glee as they tossed their caps into the air after the boys and girls ensembles sang the school's alma mater. "Oh memories of the days gone by, sing praise to Carlynton High."

10. Following the ceremony, twin sisters Aleah and Alawna Mallory captured the joyful moment by posing with their sister.

Carnegie and Crafton Elementary Sixth

The accomplishments of sixth grade pupils who attend Carnegie or Crafton elementary schools are celebrated at the end of the school year. For most, the ceremony held in the schools' auditorium observes the end to seven years of schooling in one building and the transition to middle school in a different location.

The new site will mark the first time many will ride a bus to school, eat lunch in a genuine cafeteria, change rooms for every class, and interact with peers from another school. Indeed, a big and exciting step.

Awards and Recognition

CARNEGIE ELEMENTARY



Carnegie Elementary sixth graders received applause and high fives from underclassmen as they made their way down the hall to the auditorium for the recognition ceremony.



Destinee Santana proudly walks across the stage after receiving a packet containing certificates, awards, and a report card.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Annalyn Bell	Eva Mattucci
Sarah Duffy	Ian McGee
Bryan Holderbaum	vTyler Seaton
Ryan Hines	Dakota Stanton
Carter Litterini	

HIGH HONOR ROLL PLAQUE*

Fatoumata "Raye" Bah	Eva Milliner
Annalyn Bell	Jon Sciulli
Bryan Holderbaum	Tyler Seaton
Ryan Hines	Dakota Stanton
Eva Mattucci	

HONOR ROLL CERTIFICATE**

Hamzeh Alezzo	Carter Litterini
Devonte Dean	Kaycee Litterini
Paije Donahue	Ian McGee
Sarah Duffy	Mason Mulligan
Jessica Gillo	Dominik Sans-Pelescak

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Paije Donahue	Emily Supinsky
Bryan Holderbaum	Rayder Werner
Milled Majed	

CITIZENSHIP AWARD~

Bryan Holderbaum



Ryan Hines spoke at the Carnegie Elementary sixth grade program, sharing stories and favorite memories of activities and field trip enjoyed by classmates.



Carnegie Elementary Citizenship Award winner Bryan Holderbaum poses with Principal Lauren Baughman. (The photos from the Carnegie Elementary sixth grade recognition ceremony were taken by Laura Lenk.)



*The student earned high honor roll all four grading periods or three out of the four grading periods

**The student earned any combination of honor roll/high honor roll all or three of the four grading periods

^Every grading period, the Crafton-Ingram Rotary presents a \$150 U.S. savings bond to a Crafton Elementary student who has been deemed the hardest worker or has the highest GPA

Graders are Honored at Ceremonies

The end to sixth grade is a milestone that merits a celebration. The triumphs in elementary school, both small and great, have laid the groundwork for middle school where grander endeavors will be forged and conquered.
In celebration of accomplishments, Carnegie and Crafton Elementary Schools proudly salute the achievements of the 111 sixth graders with promotion to seventh grade. Watch out Carlynton, here comes the Class of 2025!

Awards and Recognition

CRAFTON ELEMENTARY

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Charlie Burcham | Jayce Kohler |
| Mateo Carrasco | Lana Mihelcic |
| Jordynn Carter | Uzochi Orji |
| Quinland Delrosario | Grace Prepelka |
| Shaunte' Deluca – Turner | Ian Robb |
| Kiyona Dias | Olivia Thompson |
| Connor Hart | |



As part of the recognition program at Crafton Elementary, Mark Jameson steps up to the podium to announce a performance by members of the chorus.



The sixth grade chorus gathered on the risers in the front of the auditorium to sing "America the Beautiful" and a special "goodbye" song.

HIGH HONOR ROLL PLAQUE*

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Zosia Branch | Connor Hart |
| Charlie Burcham | Jayce Kohler |
| Mateo Carrasco | Lana Mihelcic |
| Jordynn Carter | Emily Moose |
| Shaunte' Deluca-Turner | Uzochi Orji |
| Quinland Delrosario | Grace Prepelka |
| Kiyona Dias | Olivia Thompson |

HONOR ROLL CERTIFICATE**

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Maggie Egenaluf | Charles Mullen |
| Daishunn Farquharson | Ian Robb |
| Andrea Johnston | Mallory Rose |
| Jimmy Kerns | A'Layaha Taylor |

CRAFTON-INGRAM ROTARY SAVINGS BONDS^

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A'layah Taylor | Mateo Carrasco |
| Uzochi Orji | Kiyona Dias |

CITIZENSHIP AWARD~

- Connor Hart
Emily Moose



Principal Marsha Burleson offered congratulations to Crafton Elementary Citizenship Award winners Emily Moose and Connor Hart.



