POTTSTOWN PRIDE

ACADEMICS AND ACTIVITIES
PARTNERS FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE



WINTER 2023-2024

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

POTTSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT POINTS OF PRIDE WINTER 2023-2024

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 20,000 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.

Helping to Bring Holiday Joy to Children



Thank you to **Regina Astheimer** and the Women On The Move Ministries for helping to bring holiday joy to children. The Bright Hope Community Center played host to an evening of holiday cheer for young people. Santa was on hand with lots of gifts and good cheer. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to help make the event a memorable experience for so many youngsters. Santa got a big assist with lots of help, including the Pottstown Chapter of NAACP, the Pottstown Area Children's Foundation, Toys For Tots, Mrs. Danielle McCoy, and some special visitors from the Spring-Ford high school baseball team. True holiday joy was in the atmosphere, and gave us all another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.











Fair School Funding Advocates Hail Shapiro Budget

\$1.1B increase aims to address inequities found in court case



School Board working to get fair funding over the finish line

Resolution calls on Harrisburg to eschew vouchers until underfunded public schools reach "adequacy."



Innovative Program Leads to Student Success

Students attending the Pottstown School District Beach Street Learning Studio, are another example of the district's innovative programming that supports the mission of preparing each student by name for success at every level. Since the start of the program 67 students, who found the traditional classroom a challenging obstacle to success, have successfully completed the program and proudly display their high school diplomas.

During a midwinter graduation ceremony, **Nevaeh Brand**, **Elijah Brown**, **Sharif Knuckles**, **Rayne Lenhardt and Stephen Luther Jr.** saw their goal of obtaining a high school diploma become a reality. All five of the winter session graduates have been accepted into post-secondary programs, three have received assistance that led to post-secondary employment and two received additional support which led to them obtaining certifications that will assist in post, secondary employment.

Dr. Latanya R. White-Springfield, Director of Student Services said, "The Beach Street Learning Studio has proven to be a valuable innovative approach to helping prepare students for future success. I am proud of our staff who provide personalized programming for each student and of our students who have made a commitment to increase their opportunities for success. Their hard work is paying off and is another reason for us to say, proud to be from Pottstown."











BOYS' BASKETBALL

Pottstown vs. Pottsgrove – 12/19-2023

Congratulations to the Trojan boys' basketball team 57- 43 win over the Pottsgrove Falcons. Thank you to Gus Tellis and PCTV for the YouTube link for all the action.









We are the Champions



Congratulations to Pottstown High School boys' basketball team and coaches on winning the Great Valley Holiday Tournament championship. After an opening round victory over Upper Darby, the boys defeated host Great Valley in the finals 71-52. Their overall record improved to 6 - 3, and are presently on a five-game win streak. They are proof that hard work pays off. Thank you for representing our school and community with pride, honor, and good sportsmanship.

Boys Basketball Rallies for MLK Showcase Win

Trojan Proud of PHS boys' basketball players and coaches for their inspiring 71-68 come from behind win over Muhlenberg in the MLK Showcase hosted at Pottstown. The Showcase was played as a fundraiser for the Pottstown Salvation Army. Senior brothers, Abdul and Sadeeq Jackson lead the comeback with Abdul scoring 26 points and his brother 15. Jurrell Young added 14 to the victory. The Trojans improved to 10-4. Their play was a great example of teamwork and a reminder that hard work pays off.







Players enjoy experience of a college game

PHS Trojan boys' and girls' basketball players, along with players from JustYouthAthletics, got to enjoy the experience of seeing a college game in person. Thanks to PHS Trojan girls' wrestling coach **Shambuy Kala-Kadima**, who was able to acquire tickets as part of the Villanova community outreach program, our boys' and girls' teams took a field trip to the Wells Fargo Center to see the Villanova boys take on Seton Hall. Thanks to coaches Stevenson, Dukes and Gibbs for traveling with the players. Great opportunity for everyone to experience the excitement and atmosphere of college level athletics and start to prepare to be a college student athlete.







Trojan Boys Basketball Returns to State Tournament

Trojan Proud of our student-athletes and coaches of the boys' basketball team. They made every second count and their hard work paid off with a trip to the state tournament for the first time in 16

years.



Boys Basketball on the march

Returning to the state tournament for the first time since 2008, Pottstown is one victory away from a 20-win season. The Trojans boast two of the PAC's most explosive scorers in senior twin brothers **Abdul Jackson** (18.3 ppg) and **Sadeeq Jackson** (17.1 ppg), and it was Abdul Jackson's buzzer beater to beat Upper Moreland on Feb. 24 that sent the team to states. Senior **Jurrell Young** (15.0 ppg) is another gifted scorer for Pottstown (19-8), and head coach Ken Ivory's rotation also features fellow seniors **Nahzier Booker** and **DiMark Lyons** and sophomores **Syncere Whitehurst**

and Yashir Wood.





NAMED TO THE PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FRONTIER DIVISION FIRST TEAM

- Sadeeq Jackson
- Abdul Jackson
- Jurrell Young

NAMED TO THE MERCURY ALL AREA SECOND TEAM

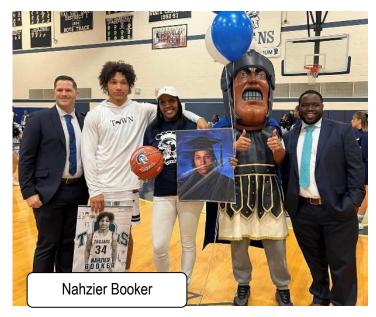
- Abdul Jackson
- Sadeeq Jackson

NAMED TO THE MERCURY ALL AREA HONORABLE MENTION TEAM

> Jurrell Young

Senior Night Boys' Basketball Photos:









Senior Night Boys' Basketball Photos:

























Senior Night Winter Cheerleading Photos:













GIRLS' BASKETBALL

NAMED TO THE PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FRONTIER DIVISION SECOND TEAM:

Jayanna Hill

NAMED TO THE MERCURY ALL AREA HONORABLE MENTION TEAM:

