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Port Chester Middle School Wins Prize from Khan Academy

Port Chester Middle School has been awarded a \$500 prize from Khan Academy for excelling in a six-week challenge called LearnStorm. Thousands of schools participated in this year's challenge and only 33 were recognized for going "above and beyond."

Kevin Hanlon, PCMS math teacher, spearheaded the school's participation in LearnStorm. The math department has yet to decide how to use the \$500 in DonorsChoose.org funds it earned from the challenge.

The PCMS Math Department uses Khan Academy in classrooms for skills practice and to allow students to go beyond what they are learning in the classroom.

"Having students start the school year learning about and working through some growth mindset activities sets the stage for students to be engaged in their own learning. There is no failure, only learning and growing. Our participation in LearnStorm taught our students that with the right attitude they can and will learn whatever they set their minds on," said Mr. Hanlon.

The LearnStorm challenge began on September 12. Teachers used Khan Academy to assign videos, exercises or articles to students. As the students completed assignments, their class made progress through six LearnStorm levels, unlocking prizes as they went. The challenge ended on October 20.

Winners were selected based on engagement in LearnStorm, use of "growth mindset" (learning strategies) activities, school involvement and teamwork, plan for use of technology, demonstrated need, creativity and the quality of the school's application.