Recipients of U.S. savings bonds for academic accomplishments were Mateo Carrasco, A'layah Taylor, Uzochi Orji, and Kiyona Dias.



~Criteria for Citizenship Award: The student must be prepared for class, assignments are completed on time and with accuracy; the student is responsible and dependable, is ready and willing to help others, and volunteers when needed; the student demonstrates strong ethics and morals and interacts with other fairly in a variety of situations, treating everyone with respect.



MAKING HEADLINES

ENVIROTHON CHAMPS



The 2019 Envirothon competition, hosted by the West Jefferson Hills School District, was held on the grounds of South Park. With over 250 students competing from school districts across Allegheny County, the Carlynton middle school team (pictured above) of **Sean Hart, Bailey Vetter, Ella Snyder, Caden Crow** and **Wilson Choate** finished in a three-way tie for first place. The outdoor contest featured a variety of challenging environmental stations and activities that allowed over 40 teams of students to follow a rotation schedule to find solutions to present-day environmental issues.



The annual spelling bee for 15 Carnegie Elementary third graders left some stumped with words such as "ultimatum" or "tarantula." Prevailing and named victor of the bee was a delighted **Caleigh Lynch**, who edged out **Noah Natale** and **Kiley Clapperton** for the win. Sponsored by the Carnegie-Collier Rotary, and held in



Carnegie Elementary third grade spelling bee winners included Caleigh Lynch, Noah Natale, and Kiley Clapperton.

conjunction with the annual gift of dictionaries for the third grade classes, the top three winners took home prizes of Target gift cards and colorful certificates. Caleigh also won the chance to compete in a regional spelling bee held at Seven Springs Resort in May.



High school students enrolled in an A.P. U.S. Government course traveled to Gettysburg in the spring to tour the battlefields in the Gettysburg National Military Park. Using curriculum learned in class, the teens were able to explore the area and recreate moments in history. Individuals role-played scenes or battles that took place during the Civil War, including the Union victory that ended General Robert E. Lee's second and most determined invasion of the North. The day-trip to Gettysburg was used as an extension to social studies teacher



While standing in the fields where bloody battles were once fought, rising seniors **Dakota Mayfield, Jaimee Cabili, Elana Heffner** and **Haley Simcic** reenacted a scene from the Civil War.



Rising seniors **Izaiah Babish, Jane Grabowski, Camryn Kwaitkoski, Olivia Robb, Anya Carrasco,** and **Elizabeth Duffy** used a large, flat rock in the middle of a battlefield as a stage to interpret a moment in history from the Civil War.



Standing on the same spot once occupied in 1863 by former President Abraham Lincoln, **Savannah Sevacko** read the famed "Gettysburg Address" to peers and nearby visitors.

Laura Begg's U.S. government course and provided straightforward lessons about some of the most brutal battles of the Civil War.



Sixth graders **Charlie Burcham, Mateo Carrasco, Lana Mihelcic,** and **Uzochi Orji** captured first place at the Battle of the Books competition held at the Children's Choice Literature Festival in May at Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Oakland. Earning a respectable second place were fourth graders **Emery Delrosario** and **Akachukwu Orji** and second graders **Emmet Spitzer** and **Lexi Wiater**. The competition prompts responses to questions about the characters and plot of an assigned reading book. For their accomplishments, the champions received tickets to a Pirate game and drawstring backpacks.



In light of a peer who experienced a devastating fire earlier in the school year, members of the Carlynton National Junior Honor Society launched a "Cougar Closet," a space to store donations of gently-used clothing, shoes, books, and other items. The "closet" will be maintained as a safe place for students-in-need to privately "shop" for provisions. To further supplement the variety of items available in the Cougar Closet, NJHS members held a campaign to

raise monies to purchase necessities. A challenge was issued by **Principal Michael Loughren**. If students collected \$500 or more, he would allow members of NJHS to duct tape him to the cafeteria wall during a homeroom period. Within a few weeks, the goal was met, and at 7:00 am on Monday morning in May, dozens of students gathered in the cafeteria to watch as the principal was taped to the wall. NJHS sponsor and teacher **Marisa Rusinko** was delighted by the success of the campaign and readily assisted in the effort by cutting long pieces of duct tape

and handing them off to students. Before long, Mr. Loughren was "stuck" to the wall with only the support of a chair at his feet. As the chair was removed, he was suspended about 15 inches above the floor's surface. Mr. Loughren hung for several minutes on the wall before breaking free from the layers of duct tape. NJHS officers **Alyse Crown, Lexi Jones, Gwen Kalimon, Audrey Robb, and Ava Thompson** will oversee the Cougar Closet and its supplies, hoping it will become a permanent space in the building to aid students.



As a fundraiser for the NJHS-sponsored Cougar Closet, students duct-taped Principal Michael Loughren to a wall in the cafeteria.