Jayanna Hill

Senior Night Girls' Basketball Photos:









Senior Night Girls' Basketball Photos:











WRESTLING

Wrestling Senior Night Photos:











Wrestling Senior Night Photos:



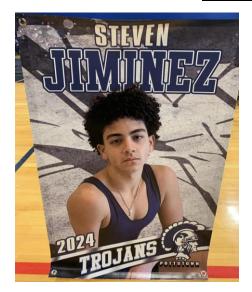


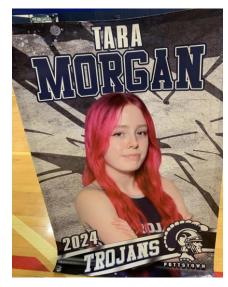


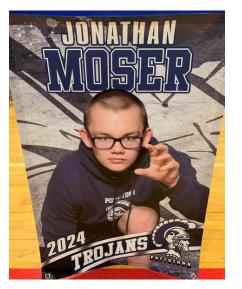


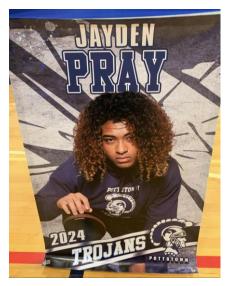


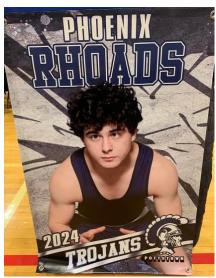
Wrestling Senior Night Photos:



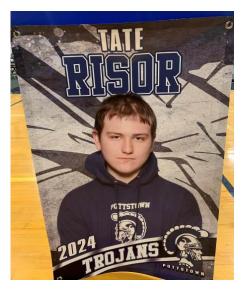


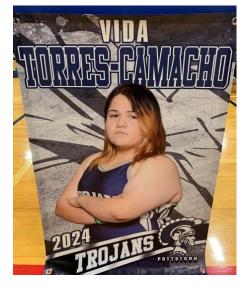












GIRLS' WRESTLING

Lady Trojans make a name for themselves

Pottstown Lady Trojan wrestlers at both the high and middle schools are not wasting time in making a name for themselves and our schools. This is the first year that the district has official teams and that girls wrestling is an official PIAA sanctioned sport.

The girls had strong showings at both the North Penn and Governor Mifflin Tournaments, which attract some of the best competitors in Southeast PA. At North Penn the Trojan team placed 10th out of 30 schools with **Savannah Richards** going 5-2 with three of the wins coming by pin to place 4th; and **Triniti Rhodes** went 4-2 with 3 pins for 5th. Earning 7th place were **Riley Maguire**, **Tara Morgan**, **Taylor Maguire**, and **Isabella Wright**. **Malaysia Williams** placed 8th. **Emely Villegas** picked up valuable experience that will help lead to future success.

At Governor Mifflin over 350 of some of the best in PA did battle. **Savannah** placed 2nd, **Tara** 3rd, **Triniti** 4th; **Vida Torres**, **Malaysia Taylor** and **Riley** 2nd.

The middle school girls also made some noise at Mifflin with **Leyna Johnson** picking up her first pin on the way to 3rd place, **Niya Crowder** and **Alexandra Green** with their first pins earning 2nd place. **Lexi Bowen** showed she will be a strong competitor.

For the first time ever, the PIAA has started ranking girls and teams in southeast PA. In the first week's rating the Trojan team was ranked 5th, with **Savannah** ranking 1st in her weight class. Earning Honorable Mention were: **Tara Morgan, Triniti Rhodes, Riley and Taylor Maguire**.

















New PHS program brings girls opportunities



The Pottstown School District Board of Education established a new co-curricular program for the 23-24 school year. The Girls Wrestling team has created opportunities for both middle and high school girls to challenge their competitive spirit and provide opportunity for personal growth, self-confidence, resiliency, communication skills, and teamwork.

Most recently, the girls participated in an individual tournament at Central Bucks High School. They competed with over 350 other girl wrestlers.

- Vida Torres pinned her way to the finals competition, and eventually placed second.
- Malaysia Williams scored a 28 second pin during the tournament.
- > Allyana Sykes, Isabella Wright, Riley Maguire all picked up valuable experience and learning opportunities for future improvement.

For the first time, girl wrestlers are being ranked in <u>PIAA District 1</u>, which includes over 60 schools in southeast Pennsylvania. Earning honorable mention recognition are **Tara Morgan** and **Triniti Rhodes**. **Vida Torres** is ranked second in her weight class and **Savannah Richards** is ranked first in the district at 118 pounds.













Trojan Girl Wrestlers Continue to Make History

Members of the Trojan Girls Wrestling teams at both high and middle school continue to show that they are ready to write a successful first page in the history of the newly formed Pottstown Girls Wrestling teams. Competing in the Vikings Classic, the high school team placed 3rd out of 20 teams. Read more in The Mercury story.

- > Savannah Richards contributed a first-place finish going undefeated in three matches.
- > Vida Torres and Tara Morgan both went three and one for third place.
- > Malayasia Williams and Emely Villegas both placed 4th.
- > Isabella Wright, along with Riley and Taylor Maguire, helped carry the Trojans to the thirdplace team finish

In the middle school division:

- Niya Crowder was 1st as she went 3-0 with a 42 second pin in the finals.
- Leyna Johnson and Alex Green also helped write the first chapter in the history book of Pottstown Girls Team wrestling.











PHS Girl Wrestlers Continue a Season of Firsts

Trojan proud of our Girls' Wrestling team placing 4th out of 43 teams at the first ever PIAA district wrestling tournament. Truly, Pioneers, and history makers! Each one of our girls gave 100% effort. Every time they walked out on the mat, they represented our district and community with pride, honor, and good sportsmanship. Everyone gained lots of valuable experience.

Our underclassmen Malayasia Williams, Isabella Wright, Emely Villegas, Taylor Maguire and Riley Maguire are now battle hardened, and can start to prepare for next year. Good luck to our student-athletes moving on.

