POTTSTOWN PRIDE

ACADEMICS AND ACTIVITIES
PARTNERS FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE



FALL 2024

Our Mission: Prepare each student, by name, for success at every level.



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT POINTS OF PRIDE FALL 2024



Student activities are an integral part of our educational program. Co-curricular programs are not only a way for students to have fun, but also a valuable educational tool. Activities provide an opportunity for all students to participate and help build community recognition and identity. Co-curricular activities are designed to instill school pride and teach life-long lessons. They support the academic mission of the school district and promote citizenship and sportsmanship. The activities program is a testing ground for the physical and emotional development of our young people.

IT IS BETTER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TRY TO REPAIR ADULTS.

For more information about Pottstown School District, visit our website at www.PottstownSchools.org or call 610-323-6274.

Pottstown School District is proud of its past and confident of its future.

Go to http://www.pottstownschools.org/AlumniPages.aspx and then click on any of the highlighted years. The yearbooks provide an engaging narrative into the proud history of Pottstown. One can go as far back as 1914 to see the interest and fashion of the day. Pottstown School District may be one of a few districts in the country to provide this unique feature as a way of sharing community pride in our schools. Pottstown High School has over 22,000 graduates who have gone on to distinguish themselves in every field of endeavor and given us reason to say *Proud to be from Pottstown*. It is an honor to share this look back to younger days with our graduates. We are not posting our most recent yearbooks because the High School still has some hard copies for sale. Not every yearbook is posted. The missing years are listed on the website. If anyone is willing to lend us one for scanning, please contact John Armato at 610-323-6271 / 484-256-7491 or jarmato@pottstownk12.org.





Please join us in recognizing Pottstown School Superintendent Stephen Rodriauez District 3.000th day serving students, staff community. As superintendent he has provided the educational leadership that supports our school district mission to prepare each student by name for success at every level. He has been a tireless advocate for a legislative change that would provide fair and equitable funding of our schools. His leadership has helped to develop an atmosphere and culture of care, understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of all. Thank you for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.

Beech Street Learning Studio on a mission

The stated mission of the Pottstown School District is to prepare each student by name for success at every level. Seven students in the district's Beech Learning Studio program celebrated their successful completion of academic requirements and received their high school diploma at a ceremony attended by their families, teachers and district administrators.

The highly successful program provides in-person one-on-one support for students. A total of 18 students graduated during the school year. Since its inception, 77 students have benefited from this program and are now proud PHS Trojan alumni. Their achievement is proof that hard work pays off. Thanks for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.

The graduates receiving their diplomas in front of the smiling faces of their families included:

- ☆ Mari Griffin
- ☆ Jayson Caballero
- ☆ Nyla Blake-Walls
- ☆ Kyree Robinson
- ☆ Layla Lettiere
- ☆ Isaiah Mayo
- ☆ Angelina Ray





















On The Road Again

Thanks to the Pottstown chapter of **NAACP** Road to Reading initiative that has placed over 12,000 books in the hands of our elementary students for their personal home libraries. Special thanks to **Sandy and Bob Bauers** for their untiring efforts to provide our students with the resources they need to help their personal growth on the road to success. Working together to build a strong community, another reason to say proud to be from Pottstown.









A Day of Remembrance

Board Committee discuss impact of social media and ban on phones

FOOTBALL

"Adam Sabuacak Player of the Game Award"

Adam Sabuacak was a 2001 graduate of Pottstown High School. He earned four varsity letters as a player for the Trojans and after graduation was one of our most loyal fans. Adam passed away in the spring of May 2009 and in his memory each week the high school football team will be naming the "Adam Sabuacak Player of the Game."

Winners for the 2024 Season:

\triangleright	August 23, 2024	- MLK	-	Caden Nihart
	August 29, 2024	- Renaissance Academy	-	Jace Burgess
	September 6, 2024	- Unionville	-	Cole Boyles
	September 20, 2024	- Upper Merion	-	Ikeem Wolloh
	September 27, 2024	- Pottsgrove	-	Kingston Allen
	October 4, 2024	- Phoenixville	-	Jace Burgess
	October 25, 2024	- Crossover	-	Tyson Robbins

Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Second Team All-Division Frontier- Defense

Semaj Laws

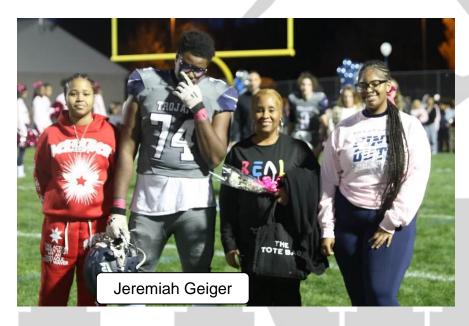
Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Second Team All-Division Frontier- Offense

Kingston Allen

Football Players Senior Day Photos:







Football Players Senior Day Photos:













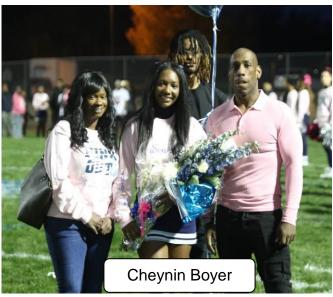














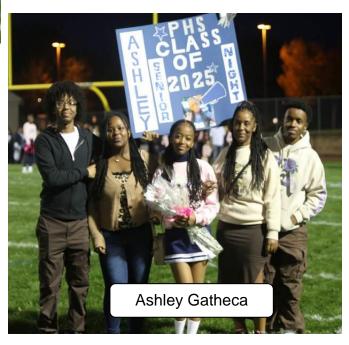




















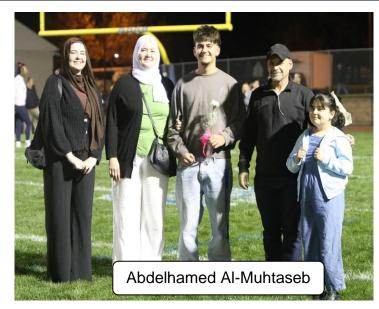






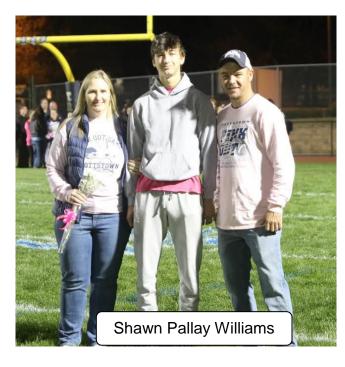


Trojan Men Members Senior Day Photos:



























































GIRLS' FIELD HOCKEY

Players learn hard work pays off

A 9-0 hockey victory over Upper Darby was a good reminder to Pottstown High School hockey players that hard work pays off. After the game, first year head coach Katie Rauenzahn said, "From the beginning of the season, we set high expectations on eligibility, attendance at school and practice, respect for teammates, and good sportsmanship. I'm proud to say the players showed their commitment by working hard to meet the expectations. I hope they are proud of themselves because, I am very proud of what they have accomplished. They combined their skills with a strong work ethic, teamwork, communication, and perseverance. Today they were able to capitalize on all of their hard work and the results were shown on the scoreboard. I am proud to coach this team of Trojan student athletes."

