POTTSTOWN PRIDE

ACADEMICS AND ACTIVITIES
PARTNERS FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE



SPRING-SUMMER 2020

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



POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT POINTS OF PRIDE SPRING-SUMMER 2020



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

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 19,000 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.

PHS Goes To Online Learning Mercury 4-26-2020



Pottstown High School will not let COVID19 keep us from showing our Trojan Pride in the accomplishments of our Seniors Class of 2020. Their hard work has paid off and we will shine the spotlight on them!



Congrats to **Jesus Charriez** on being accepted to Chestnut Hill College to pursue a degree in Education!





Congrats to **Grace Bainbridge** on being accepted to Millersville University majoring in Early Childhood Education with a focus on Special Education!

Congrats to **Emily Weber** on being accepted to Dickinson College to English and Business with a pre-law track!



Congrats to **Bobby Richards** on attending Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology to study the field of Masonry and to continue his participation in football and wrestling!





Congrats to **Ka Wanza Hodges** on attending St. Joseph's University to study
Bio Chemistry!

Congrats to **Demond Thompson Jr.** on enlisting into the United States Navy as an Aerographer's Mate (AG)!

Aerographer's Mate is the Navy's meteorological and

oceanographic expert, trained in the science of meteorology and physical oceanography!



Congrats to **Destiny Williams** on attending Howard University!





Congrats to **Darion Miller** on attending Penn State University to study Animal Science!

Congrats to <u>David Hicks</u> on attending the Naval Academy to study aerospace technology!







Congrats to **Brenna Pritchard** on attending Cedar Crest College to study to become a vascular surgeon.





Congrats to **Chloe Hebert** on attending West Chester University to study math and music.

Congrats to **Zelias Bray** on joining the Air Force. His occupational specialty will be Cyber warfare, Cyber Security, and Electronic Warfare.



Congrats for **Devyn Lopez** on attending Bloomsburg University to study Speech Pathology.





Congrats to **Andrew Green** on attending Temple University to study Political Science and Law.

Congrats to **Carena Willams** on Montgomery County Community

College to study Early Childhood Education.



Congrats to **Shelby Clayton** on attending Kutztown University

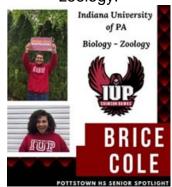


majoring in criminal justice and is also a member of the United States Army National Guard.



Congrats to **Zachary Beekley** on attending Pennsylvania College of Technology majoring in Welding & Fabrication Technology.

Congrats to **Brice Cole** on attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania majoring in zoology.



Aniya Hoskins

Sport: Track

Position/Event: Sprinter/Jumper

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Running catch the coach with Coach Johnson

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Crafts or hanging with friends

Who is your role model and why? My cousin Dimitri Suber

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Jamaica

What are your plans after graduation? Attend IUP in the fall and major in Psychology





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Jacob Eagle

Sport: Baseball

Position/Event: 1st base/outfield

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Final game last season. It was a competitive playoff game we could have won. I also had 3 doubles

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Hanging with friends

Who is your role model and why? Always my parents because of the path they have led me on and everything they have done for me

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Italy

What are your plans after graduation? Studying Computer Information Sciences while playing baseball at Cabrini University Senior Spotlight





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

David A. Hicks III

Sport: Baseball

Position/Event: 3rd base and pitcher

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Hitting grand slam at Spring-Ford stadium

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Hiking and jet ski on the lake

Who is your role model and why? Mr. Bachman because of his success as a teacher, father, and a man of character. He brings the best out of his students and will go to extreme lengths to make sure their futures are set upon graduation.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Iceland

What are your plans after graduation? Studying Aerospace Engineering while attending the US Naval Academy. Go Navyl

Senior Spotlight



Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Kawanza Hodges

Sport: Lacrosse/Track

Position/Event: Long Jump/Triple Jump

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Lacrosse- Warming up goalie before practice; Track-Penn Relays

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Play basketball

Who is your role model and why? My mom; She pushes me to be a better person and reach for a higher education, so I can be the first for the impossible.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Paris, Rome, Cancun

What are your plans after graduation? Montoo, then transfer to Saint Josephs University to major in Bio Chemistry; then go into the air force as a surgeon

Senior Spotlight







Tahkeim Lowe

Sport: Track & Field

Position/Event: 300m/110m Hurdles

What is your favorite memory from your what is your lavorite memory from your spring sport? Coming in 3rd place overall for 300m hurdles at my first invitational in my first year of track

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Playing NBA 2K and listening to music

Who is your role model and why? My dad. He is raising his 9 kids by himself after my mom passed away in 2005. He is the defini-tion of a real father to me.

If you could go anywhere in the world. where would you go? California

What are your plans after graduation? Working while deciding what college I would like to attend





Cole Miller

Sport: Baseball

Position/Event: 3rd base and pitcher

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Playing in Myrtle Beach my junior year

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Playing football or hanging with friends

Who is your role model and why? My parents, because they set the path for me to succeed

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Hawaii

What are your plans after graduation? Studying Sports Management while playing football at Alvernia University







Once a Trojan Always a Trojan



Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Marissa Mauras

Sport: Lacrosse

Position/Event: Goalie

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Playing again for my senior year

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Watching Netflix and doing home workouts

Who is your role model and why? My grandmother, because she pushed me to be a better person

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Dubai

What are your plans after graduation? Going to college for nursing

Senior Spotlight



Mari Pearson

Sport: Lacrosse

Position/Event: Defense

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Dancing in the locker room

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Getting Rita's with teammates

Who is your role model and why? My sister Dai. She also played LAX and is now a senior in college. She is still playing lacrosse and is graduating with a degree in Biology. She always pushes me to do my best, and even teaches me some stick skills while she is home on break.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Puerto Rico, I have a lot of family there

Senior Spotlight





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

What are your plans after graduation? Attend Kutstown University and major in Psychology



Winni Weng

Sport: Lacrosse

Position/Event: Defense

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Playing Upper Merion my sophomore year and winning in OT!

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? I like to go out to eat and waste money on clothes

Who is your role model and why? My mom because she is hard working

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Puerto Rico. Santorini Greece or Bali, Indonesia

What are your plans after graduation? Attend Emory University and follow a premed/neuroscience route





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Adriana Hayward

Sport: Lacrosse

Position/Event: Defense

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Playing a night game in the stadium while it was snow-

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your spring sport? Stay in the house

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Bora

What are your plans after graduation? Attend Gwynedd Mercy and major in Nursing

Senior Spotlight







Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Dereck Darden

Sport: Track/Field

Position/Event: Sprinter

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Experiencing the atmosphere and running at Penn Relays

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Working out

Who is your role model and why? My family because they bring the best out of me and keep me heading in the right direc-

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Puerto Rico

What are your plans after graduation? Attend Widener University to major in Physical Therapy and further my athletic

.

Senior Spotlight



Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Jorge Mundo

Sport: Football

Position/Event: DE. TE. OG

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? First playoff game in, the Mud Bowl game

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Workout, Eat, Sleep, Repeat

Who is your role model and why? My parents because of how they manage adversity when it comes their way

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Bora Bora on a over water bungalow

What are your plans after graduation? Attend Alfred University and become a certified Athletic Trainer in the NFL

Senior Spotlight





Amari Folly

Sport: Track/Field

Position/Event: Hurdles & Javelin

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? 9/10 meet sophomore year, because I placed 1st for the first time and qualified for districts

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Hanging with family and friends

Who is your role model and why? Grant Holloway, because he has a positive mindset and runs each race with passion and determination.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Africa

What are your plans after graduation? Army reserves and the to West Chester University in the spring to run track and major in Business Management





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Veronica Gomez

Sport: Cheerleading

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Bus rides to and from games. Regardless if we won or lost, there was always a positive attitude and we would have a great time

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Spending time with friends and family

Who is your role model and why? My mom and sister, they help me get through so much and they continue to strive for better even if they have already achieved their goals

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Hawaii or Paris

What are your plans after graduation? Attend Albright College to major in Psychology

Senior Spotlight



Once a Trojan Always a Trojan



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Emme Wolfel

Sport: Soccer

Position/Event: Goalkeepr

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Beating Perk Valley 4-3 my junior year

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Hanging with my friends

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Aruba

What are your plans after graduation? Attending Kutztown University to major in Sports Management while playing soccer

OTTSTOW





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Kirstyn McCalicher

Sport: Cheerleading

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Creating great relationships with both coaches and my team, and making friendships that I will never forget

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Singing, playing the piano, and spending time with my family

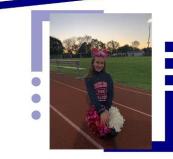
Who is your role model and why? My dad, because he's always done everything he can to make sure me and my sisters have the best life possible