With a pin in the quarterfinals, **Tara Morgan** became the first PHS girl to win a PIAA district tournament match. **Savannah Richards** is the 1st PHS girl to wrestle in the district finals; she placed 2nd. **Vida Torres** placed 3rd and **Triniti Rhodes** placed 4th. They will all advance to the first girls' regionals in PIAA history. Also placing were **Tara Morgan** and **Riley Maguire**, 6th place.

















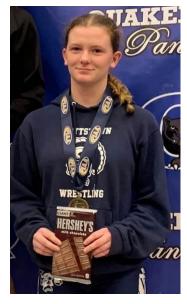
PHS Girls earn a trip to Hershey

Trojan Proud of **Savannah Richards** and **Vida Torres** making history as the first PHS girls to represent our school and community in the PIAA Girls Wrestling Championships at Hershey. Savannah placed 3rd in the 118-pound class going 3-1 on the day and Vida 4th going 2-2 on the day in the 190-pound class at the Southeast Regional Tournament to qualify for states. Their efforts earned Pottstown 12th out of 43 in the team standings. Hard work pays off. Thanks for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.











On the road to making history

As PHS seniors **Savannah Richards** and **Vida Torres** prepare to leave on a history making journey as the first girls to compete in the PIAA state Girls Wrestling championships, they took time to share their thoughts with Mercury Sports reporter, Austin Hertzog. Trojan Proud of these young ladies, who represent our school and community with pride, honor and good sportsmanship. Their hard work has paid off.



Making History

Congratulations to **Savannah Richards** and **Vida Torres**, the first girls in PHS history to represent our school and community in the first PIAA state championship girls wrestling tournament held at the Giant Center in Hershey. Savannah's opening round 17-7 win makes her the first girl in PHS history to score a state championship win. She will return to compete in the quarterfinals and continue to pursue a state medal. Vida Torres dropped a well wrestled 7-4 match and will now be in the wrestle backs as she tries to earn a medal. Trojan, proud of these young ladies, representing our school and community with pride, honor and good sportsmanship.













A weekend of firsts

Congratulations to **Savannah Richards** and **Vida Torres**, who are the first girls to represent Pottstown at the first PIAA state championship girls wrestling tournament. They both won their first state championship matches. Savannah placed seventh, making her the first Pottstown girl to earn a state medal. On her path to winning a medal she won three matches. Two of her victories came in thrilling down to the last second overtime wins. She was not only the first Pottstown girl wrestler to earn a state medal, but also the first wrestler representing the Pioneer Athletic Conference. Vida Torres ended her tournament and high school career with a 1-2 record at the state tournament. These young student-athletes were part of a pioneer movement in our district and state that resulted in the PIAA state championships. They will have lasting memories of their experience. They have helped pioneer a movement that will make a positive difference in many lives. They are proof that hard work pays off and another reason to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."

















NAMED TO THE PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENE FRONTIER DIVISION SECOND TEAM:

- Phoenix Rhoads
- Evan Smith

NAMED TO THE MERCURY ALL AREA HONORABLE MENTION TEAM

Evan Smith

Pinning Down Honors on the Mat and in the Classroom

Congratulations to Pottstown High School senior student-athlete, **Savannah Richards**, who is pinning down honors both on the mat and in the classroom. She was recently recognized by the Pennsylvania State Wrestling Coaches Association as a first team member of the State Girls All-

Academic Team.





In the classroom, Savannah carries a 4.0 grade point average, which includes participation in the dual enrollment program at Montgomery County Community College. After having successfully qualified through both district and regional tournaments, Savannah became the first Pottstown girl wrestler to compete in the state wrestling tournament where she placed seventh. Wrestling, not her only sport, she is also a standout member of the girls' soccer and softball teams. She embodies the true meaning of a student-athlete, who continually strives to do her best academically and athletically. A great example of making every second count, her hard work paid off. Thank you for giving us another reason to say proud to be from Pottstown!







BOWLING

New PHS team "bowling" them over

This winter Pottstown High School students who were looking for a new activity to take part in, enjoyed testing their skills on the bowling lanes. PHS now has an official team for boys and girls. The members are wasting no time in developing a strong team spirit and supporting each other's success. **Cody Wilson** (244) and **Kai O'Brien** (221) have been the top scorers for the boys, while **Jazara Robinson** (147) is tops for the girls' team. Trojan Proud of their hard work!



Cody Wilson and Jazara Robinson were named team captains. The coaches have recognized Rooney Salazar-Villanueva and Anilyse Arey. Jazara and Cody are in contention for a PIAA Regional qualifying spot.

The boys' team consists of Cody Wilson, Kai O'Brien, Joel Rubincam, Peyton Kutsch, Josh Sands, Troy Gross, Rooney Salazar-Villanueva, Zhon Bell, and Gabriel Stilwell.



The girls' team consists of Anilyse Arey, Michelle Cocar, Yaileen Irizarry, Jazara Robinson, Maya Lilick.

Zhon Bell was honored at the program's first ever Senior Night.





PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ALL ACADEMIC TEAM

Cheerleading - Emily Castillo
 Boys' Basketball - Nahzier Booker
 Girls' Basketball - Regina Fleming

Wrestling - Steven Jimenez Gomez

PIONEER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE WINTER CITIZEN ATHLETE AWARD

> Ashley Weller

Trojan Proud of our Winter 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 Winter Sports Citizen Athlete honoree, girls' basketball player **Ashley Weller**. Thanks for giving us more reasons to say, "Proud to be from Pottstown."



MUSIC

The sweet sounds of music

Congratulations to the students representing the district at the 68th annual Inter-County Band concert that took place on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at Perkiomen Valley Middle School West. The concert band included 100 select 7th-9th grade band students from: Pottstown, Pottsgrove, Owen J Roberts, Boyertown, Phoenixville, Perkiomen Valley, Upper Perkiomen, Spring Ford and Methacton.