Goals were scored by: Aaliyah Fraelich-Johnson (3 goals), Taraji Brown (2 goals), Kobe Lewis-Lesher, Brooke Laise, Ezra King, and Maddison Sheldon

Assists: Angelina Quiles and Taraji Brown.







Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference All Frontier Division First Team

Angelina Quiles

Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference All Frontier Division Second Team

Ebony Brown

Trojan field hockey takes road trip for future success

Pottstown Trojan field hockey players from both the high school and middle school took a road trip to Kutztown University where they were able to watch a college game played at Andre Reed Stadium between Kutztown and Mansfield University. After watching two highly skilled teams play, all of the Trojan players were invited to come down to the field, and speak to the players. The team heard firsthand from college student athletes what is required to be successful at the collegiate level both on the field and in the classroom. Our team walked away from a highly successful day, being inspired to continue to prepare themselves for success at the next level in the classroom and on the field. A big thanks to Kutztown University and their field hockey team for hosting us and helping to encourage the next generation of successful young adults. Thank you to our coaches for creating an opportunity for students to expand their knowledge and prepare for the future. Another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.













Girls' Field Hockey Senior Day Photo:





FIELD HOCKEY



BOYS' SOCCER



Boys' Soccer Senior Day Photos:











GIRLS' SOCCER

Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Frontier Division - First Team

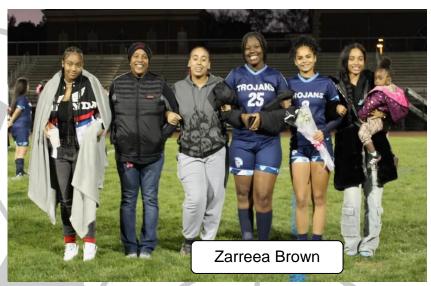
Daniela Castillo

Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference Frontier Division - Second Team

Jayanna Hill



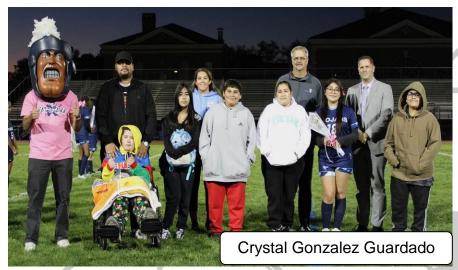
Girls' Soccer - Senior Day Photos:







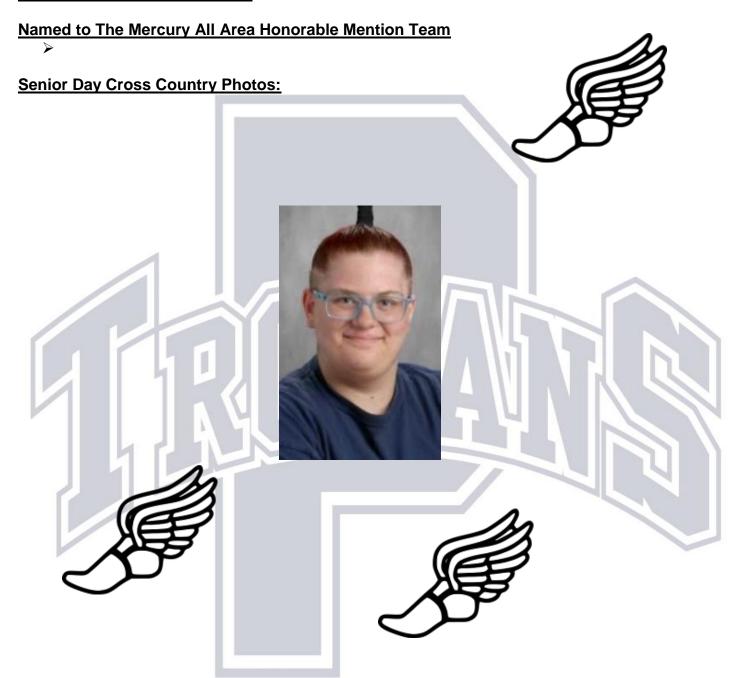
Girls' Soccer - Senior Day Photos:







CROSS COUNTRY



GOLF

Trojan Golfers Earn Victory

Congratulations to our PHS Trojan Golfers and Coach Fox for their 264-266 victory over Pottsgrove. The win is the first for our program since 2020 when the program was on hiatus. With the score all tied up, victory was in the hands of our last two golfers **Kai O'Brien** and **Nye Powell**. They both shot their career best games to help carry the Trojans to a two-stroke victory. Other members of the team competing were **Reece Murphy**, **Drew Bunning**, **Austin Derstine**, **Evan Draucker**, **and Shawn Pallay-Williams**. Trojan Proud of our student athletes who represent our school and community with pride, honor, and good sportsmanship.









GIRLS' TENNIS – Senior Day













GIRLS' TENNIS - Senior Day













Named to the Pioneer Athletic Conference – frontier Division – Honorable Mention Team

Lili Freese

Game Set Match

Congratulations to PHS girl tennis players, **Taylor Maguire** and **Lili Freese** for their outstanding performance at the Pioneer Athletic Conference Tennis Championships. Taylor and Lili teamed up to represent us in the doubles competition. Competing against 24 other teams, they battled their way through the bracket to earn fifth place.

Throughout the day, they use their tennis skills combined with teamwork, effective communications and perseverance to earn a spot on the podium. Trojan Proud of our student athletes. These two young ladies are more proof that hard work pays off. Thank you for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.













VOLLEYBALL – Senior Day











Pottstown High School

PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FRONTIER DIVISION

PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ALL ACADEMIC TEAM

The value of participation on sports teams goes way beyond developing athletic skills. The Pioneer Athletic Conference demonstrates its commitment to academics and citizenship by recognizing an All-Academic Team and a Citizen Athlete at the end of each season. One athlete from each Fall Sports Team is named to represent their school. Our Fall sports honorees are:

Boys' Soccer

Cheerleading

> Football

➢ Girls' Field Hockey

Girls' Soccer Girls' Tennis

Girls' Volleyball

> Golf

Diego Aguilera

- Cheynin Boyer

- Christopher Thomas

- Ebony Brown

- Carmen Gomez

- Naden Elgendy

- Miranda Pineda

- Evan Draucker

PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FALL CITIZEN ATHLETE AWARD

Taylor Maguire

Trojan Proud of our Fall sports student athletes!