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Venice, Italy

What are your plans after graduation? Going to college for my masters degree in Special Education, then applying to be a certified autism specialist mainly working with children







Niaisha Elliott-Moore

Sport: Cheerleading

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? When we went to cheer camp my senior year and we just laughed, and talked about everything

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? I like to work or hang out with friends

Who is your role model and why? My mom, because she has shown me what to do and not to do. She taught me to always get back up no matter how hard I fall

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? I would go to Africa, because it's beautiful and I'd love to meet all the people who live there

What are your plans after graduation? I will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania to major in Criminal Justice. I will also be on the cheerleading team and rugby team





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Madison Friedman

Sport: Cheerleading

What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Cheering in the rain my junior year against Springfield when our football team won to make it to the championship

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Spending time with friends and family

Who is your role model and why? My mom, she has always been my biggest advocate and someone I could look up to

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Venice, Italy

What are your plans after graduation? Attending Temple University to major in Psychology

Senior Spotlight





Once a Trojan Always a Trojan

Onjelay Nixon

Sport: Field Hockey

Position/Event: Offense

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What is your favorite memory from your spring sport? Had the opportunity to teach the younger kids different stick skills, helping themimprove

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't playing your sport? Shop or hang out with friends

Who is your role model and why? My mom. She helps me stay on track, she's always positive, she uplifts me when I'm down and she is strong.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Bora Bora

What are your plans after graduation? Attend Lincoln University and major in Nursing

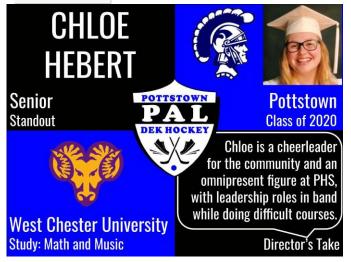


















Shout Out to Marisa Walker! Trojan Proud that



she is graduating with PHS distinguished honors and as a dual enrollment student at MCCC named to the Commendation List.

As one of our PHS Trojan

Cheerleaders she helped develop student

school pride. This year she was also a valued student intern at the district administration building. She plans to attend college to become a dental hygienist.

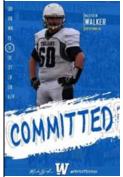


Shout Out to Avery Heverly! As a member of the Class of 2020, he has attended Pottstown schools since Pre-K at E.B. Barth Elementary School. Avery has been involved in different things over the years but the music programs have been where he has given most his time.

His senior year, Avery has been able to do work study for some on the job training. He will be attending two this schools summer where he will earn his FPA 608 & NATE certifications for HVAC.



Shout Out to



Matthew Walker! He plans to continue his academic and athletic career at Widener University. He will be enrolled in the Physical Therapy program. He just completed a student shadowing experience at Fox Rehabilitation for Physical and Occupational Therapy. He has been a part of DECA, the school marking club that runs the

school store. A stand out member of both the varsity football and track teams. His hard work paid off as he was selected to lead the football team onto the field as Captain, for many of the games. Matthew and his siblings volunteered in Philadelphia to provide support for the homeless, by making pillowcases and sandwiches. It is Matthew's passion to continue to help the homeless. When Matthew is not working out staying fit. He is working, saving money for his tuition.

Shout Out to Logan Ruyak! She will be attending

the University of La Verne in California, studying creative writing and Spanish. Logan is a member of Interact club. Debate club, Yearbook, Marching Band, Coffee House and school musicals. She was a winner of the local,



district and regional Rotary Four Way Speech



Contest. Her Hard work has paid off.





Shout out to **John Stilwell!** He has attended Pottstown schools since Pre-K at Rupert Elementary. John has been involved in different activities, including, Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Cross Country, DECA and National Honor Society. His reaction to being named Homecoming King will be on the list of



topics at the first reunion.

He has already started studying at MCCC.

Trojan Proud of you and happy to see your hard work pay off.



Shout out to **Angelica Cale!** Accepted at 15 colleges, offered over \$167,000 in scholarships is a great way to end your high school senior year and proof positive that hard work pays off. Angelica has consistently earned Academic Distinguished High Honors and is a student



representative to the school board. As a member of the high school DECA Club (organization of marketing students) she was recognized by the national organization as one of only ten

students statewide with the Emerging Leader Award for demonstrating that she is community oriented, professionally responsible and an experienced leader. Angelica has chosen to



continue her pursuit of success at Widener University studying International Business.

Shout out to **Jayden Harrington**! He is a member of Mr. Michael Hewitt's Automotive Technology program. He has been accepted to



the ATC Automotive program and will pursue a career as a mechanic.



STAFF

Trojan Proud of two of our PHS grads who are helping to keep Pottstown strong. Danielle McCoy,



Principal of Pottstown High School and LaTanya White, Director of Students Services are two homegrown ladies who continue to show their care and love for students during these challenging times. They have organized the collection and distribution of thousands of pounds of food to needy families. Each Sunday, 180 students receive a food package to insure they will have meals for the upcoming week. In true Pottstown fashion they are hands-on, boots on the ground leaders by example, as they help their group of teachers and support staff volunteers pack and hand deliver packages to families. They and all of the volunteers give us another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."









Thanks to Mr. Evan Brandt for using his <u>Digital Notebook Blog</u>, to share the Pottstown School District revised food distribution plan and announcing the Ricketts Center breakfast and lunch plan. Local news is vital to a strong community.



The Official Count - What a great day to be a Trojan! It was all hands on deck as Team Trojan took

on the task of providing some food security for our students during the upcoming week. We were too busy to count today. Late reporting from Mr. Rodriguez tweet was 11,883 meals served 43,100+ items; protein bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, muffins, and snacks. HUGE shout out to our Admin, Food Service, and Grounds teams! Too many smiling faces to count and feeling of satisfaction knowing that the district's efforts will help keep 3,500 children food secure this week. We have another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown!"



Pottstown prepared to deliver food to Students



Five days' worth of food will be distributed to Pottstown School District students and their families Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. The distributions will take place at the borough's four elementary schools:

Barth Elementary — 467 W. Walnut St. Franklin Elementary — 970 N. Franklin St. Lincoln Elementary — 461 N. York St. Rupert Elementary — 1230 South St.



Food is for all students - pre-kindergarten through 12th grade but students need not be present to receive the food. Pickup is either drive-through or walk-up at each school. Those picking the food up should take two bundles per child. One bundle contains five breakfasts, and the other five lunches. If one elementary school runs out of food, residents are asked to proceed to another school.

"In light of recommendations from the health department don't gather into groups, if possible, leave students at home," Schools Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez wrote in a letter issued Tuesday afternoon.

Staff must remain six feet away and those picking up food are asked to be quick, not to linger and to limit contact with others. "No hugs, fist bumps, high fives, etc. are allowed," he wrote. The food was delivered to Pottstown High School Tuesday and packed for distribution Wednesday. Current district plans call for another distribution on Wednesday, March 25.





Red Tape Untangled Students Get Use of Chromebooks

Thanks to help from both state and national legislators. Pottstown students will get the use of some much needed educational tools. Read all about it in Mr. Evan Brandt's Digital Notebook Blog.

School board member sends letter to the governor

Thank you Laura Johnson for all your efforts to help our students and community.

Who knew PSD had a rabbit on staff. Seems COVID19 is bringing rabbits out of the woods to help

keep us in good shape.



Story Time with Mrs. White from Barth Elementary School.



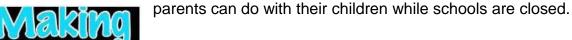


It is time to read along with Mr. Moyer.

The Egg Man Helps to Teach Sounds - The Egg Man, aka Rupert principal Mr. Matt Moyer, has a great fun activity to help young ones learn their sounds and words while we are all home due to the school closure. Thanks to Mr. Moyer and all of our Pottstown education team who are working to stay connected with families and continue learning during these challenging times.



Mr. Matt "Bubbles" Moyer - Thank you Mr. Matt "Bubbles" Moyer for the fun home activity idea parents can do with their children while schools are closed.



Who You Going to Call? - Pottstown School District Physical Education Department and legendary fitness guru himself, Dr. Eugene Swanson!



With all of us practicing safe guidelines during COVID 19 and staying home, new talents are being



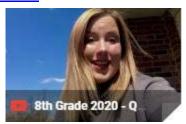
displayed. Rupert principal, Mr. Moyer has already shown he can be Mr. Storyteller and Mr. Science. Today he opened a whole new area as Mr. Home Improvement.

Mr. Moyer's Fork & Toothpick Challenge

Mrs. McCoy and PHS Staff message to students - WE MISS YOU!