WHO WANTS TO BE AN ENGINEER?

A team from the Carnegie Science Center visited Crafton Elementary in the spring to provide a fun-filled science day for students with interactive assemblies and exploration stations for hands-on discovery. The engineering-themed day kicked off with a high-energy game show experience in the auditorium where youngsters learned about engineering and



iteration, digital design and fabrication, and forces and interaction. They watched as a wind turbine created the energy to make a light bulb glow and

learned how engineers designed a cavity or pocket of air under the Tower of Pisa in Italy to prevent the bell tower from further leaning. The exploration stations, set up in the gym, allowed students to tinker with simple machines and discover the basic principles of engineering. Some of the activities included the opportunity to build a sturdy suspension bridge, or a soaring, resilient tower to withstand the forces of an earthquake.



The science center assembly featured a wheel, that when spun, randomly selected a city for which to discuss the design and structure of buildings, bridges, and towers. Third grader Ivan Buriak was one of several students selected from the audience to spin the wheel.



Fifth graders Aida Varghese and James Rafferty-Schulte tinker with Snap Circuits to explore the basics of circuitry and electricity at one of the exploration stations set up in the gym during the science center day.



John Kleer and Wyatt McHugh, fifth grade students, built a structure using Magnitiles. The sturdiness of the design and other structures made with Lincoln Logs were tested when placed on a "rumble board," or a fast shaking surface that simulated an earthquake.



As a chair was removed from under the feet of Principal Loughren, students Reece Smith and Joshua Grondziowski stayed nearby to ensure the grip of the tape.



Crafton Elementary Principal Marsha Burleson was awarded a Remake Learning Ignite Grant this past spring. The \$1,000 grant will be used to create a sensory pathway in the school, an area where students can become aware of their own senses. Sensory paths are becoming more commonplace in elementary schools as they provide a "brain break" for individuals to participate in high-intensity activities to get the heart pumping. The interactive playscapes, when utilized during the school day, have proven to help children sit still and focus for longer periods of time in the classroom.



Carnegie Elementary students of all ages spent a day with volunteers from Hefren-Tillotson in May to learn about market-based economics and entrepreneurship. Some 20 individuals from the wealth management firm presented materials to youngsters designed by Junior Achievement of Western PA. The

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MAKING HEADLINES *continued*

experience offered tips for financial literacy, goods and services, and global markets. Using a series of age-appropriate activities, students learned a practical approach to starting a business and making smart decisions. Younger students explored the concepts of needs versus wants and the benefits of starting a savings account, while those in the upper grades investigated the demands of the 21st century job market by gaining an understanding of the skills necessary for jobs in the science, technology, and engineering fields. The materials provided by Junior Achievement are guided by a goal of promoting a brighter future for young students by giving them the tools to succeed.



Fourth graders Rayanne Bigos, Justice Ogar, and Saniyah Scott worked with MaryAnn Devlin from Hefren-Tillotson to create and operate a hypothetical hot dog stand. The activity was designed to help students understand the fundamental tasks performed by a business owner and to track the revenue and expenses of a business.



First graders received an autographed copy of the book titled *Penny Penguin Finds Her Way Home* written by children's author Philip J. Damiani as part of the Junior Achievement Day experience. The author discussed the process of writing and marketing the book, and students discovered that all royalties from the sale of the book are directed to the Mario Lemieux Foundation.



Kindergarten students James Griffin and Finnian McLean work alongside a volunteer from Hefren-Tillotson. The learning activity gave students the chance to play a game while pretending to deposit money into a piggy bank by coloring sections of the paper bank.



The beautiful flowers planted on a strip of land near the Fort Pitt Tunnels of the Parkway West are the result of the hard work of nearly 80 members of the National Honor and National Junior Honor Societies. The pupils collaborated with the Western PA Conservancy to plant hundreds of brightly-colored annuals in the community flower garden. With traffic whizzing by, the teens worked with care for hours, preparing the soil, sowing the seedlings, and adding fertilizer, and ultimately bringing beauty and character to the greenspace.



Working in teams and wearing safety vests, members of the honor societies carried buckets of soil and fertilizer to those planting flowers in the community garden near the Fort Pitt Tunnels.



When the work was done, the students gathered on the green space for a group photo. Teachers/national honor society sponsors Marissa Rusinko and Jamie Sonnie chaperoned students to the service activity.

2019 SHASDA RECIPIENTS



Seniors **Matthew Hilarzewski** and **Brianna Cyphert** were named the recipients of the 2019 SHASDA Award

presented by the South Hills Area School Districts Association at a spring conference held in Southpointe. SHASDA is a consortium of superintendents of school districts located in the South Hills who meet almost monthly to discuss relevant educational issues. In the spring, a symposium is held to recognize two students from each school district who have made remarkable strides during their high school career. Parents attended the conference with their children as well as **Principal Michael Loughren**, **School Director Jude Frank**, and **Acting Superintendent Joseph Dimperio**.