They have made every second count and their hard work has paid off.

They have represented our school and community with pride, honor and good sportsmanship. The All Conference Teams recognize athletic ability. While the All Academic team takes into account both athletics and classroom performance. Each school can select one representative per sport to the All Academic Team. The Citizen Athlete Award Recognizes one student athlete from each school who demonstrates excellence in athletics, academics, leadership and citizenship. Special congratulations to our Fall Sports Citizen Athlete honoree, Taylor Maguire a member of the Girls Tennis Team.

Thanks for giving us more reasons to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown!"

STAFF and DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Elementary Teacher Making Waves



Trojan Proud of Rupert Elementary teacher, **Miss Becca Cubbler** who competed in the US Swimming Masters competition held in Indianapolis. She returned home from the five-day competition with a national championship in the women's 400 m Individual Medley which requires a swimmer to use all four competitive strokes on consecutive lengths of the race (Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Freestyle).

Her time of 4:42.27 earned a first-place national championship in the 25-29 age group and a second-place overall women in the competition. She also competed in the 1000 m freestyle event where she took first place in both her age group and overall with a time of. 10;46.70.

Miss Cubbler is no stranger to a swimming pool. She has been making waves ever since her Bloomsburg University days, where she was a standup competitor. Becca takes the same dedication, enthusiasm, passion, and work ethic into the classroom, where she lives up to her school district mission of preparing each student by name for success at every level. She is truly an example of hard work pays off and has given us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.

Superintendent's Award Recognizes Heroes

Lincoln Principal Calista Boyer, a PHS grad, and Middle School Principal Dr. Hector Wangia were presented Superintendent Awards at the school board meeting on September 11th, 2024. A child did not return home and was missing for many hours. With all the passion and zeal they are known for, these two administrators searched the community, worked with the parents, investigated, and did not stop until that child was safety found! They are a credit to their field and another reason we say, "Proud to be from POTTSTOWN!!!"



School Board Members Earn Honor Roll

Pottstown school board members **Laura Johnson** and **Steve Kline** were recently recognized with the Pennsylvania School Board Association(PSBA) Honor Roll Award. The association's honor roll program celebrates school board directors for long-term service and recognizes their dedication to their local districts and communities. Board members receive no pay for their service and must be elected by their community. They are responsible for setting the goals and policies that direct staff and administration actions to help prepare the future leaders of our country.

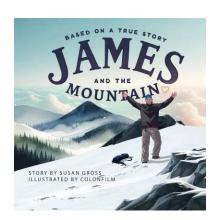
Congratulations to Mrs. Laura Johnson and Mr. Steve Kline on your five years of service. You have both given us more reason to say proud to me from Pottstown.





Mom authors inspirational book in son's memory

Susan Gross, a teaching assistant at Pottstown School District North End Learning Center, has authored her second children's inspirational book in memory of her 30-year-old son, James, who tragically lost his life in a motorcycle accident while traveling around the world as an engineer building rocket tubes for SpaceX.



Her newest book "James, and the Mountain" is based on true events, along with a few twists to enhance the story. Trekking to the top of Mt. Whitney in California, James encounters a wise tree, a grand old buck, and a beastly bear that motivates him to keep going and not to quit. The theme of the book is, when faced with the mountain, do not quit. James struggles at times but he reflects on the many blessings in life and the beauty ahead.

The book is available on Amazon and portions of the proceeds go to his children's education.

James and the Mountain

Board President Recognized For Service

Congratulations to **Mrs. Katina Bearden**, school board president, on being honored by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) with an Honor Roll Award celebrating ten years of dedicated service to students, staff and community. The certificate represents PSBA's appreciation for her work and steadfast commitment to helping prepare each student, by name, for success at every level and representing our community with pride and honor. Another reason to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown!"



Rodriguez goes on air to talk about balance

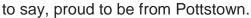


Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez shared his thoughts about the educational challenge of balancing tradition and technology. He was a guest on ChangED, an educator-based podcast for Pennsylvania teachers. He shared his story of the path from classroom teacher to superintendent emphasizing the importance of having a willingness to challenge yourself to investigate, and innovate to meet the 2024 needs of our students, staff and community.

ELEMENTARY

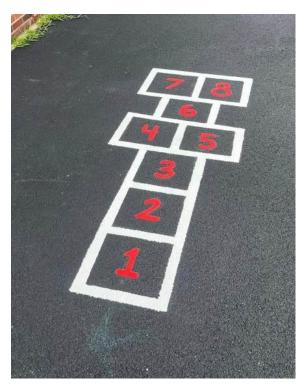
Teamwork brings a new look to Franklin playground

Thanks to the teamwork of some dedicated volunteers, Franklin Elementary School will have a fresh new look to the playground area. Geoff Volinskie, husband of Franklin teacher Bridget Volinskie and owner of Volinskie Painting, volunteered his time and professional experience to update the Franklin playground with colorful stenciled play areas! Assisting him were Bridget Volinskie, Jenna Palladino, Cody Frinkel, Dylan Frinkel, and Brittany Adamski. The stencils were funded by a student grant from the Foundation for Pottstown Education. Geoff Volinskie stated, "We hope the kids at Franklin Elementary enjoy it as much as we enjoyed creating it for them!" Trojan Proud of all the efforts by our volunteers who gives us another reason













Lincoln students get free backpacks

Representatives of the Kids in Need Foundation and Tri County Toyota paid a visit to Lincoln Elementary School Wednesday to distribute free backpacks filled with school supplies.









Donation Gets School Year Off to Healthy Start

Thanks to a donation of student and teacher school supplies, Pottstown Rupert Elementary school students will get the year off to a healthy start. Pottstown Hospital - Tower Health staff spent several weeks gathering much needed student and teacher individual classroom supplies. The hospital community wellness department coordinated a drop-off and distribution of supplies to Rupert students and staff. Rupert principal Mr. Matt Moyer said, "We are grateful for the donation that helps put the necessary tools in our students' hands and helps us carry on our district mission to prepare each student for success at every level. Community partnerships like this are vital to success and gives us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown."