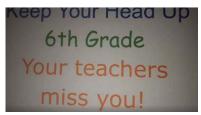
Pottstown Middle School 8th grade teachers' message to students - <u>Thinking of you while school is</u> closed.



Pottstown Middle School 7th grade teachers' message to students - Nothing Will Keep Us Apart



Pottstown Middle School 6th grade teachers' message to students - Keep Your Head Up



Pottstown Middle School 5th grade teachers' message to students – Lip Sync Challenge

We miss you, stay safe, stay home, wash your hands, keep social distance, keep up with your education.



PSD Physical Education Department wants to make sure you stay in during the closure.



Matt "Captain A. Merica " Fabian to the rescue sharing "Work out with a smile!"

Pottstown Brings on New Director of Co-Curricular Activities



Me'Lisa Morgan set to become new Pottstown AD - By Jeff Stover

The Pottstown School District has found itself a new Director of Co-Curricular Activities. And she brings an extensive background in athletic administration, and familiarity with the region's sports scene, from her years at Norristown. Me'Lisa Morgan will become Pottstown's new athletic director, filling the vacancy left by Matt Miller recently leaving the district in pursuit of a teaching position elsewhere.

"I wanted to be an athletic director," Morgan said, "and this is the next step ... combining athletics and academics at the next level."

Morgan's application was approved by the Pottstown school board during a recent joint meeting that included Pottstown's Borough Council.

"With Matt leaving a couple weeks ago, it allowed us to post the position," John Armato, the Pottstown School District's Director of Community Relations, said. "We interviewed a number of candidates, and at the joint school board/borough council meeting, the board offered (Morgan) the position."

Morgan's tentative plan is to start her new job May 18. Her standing as the Eagles' softball head coach also carries some bearing as she hopes to see through the season with her team. "One of the things I'd like to do is introduce myself to different people," she said. "A goal for the summer is to work with leadership of the seniors and team captains."

Morgan's connection to the Norristown School District is multi-faceted. The 2004 graduate played on Norristown's field hockey, girls basketball and softball teams four years. More recently, she is a health/physical education teacher and athletic coordinator for the district's East Norriton Middle School. She feels a degree of comfort moving from Norristown to a fellow Pioneer Athletic Conference member in Pottstown.

"(Norristown) is similar to Pottstown," Morgan said. "I'm comfortable in that kind of climate." Morgan's coaching resume' at Norristown includes stints with the high school's varsity and junior varsity girls' basketball, field hockey and lacrosse, and middle school basketball. Following her graduation from Norristown, Morgan got her undergraduate degree from West Chester University in 2008. She then attended Cabrini University, graduating with a master's in education in 2015.

Morgan is presently studying for a master's in athletic administration from Ohio University. She figures to complete that phase of her education in 2021.

Justin Baker is serving as the high school's interim DCCA until Morgan comes on board. Baker will be filling that position in addition to his regular job as Pottstown's athletic trainer ... all while the academic community deals with changes in routine brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's a test of leadership, the ability to go on," Armato said. "It's a real test of every aspect of life ... adjusting to a very fluid situation. You have to be flexible to deal with them."

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Chloe Hebert - CLASS OF 2020 Says Thank You!

I can't say in words how thankful I am to have met every single one of you. All of my teachers have impacted my life drastically. I would not be me without them. We are so lucky to have the most hardworking and talented staff you could possibly find here at Pottstown.

So teachers, I just want to say this... Thank you, Pottstown Teachers For:

- Your selfless actions.
- •Your compassion and comprehension.
- Your patience.
- Your empathy.
- Your encouragement.
- •Your safe and welcoming classrooms.
- •Your love to teach.
- •Your determination and diligence.
- Your parental guidance.
- Your belief in us students.
- •Your contributions to our school district and community.
- Your sacrifices.
- Your honesty.
- Your trustworthiness.
- Your dedication.
- •Your time, money, and sanity.
- Your creativity.
- Your passion.
- Your kindness.

Teachers need to be recognized now more than ever for their contributions and quick adjustments to distance learning. They are working hard for us, so we can be successful. Thank you so much Pottstown School District, for providing us with the best teachers in the world to guide us as we grow and learn.

I am proud to be from Pottstown, and to graduate from the school that has the most amazing teachers and staff that you could ever find.









Foundation Makes Sound Investment For The Future

Talk about a sound investment! Joe Rusiewicz, the Executive Director of the Foundation for Pottstown Education, reported on the Early College Program and it shows dividends that any Wall Street broker would be proud to earn. Read all about it in Mr. Evan Brandt's <u>Digital Notebook Blog</u> and you may want to invest in the Pottstown Foundation for Education.



He is one of a kind

Congratulations to Rupert Elementary principal Mr. Matt Moyer on being selected as Pennsylvania's



2020 National Distinguished Principal by the Pennsylvania Principals Association Board of Directors and the National Distinguished Principal Selection Committee. A former student of Rupert Elementary, Mr. Moyer returned to take on the role of educational leader of the school. His use of technology to communicate with students, staff and families has helped to create a positive school learning environment.

Read his story in Mr. Evan Brandt's <u>Digital Notebook Blog</u>.

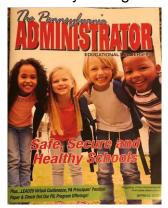
NO Excuse Not to Stay Fit

Thanks to Mr. Matt Fabian and the Pottstown Physical Education Department there is no excuse not to stay fit while we are all at home. Matt has a passion for fitness and the creativity to develop fun ways to stay fit. Try the workouts. Superhero and other costumes not required.



Moyer's Safety Guidelines Published in State Magazine

Congratulations to Rupert Elementary Principal, Matt Moyer who recently wrote an article on six essential steps to school safety which was published in the Pennsylvania Administrator Educational Leadership Magazine. Mr. Moyer is in his 15th year as an elementary principal and 23rd year overall in education. He has been the district Safety Coordinator for 10 years and serves as the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Trainer. He is a national speaker and an adjunct professor at Montgomery County Community College.









HIGH SCHOOL

PHS Art Students Share Talent - Thanks to PHS art teacher Mrs. Beth Yoder and her art students for sharing their talents with us. During these challenging times, it is relaxing to be able to sit back

and enjoy the beauty of their art work.



No Masking His Caring - When it comes to caring about his community and wanting to help make a





difference in the battle against COVID 19, Pottstown High School Senior Darren Groff 's efforts cannot be masked. Darren has made 40 lined face masks and donated them to Children and Youth employees. Another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown!"

PHS student Darren Groff helped PA Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera in congratulating the Class of 2020. Darren made the news for his efforts to make face masks which he donated to childcare workers. See him at 1:15 in the video <u>Class of 2020 memories</u> for a lifetime.



PHS Career Fair Goes Virtual – Yes we all need to stay home right now BUT that will not stop Pottstown School District from providing students with valuable information to assist in career pathway selection. Thanks to PHS Career Coach Susan Pritt you can hear what successful career people have to say about their field and what it takes to be a success. Click on the links to view the different careers. Another example of PSD Team going above and beyond to give us more reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."

Trojan Player Earns Sportsmanship Award

It is with great Pride that we announce for the 2nd year in a row, a Pottstown Trojan Female Basketball Player has been selected by the Pottstown Chapter of PIAA Basketball Officials for the Yogi Strom Sportsmanship Scholarship. **Congratulations** to Senior Captain Ka Wanza Hodges. Next year Ka Wanza will be attending St. Joseph's University with a major in Bio Chemistry and hopes to become a surgeon. Trojan Proud of our student athletes, who are outstanding ambassadors of our school and community. Thank you for giving us another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."



2020 Troiad Yearbook Dedication



This year the PHS Troiad dedication was a first of a kind virtual event. The yearbook staff had 2020 vision in their selecting an honoree who is a leader in and out of the classroom and has given us many reasons to say Proud to be from Pottstown. Congratulations to **Mr. Robert Decker.** Thanks to Mrs. Beth Yoder and her student staff for another fine addition to our 140-year history.

CLASS of 2020 140th Commencement Ceremony

It is here! Pottstown High School's 140th Commencement Ceremony. We are thankful that during this time, we were able to recognize the hard work and achievements of every senior by giving them each a personal ceremony with family by their side. Thank you to principal Mrs. McCoy and her staff for giving the Class of 2020 a lifetime of memories. Special thanks to Emily Overdorf, our Social Media Specialist, for the filming, editing and producing of this very special event. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Video Includes:

- -Welcome
- -Recognition of Salutatorian and Valedictorian
- -Salutatory Address
- -Valedictory Address
- -Military Recognition
- -Honors Recognition
- -Pottstown Promise Early College Program
- -Acceptance of Class for Graduation
- -Awarding of Diplomas
- -Recognition of Diplomas
- -Mantle Ceremony
- -Final words



PHS Students Pass the Test In Every Way

Pottstown High School students Andrew Green, Kishan Patel and Madison Carberry were put to the Rotary Four Way Test at the annual chapter speaking contest. They took on the challenge and proved their academic and speaking talents. Held by the local chapter of Rotary, students were asked to take a position on a social issue by applying the Rotary 4 Way Test. Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all?