Representing Pottstown:

- Jayden Bell- Flute
- > Brianna Bui- Flute
- Clara Johnson- Clarinet
- > Aiden Ondik- Alto Saxophone
- William Rose- Trombone
- > Thomas Rose-Tuba
- David Sanders- Percussion

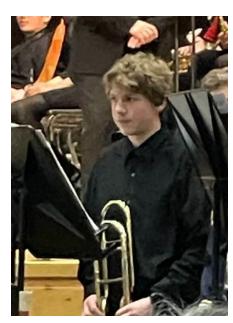


William Rose also performed with the Inter-County Jazz Band, an auditioned group where he was selected to play Trombone 2. The concert band flute section auditioned for seating placements and Jayden Bell earned first chair while Brianna Bui took second chair in a section of 14 flutes. Jayden performed solos in 4 pieces.

Our district music department consistently prepares students to develop their skills to a high level and represent our community with pride and honor. Thank you for another reason to say, Proud to be from Pottstown.







The Jazzed Up Higgins Report

The PHS Jazz Band continues to demonstrate their talents. Hear about their latest adventure right from their director, Mr. Daniel Higgins. The Pottstown High School Jazz Band performed at Boyertown's Annual Jazz Festival amongst groups from Quakertown, Wilson, Fleetwood, and Daniel Boone. To start the night, the students attended a 50-minute clinic with Bill Smith, a former trombonist for the US Air Force. Students got lots of insightful feedback and enjoyed the extra preparation before the performance.

Afterwards students performed their set on stage. They performed three charts: "Don't Get Around Much Anymore", "Misty", and "Theme from Sesame Street". Soloists for the night included:

- Ethan Ung (Tenor)
- Taylor Maguire (Trumpet)
- Alyssa Broughton (Vocal)
- Ethan Yost (Bass)
- Colin Plank (Drums)
- ❖ Jayden Bell (Bari)

It was a very strong first performance for this year's ensemble and promises an exciting season ahead.

The panel of judges were all very impressed with their performance. They all unisonly awarded Pottstown with the ranking of "Outstanding" (the second highest possible score). Special subcaption score recognition was given for their tone/blend/balance and use of dynamics.

The group will take a short hiatus over the next couple of weeks for the musical for which 15 out of the 22 jazz band members are a part of. The Pottstown HS Jazz Band will next be performing at the Daniel Boone Jazz Fest on March 15th.













Thank you to Mr. Evan Brandt for stopping in to see the teaser for our district production of

Beauty and The Beast.

<u>Do the math:</u> Talented hard-working students + dedicated staff to provide guidance and support = an outstanding production that gives us another reason to say proud to be from Pottstown.



CAST MEMBERS

| Belle | Josephine Bechtel | Beast | Jonathan Moser |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Gaston | Aiden Kancianic | Lefou | Jayden Bell |
| Maurice | Trevor Marley | Lumiere | Tyler Broughton |
| Mrs. Potts | Makayla Smith | Cogsworth | Brandon Davis |
| Babette | Ashlee Landis | Madame De La Grande Bouche | Peyton Benfield |
| Chip | Bat Endy | Monsieur D'Arque | Ethan Yost |
| Enchantress | Grayce Morton | | |

| Silly Girls | Alyssa Broughton, Sofia Reeher, Trinity Rhodes-Fisher | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Napkins | Alyssa Broughton, Triniti Rhodes, Grayce Morton, Carliam Rodriguez Vazquez, | |
| | Christiahna Kennerly Roberts, Leah Blackwell, Sarish Mendez-Rivera, | |
| | Tahj Phillips, Makenna Franey | |
| High School | Ava Alessi, Christopher Rose, Dakota Tattershall, Jasmine Champlin, | |
| Ensemble | Lizzie Fine, Mairelys Concepcion, Nye Powell, Aiden Conrad | |
| Junior Ensemble | Emma Allen, Victoria Alata, Olivia Ashmon, Peyton Bennetch-Smalls, | |
| | Jayddie Camacho, Deaglan Conrad, Grace Eby, Elena Eidell, Julia Gilbert, | |
| | Angel Gorman-Nealy, Alexandra Green, Lillian Green, Charleigh Katch, | |
| | Jazmyn Lamarre, Benjamin Moser, Ayden Olvera, Makaila Plummer, Stacy | |
| | Reina Villegas, Thomas Rose, Angela Ross, Elizabeth Stewart, Rashawn Ward | |
| Special Adult | Christian D'Annibale, Danielle Davis, James Franey, Sandra Green, | |
| Appearances | Rachel Knight | |

| Producer | Robert Decker Jr. | Director | Christopher Sperat |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Musical Director | Amy Anderson | Set Designs & Props Mgr. | Candi Haas-Simmons |
| Choral & Vocal | Adella Brady | Lighting Design & | Nick Yashinsky |
| Director | | Direction | - |
| Stage Manager | Robert Decker Jr. | Set Construction | Jennifer Mohr |
| Costuming | Liane Heivly | Hair & Make Up | Diane Brothers |
| Choreographer | Jenna Endy | Sound Design & Direction | Albert Garcia |

The Show Must Go On

What do you do when one of the lead actors in the Pottstown School District production of Beauty and the Beast comes down with the flu on the night of a performance? If you are PHS Producer, Bob Decker, you suit up in costume and say, "The show must go on!"



































Music In The Halls

Thanks to our high school and middle choirs, there was music in the halls of the State Capital in Harrisburg. They performed as part of the Music in Our School's Month Lunchtime Concerts Series at the State Capitol Building on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Under the direction of Miss Adella Brady and Mrs. Lori Hoshaw, the choirs presented their selections on the steps of the State Capitol Rotunda for all to hear. It was a great opportunity for the students to visit this "stunning" building as well as share their talents with the Capitol staffers and other visitors.

Pottstown Music has been participating in these lunchtime concerts for the past 14 years and gives us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.