LtoR: Megan Forstburg and Casey Fenoglio of Pottstown Hospital's Community Wellness Department with Mrs. Ashley Bellevou, first grade teacher; and Miss Kelsey Hultz, second grade teacher

School Supply Donation helps prepare students for success

Thanks to a donation of school supplies from **Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County**, students at Pottstown Franklin Elementary school will start the year well prepared with the tools they need for success in the classroom. This is the fourth year in a row that Beth Israel has conducted a school supply drive for Franklin students.

Franklin principal Beth Kramer said, "We are extremely appreciative of the kindness and generosity shared with our students. The supplies will assist students both in school and at home. Donations like this that helped develop community school partnerships and are role models for our students to understand the importance of helping others."



Franklin thanks Piazza Subaru of Limerick for their great support in adopting Franklin



classrooms and providing multiple donations to support our students and staff over the last two years! Piazza Subaru has donated \$10,000 over two years to Franklin teachers through "adoptaclassroom"!

Saint Paul's UCC has supported Franklin Elementary staff and students again this year by collecting 212 boxes of crayons! Thank you for helping us start this school year off bright!



Second graders enjoy outdoor learning

Lincoln Elementary second graders paid a visit to **Morris Arboretum** where they learned some valuable lessons and enjoyed the atmosphere of an outdoor classroom. They observed and discussed how humans, animals and plant life interact and are interdependent upon one another. The trip provided many hands-on learning experiences that both students and teachers enjoyed. When asked how they enjoyed the day one of the students remarked "it was a magical day".













Barth Kindergarten Adventure

Barth Elementary kindergarten students took their first field trip of the year. **Pottstown's Children's Discovery Center** provided lots of opportunities for adventure. Students enjoyed STEM activities with the water table and LEGO wall, and learned about the journey of food from farm to table. The day concluded with students putting on their own performance in the theater room. Thanks to everybody at the discovery center for helping to make learning a fun experience. Having the learning center right here in our town is another reason to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."







Bingo Night Big Winners

Young and old alike, everyone was a big winner at Rupert Elementary Grandparent Book Bingo Night. It was an evening of family fun, which helped emphasize the importance of reading and building strong school and family partnerships. One more step to fulfilling our district mission to prepare each student, by name, for success at every level. More reason to say, "Proud to be from

Pottstown."

















Kindergarten students explore the world from their backyard



community Our is fortunate to be home to the Pottstown Children's Discovery Center, where there are an array of activities that give children an opportunity to create, explore, imagine, be encouraged and inspired. Our kindergarten students paid a visit to the center where they explored science, took part in creative activities, learned about healthy living habits, the environment and teamwork. Having an outstanding learning opportunity that promotes selfawareness and appreciation for learning right here in our town is more reason to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."













Student Art Work Shines on Election Day

The "I Voted" stickers that you customarily receive at the polling place will have a new bright look to them. Thanks to a partnership Montgomery County has with Fresh Artist, a local nonprofit that showcases artwork of public school students, voters will receive one of 45 unique sticker designs that were selected from more than 750 submissions from county students. Students created portraits of themselves as suns with the prompt "my time to shine".

Pottstown students who will be featured include:

- ☆ Aayden Broomes (Barth)
- ☆ Josalyn Foster-Johnson (Franklin)
- ☆ Melanie Jeter (Lincoln)

P1-5		Jalexy Astacio	2	Rupert ES Athena Procsal
P2-118	2(0)	Aayden Broomes	2	Barth ES Keri Marini
P3-11		Melanie Jeter	2	Lincoln ES Keri Marini
P4-1		. Josalyn Foster-Johnson	2	Franklin ES Athena Procsal

Pottstown student art work will help celebrate an important aspect of citizenship and gives us another reason to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."





A Tree Grows In Brooklyn

Well, this post is not about the 1945 novel and it's not about Brooklyn nor one tree. The Pottstown School District in collaboration with nonprofit partner, Save Our Lands, Save Our Towns Incorporated, with the aid of a grant secured from the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources and matched with some school district funds will be planting 415 native trees on school district properties. **Barth Elementary School** was the site of one of the first tree planting projects which incorporated educational lessons for students and hands-on opportunities for tree planting. Students learned how trees help improve air quality, serve as protection from ultraviolet radiation, provide cooling and energy, along with creating habitats for wildlife and beautifying the environment.















MIDDLE SCHOOL

Partnership brings innovation and challenge for students



A partnership of the Pottstown School District and Montgomery County Community College will provide a group of Pottstown eighth graders an innovative program that will challenge and build academic abilities and promote interpersonal skills. Montco 360 is an innovative, immersive STEM (science, technology, engineering mathematics) program held on MCCC's Pottstown campus for a group of Pottstown eighth grade students. The college held an open house for students and parents to introduce them to the program and facilities.

The course will be taught by Pottstown Middle School engine/physics/mathematics teacher,

Mr. Andy Bachman. The program will focus on problem-solving skills, critical thinking, project development, communications, and much more. Students will spend part of their day on the college campus and have full access to the Challenger Learning Center, Science Sphere classroom and other college facilities. Transportation to and from the college will be by way of the new distinctive Trojan Mobile.



Ryan Oxenford, Director of Curriculum and Educational Programs for the school district said, "We are excited about the educational opportunities that this partnership will provide for our students. They will face academic challenges that call for teamwork, creative thinking, and communication skills. Their experience in Montco 360 will help position them for future success."









Young Players visit The Eagles Nest

Players from the Pottstown Middle School football team, along with members of the JYA Club team, enjoyed an afternoon of behind-the-scenes private tour of Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles. The players and their families were taken on a tour of the locker room, media press room, broadcasting booth where nationally televised games are called, the 50-yard line seats and luxury box suites. They had the opportunity to see the Super Bowl trophy up close and personal. They used the player tunnel entrance that leads to the field. The backstage tour enabled them to see all of the workings that go on during the NFL game. SNG Catering of Paoli provided a delicious lunch for all participants. Without question the tour was the highlight of their day and will be the topic of discussion with their friends for many days to come.











There's a storm brewing

The next time there is a weather report calling for stormy conditions or a hurricane alert Pottstown Middle School students, who are part of a unique collaborative effort with Montgomery County Community College, will have a better understanding of all of the factors involved. The MONTCO-360 program provides them a classroom at the college, access to many of the unique teaching tools, and guest lectures from college professors.

The class, which is taught by Pottstown teacher Mr. Andrew Bachman, was visited by Montgomery County Community College professor Dominke Merle-Johnson. Exploring the atmospheric ingredients of a hurricane and the role they play in the formation and evolution of a storm, and how each ingredient is measured and investigated by meteorologist, began with a trip to the college Science on a Sphere classroom, which gave students historical data and prospective on hurricanes. Back in the classroom, Dr. Merrell Johnson led the class experiments to determine air pressure. Students had hands-on experience with a sling psychrometer to determine relative humidity and dewpoint. Using the information they had gained during the day, they developed 2-D models, illustrating how hurricanes form.