Green was the overall winner, placing first with his analysis of the college entry process. He will



represent Pottstown at the District competition held at Ursinus College. Kishan Patel examined the claims by power companies about climate change and Madison Carberry put the issue of polygamy to the 4-way test.

High school teachers Diane Fox and Diane Shoffstall were the team's sponsors and gave guidance and support to the speakers. Trojan Proud our students were put to the test and they passed with high honors. Sponsor Diane Fox said, "We are very proud of our students who are developing the ability to articulate their position on issues of social importance."

Andrew Green will attend Temple University to study Political Science and Law. During his high school career, he was very active in and out of the classroom. He was a dual enrollment student at MCCC, a member of National Honor Society, the Rotary four way speech contest winner 2 years in a row, ran cross country and spring track, and was one of the leads in the last three school musicals. Andrew was also on the homecoming court, Prom Prince 2019 and class treasurer. He is an activist, who fights for what he believes is right. He attended the women's march on Washington DC in Jan 2017, participated in the National Student Walkout to prevent gun violence in schools, and wants to make a change globally by acting locally.

Annual Mini-THON Goes Virtual

Pottstown High School's 2nd Annual in person Mini-THON to raise money with Four Diamonds to conquer childhood cancer was sidetracked when the event scheduled for March 13, 2020, only one day after Gov. Tom Wolf ordered the Stay-at-Home directive put it on hold.

Student leaders Emily Weber, Alex Olvera, Faith Roach, Mackenzie Moser, and Jayniana Williams were not about to let a pandemic quarantine stop their efforts to help those in need. They went virtual with an 8-hour long dance marathon full of games, activities, music. Over 50 high school students signed up to participate in the Mini-THON. Top fundraisers were Faith and Jayden Roach with a total of \$800! Part of a year-long effort which included a Powderpuff Football game, restaurant night, and bake sales they raised \$6,783.85. All money raised is donated to Four Diamond who funds family care, specialty care providers, and cancer research to children and families battling any form of childhood cancer. Student organizer Emily Weber speaking for the students and sponsor high school teacher Vickie McShea said, "We are proud of PHS students who are so willing to give of themselves to help those in need. We may never meet any of them but we will have helped make their world a better place to live in. We at PHS are proud partners in the fight with Four Diamonds."

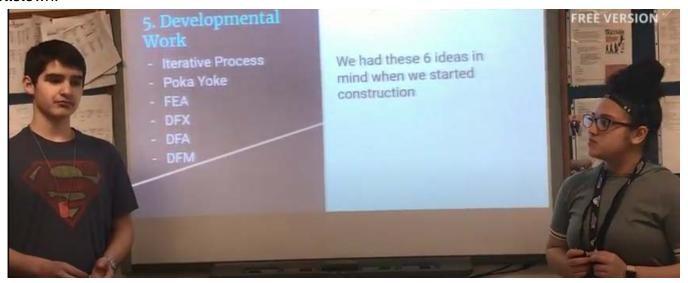




Thanks to Mr. Evan Brandt's <u>Digital Notebook Blog</u> the story of how a determined group of PHS students overcame the obstacles of COVID 19 to hold a highly successful fundraiser to support victims of childhood cancer went viral and now the world knows why we say "Proud to be from Pottstown."

PHS Freshmen Take On Governor's Challenge

Pottstown High School students Will Levey and Abdel Elgendy may only be freshmen, but that did not stop them from taking on the Pennsylvania Governor's STEM Engineering Challenge. They not only took the challenge, but won the Regional Competition with their Hot Car Death Prevention System. COVID 19 forced them to do their planning via two hour daily Google meetings with their teacher Mr. Andrew Bachman. Saying yes to challenge is a lesson the students heard this year at the school's annual Alumni Honor Roll Assembly. One of the recipients said he did well in his life because he simply said "Yes!" when teachers or coaches asked him to do something. Abdel and Will said "Yes!" when I asked them to participate and come together as a team. Lesson learned, said Bachman. Take a look at their award winning project and you will have another reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown.



In Governor Wolf's press release he said, "This competition allows students to demonstrate how they are using science, technology, engineering and math skills to solve problems and improve the lives of all commonwealth residents, We must continue to grow our supply of skilled workers by expanding STEM and computer science education, increasing apprenticeships and improving collaboration with job training."

The Governor's STEM Competition included 28 student teams that qualified by winning regional competitions that featured more than 100 teams. The students have been designing and building their projects during the school year and could make improvements after the regional competition.

Teams are required to partner with their local communities to develop a solution to a real problem rooted in the community – this helps create an authentic experience for the students and provides opportunities for them to learn more about career pathways and employment opportunities based in STEM.

"This competition provides students with valuable experience as they apply the STEM skills acquired in the classroom to solve real-world problems affecting the communities where they live," said Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera. "We applaud all the students and schools who participated in this year's competition and look forward to them sharing their innovative ideas with fellow students and educators."

Plans for Graduation Move Full Speed Ahead

COVID 19 may have tried to put a stop to the PHS commencement ceremony. Thanks to high school principal Danielle McCoy and her staff, seniors and their families will enjoy the experience of walking across the stage to receive a diploma. In total it may take six days, but every senior will get their moment to shine. Read Mr. Evan Brandt's <u>Digital Notebook Blog</u> to find out how Trojan Proud Power overcomes all obstacles.





Pottstown High School's multi-day graduation is underway

Masks, hand sanitizer and cardboard students are the new normal for Pottstown High School graduation. The multi-day ceremony got underway Wednesday with 30 students per day receiving their diplomas in person from Principal Danielle McCoy.



Class of 2020 On Parade

Thanks to all of the parents who organized the car drive by parade and to all the teachers and community members who supported the celebration for the PHS Class of 2020. Over 100 cars along with fire vehicles traveled a route past each of our elementary schools. The driveway between the middle and high school was lined with pictured yard signs of each of the seniors. Teachers shot a video saying personal words of praise and encouragement for each senior, it will be posted when complete. Another show of love and support for the Class of 2020, and another reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown!









PHS Class of 2020 had a commencement like no other in our 140 year history. Thanks to high school principal Mrs. McCoy and her dedicated staff of administrators, teachers and support staff the Class of 2020 and their families will have a lifetime of positive memories. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. The skills of our social media specialist Emily Overdorf have captured the joy and pride of the Class of 2020. Enjoy the moment and share the news of another reason to say proud to be from Pottstown.

The Last of the Class of 2020

On Wednesday, June 3, 2020, the last of the Class of 2020 walked the stage to receive their diplomas. How fitting it was that the last student (Chloe Hebert) crossed the stage as a wild storm raged outside and gave way to a beautiful rainbow as she left the school to follow in the footsteps of the 20,000 PHS alumni who are part of the 140-year history of Pottstown High School.







For the 140th year Pottstown High School said farewell to our graduates. This year's class of 185 grads adds to the list of over 20,000 PHS Trojans who have gone on to distinguish themselves in every field of endeavors. They become part of our proud past and give us reason to be confident about the future. Congratulations to them and thanks to teachers, staff, administration, school board, parents, family and community who has played a role in shaping their future.

You are all reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."

No matter where the journey of life takes them - Once a Trojan, a Trojan Forever!

Class of 2020 Information

The Class of 2020 is Pottstown High School's 140th graduating class.

- Class of 185 students
 - Number of girls 99
 - o Number of boys − 86
- Number of students who started and completed all of their education in Pottstown – 114
- Post High School Plans:
 - Continuing Education:
 - 4 year college/university 86
 - 2 year college/university 17
 - Trade/technical school 10
 - o Armed Services 5
 - o Work World − 9
 - o Other (homemaker, unemployed, unknown, etc.) − 54
- Scholarships/Awards total value for senior class \$1,284,929

PHS Announces Top Academic Students

Pottstown High School Principal Mrs. Danielle McCoy announced the Class of 2020 top academic students during the 140th commencement program.

Winni Weng, who will be attending Emory University majoring in biochemistry on a pre-med track to become a neurologist, was recognized as the Valedictorian. She is proof that the combination of academics and co-curricular activities leads to success. In addition to being a standout classroom student her list of activities included: lacrosse, cross country, field hockey, National Honor Society vice president, dual enrollment student at MCCC with the early college program, student government, interact club, and Pottstown hospital volunteer. PHS Class of 2020 Valedictorian Winni Weng is another example of the powerhouse combination of academics and athletics. She followed in her coach's footsteps and did her one better. Read her story.