HIGH SCHOOL

No waiting in long lines - Instant Decisions Today

For Pottstown High School seniors planning their post-graduation college plans, the fifth annual Instant Decision Day / College Fair provided answers instantly. The event is planned by the PHS guidance department. Over 30 colleges/universities, trade and technical schools, community colleges, and the military were on hand to review student credentials, and provide instant acceptance offers. In total, over 60 letters of college acceptance were awarded.



Some very fortunate students like **Peyton Benfield** and **Makayla Smith** were not only accepted but qualified to be offered full academic scholarships to East Stroudsburg University, while **Najae Perez** and **Leilandi Davis** received full tuition offers from Cheyney University.

Underclassmen had an opportunity to talk with admission, counselors, and recruiters to gain valuable information that will help them plan their post high school careers.









Empowering Student Voice



At Pottstown High School, members of the senior class learned how to be actively engaged in the decisions that are made at the federal, state and local level. PA Youth Vote, a nonpartisan collaboration of students, educators and organizations working to elevate student voice and prepare the next generation of educated voters conveyed to students that their voice matters and their vote counts.







It Takes Skills

Pottstown High School students in the Career Technical Education Program know that the skills they are learning in school will prepare them for success in the work world. The annual state SkillsUSA District competition gave them the opportunity to showcase their talent. We are PHS Trojan Proud to announce that **Austin Sundstrom** earned first place in Technical Related Math, and **Cody Hinkle** scored first place in Automotive Service Technology and was awarded a 30% scholarship to the Automotive Training Center, and **Dan Pittman** placed third in Technical Computer Applications.

Austin and Cody will compete in the state competition in April. Congratulations to the students and the teachers who prepared them!

PHS program director, Theresa Baller said, "SkillsUSA challenged our students to demonstrate their ability to combine classroom and laboratory experience into practical application. We are proud of how they represented our school and community. They and their teachers give us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown."









PHS Club Earns State Recognition

The Pottstown High School DECA club earned state recognition for its achievement level chapter membership campaign. The club, which is an organization for students interested in marketing, provides valuable real-life experiences that will help prepare them for future success. At the statewide convention, the club was honored with the award that demonstrated the efforts to promote its activities and increase student membership. Chapter advisor, Mr. Ronald Davenport praised the club's leadership team, and Luna Davila, Director of Membership for their efforts. Our initial goal was to increase membership by 20%. We far exceeded that target with an increased membership of 72%. Ms. Theresa Baller, the school's Director of Career Technical Education programs pointed out, "We recognize the valuable role that participation in co-curricular activities plays in student success. The interpersonal skills that are developed provide a foundation for future success as students enter the work world experience. We are proud to provide a wide variety of co-curricular activities which gives students the opportunity to explore their interests."







THE DECA Report

Thanks to PHS student **Emily Castillo**, the DECA Director of Communications and Marketing, for this report on our students' experience representing PHS at the state DECA convention. More reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.

Under the supervision of marketing teacher Ronald Davenport marketing students, who are members of DECA (An Association of Marketing Students) at Pottstown High School, participated in the Annual State Career Development Conference at the Hershey Lodge, February 21st - 23rd 2024. DECA is the only Career and Technical Student Organization operating through the nation's schools to attract young people to careers in marketing management, and entrepreneurship. Its purposes are to develop respect for education which will contribute to occupational competence and to promote understanding and appreciation for the responsibilities of citizenship in our free enterprise system. While at DECA competitions, our students participated in role-plays where they had to meet with a supervisor and provide a solution to a problem, took an exam to assess their understanding of their business categories, and made use of the numerous seminars offered. These workshops featured inspirational speakers and advice on how to dress for success.

The 21 State Conference participants were:

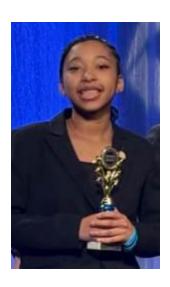
| Elizabeth Adedeji | HLM: Hotel and Lodging Management |
|-------------------|--|
| Adam Alaoui | PFL: Personal Financial Literacy Event |
| Layla Bearden | AAM: Apparel & Accessories Marketing Series DEL: Voting Delegate |
| Cheynin Boyer | RMS: Retail Merchandising |
| Ava Collier | BTDM: Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making |
| Giovanni Cooper | JOB: Job Interview |
| Kaniyah Cotton | JOB: Job Interview MODF: Modeling – Female |
| Lunna Davila | ASM: Automotive Services Marketing Series |
| Travis Engle | QSRM: Quick Service Restaurant Management |
| Makenna Franey | STDM: Sports & Entertainment Team Decision Making |
| Gabriella Horne | MCS: Marketing Communications Series |
| Brandon Hughes | PFL: Personal Financial Literacy Event |
| Trevor Marley | PMK: Principles of Marketing |
| Grayce Morton | STDM: Sports & Entertainment Team Decision Making |
| Miranda Pineda | PHT: Principles of Hospitality and Tourism |
| Jayden Pray | RFSM: Restaurant and Food Service Management |
| LaRayna Rosado | HRM: Human Resource Management |
| Natalie Shope | HRM: Human Resource Management |
| Christian Toland | AAM: Apparel & Accessories Marketing Series |
| Ivan Ubaldo | PMK: Principles of Marketing |
| Keshawn Young | BTDM: Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making |

Pottstown DECA members were amongst over 3,000 students at the three-day State Conference. There are over 80 DECA chapters in Pennsylvania with a membership of more than 3,200 students, alumni, teachers, and business professionals. This year our chapter made great achievements by making Tier 1 status for their POA and membership. This required our officers to stimulate a membership increase compared to last year.

Additionally, we should not forget to applaud **Layla Bearden**, an SBE placer! Layla Bearden will be traveling to California for the Nationals competition along with **Adam Alaoui** and **Jayden Pray**. Adam Alaoui attended Nationals last year, and also placed this year with one of the best roleplay and test results in his category. This year was Jayden Pray's first year being a part of our DECA chapter, and he has made it to Nationals. Additionally, **Kaniyah Cotton** placed in modeling and won the highest test score.