A career day held in the junior-senior high school gym in late May gave students the chance to explore a wide selection of occupations within sixteen career clusters, namely, agriculture, business management and finance, health services, human services,



An engineer from the locally-based company Civil and Environmental Consultants spoke with then-sophomores Andrew Engleka, Eric Burcham, and Santos Pastor-Gonzalez about the field of environmental engineering.



During career day, rising juniors Collin Conner, Richard Ferris, and Marco Lopez dictate a few sentences as Resa Zygula, a court stenographer for Washington County, speedily records their words.

manufacturing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and the arts. The event was held on the same day as "move up" day for sixth graders, who were given a personalized tour of the building and then had time to explore the tables and speak to employers and agencies at the fair.



In late April, Crafton Elementary first graders were visited by Mayor Jim Bloom and borough historian Mary Luxbacher, who offered an account of the history of Crafton. The students learned about the borough's reputation as a "Tree City" and the efforts of community members to beautify the neighborhood by planting saplings. Students discussed the differences between evergreens and fast-growing, fruit, or flowering trees. Before the visit ended, the children received a small sapling to take home and plant in his or her yard. The small gift brought smiles to the faces of the



students who were eager to preserve the tradition of conserving the beautiful green canopies that line the streets of their neighborhood. Pictured, and holding a banner are **Jade Burnett, Jenna Hussain, Penelope Bittner, Sophia Aldridge, Giada Huber-Matteo, Hunter Ciechanowski** and **Richard Heisler**.

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Led by Drum Major Andrew Weimer, the band performed at Pier 83 on the Hudson River.

COUGAR MARCHING BAND PERFORMS IN NYC



Forty-one members of the Cougar Marching Band, band director Todd Obidowski, and two chaperones traveled to New York City for a three-day excursion and a day performance at the renowned Manhattan cruise terminal on the Hudson River, Pier 83. Performing in uniform, the show drew praise from a large crowd of spectators. For the students, the trip included an extraordinary visit and tour of the 911 Memorial, a self-guided tour at One World Observatory, dinner and the musical *Aladdin* at the New Amsterdam Theater, and a ferry ride to Liberty State Park and the Statue of Liberty.



Band members gathered at the base of the Statue of Liberty after a ferry ride from Battery Park to Liberty State Park.



A visit to the 911 Memorial included a sobering tour around the circumference of the site to view the names of all those lost on that on that horrific day in American history.



MAKING HEADLINES

AMBASSADOR FOR DIPLOMACY

Rising senior **Sharaf Munaf** (in suit and tie), pictured with his family and ESL teacher **Jessica Bartholomew** (second from left), attended the 10th annual Luminari Ambassador Camp this past summer. Sharaf and 15 other selected students from different ethnic backgrounds and schools met daily at the Ellis School in Shadyside for a one-



week session to learn cultural competency, negotiation skills, and conflict resolution. The students then traveled to Washington, D.C.

and toured four embassies, the U.S. Capitol, and other national sites. The non-profit Luminari camp is designed to help teens in grades 9-12 master the skills of a successful ambassador while



learning and understanding diplomacy. As the camp drew to a close, each of the participants were asked to speak about their experience. A well-spoken Sharaf expressed gratitude for the experience

and conveyed his desire to bring peaceful solutions to his home country. Sharaf's sister (pictured, second from right) attended the camp last year as an ambassador.



A group of Carnegie Elementary teachers and several high school students traded in their pencils for paint brushes the morning following the last day of school to paint the asphalt surface near the school playground. Using a bright pallet, the volunteers decorated the area to define a basketball court, a kickball court, four-square game, hop scotch, a long jump area, and a walking



A zone for children to play four-square has been added to the playground surface. Other painted surfaces not pictured include a hop scotch game and a walking

trail. Funding from a Healthy Schools mini-grant enabled the purchase of the paint. The fresh coated surface will now provide a designated area for play when students return to school in August.



The area for a basketball court is now defined with bright colors and lines.



Carnegie Elementary fifth grade teachers **Erin Cummings, Scott Donnelly, and Renee Gaydos** guided students through a project to celebrate Carnegie Borough's 125-year anniversary. Students spent several weeks completing an assignment that featured all facets of the borough, its history, its people, and its landmarks. As part of the project, individuals composed poems about living



Jacob Floyd, Carlee Hughes, Carsen Dunlap, Bella Lucci, Harita Venkatesh, and Diego Tuapante stand before members of Carnegie Borough Council following a presentation designed to celebrate Carnegie's 125th Anniversary.