❖ David Hicks was named the class Salutatorian. He will be a cadet at the United States Naval Academy. His career goal is to become a naval aviator. David's activities in school included: President of the National Honor Society, captain of the football team, baseball, DECA, Trojan Man, jazz band, marching band, and engineering trip to Kenya. Outside of school he was a member of the Boy Scouts and played legion baseball. In his remarks to the Class of 2020 he said, "I would like to thank all of my teachers and family for pushing me to reach my goals and I couldn't have done it without your help. I would like to challenge the next classes at Pottstown High School to always strive for greatness in everything that you do. My goal was to prove that there are amazing students at Pottstown and I know that the hardships we face as a community only make us stronger. Find your purpose and passion, let no one take it away from you. Lastly, Go Navy!"



CLASS OF 2020 COLLEGE PLANS

Deborah	Adedeji	University of the Sciences
Dezmyre	Aiken	Alvernia University
Alexander	Azukas	Army
Grace	Bainbridge	Millersville University
Ka Wanza	Barksdale Hodges	MCCC / Air Force
Trevonn	Bass	Immaculata University
Zachary	Beekley	Pennsylvania College of Technology
Jesse	Blair	UTI
Aaliyah	Bray	Howard University
Zelias	Bray	Army/Air Force
Kayla	Brothers	MCCC
Tyler	Bruton	Penn State Berks
Christina	Butler	Eastern University
Angelica	Calel	Widener University
Jessica	Calle-Castillo	MCCC
Jesus	Charriez	Chestnut Hill College
Shelby	Clayton	Kutztown University
Brice	Cole	Indiana University of Penn.
Brooklyn	Colegrove	Indiana University of Penn.
Melissa	Coleman	California University of Penn.
Nayeli	Cruz	New York University
Cheyanne	Cwynar	Moravian College
Jade	Dailey	MCCC
Daniel	Darden	Widener University
Dereck	Darden	Widener University
Quinlan	DeAngelo	NAVY
Jacob	Eagle	Cabrini University
Jacob	Eames	Pennsylvania College of Technology
Niaisha	Elliott-Moore	Indiana University of Penn.
Amari	Folly	Army
Madison	Friedman	Temple University
Evan	Gabel	Air National Guard
Hassan	Garcia-Davis	UTI
Emma	Gawlas	Lycoming College
Brandon	Gebhard	Millersville University
Lila	Gerrish	MCCC
Veronica	Gomez	Albright College
Andrew	Green	Temple University
Zachary	Griffin	Marine Corps
Victor	Guida	Army
Jayden	Harrington	Automotive Training Center
Destinie	Harris	Lincoln University
Adriana	Hayward	Gwynedd Mercy University
Chloe	Hebert	West Chester University

Aaron	Hester	Pennsylvania State University
David	Hicks	United States Naval Academy
Ariel	Hill	Delaware Valley University
7.11.01		University of the Sciences or
Kaya	Horton	Delaware Valley University
Michael	Husko	MCCC
Kaissa	Isaac	MCCC
Sybriya	Jenkins	Gwynedd Mercy University
Lola	Johnson	MCCC
Nizhie	Johnson	Harcum College
Paige	Jones	Temple University
Shyanne	Keys	MCCC
Lillanie	Lighty	Indiana University of Penn.
Devyn	Lopez	Bloomsburg University
Kiaire	Major	MCCC
Kayla	Marcelli	MCCC
Amanda	Mariscal	MCCC
Caitlin	Mattingly	MCCC
Mekaya	Mauras-Harmon	Culinary institute of MCCC
Cole	Miller	Alvernia University
Darion	Miller	Pennsylvania State University
Dallas	Moon	Air Force
Jorge	Mundo	Alfred University
Onjelay	Nixon	Lincoln University
TreQuan	Norris	Alvernia University
Alexandria	Olvera	Endicott College
Michael	Pashley	Air Force
Noah	Patten	MCCC
Mariana	Pearson	Kutztown University
Brenna	Pritchard	Cedar Crest College
Thanea	Redrovan	Alvernia University
Robert	Richards	Thaddeus Stevens
Crystal	Rivera	Florida Institute of Technology
Marleijh	Rivers	MCCC
Megan	Robie	Ursinus or Haverford
Logan	Ruyak	University of La Verne
Tanner	Scott	Dickinson College
Talia	Shirey	MCCC
Quinci	Sibilly	Army National Guard
Taylor	Smith	Bloomsburg University
John	Stilwell	MCCC
Ryan	Sweeney	Widener University
Demond	Thompson	Navy
Matthew	Walker	Widener University

CLASS OF 2020 COLLEGE PLANS

Evan	Wanish	MCCC
Ariannah	Watson	Army or Marine Corps
Emily	Weber	Dickinson College
Winni	Weng	Emory University
Sensair	Wesley	Kings College
Alexis	White	Kutztown University
Josiah	Wiggins	Lehigh Carbon Community College
Carena	Williams	MCCC
Destiny	Williams	Howard University
Emme	Wolfel	Kutztown University

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pottstown Middle School Job Well Done

Pottstown Middle School students in Ms. Christine Hall's class can check off a job well done when it comes to doing their part to help bring fresh drinking water to a village in South Sudan Africa. Earlier this year they organized a fundraising walk as part of the Iron Giraffe Challenge, sponsored by the Water for South Sudan organization. They recently received confirmation from the organization.

Dear Iron Giraffe Challenge School:

We are so pleased to share that Water for South Sudan has drilled a well in your honor! We wanted to share our gratitude for your support over the years. Thank you for all you have done to water the seeds of change in South Sudan. Your well is in the village of Panyuon in Aguok-North County, Gogrial State. The village chief is Majok Wol Majok. The GPS coordinates of your well are 8.707364 28.363945. To view this location, copy and paste these numbers, then click on the map. (You may need to zoom out to see the entire area.)

Thank you for your commitment to supporting Salva's mission of providing clean water and hygiene education in South Sudan. We know you join us in celebrating the well which is now providing clean water and a new future to the people in Panyuon.

In speaking about the experience and her students Ms. Hall said, "Humbling moments like these are what defines being a teacher of Pottstown School District; a place where teaching leaves the four walls of the classroom. I couldn't be prouder of my students."









Middle School Builds a WEB of Positive Culture

Not being in a brick and mortar building is not stopping teachers and students at Pottstown Middle School from building a positive school culture. Teachers and a team of up and coming 8th grades are preparing to make next year's 5th graders feel welcomed and supported. The WEB Team, Where Everybody Belongs, is ready to show 5th graders that they are part of the middle school family and are another reason we say Proud to be from Pottstown.



Congratulations to Pottstown Middle School student, Colin Plank, who performs with the 7/8 band.

He successfully completed the "Zeswitz Challenge" for the month of May. Zeswitz, a local music vendor, challenged instrumental music students to submit videos of them performing their instrument once a week throughout the month. Students received individualized notes/feedback from the Zeswitz Education Team. Nice work Colin! Hard Work Pays Off.



ELEMENTARY

Lincoln staff welcome student home, from afar, after final chemo treatment!



It's scary enough having kidney cancer and getting chemotherapy in the third grade. Having that happen in the middle of a worldwide pandemic can't make it better. The best thing in such a situation, no doubt, is a strong support network at home.

Luckily for <u>Joseph Pollock</u>, he lives in Pottstown and attends Lincoln Elementary School. Joseph has been fighting cancer since the beginning of the school year, long before coronavirus upended everything we once considered normal. With school closed and friends sequestered as part of the state-wide stay-at-home

guidance, Joseph's homecoming after his final treatment stood to be a somewhat solitary affair, with his mom, dad and sister. Instead, when they turned onto North Hanover Street on April 1, there was a parade in his honor, and it was no April Fool's joke. Recognizing the need to keep their distance, particularly given that chemotherapy patients are often immunocompromised, staff from Lincoln gathered along the street to cheer Joseph's return from afar. They cheered, held up signs and balloons and made a general ruckus in Joseph's honor.









A <u>Message</u> from Some of Our Students - This video from some of our students has a lot of Pottstown teachers smiling right now.



2019-2020 Rupert Video Yearbook!