Mr. Bachman said this class gives students hands-on learning that will increase their understanding of the world around them. We are fortunate to have a partnership with Montgomery County Community College that provides so many academic opportunities.











Students gain Technology Insights

Pottstown Middle School students, members of Montco 360 Project gained valuable knowledge and insights on a recent tour. The Montco 360 Project is a partnership of the Montgomery County Community College and the Pottstown School District, which enables middle school students to experience enhanced learning opportunities in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Middle school mathematics teacher, Mr. Andy Bachman led the group on a tour of Amphenol - Carlisle Interconnect Technologies (CIT) - Limerick, PA. During the tour, the students interacted with engineers and witnessed a variety of STEM career opportunities available. CIT designs components from scratch, makes each piece, assembles, tests, and ships to customers.

Bachman said, "Students built upon their science knowledge as they learned: how coaxial cables transmit signals, the significance of geometry, and properties of materials. The students quickly realized the importance of quality control because the products they observed are going into space, rockets, and aircraft." We are thankful to have the college right here in our community and share in our mission to prepare each student, by name, for success at every level. More reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."









HIGH SCHOOL

Taylor Goes to Washington





Pottstown High School Senior **Taylor Maguire** lives up to the belief of "every second counts." Recently she was selected by the United States Tennis Association Foundation as one of the top 24 student athletes to attend the Haber Regional Career Excellence Program held in Washington DC. The group received exclusive tours of the White House, the Capital and prominent corporation headquarters. The program is designed to broaden students' understanding of potential career paths and develop leadership skills.

Taylor's belief that every second counts can be seen in her never-ending participation in a wide range of activities. At school, she is a member of the tennis, wrestling and softball teams, and a member of the National Honor Society. She participates in marching, concert and jazz bands. Her activities outside of school include being part of the Reading Buccaneers Drum and Bugle Corps and coaching tennis for the Greater Pottstown Tennis Association. On the weekends she can be found on the dirt racetrack behind the wheel of a midget race car.

Taylor said, "My favorite part of the week was touring the White House and learning about its history and different career options available. After high school I am looking forward to continuing my education and using it as a foundation for a career path. As a student

at Pottstown High School, I have gained valuable friendships, been given leadership responsibilities and had the opportunity to learn the importance and value of teamwork. It has shown me that hard work and dedication pay off."







Gaining Court Experience

As a member of the Pottstown High School Girls Tennis team, sophomore **Ashlyn Pulinka** is gaining valuable on court experience. This summer she gained experience preparing her to fulfill her dream of being a courtroom attorney. Ashlyn took part in the National Youth Leadership Law Form held in Washington DC.

She visited courthouses and observed proceedings while also taking part in a mock trial. The group met with professionals and discovered the specialty career paths available in the law field. They also had the opportunity to meet with officials from George Mason University to take part in admission workshops and campus tours.

Reflecting on her experience Ashlyn said, "I enjoyed not only meeting new people from diverse backgrounds, but also sharing a common passion for law. I really love seeing how my dream job is practiced and learning more about something I'm passionate about."











Hands-on instruction

Students from Pottstown High School Health Occupation program paid a visit to Barth Elementary to give a hands-on lesson on proper way to wash hands as part of a healthy living lifestyle. After applying a lotion that was to stimulate invisible germs on their hands students used the handwashing techniques they were taught. A before and after ultraviolet light hand check was used to show students how successful they were in washing off the invisible "germs". They quickly learned what it takes to have clean hands and the high school students got hands-on real-life











Auto Tech Students get a jumpstart

Thanks to a generous donation from the PHS class of 1963, graduating seniors from the auto technology program will receive a jumpstart on their careers. The \$1700 donation will be used to purchase a full set of mechanic tools, necessary for young auto mechanics entering the field.



Mr. Mike Hewitt, auto technology instructor for the high school, said, "We appreciate alumni supporting our students. This donation will be instrumental in helping to give our graduating seniors a jumpstart on a successful career." The members of the Class of '63 are another example of our belief, "Once a Trojan, a Trojan Forever". Thank you for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown!







There's no place like Home

There's no place like Pottstown High School when it comes to homecoming celebrations. The weeklong Spirit Week activities included hall decorations, an old school style bonfire Thursday night, a pep rally with classes competing against one another in an assortment of games, announcing the homecoming court along with the king and queen at halftime of the football game and concluding with a Saturday night homecoming dance, that students had to meet academic standards to be eligible to attend and of course Trojan Man was always on hand to show TROJAN PRIDE. We welcomed many of our alumni who returned to take part in all of the activities, including alumni members of the band and cheerleaders who took part in Friday night's events. Class reunions are also a part of homecoming with the classes of '74 and '64 celebrating their Trojan Pride over the weekend.















Homecoming Court 2024

Our first homecoming queen candidate is Abby Donohie.

Abby Donohie is the daughter of Tara and John Donohie. She has been a National Honors Society member and on the volleyball team for the past 3 years. She has been a part of dual enrollment at Montgomery Community College 3 for the past 2 years. Abby plans to enter the legal field and hopes to attend either the University of Pittsburgh or the University of Delaware.

Abby is escorted this evening by homecoming king candidate, Evan Draucker.

Evan Draucker is the son of Stephanie and Christopher Draucker. He has been a member of the baseball team for the past 4 years, a member of the golf team for the past 2 years, and is involved in our culinary program for the past 3 years. Evan hopes to attend West Chester University and earn a degree in accounting.

This evening's second candidate for homecoming queen is Aniyah Crump.

Aniyah Crump is the daughter of Danisha Still and Dwayne Crump, she is a four-year member of the Cheerleading Squad, a 1-year member of HOSA, and a member of both the NAACP and National Technical Honors Society. Aniyah was also accepted into the internship program at the Pottstown Hospital during her senior year. Aniyah plans to attend college to study medicine.

Aniyah's escort this evening is homecoming king candidate, Jeremiah Geiger.

Jeremiah Geiger is the son of Myia Watson and Gregory Geiger. He has been a member of the Pottstown football team for the past 3 years. His plans for the future are to become a sound engineer and continue to play football. He hopes to attend either Villanova or Eastern University.

This evening's third homecoming queen candidate is Daniela Castillo.