All in all, it was a fantastic competition, and our DECA members have picked up valuable knowledge and abilities that they can't wait to use in both life and the competition next year.









Trojan Man says Have a Slice on Me

Trojan Man and the leader of the Trojan Nation, **Mr. Dave Woodley**, have a long history of supporting worthy causes. He also has an equally large appetite for pizza.

In 2015, on one of the Trojan Nation's mini field trips, they stopped at Rosas Fresh Pizza in Philadelphia. They were introduced to the "pay it forward post-it note pizza program" to assist those in need.

Recently they visited **M Geovani's Pizza** in Pottstown at 16 S. Keim Street and we're happy to see a similar pay it forward post-it board to assist those in Pottstown experiencing food insecurity. Their mission statement read: Purchase a pay it forward, pizza token, and it will go towards providing a slice of pizza for someone in need. You can also choose to leave it for the next person in line, creating a chain of Goodwill.

Trojan Man recently stopped in for lunch and purchased five slices of pizza for his donation and he received five post-it notes that he then wrote inspirational messages on before placing them on the wall. The post-it notes act as a currency that will allow five people to receive a free slice of pizza. Mr. Woodley said, "I am proud of our members who are committed to being positive members of our community."









PHS Students Saving Lives

Trojan Proud of our PHS students who donated their blood to help save the lives of people who they will probably never meet. Special shout out to Senior **Vida Torres**, a member of our PHS Girls' Wrestling team. On Sunday she wrestled four hard matches in the regional qualifying tournament to earn a spot in the state championships and two days later she's donating her blood to help make a positive difference and save lives. More reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.











Off to a Healthy Start

Congratulations to PHS Healthcare Technology students who represented Pottstown at the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference and competition in Lancaster, PA. Our students served as voting delegates, event assistants and competitors.

- Ethan Yost competed in Medical Terminology
- ❖ Annasophia Chhern competed in Medical Spelling, placing 3rd overall
- Juleon Gibson placed 3rd in Speaking Skills
- Emely Villegas and Isabella Wright competed in the Health Career Display

Annasophia and **Juleon** have qualified to compete at the International HOSA event to be held in Houston, Texas at the end of June. Trojan Proud of all our students. Their hard work has paid off and gives us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.











MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Shares Holiday Cheer

Pottstown Middle School students provided a musical holiday celebration at an evening performance for family and community members. Thanks to the music department for sharing the talents of our students and helping to develop skills and memories that will last a lifetime. They are part of a long tradition of outstanding performing arts programs, and give us another reason to say,

proud to be from Pottstown.

Choir



Band





ELEMENTARY

A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed

Cold winter weather may soon be upon us but thanks to Pottstown High School graduate **Troy Friend** and his wife Jess, fourth grade students in Ms. Wampole's class at Lincoln Elementary will stay snug in their new gloves and winter hats. Each student received three new pairs of gloves and a winter hat. Just in case the cold weather causes some students to have the sniffles. Troy also donated a case of tissues. Troy said, "I have fond memories of my days as a student and I am grateful to all of the teachers who helped provide me with a solid foundation for future success. The hat and gloves are a small way of me saying thank you and letting students know we have lots of reasons to be proud to be from Pottstown."





Get me to school on time



When you have to get to school on time, it pays to be the student who won the reward for, caught being good. Trojan Proud of **Gianna Garlington**. PS the bonus, your principal dresses up as a banana to greet you at the door.





It's cold out there make sure to wear a hat

Many of us can remember being told when we were younger to make sure to wear a hat when going out in the cold weather. For Barth Elementary School first graders in Kathy Eagle's class that reminder became a lot easier to do thanks to Kathy's mother, Chris Rhoads. It is a long-standing tradition for Chris to crochet winter hats for the students in her daughter's class. Chris said, "There is a family atmosphere at Barth Elementary. The staff create a friendly atmosphere that encourages student success. I am happy to play a small role in supporting our school district, staff, students and family."



Calling for a Hero

Franklin Elementary School fourth grade student **Jaxon Guest** proved that heroes can come in all sizes and ages. When Melanie Seeders, a former Pottstown School District employee was seriously injured from a fall off of her electric bike while riding on an unpaved back alley and trapped under the 80-pound bike, she needed a hero to come to her rescue. Along came fourth grader Jaxon Guest who calmly lifted the bike off of her and ran to find assistance. He was able to get the attention of a nearby resident, Pottstown High School classroom assistant, Kathy Kanaskie. Jaxon made sure to stay by Mrs. Seeders side to provide comfort to her until medical assistance could arrive. Seeders said, "He didn't hesitate for a second, he got the heavy bike off of me and went to find help, then stayed by my side to give me comfort until medical help arrived. I am thankful for everything he did and impressed by how calmly and maturely he handled everything."

Jaxon was recently recognized at the Pottstown School District school board meeting with a Superintendent Award. He was modest when accepting the award, and simply said, "I knew she needed help, and I had to do something."

Jaxon was accompanied by his mother and some of his classmates. Mrs. Seeders, who was still recovering from her injuries, was represented by her brother, Dominic Viscardi, and sister Marlene Smith. In addition to receiving a certificate and medal, Jaxon and his friends dined on some gourmet cupcakes provided by the school board.







Elementary Reading Olympics



District students go to the Olympics

Over 100 students took part in the 24th annual Pottstown School District Reading Olympics. Teams of students prepared for the big day by reading 45 books on a required reading list. Each round of competition has two opposing teams attempt to answer 20 questions given in rapid fire fashion from moderators. After the question is asked about a particular book the team huddles up to determine their answer. One point is awarded for each correct answer, at the end of the round, the team with the most points is declared the winner. Special thanks to our reading specialist **Karen Neitz** and all of the teachers and librarians that serve as team coaches. Winning teams for each building will move on to the county competition held later this year. We appreciate the financial support of **Diamond Credit Union** who has sponsored this event for 24 years. Thank you for being a community partner.