Rupert Principal and Staff Make an I'MPACT

Congratulations to Rupert Elementary principal Mr. Matt Moyer and his staff. Their home visit

Principal Makes House Calls

Principal, Mr. Matthew Moyer-Rupert Elementary School, Pottstown, PA Twitter: @MoyerMatthewD @PrincipalsofL

I'MPACT Program Makes House Calls (385 students in preK through Grade 4: 74 percent

economically disadvantaged; Demographics 34.2 percent White, 33.4 percent African-American, 17.6 percent Hispanic, 12.6 percent multiracial, 1 percent Asian, 1 percent other)

Our first school leader sheds light on the importance of looking deep inside Our hist school seader sheats light on the importance of looking deep inside and seeing what students and staff bring to school by connecting with students and families in their lives beyond school. This leader values and undestands the importance of undestanding the invisible backpack and helping faculty and staff gain an undestanding of the lives our students lead and how their lives affect the ways we learn and relate together. Learn more about the invisible backpack and looking deep in Chapter 2.

Imagine being an elementary school student at home watching your favorite cartoon or playing ball with your sister when a knock comes at the door. Your parents answer the door, and it's your school principal and teachers. Principal Moyer and Rupert teaches visit students at their and usedness. Frincipies moyer and huger teachers visit subsents at tiered homes as part of their school district's home visitation program called l'MPACT (I'M Pottstown Action Community Team). Principal Moyer and his faculty/saff members wanted to recognize the kids in school who weren't getting recognized for whatewer reason.

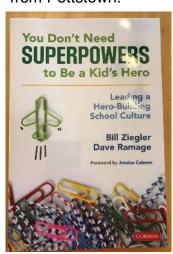
"The team visited students from prekindergarten to fourth gade to con-

The team visited students from prekindergarten to fourth grade to con-gratulate them and their families and to acknowledge the students' success during the first marking period. The program's mission is to 'celebrate learn-ing' It develop soutise communications between the school and families by building relationships with community members. The team makes door-to-door visits to surprise students and their families with certificates of achieve-ment and YMBACT winners shirts. Students are congratulated for their hard work; citizenship, and positive behavior. The IMBACT team consists of teach res, supports staff, parents, and administrators from Rupert Elementary School. Principal Moyer said, "This is a tremendous program that allows us to consider the program on the program of the surprise of the surprise program of the surprise pr

not only recognize positive behaviors in our students but gives our staff the opportunity to meet students and parents outside of the school building in an environment that is conducive to promoting positive relationships

Barth Staff video

program, I'MPACT was featured in a new educational leadership book titled "You Don't Need SuperPowers to Be a Kid's Hero". personal home visits to students and their families has helped to build a culture of trust and understanding. Another reason to say "Proud to be from Pottstown."



Barth Teachers Tell Students WE MISS YOU!

Teachers at Barth Elementary have not seen their students in person since schools statewide were closed on March13th. Teacher Ms. Jamie Stringer made this video to

help teachers let their students know how much they are missed.

McDonald's Writing Award Winners

Congratulations to all of our writers and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Graham for their continued support of

our students and community. More reason to say Proud to be

from Pottstown!



BARTH ELEMENTARY FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY Isabella Bauer Raylan Steadman Semaj Rush Milan Everette Shylaj Hine Luke Carvalho Niya Crowder Seth Yannessa Caydin Romain Lillian Green LINCOLN ELEMENTARY **RUPERT ELEMENTARY** Liliana Gomez Smith Ali Belgrave Leilani Gonzalez Tello Elena Eidell Jayden Wright Eva Lamperez Thomas Inthaphone Jasmin Guardardo Vasquez Shahed Aljashoubi Meleena Bisram

Rupert Engle Award Winners 2020

Rupert Elementary principal Matt Moyer announced the school's Engle Award honorees. The recognition goes to the 4th grade students with the highest academic grade point average. Hard work pays off. Building a solid foundation for future success.







BOYS' and GIRLS' TRACK

<u>Tahkiem Lowe</u> - Senior Spotlight: Pottstown's Lowe has pursuits of helping others - It's a trait the Pottstown High senior developed early, and on the homefront. Being one of nine siblings in a single-parent family — a majority of them still living together under the same roof — Lowe considers 'serving others a trait as basic as breathing.'

WRESTLING

Pinning Down Success In Classroom and On The Mat

Trojan Proud congratulations to PHS Class of 2020 Demond Thompson, who was just named to the PIAA District I Wrestling All-Academic Team and to the Coaches State Wrestling All-Academic 2nd Team. Demond, with a 3.8 grade point average and a 22-8 senior season record, is proof that Hard Work Pays Off and academics plus athletics is a formula for success. After graduation he will be serving our country and entering the U.S. Navy.





PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ALL ACADEMIC TEAM

Baseball - David Hicks
 Lacrosse - Winni Weng
 Softball - CyeNyla Hall
 Boys' Tennis - Alix Stewart
 Boys' Track - Dereck Darden

Girls' Track - Ka Wanza Barksdale Hodges

PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CITIZEN ATHLETE AWARD

Jessica Calle-Castillo

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS

Local restaurant feeding hungry kids for free!



From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays, Little Italy restaurant at 636 E. High St., is serving free bot lunches to Pottstown children

Rocky Citrino was listening to the news about coronavirus on the way one day and heard someone exclaim that when schools are closed, there are lots of children who won't get fed. When he got home, he told his wife Jillian and the two quickly decided to do something about it. What they did was pretty simple — and awfully generous.

The couple has owned Little Italy and The Pourhouse Tavern, both located in the same building at 636 E. High St., for 16 years. "We worked with our food distributor, U.S. Foods, our salesman there is great, and told him what we wanted to do and he said 'absolutely. Let's see what we can do," Rocky Citrino said.

With reduced costs to food, the folks at Little Italy put together bagged lunches with a snack, a fruit or vegetable and drink and, as kids come to the front door, they add a hot item.

"They're sometimes disappointed that it's not pizza. Sometimes it's pizza," Jillian Citrino said with a laugh. "Sometimes it's a hot sandwich like hot ham and cheese, or a grilled cheese."

They're giving away about 150 lunches a day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

But they're not doing it alone. "We got a pretty nice donation from the Pottstown Police Officers Association," said Rocky Citrino.

"And people just started coming in off the street to make donations after word got out," he said. "I'm really happy about how the community is coming together." As if on cue, a man walked into the restaurant and handed Jillian Citrino a \$100 bill. He refused to be photographed for the newspaper or give his name. "I just want to help," he said and walked out. "There are a lot of legit good people out there. It makes me proud to be an American," he said. "It makes me Pottstown proud," his wife added.

In the meantime, with only take-out or curbside customers, and the Pourhouse tavern portion of the business closed, the Citrinos are making use of the time. "We're doing a deep clean and we're going to paint in here," said Rocky Citrino. "This way, we can keep paying the bartenders, who aren't getting any tips. And it's something we've been wanting to do anyway."

Trojan Proud All Hands on Deck - Businesses, churches, schools stepping in to feed children during virus closures!





Zahmere Trott "grew up in public housing and there were not too many people feeding us."

Trott said he knew as soon as Gov. Wolf announced the closure of public schools March 12 to stem the spread of coronavirus, that some Pottstown kids would go hungry.

"I know a lot of them really depend on those meals in school and a lot of their families can't afford to suddenly start providing that extra meal," said Trott.

Now the owner of Uptown Flavors, a soul food restaurant that opened on South Keim Street nine months ago, Trott joined other businesses that provided free lunches to students for as long as they can afford to.

Kids Uptown served got chicken breast, rice and string beans.

In just two days, Uptown Flavors provided free lunches for 216 children, not counting the ones he served Wednesday. He got some help from the folks at Donut NV, which donated 75 bags of food to the effort.

"We actually were talking about it when we saw that <u>Rocky was doing the same thing over at Little Italy</u> and we said, 'let's do that too,'" Trott said.

Some donations helped, but right now, Trott said, he is looking for partners to get the effort up and running again. There are many potential partners out there and he is not alone in his efforts.

Bill Mabery, owner of Flavors Deli in the Pottstown Terminal Market at High and South Charlotte streets, started his business as a sideline.

His main business was providing food for the free-and-reduced lunch program for two charter schools, one in Reading and the other in Philadelphia. but when one closed, the deli became his primary business focus.

And when Gov. Tom Wolf ordered all schools closed, Mabery knew what that meant for hungry school children.

That's the same federal program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all Pottstown School District students as well. "So I called up the pastor and I said 'let's feed the kids."

"The pastor," in this case is the Rev. Justin Valentine, whose Kingdom Life Church at Walnut and Franklin streets has begun offering hot meals to children left hungry by the closure of the schools.

Lunch there is served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. meals are free.

And Maberry, who is using the food he had stored for the future to feed the school children, is not alone in his efforts at Kingdom Life Church.

He gets help from two other restaurants in the Terminal, Mindy Hoagie from Honey's Home Brew, and Nick Tornetta from Ay Carumba Tacos.

"Mindy and I create a menu every day. We're doing hot lunches. One day it was spaghetti and on Monday, we're doing mashed potatoes and gravy, with chicken and corn and they'll get a piece of fruit and a drink," Maberry said.