Daniela Castillo is the daughter of Erika Zambrano and Justo Castillo and has been a member of the band for all 4 years of high school. She has also been a member of DECA for the past 3 years and with the unified track team. Daniela has been a National Honors Society member, National Technical Honor Society, and the girls' soccer team, where she has been a captain for the past 3 years. Daniela plans to further my education and athletic career at the collegiate level.

Homecoming queen candidate Daniela Castillo is escorted this evening by homecoming king candidate, Ezriel Felder. **Ezriel Felder** is the son of Michaela Richardson and has been a member of the football team for the past 4 years as well as a member of the track team for the past 4 years. Next year Ezriel hopes to attend college at Georgia Tech.

Our next candidate for homecoming queen is Tahj Phillips.

Tahj Phillips is the daughter of Elishebaha Adams and Todd Phillips. She is the senior class president, is a member of the track, cheerleading, and interact clubs for the past 4 years. She has been involved in student government, been on the Mini-thon committee, Link Crew, and a member of the NAACP. She has been involved in all school musicals since 5th grade. Tahj is a student board representative for the Pottstown school board and spent the last 2 years dual enrolled in Montgomery County community college. Tahj hopes to attend college at the University of Hawaii or a historically black college or university to study education.

Tahj is escorted by homecoming king candidate Brock Klopp.

Brock Klopp is the grandson of Mary Ann Bryan. Brock is a member of DECA. He is also an art major student. Brock hopes to study art education at Millersville university.

Our last candidate for homecoming queen is Taylor Maguire.

Taylor Maguire is the daughter of Trisha and Randy Maguire. She is a 3-year member of the softball team, National Honor Society, and jazz band. She has been in the marching and concert bands for the past 4 years, as well as the girls tennis team and girls wrestling team. Taylor's career goal after high school is to work with children with special needs and hopes to attend Immaculata University.

Taylor is escorted by our final homecoming king candidate Diego Diaz.

Diego Diaz is the son of Karina Lopez. Diego Diaz is involved in the Social Media Creation Club and Comic Book Club. He was involved in DECA for one year. He hopes to have a career as a videographer, photographer, and animator after he studies at Montgomery County Community College.

We welcomed back the 2023 Homecoming Queen, Brooke Thomas. Our homecoming king from 2023, Tyrese Washington was unable to attend tonight.



Your 2024 Pottstown Homecoming Queen is **Aniyah Crump** Your 2024 Pottstown Homecoming King is **Brock Klopp**



They're in the Finals

Congratulations to **Miranda Pineda** and **Aniyah Wells**, they are finalists in the Questbridge National College match program. Questbridge connects high achieving students with top colleges across the country. This year over 20,000 applications have been received and our two PHS seniors are among the 6,000 finalists. In order to be selected as a finalist applicants had to demonstrate strong, writing skills and intellectual curiosity, plus resilience, integrity, and motivation to succeed. The four-year scholarship covers tuition, room, board, books and other expenses with a four-year value approximately \$325,000.

Here's what our finalists had to say:

Aniyah Wells

"Initially the Questbridge application was very overwhelming when I saw the length of the application, but with the help of Mrs. Pritt, it became much easier. I'm extremely proud of the essays I wrote and the excitement of being selected as a finalist was well worth the work. The chance of being given a full ride to major in nursing is such a privilege. I hope to use it to become an ultrasound technician and continue the legacy of proud to be from Pottstown:)"

Miranda Pineda

"When I learned I was selected as a finalist, I felt a sense of disbelief. It was a moment that affirmed my hard work had truly paid off. I hope to match with a school that allows me to major in finance and pursue my passion of becoming a businesswoman in the coming years focusing on financial and economic literacy. Eventually, I'd like to establish my own financial firm within a few

years."



Student Leaders Join School Board

The Pottstown School Board welcomed three new student representatives who bring a student voice to the district governing body. Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez said, "They bring enthusiasm and pride in school and community." Students took the oath of office administered by Justice of the Peace Palladino.

Meet our school board student representatives:

Aliyas Hudson is a member of and holds leadership positions in a number of co-curricular



activities, including: President of PHS chapter of HOSA; vice president and cofounder of Junior Chapter NAACP; Secretary of Pottstown CARES; National Honor Society; National Technical Honor Society; Student Government; Link Crew leader; varsity cheerleading; varsity track and field; and has been involved with advocating for fair funding in public education.

Emely Villegas has held the position of President of the class for three years. She believes the



experience has given her the opportunity to develop good listening skills and be in a position to take students, voices, thoughts, and opinions into consideration when making decisions. She stated she hopes that this position will allow her to have a voice in making logical decisions that will benefit students, staff, and community.

Jayanna Hill holds a leadership position as vice president of the Pottstown HOSA chapter, is



captain of the girls basketball and soccer teams and is involved in Pottstown National Honor Society community service events. She stated she believes in being a voice for her fellow students and will work to achieve strong cooperation between students and adults for district success. She hopes to help develop more academic opportunities for students and encourage greater engagement in community events.

Pritt on Tour



PHS College and Career Counselor Susan Pritt has been logging a lot of miles taking juniors and seniors on college campus tours. The road trips have included campus visits to West Chester University, Thaddeus, Stevens College of Technology, Millersville, Cheyney, Temple and Lehigh universities. Students heard presentations from admission counselors on a wide variety of topics, including acceptance process, financial aid, student life, and academic programs. Touring the campuses, students had the opportunity to see firsthand dorm rooms, dining halls, academic buildings, libraries, student centers, and much more. Our students encountered some familiar faces along the way. PHS alumni Najae Perez and Gina Fleming

guided the tour of Lehigh where they are scholarship freshmen enrolled in the 4 plus 1 program. At Temple University, Trojan alumni now freshmen, **Madison Beasly, Leilandi Davis, Janaiya Baker** took time from class for a photo-op. Everyone is all smiles in the photo at Millersville University with seniors **Cheynia Boyer, Ashley Gatheca, Aniyah Wells**.

Ms. Pritt said, "Trips like this give our students the opportunity to get a real sense of what life on a college campus is like and how it fits their needs. Planning for upcoming road trips to Drexel,

Villanova and Kutztown University."











FALLEN TROJANS

The Pottstown School District is proud of the members of its Trojan family and will honor its deceased alumni by recognizing them and their accomplishments in our "Fallen Trojans" section. Anyone wishing to have alumni recognized should provide appropriate information to: John J. Armato, Director of Community Relations,



230 Beech Street, Pottstown PA 19464 or email jarmato@pottstownk12.org.

George R. Moore - Class of 1943 - was a veteran of The Battle Of The Bulge during World



War II. George was born in Pottstown on January 5, 1926, a son of the late Marguerite (Kaas) and George P. Moore. Husband of Marlene (Ellis) Moore. They were married for 52 years. He was a past president of the Berks County Battle of the Bulge Reading, PA Chapter. He loved bowling and rolled two 300 games 29 years apart. He also was an avid golfer. George served in the U.S. Army as a PFC in WWII. He served in Central Europe in the Ardennes and the Rhineland, and was in the Battle of the Bulge with Company A, and the 1252nd Combat Engineer Brigade. He is one of the last Bulge Veterans in Berks County. After his service, he worked as a Diesel Mechanic for 47 years at Doehler-Jarvis in Pottstown, PA.