Elementary students take on Olympic challenge

Congratulations to the students who represented Pottstown at the Montgomery County Reading Olympics competition. Teams from all four of our elementary schools (Barth, Franklin, Lincoln and Rupert) traveled to Souderton High School, along with over 30 schools from around the county to take part in the rapid recall of information based on questions from a 25-book reading list. Reading comprehension, teamwork and communication skills are all needed to earn a ribbon in the highly competitive event.

Special thanks to our sponsor Diamond Credit Union, who has supported the academic success of our students by providing materials and distinctive team T-shirts for each student. The shirts help build a sense of pride and positive culture. Trojan, proud of the students and their advisors for, giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.









Someone's knocking at the door

What would you do if you heard a knock at the front door and saw your teachers and principal at the door? Well, if you're a student at Rupert Elementary school, you were one of the five lucky students who received a visit to acknowledge the great work you have been doing in school during the third marking.

Principal Matt Moyer, along with a group of Rupert teachers got to give a personal shout out to each student with applause, a school T-shirt, yard sign that can be displayed for all to see, and a Certificate with uniquely written message, specifically for each student.

Students receiving a visit this marking period were:

- ☆ Grade K Zoey O'Connor
- ☆ Grade 1 Ezequiel San Roman
- ☆ Grade 2 Jamal Brown
- ☆ Grade 3 Jocelyn Bryant Collins
- ☆ Grade 4 Caleb Tepketey

Teachers Ms. Gresko, Mrs. Bartolucci, Mrs. Richey, Mrs. Crean, Miss Hultz, Miss Hogan, Mrs. Burkhimer, Miss Fazekas and Miss Murray were on hand to say to each student and their family, thanks for giving us another reason to say, proud to be from Pottstown.











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@pottstownk12.org.

Keith Andrew Brightbill – Class of 1977 - 64, of Pottstown, PA, passed away on January,



1st, 2024 after a brief illness. Keith was a loving husband to Carol (Burton) for 41 years, and a devoted father to Matthew (Rachel) Slaymaker, Bryan (Lauren) Brightbill, and Tyler Brightbill. He was also Pop-pop to Emily, Jack, Harper, Ella, and Sienna. He was born in Pottstown on May 27, 1959, to the late Robert and Arlene Brightbill. Keith was preceded in death by his brothers James and

Robert Brightbill. He is survived by his siblings Cindy Clark, Debbie Stein, Christine Brightbill, and Kim King; plus numerous nieces and nephews. After working at Doehler-Jarvis for 24 years, he worked as a self-employed contractor. He enjoyed spending time hunting, fishing, and playing golf. He was a lifelong fan of the Philadelphia Flyers. He will be deeply missed by his wife, children, grandchildren, and all who knew him.

Daisy J. (Goodyear) Paolucci – Class of 1947 - 93, of Pottstown, wife of the late Donald



Paul Paolucci, passed away Friday, January 5, 2023, at Wyncote Place. Born in Pottstown, she was the daughter of the late Edward M. and Florence M. (Mayer) Goodyear. She was a graduate of Pottstown High School class of 1948. Daisy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She kept an impeccable house where she welcomed anyone at any time. She would always be there to greet you with her beautiful smile and sparkling blue eyes. Family

was so important to her and Donald as they set an example for everyone with the family Sunday dinners. She was notorious for her Christmas cookies, Good Friday raisin bread, homemade pasta, and a steady hand at sewing for everyone. Daisy had tremendous faith in God and was a devoted member of Grace Lutheran Church in Pottstown, where she taught nursery school for many years. Daisy was an extremely selfless person, always doing whatever she could for everyone else. As her final selfless act, she has donated her body to science so she can hopefully help future generations with better health.

> Richard J. Brown - Class of 1955 - was the husband of the late Marilyn M. (Mohr) Brown.



Born on September 29, 1937, Richard was the son of the late Anthony Brown, Jr., and Dorothy (Bergeman) Brown. He graduated from Lehigh University in 1959, with a Chemical Engineering degree. Richard was employed by Tarkett, Inc. in Whitehall for 18 years before retiring in 2000. Prior to that, he worked for Firestone and Occidental Chemical for 23 years. He was a member of The Barn in

Allentown, former member & past Consistory President of St. John's UCC in Pottstown, former Upper Pottsgrove Township Commissioner, and a past President of the Pottstown Penguins Hockey Club.

Monica R. (Kovach) White – Class of 1951 - 90, wife of the late John R. White, passed



away, Thursday, January 25, 2024 at Pottstown Hospital surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of the late George M. and Anna (Guman) Kovach. She was born November 3, 1933 in Pottstown. Monica was a graduate of Pottstown High School Class of 51.' She grew up in Pottstown her entire life and resided with her daughter, Claudia of South Street. She worked at Mrs. Smith's Pie Company and Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for many years. In 1998,

Monica retired from Pottstown School District. Monica loved nothing more than going to see her grandchildren's sporting and musical events. She truly was a devoted mother, grandmom and will be greatly missed.

Elizabeth "Betty" L. Anderson - Class of 1944 - was the wife of the late Oreon V. Anderson.



Born in Reading, she was the daughter of the late Raymond G. Sr. and Elsie May (Kurtz) Boyer. Betty volunteered at Edgewood Elementary School for 14 years and was a member of the Golden Sage Program where she helped her granddaughter Treena's class. She was a member of Transfiguration Lutheran Church since 1947, where she sang in the choir for 52 years.



FALLEN TROJAN STAFF



Leslye Blackwell retired from Pottstown School District after 18 years of service. She was





School. Leslye (Moyer) Blackwell, 71, wife of Randy Blackwell, passed away Friday, February 9, 2024 at her residence. Born February 25, 1952, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Dorothy (Benz) Moyer. Leslye graduated from Methacton High School, class of 1970, and she was

an English teacher at Pottstown High

High School, class of 1970, and she was the school's first flag drill team captain.

Following graduation, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education at Millersville University and went on to teach English in the North Schuylkill, Methacton, and Pottstown School Districts. She also taught GED classes in Pottstown and was an administrator at the Antonelli Medical Professional Institute. Leslye was a member of the Prayer Warriors at New Ridge Fellowship Church and a member of the Pottstown Federation of Teachers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Leslye's memory to the American Cancer Society.