He said others, like Parma Pizza on High Street in Sanatoga, have also taken turns. "Nick donated pizzas and Parma donated pizzas and salad and juice," Maberry said. "It's about the kids."

And other churches are involved too.

In addition to the churches involved with the Pottstown Ministerium supporting the efforts of Pottstown High School Principal Danielle McCoy, highlighted in the March 25 edition of The Mercury, other area churches are lending a hand too.

Bishop Michael Anthony of Heart of God Family Worship Center has been delivering boxes of cereal to children in the Bright Hope public housing complex.

Between 300 and 400 single-serve cartons of milk will be delivered to the children of the Rolling Hills complex Monday, and for the next three weeks, thanks to efforts organized by Jim Frymoyer and the Pottstown Children's Foundation he founded. Frymoyer partnered with Chuck Gulatti, owner of Sunnybrook Ballroom, Heart of God Family Worship Center, Branch Life Church and the Pottstown Police and Pottstown Police Officers Association to obtain and deliver the milk.

"Chuck Gulatti secured the milk and is storing it in his coolers until we can get it delivered," said Josh Park, pastor at Branch Life Church. "Rolling Hills then has a way to get it to the children."

Anybody who wants to help can with these efforts can contact any of those mentioned above, or contact the Pottstown NAACP at pottstownnaacp.2288@gmail.com to get connected to an effort that needs funding, volunteers or both.

Also, remember that the <u>Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities is serving as a single point of contact</u> to connect those interested in making donations or volunteering to help with the effort.

The major player in the effort to feed Pottstown school children, in terms of the resources it can bring to bear, is the Pottstown School District itself.

Almost immediately after Wolf announced the closure of schools, the district mobilized to begin organizing ways for feed to get distributed to students, said Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez.

"The district gets funding for 100 percent of the students, so we have assumed that 100 percent of the students' families will be picking up this food," Rodriguez said Wednesday as he watched the cars line up outside Rupert Elementary School for the weekly distribution.

"We want the highest possible amount to make sure none of our students are going hungry," he said.

Their efforts have been significant.

On Wednesday, the second week of the district's efforts, 14,443 meals were served. Over the first two weeks, the district has distributed 26,326 meals, according to Rodriguez.

The district has learned as the crisis drags on. In the first week, staff and volunteers gathered ahead of time to pre-pack five breakfasts and five lunches for distribution but found those packages disappeared within the first hour of distribution.

The subsequent improvisation brought boxes of food to the four elementary schools and had the parents picking up the food take it out of the boxes on their own.

It quickly became evident that this was more efficient, and limited the number of hands touching the food packages, making them less likely to pass on the coronavirus.

The second week adopted this method.

Week three will take place on April 1 at all four elementary schools from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tompkins VIST Bank has donated reusable shopping bags for families to use.

Rodriguez said he is proud of the effort the schools and community have made to lend a hand in times of crisis, but admitted there is a surreal feel to the whole situation.

"This is the most stressful thing I've seen us deal within 23 years in education," he said. "Everything is upside down." It's hard, said Rupert Elementary Principal Matthew Moyer, to see the kids in this context. "We're huggers at Rupert and how do you tell a 5-year-old to keep their distance?"

Barth Elementary Principal Ryan Oxenford had similar sentiments. "I miss seeing them and not knowing how they're doing is hard," he said. "In many ways, we're their parents during the week."

Rupert parent Amy Hartman agreed but was thankful for the food nonetheless.

With 9- and 11-year-old sons now at home as she works from home, Hartman loaded food into her car and remarked: "it's amazing, how many people care and how many people are trying to help."

Donation Helps Bridge The Gap

COVID19 has presented us with many challenges to overcome. It has also put a bright light on how the lack of resources caused by the state's failure to use the fair funding formula puts Pottstown children at disadvantage to receive educational opportunities for success. Thanks to a very generous anonymous donation to the Foundation for Pottstown Education for supporting remote learning opportunities for students. Read Evan Brandt's Digital Notebook Blog for the story.

The Hill School Makes Major Donation in Support of Pottstown School District Students The Hill School made a major contribution in support of the students of the Pottstown School District and the Foundation for

Pottstown Education's Chromebook Campaign with a \$50,000 donation. The Foundation announced the campaign on Wednesday May 5, 2020 with a goal of raising funds for 1,000 Chromebooks for the students of the Pottstown School District. The donation was announced at the virtual Community Leaders' Breakfast meeting hosted by Hobart's Run on Wednesday May 5th. Zack Lehman, Hill's Headmaster, said the School was happy to help the Pottstown School District as it addresses the circumstances posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. "We are very hopeful this will allow the District to continue providing a first-rate education to the children of

Pottstown," Lehman said. "We applaud the District's leadership, and remain eager to discuss future collaborative programming and an even stronger partnership between our institutions. I am humbled by what Superintendent Rodriguez and his team are doing for our community," Lehman added. "As Hill and Pottstown celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, we are delighted to support the District's outstanding efforts and to recognize all teachers who are working so diligently in these times requiring innovation, flexibility, and extraordinary student-focused commitment."

Pottstown Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez shared his appreciation of the gift in stating, "We are thrilled and appreciative of the Hill School Gift during this serious coronavirus crisis. This support will provide Chromebooks to 143 students and help us continue education, not only now, but in the future. This contribution is another example of what Pottstown does best in times of crisis, come together and help one another." "One Goal, One Team, One Town!"

The donation will be matched thanks to a recent grant from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation which will match donations for the Chromebook Campaign dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. "This donation along with the recent \$60,000 donation received by the Foundation for Pottstown Education will help our district's students continue their education remotely" stated the Foundation's Executive Director, Joe Rusiewicz. "We need to continue to bridge the gap of inequality of funding our schools and make sure that all students are on a level playing field. That is why our board took the steps to begin this campaign." Rusiewicz also noted that the \$60,000 anonymous gift does not count in the matching grant as it was received before the challenge grant was awarded.

According to Cathy Skitko, Director of Communications for Hobart's Run and spokesperson for The Hill School, the funds are



coming from a Hill alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous. The gift was directed specifically to this purpose, she said. Anyone interested in helping to level the educational playing field for the Pottstown School District by making a tax deductible donation to this campaign can send a check to the Foundation for Pottstown Education 230 Beech Street Pottstown, PA 19464 or go to our website www.foundationpottstowned.orr/donate and select Chromebooks under Donation Designation.



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 Trojan" 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@pottstownsd.org.

Jeffrey J. "Jeff" Lemons – Class of 1973, 64, of Lebanon, passed away at his residence on



Tuesday, April 14, 2020. He was the husband of Karen S. Switzer-Lemons. Jeff was born in Buffalo, NY on October 14, 1955 to the late John J. and Victoria A. (Pucci) Lemons. He was a graduate of Pottstown Senior High, obtained his associate degree in business management, and went on to work as an insurance agent. He was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving in the Vietnam War. He was a sports fan, enjoying all different types of sports, and especially The Philadelphia Eagles. He managed and trained at a fitness center in Philadelphia,

always enjoyed helping people in any way he could. He also enjoyed traveling with Karen, shopping, and watching movies.

Martena I. (Shelton) Roshon - Class of 1970, 67, born in Pottstown, she was the daughter of the late Charlie M. and Rosa I. (Hagenbach) Shelton. She worked for Stanley G. Flagg and Limerick Twp. Sewer Authority and went on to

retire in 2019 from Ursinus College as the Gift Records Coordinator. Martena liked going to Florida and Ocean City, NJ and loved going to concerts with her daughters. She also enjoyed gardening, cooking, and

family gatherings.



Kevin L. Curtis Sr. - Class of 1980 - pass away on April 16, 2020. He leaves behind a very loving family and many, many friends who also knew him as "Tweet" or "Tweetybird." Kevin played basketball while at PHS and he loved sports and his favorite team was the Dallas Cowboys. He was very involved with the Montgomery Elks Lodge #1271 where he was Chairman of the House Committee and the Past State President. Kevin worked for 26 years for Merck Sharp and Dohme, manufacturing vaccines.

James J. Toro Jr. - Class of 1967 - 70, was born in Pottstown he was a son of the late James and Alice (Daloisio) Toro. Jim was employed as a pipefitter by the

Plumbers Union 690 and was a U.S. Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War.