Stanley Chaplin Jr. - Class of 1952 - was a lifelong resident of Pottstown and Jensen Beach, FL. While in high school he excelled in athletics. He attended the University of Pennsylvania where he played football and graduated in 1956. Upon graduation, he served in the United States Air Force as a fighter pilot, rising to the rank of Captain. While Stanley enjoyed a successful career in the furniture industry, his true passions were golf and fishing. Stanley was incredibly devoted to his family and took great pride and joy in all of his grandchildren's activities and accomplishments.



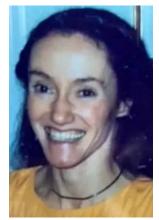
John 'Jack' L. Mauger - Class of 1959 - After graduating he enlisted in the Army from 1959 to 1962. He met the love of his life, Joanne Undercoffler and they were married for 60 years. He was employed as a mailman and retired from the Pottstown Post Office after 36 years. loved tennis and bowling and was an avid stamp and coin collector.



Mary E. (March) Treichler - Class of 1937 - passed away at the age of 104. She was one of our oldest PHS Trojans. She was born on January 19, 1920 in the working-class neighborhood of Roxborough, Philadelphia. Her family later moved north to Stowe, PA, near Pottstown. There she grew up, went to school, played field hockey, iceskated on the Manatawny Creek, competed in spelling bees, enjoyed the traveling circus that would come to town each year, and learned how to play piano, which she would do until she turned 100. Her first job was in a local linen mill where she was a secretary and swimsuit model. She would continue to work as a secretary for 37 years. In 1942 she married Werner Banicke in Norfolk, VA, where he was serving in the US Navy. She worked there in an office of the Naval Yard. When his ship, the USS Franklin, steamed for the Pacific in 1944, she caught a troop

train West to the SF Bay Area to be closer to his new home base. She guickly got a job at the Bethlehem-Alameda Shipyard. She took up bowling and horseback riding on the weekends. In early 1945 Werner's ship suffered major damage in an air attack near Okinawa and he was lost at sea. Mary stayed in Alameda and went to work at the Oakland Navy Yard. She met and married William A. (Bill) Treichler in 1951. Bill was a WW2 Army vet, who later became a Senior Engineer for Pacific Bell Telephone. The couple had two children, and loved taking cross-country family trips in their camper, eventually visiting 27 states and Canada. Bill passed away in 1976. Mary continued her secretarial work for the Alameda Unified School District, spending the last 15 years in the office of Encinal High School. In 1995 Mary returned to Pennsylvania and lived on her son's farm with his wife, Chris, and their three children, where she lived out the rest of her life.

Shirley L. (March) Hostetler - Class of 1962 - was the wife of Rodney Hostetler.



She pursued a career in finance and credit. Known for her strong work ethic, she went on to work at Horrigan Finance in Pottstown and then became credit manager for General Electric Credit at Levitz Furniture. She later worked as credit manager for Keystone Leasing in Exton before retiring.



FALLEN TROJAN STAFF



Randy S. Blackwell, 67, husband of the late Leslye (Moyer) Blackwell, passed away



Monday November 11, 2024, at Pottstown Hospital. Born October 23, 1957, he was the son of Raymond Blackwell Jr. and the late Jeanne (Yeager) Blackwell. Randy graduated from North Schuylkill High School, class of 1975. Following graduation, he worked as a laborer for BF Goodrich, Dana Corporation, and J&L Manufacturing before finding his calling as the Attendance Supervisor for Pottstown High School. He coached little league baseball for Pottstown PAL for many years, and also served as Cub Master for Boy Scouts of America. Randy was a member of the Prayer Warriors at New Ridge Fellowship Church.

Donations may be made in Randy's memory to: The American Cancer Society at https://www.cancer.org/ or Gift of Life Organ

Donor Program at https://www.donors1.org/.

Elaine Ellison, 74, passed away on Thursday, November 14 at the Reading Hospital. Born



in Reading, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of Bubber T. Ellison and Julia Mae (Copeland) Ellison. She graduated from the Exeter School District. She furthered her education by receiving her Bachelors degree from Kutztown University and her Master's degree. All of which was put to good use after being hired by the Pottstown School District. Elaine began as a substitute teacher in January 1974. She became a staff teacher 9/3/1974. She worked first at Jefferson, then Franklin, and then Middle School. She coached boys and girls High School track and tennis. Elaine retired from Pottstown in 2005. After retiring from Pottstown, she

coached at Exeter High School. For 30 years, she had been the high school girls track and field coach, and the high school girls tennis coach (for 18 years). At the middle school, she coached the girls basketball team for 28 years. As the basketball coach, she finished with three undefeated seasons. She remarked, "it's very hard to have one undefeated season, but three is remarkable!" Elaine loved teaching basketball fundamentals to the young middle school players which got them "hooked on the game." Pottstown High School Athletic Director Gary DeRenzo called Elaine a true trailblazer. "The reality about Elaine is she has done what very few people do, she was a pioneer for African-American women to get into education and to get into coaching at a very young age." He also stated "the fact that she stayed in it for so long and coached three sports is unheard of anymore from anybody. You just can't find coaches that coach three sports. I have a lot of respect for her being an educator and a coach for that period of time is extremely commendable and just amazing." Elaine will be missed by many, but surely most by the children and young high school ladies she taught so much in the classroom, on the track and field, tennis courts and hardwood. Pottstown girls varsity coach John Chernesky stated that "she was more than a coach, she was a mom to them a lot of the time. She promoted basketball to them and a lot of girls stayed with basketball and enjoyed it just because coach Ellison was there. She was so important to the kids' lives beyond basketball." After more than three decades of teaching and coaching, it was time to retire and explore other avenues life had to offer.



Grad celebrates birthday vying for Olympic team spot - Pottstown High School grad, Darius Smallwood celebrated his 22nd birthday by competing at the Team USA Track and Field Olympic Trials held in Eugene Oregon. A senior at Penn State University, where in addition to his academic studies, he is a member of the track team. Darius qualified for the semi-finals of the men's 800 meter run where he ran an outstanding time of 1:48.82. He did not qualify for the finals, but represented our school and community with pride, honor, and good sportsmanship. Thanks for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from

Pottstown.