ALUMNI

> PHS Grad all business - Congratulations to Pottstown High School 2019 graduate,



London Aquino, she is a 2023 Bloomsburg university graduate with a degree in International Business and a minor in Professional Sales specializing in marketing. While at Bloomsburg, she was a member of the Global Business Association, American Marketing Association, and the Pi Sigma Epsilon business fraternity. London participated in many sales competitions, including the international collegiate sales competition, (the largest in the country) where she competed with students from over 80 universities. She is currently weighing a number of business opportunities for her post graduate future. When asked what advice she had for today's high school students, she said, "Get involved in activities, both athletic and

non-athletic, it will help you build relationships and connections for future success. I found my interest in business through being a member of the high school DECA club. I learned skills that helped prepare me for business classes in college. Recently I was interviewed for a business position in St. Louis. Many of the candidates were former DECA members. The DECA experience enabled us to stand out from the other candidates. I am thankful for the teachers, coaches and administrators at PHS for helping me build a foundation for success."

PHS Grad lives life of service to country and community - Larry Lollar Pottstown High



School class of 1972 has spent a lifetime of service to both his country and community. He attained the rank of lieutenant, while serving in the United States Navy, and then graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in meteorology. While in college, he participated in a number of intramural activities, which helped prepare him to coach a variety of teams at the high school level. Lollar has spent 32 years as a math teacher and coach, helping to provide a strong foundation for student

success. He said, "I enjoy the classroom experience and hope to continue for many more years and I am looking forward to beginning to pursue a degree in computer science. The teachers and coaches at PHS, prepared me for my future by always encouraging me to do my best and be involved in activities. My words of advice to the students at PHS: be a lifetime learner and keep your eyes on the goal. Your teachers at PHS believe in you and our support, your future success."









Congratulations to Ariana Gilmore, PHS class of 2023. She has taken her academic and athletic skills to Newman University, where she was recently named to the dean's list. Majoring in criminal justice and forensic psychology, her goal someday is to become an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition to her outstanding grades, she also maintains a part-time off-campus job. Her words of support for PHS students; "Remember that if you strike out in a class or an assignment, you must always step back into the batter's box and take another swing." She said some of her fondest memories and important lessons were learned while playing softball at PHS. Trojan Proud - Hard work pays off.







▶ PHS Grad turns passion for music into a career - Pottstown High School class of 1972 grad, Bennie Sims turned his childhood passion for music into a lifelong career. His musical skills have taken him to 14 different countries with many well-known artists, including The Three Degrees, The Temptations, Dizzy Gillespie, Tower of Power and many others. In the early 1990s he joined a group as a bassist, composer, producer and music director; he later, signed a contract with a major record company and performed numerous times on national television.







Priday Night After Party!

Pusted on Sessenber 24, 2021

Lisa Tiger Homes presents The Groovemasters!

Featuring Bennie Sims and Cliff Starkey,
Berks own Boovemasters will light up it
shows with the Completion and It
proposed to have full

Enjoy food by Greg Buckwiller, better for
Cliff Starkey, Michael
order Greg
Walker)

William

Wi

Friday October 1st 9:30-11pm GoggleWorks Parking Lot* *In case of rain, this party will move indoors. All attendees must show proof of PHS Grad ensures success with solid educational foundation - Nelson Barr, PHS Class of 1986, used hard work in the classroom, on the field, and the track as the foundation that led him to professional success. He was recently promoted to vice president of field claims at the Erie insurance Maryland and Washington DC regional office. At PHS, he was a member of student government and majored in business education. On the track, he was undefeated league champion in the 100 and 200 meters. While at Bloomsburg, he was captain of the football team and an All-Conference selection in track. Mr. Barr holds certifications as Senior Claim Law Associate, and Associate in Insurance. Presently he is pursuing an MBA from the University of Arizona. Nelson also served in the United States Army reserve for six years. He offered this advice to today's PHS Trojans, "Don't take anything for granted, appreciate everything, never stop learning. I am blessed to have been a part of an invigorating, dynamic and phenomenal community and high school. Trojan strong is what we are, and what we will be forever."









> PHS Grad's determination opens opportunity door for others - Regina Oliver Thomas, PHS Class of 2001, used determination to succeed in both athletics and academics. She was a three-sport athlete and an honor student who received a scholarship to Ohio State University where she graduated with a degree in education and achieved athletic success as a member of the women's lacrosse team. She was inducted into the Ohio State University Hall of Fame. As a member of the USA Women's National Team, she played a key role in leading them to the International Lacrosse World Cup championship. She was named to the All World Team, which recognized the best 12 players in the world. In 2009, she was named head coach of women's lacrosse at the University of Cincinnati. Her team has not only experienced success on the field but in the classroom where they earned University Team Academic Honors 9 out of 11 years with a team GPA of 3.2. Her words of wisdom to today's PHS students, "Surround yourself with people, friends, teachers, mentors that will push you to do things you never thought possible to be a good human being. Do what you love. Never be sorry. Live your life in a way that you don't have to apologize. Chase your dreams in a way that you won't forget it and love on your people in a way that they will never forget.









PHS Grad pursues excellence - Ebony Reddick, PHS Class of 2018, continues her pursuit of excellence, both in the classroom and on the field. She is a 2022 graduate of Notre Dame College, where she was a standout member of the women's lacrosse team. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology. Ebony is presently pursuing a master's degree in sports administration at Delaware State University and is a post graduate member of the women's lacrosse team. Her future professional plans include entering the field of therapy. When asked her advice to today's PHS students, she said, "Do not let anyone tell you that you can't. Work hard, and it will all show in the long run."











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.

| Yes, I'm Interested in More Info | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| lame: | Phone Number: |
| mail: | |
| ddress: | |
| raduate of Pottstown? If so, 0 | Class of |
| mployer: | |
| ottstown 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.