> Roy Louis Reifsnyder Sr. - Class of 1966 -was the husband of Sharon L. (Vath) Reifsnyder,



with whom he shared 50 years of marriage. Born in Pottstown, PA, on November 3, 1948, Roy was the son of the late John L. Reifsnyder and Martha J. (Curry) Reifsnyder. He attended Bentley University, obtaining his accounting degree in 1970. After his graduation, Roy began working for Arkema, Inc. as the plant accounting manager; he stayed there for 32 years. From 20 10-2015, Roy worked at Wayne Automation Corporation as a corporate controller, and most recently worked as the

tax collector for the Borough of Pottstown. When Roy was not working, he spent much of his time volunteering for the community. He spent 39 years with Pottstown Little League and 8 years as a chaperone for the Pottstown High School Band. Each year, Roy looked forward to planning the 4th of July Parade with the Parade Committee. Although Roy's occupation and volunteer work meant the world to him, his most cherished role was being a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle.

> Carlene A. (Zimmerman) Endy - Class of 1955 - 82, passed away on May 16, 2020,



surrounded by her loving family at her home in Pottstown. She was the wife of the late Russell B. Endy, who passed in 1988. Born in Pottstown, on October 18, 1937, Carlene was the daughter of the late George and Nora (Gable) Zimmerman. Carlene loved children and worked for over 35 years as a teacher's aide at Grace Early Learning Center in Pottstown. Spending time and making memories with her own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren brought a great deal of joy and happiness into her life. Carlene meant the world to her

family who will miss her deeply.

> Gloria Roth Slonaker - Class of 1944 - was born on March 11, 1926 to William and Mary



(Binczak) Roth, in Pottstown. On September 5, 1948 she married Robert E. Slonaker, Jr., who preceded her in death in April 2008. Together they celebrated 59 years of married life. Gloria received a Bachelor of Arts, Phi Beta Kappa from Bucknell University in 1956. Her faith was a very important part of her life and she was an involved member of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lewisburg. She was an accomplished artist; her oil and watercolor paintings filled their home. She and her husband were founding board members of the Packwood House

Museum in Lewisburg. She was a longtime member of the Bucknell University faculty woman's book club.

> Howard Chester Smoyer Jr. - Class of 1966 - was the loving husband of Sandra L. (Heil)



Smoyer, with whom he shared 48 years of marriage. Born in Pottstown, on July 24, 1948, Howard was the son of the late Howard C. Smoyer Sr., and Mae (Allenbach) Smoyer. He attended Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, where he met Sandy. After school, Howard followed in his father's footsteps by joining the Pottstown Police Department and serving his community fo r over 30 years. He retired as a Sergeant in 2002. After his retirement, he continued to work as field representative enabling others to receive and afford health care. He enjoyed spending

his time fishing, taking trips to Atlantic City and traveling with his wife. He remained an active member of the Fraternal Order of Police, Montgomery County Lodge 014, as well as a retired member of the Pottstown Police Association. Words can't express how many lives Howard touched throughout his life. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother, police officer, and friend who will be missed by many.

Melissa "Missy" Ann (Nash) Cremer - Class of 1994 - was born May 5, 1976 in Pottstown,

PA to Keith and Diane Nash. She worked as a Pharmaceutical
Technician at Professional Pharmacy as well as other local pharmacies.

Missy enjoyed deer hunting and trout fishing.

▶ Joye A. (Mace) Burns - Class of 1970 – 68, was the daughter of the late John and Sara



(Drumheller) Mace. She followed in her mother's footsteps and attended Frankford Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1974. She then began her career as a Registered Nurse at the Pottstown Hospital; she especially loved working on the pediatric floor. She also worked for the Pottstown VNA, and finished her nursing career at a family practice in Eagle, PA. Joye was a skilled seamstress with an amazing talent on the sewing machine. She made outfits, curtains, memory quilts, and even her own wedding gown! She was also very

creative with cloth and wood, and enjoyed visiting craft shows in the fall.



FALLEN TROJAN STAFF



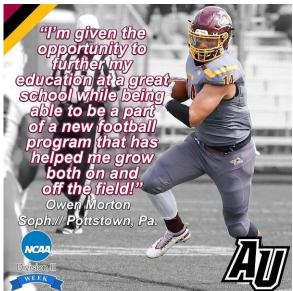
Roxanne Leh, who worked in the cafeteria kitchen at Rupert Elementary School, passed away on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

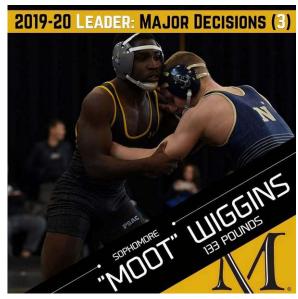
Roxanne LaRue (Ewing) Leh, 66, of Pottstown, wife of Harry D. Leh Jr., passed away on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at Reading Hospital after a battle with leukemia. Born in Pottstown, and raised in Limerick, she was the daughter of the late Robert L. and Dorothy Mae (Keller) Ewing. Roxanne had been diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Aplastic Anemia, which recently progressed to Leukemia. After undergoing one round of chemotherapy at Fox Chase, she was due to

start her second round on the day she passed. She was cared for lovingly at Pottstown Hospital. Roxanne was a member of New Covenant Baptist Church in Pottstown where she was the financial secretary and involved with the Women's Bible Study. She also worked at the Pottstown Elks lodge as a hostess. Roxanne enjoyed bowling and in her younger years, roller skating, which is how she met Harry. She enjoyed cooking and baking and loved spending time with her grandchildren.

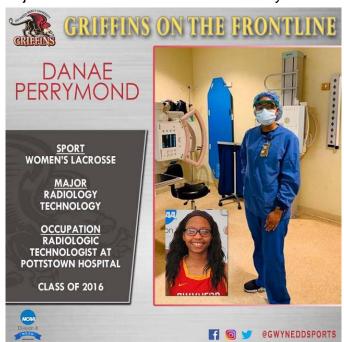
ALUMNI

◆ Alumni Accomplishing The Mission - Trojan Proud of our alumni who are working to help accomplish our District Mission, Prepare each student by name for success at every level. Owen Morton is a sophomore at Alvernia University majoring in Criminal Justice and is a member of the football team. When asked his future plans Owen said, "I plan to earn my degree, build a family of my very own, become the best person I can possibly be." Anthony - Moot Moot - Wiggins is a sophomore at Millersville University majoring in Early Childhood Education and is a member of the wrestling team. This year he led the team in Major Decisions. Anthony said, "I hope to graduate and be able to help make a difference in young lives."





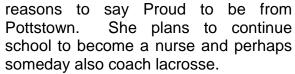
◆ Trojan Proud of PHS alum Danae Perrymond – Class of 2012 and 2016 graduate of Gwynedd



Mercy University with a major in Radiologic Technology. Danae is on the frontline of serving our community as a Radiologic Technologist at Pottstown Hospital. She is an example of our district mission, to prepare each student, by name for success at every level. Thanks for giving us another reason to say Proud to be from Pottstown!

♦ From outstanding PHS student athlete and Pottstown Fourth of July Queen to Chestnut Hill College Class of 2020 graduate with a major in Biology and captain of the Lacrosse team,

MarDaije Pearson (PHS Class of 2016) has given us lots of







♦ PHS Trojan alum Bob Sutton, who was inducted into our Pottstown Alumni Honor Roll this year, shared the below message regarding the challenging times we are facing. In high school,



Bob was an outstanding three sport athlete along with being a member of our award winning marching band. He had a distinguished 45-year career in education, ranging from high school teacher and coach to Director of Physical Education and Athletic Facilities and coach at East Stroudsburg University. Please take a moment to reflect on his message.

◆ Lessons Learned from Playing With Your Food - As youngsters at the table many of us were at one time or another told by our parents not to play with our food. Pottstown High school graduate Matthew Reid, Class of 2000, may have a different view. A special education teacher who also doubles as a child's book author, explores lessons learned in his book Fruit Snacks and Animal Crackers. Sage and Nasir are grade school kids who put a whole new meaning into playing with their food. They forget about the fruit snacks and animal crackers left in their book bags and discover new magical friends who help them cope with their everyday problems. As the two face challenges in their young lives, their fruit snacks and animal cracker friends share stories with them to express empathy. Reid, who holds degrees from both



Kutztown and Arcadia Universities, is a Special Education Teacher at Brandywine High School. He donated ten copies of his book to students at Lincoln Elementary School. COVID closure of schools kept him from a personal visit, but in a letter he shared congratulations on taking on a challenging school year! "Remember to be proud of all you have accomplished so far as a student." Lincoln principal Mrs. Calista Boyer shared the books with students during her home visits to fourth grade award winners. You can learn more about PHS Class of 2000 alum Matthew Reid from his blog.











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 to social media and 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.

a o	Pottstown Pride Society Yes, I'm Interested in More Info
	Name: Phone Number:
	Email:
	Address:
	Graduate of Pottstown? If so, Class of
	Employer:
	Pottstown Interests:



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.