PHS Grads Building Her Future - Trojan Proud of Janelle Whitehurst Durkin - Class of 2011. She attended the University of Richmond, administration majoring in business with concentration in marketing and rhetoric. When asked for some words of wisdom to share with today's PHS said. "Participate, participate, students. she participate!! The joy of high school is exploring your interest and hanging out with your friends. Stay involved in clubs, activities and sports. Stay involved in your community. That helped me be prepared for post grad life and has prepared me to build my future. Some of my best friends are people I met in high school co-curricular activities. Memories for a lifetime."

PHS Grad pursues success at every level - Jasheel Brown, Pottstown High School class of 2013, has pursued success at every level. As a PHS Trojan he was a district champion wrestler, member of the Reading Olympics, Key Club and Student Government, He was an advanced placement student and was even eighth grade spelling bee champion. He carried his strong work ethic to the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in material sciences and engineering. While at Penn he became a two-time national champion in the martial art of Taekwondo. He was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers. His guest for knowledge led him to successfully completing four courses in Korean language, and two in Korean history. Brown entered the workforce as an associate scientist for a biopharmaceutical company where he worked on developing more effective and efficient forms of oral medication. His success continued as an electronics manufacturing engineer where he oversaw the production of circuit boards used in various aerospace, military, and consumer applications. Jasheel has used his interest and passion for athletic competition to support his other passion for social change while in college he was selected to travel to Brazil as part of a youth group sponsored by the US government, designed to bring leadership training and explore how sports, community centers and volunteering can impact social change. His words of wisdom to the students of PHS, live life, actively and passionately, pursue your interest, and everything will be OK. Learn as much as you can on your own, school is primarily about how to learn and how to think, learning and achieving is cool. PHS prepared me for college and the world by offering a solid education that I could effectively build upon and look back to for reference. The diversity of our town and school is an extremely beneficial experience. I am very glad and lucky that I was able to learn from so many different walks of life and be heavily influenced by those different backgrounds. I am definitely an amalgamation of every student, teacher, friend, coach, and parent that I have formed relationships with. Brown's success in the classroom, on the mat and in the workplace are a direct result of his belief that hard work pays off.









Trojans Forever – If you've ever seen one of our district t-shirts, you know we believe



"Once a Trojan, a Trojan Forever." Being teammates on a Trojan athletic team helps to build that strong sense of pride that carries from high school into the adult world. As members of the PHS girls' soccer team, Amira Mohamed (PHS class of 2013) and Kiersten Cruz (PHS class of 2015) built a lifelong bond. They worked together for team success. Fast-forward to 2024, the same teammates are still on the soccer field only this time as

opposing coaches. When Pottstown Middle School girls soccer team, coached by Cruz, stepped onto the field at Perkiomen Valley she faced Mohamed as the opposing coach. After the game, both coaches reflected on the experience and their time as teammates.



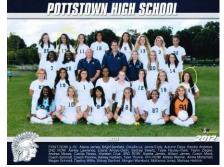


- Mohamed said, "From teammates to coaches, Kiersten has always been a pleasure to work with. I've always had a deep appreciation for her passion and craft towards soccer. When I was given the opportunity to coach this year, she was one of the first people I thought of. Now, having played against one another, I am even more excited for what's to come next. Graduating from PHS has given me the tools to become the coach I am today. Without the variety of activities offered, I wouldn't have been prepared to multitask during soccer and the school day as a professional at the middle school level."
- o Cruise observed, "Transitioning from being teammates to rival coaches has been a great experience. There's a deep mutual respect and understanding of each other's skills and strategies sharpened by our experiences at Pottstown High School. It is exciting to see us both give back to the sport we love. Engaging in activities at PHS allowed me to build lasting friendships and networks. The support from my former teachers and coaches motivated me to give back and become a role model and mentor for the next generation. Ultimately, reflecting the lasting legacy of those who supported me."

The moral of the story ~ Once a Trojan, Trojan forever! More reason to say, "Proud to be







PHS grad engineering his way to success - Pottstown High School grad, Aaron Laws, Class of 2023 is well on the road to a successful future, presently attending Montgomery County Community College majoring in mechanical engineering. He is gaining valuable experience as an intern at Pottstown Dana Corporation. Recently he assisted in guiding a class of middle school students who are part of the MONCO 360 program which provides advanced STEM education opportunities for students. Aaron told the class he chose engineering because of his general interest in science and technology and that he loves seeing his ideas come to life. He hopes that his interest in problem-solving will lead him to stable career opportunities. Reflecting on his high school days, he said, Pottstown School District prepared me with the educational, social and emotional foundation needed for success at the next level. Thanks to the high school engineering program I gained valuable hands-on knowledge. The program equipped me with the skills that I use day-to-day at my internship such as how to use precision measurement tools, how to use power tools and hand tools, how to use CAD software, and most importantly how to use critical thinking to create solutions to problems. Trojan proud of Aaron Laws. Glad to see his hard work paying off. Thanks for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.











PHS Grad helping to empower communities worldwide - Nada Elgendy, Pottstown



High School class of 2022 is a junior mechanical engineering and material science student at the University of Pittsburgh, pursuing certificates in "Nuclear Engineering" and "Innovation, Product Design, and Entrepreneurship". Nada is the design lead for Without Borders, Engineers an international organization whose goal is to empower communities worldwide. Her project is to design a system for a small village in Ecuador that provides the community with This upcoming summer Nada will be clean water. interning with the Limerick Clean Energy Center. Her words of wisdom to students, "Whatever you are not changing, you are choosing it." As for her time as a Pottstown High School student, "My exposure to the engineering program at PHS propelled my ambitions and passion for engineering."











We Are Pottstown ...

Stay connected with all of the friends of the Pottstown School District with this exclusive membership. Learn about what is happening with the Foundation for Pottstown Education with the newsletter, stay connected to updates and news through social media, engage in networking and career opportunities at special Pottstown Pride Society events, and much more. Together we will build a better community and continue to provide opportunities for the children of Pottstown School District. Be sure to stay tuned social media to www.foundationpottstowned.org for the Pottstown Pride Society page as we grow. We would love for you to share your successes along the way to help encourage those who follow you. Together we provide opportunities for children of Pottstown.

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Employer:	
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WE ARE POTTSTOWN!

Return to: Foundation for Pottstown Education 230 Beech Street Pottstown, PA 19464

Learn more about Pottstown schools – visit www.pottstownschools.org and register for our FREE email information service.