



Principally Speaking

Pelham Memorial High School

March - April 2018

[Text](#) | [Link](#)

Newsletter from PMHS

Upcoming Events:

May 9 :
Check Portal for Interim
Grades

May 17:
Spring Band Concert
7:00 pm

May 21:
Storytellers Celebration
7:00 pm

May 23:
Chorus Spring Concert
7:00 pm

May 29:
Science Symposium
5:30 pm

June 4:
Orchestra Spring Concert
7:00 pm

June 5:
Global Studies Transition
Exam
8:15 am

June 6:
Senior Awards
7:00 pm

June 7:
Senior Booster Club Dinner

June 11:
Last Day of Classes

June 12-21:
School and Regents Exams

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Even though late March and April never felt much like it, I am cautiously optimistic that Spring may finally be here. But despite our long wait for Spring's arrival, the Spring Season at PMHS began beautifully a few weeks ago with *Hello, Dolly!*, our wonderful student performed musical, and now we're all looking forward to our Junior and Senior Proms, Spring Concerts, Senior Sports Dinner and, of course, Graduation.

In the meantime, PMHS teachers and students are preparing for the Advanced Placement exams to be given in May, with Regents exams in June. The final six weeks are "crunch time" for getting through assigned work. Please remind and help your child to focus on their studies, and make sure to check our website often for dates and times of helpful review sessions, as well as the portal for up-to-date information on grades and assignments.

With the arrival of warm weather, please be conscious also of the clothing your son or daughter wears to school. Halter tops, ultra-short shorts and skirts, and beach wear, including see-through clothing are unduly distracting and unacceptable. Shirts displaying vulgar language or images of alcohol or drugs are also not allowed. Please refer to our Dress Code in the Student Handbook or our helpful PowerPoint presentation on the PMHS website. We ask for your assistance in maintaining an appropriate atmosphere to avoid any potential issues.

I continually update Parent Resources under Good To Know on our website to provide valuable parent information when dealing with various topics with your child. The PMHS administration and counselors are available to assist you with any and all questions pertaining to emotional/social health or any other area of concern you may have.

Lastly, if you wish your child to receive text message phone alerts for emergency situations, please go to the link below to complete and submit an approval form by May 4. Please be advised that you may incur a charge from your phone carrier depending on your cell phone plan: <https://goo.gl/forms/Ex4KbYYuCeYDtEvx1>

Sincerely,

June 21:
Graduation Rehearsal
9:00 am

June 21:
Senior Prom

June 23:
Graduation
10:00 am

Jeannine Clark

Department News

Art Department

Congratulations to the following PMHS students for being named 2018 Exemplary 2D Art Award Winners by the Lower Hudson Region Media Arts Teachers Association.

Our talented winners are: **Grace Anderson, Ethan Archibald, Lily Burns, Domenick Calgi, Jordan Edwards-Mayo, Erin Knapp, Maddalena Massaregli, Sarah Palmisciano, Amaia Rivers, Aidan Sisk, Natalie Todaro** and **Peri Zale**.

Special congratulations go to **Anna Larsen** and **Audrey Lee** who were given the President's Award in recognition of their entire body of their work, based on noteworthy content, a creative approach, attention to composition, a command of the craft and work deemed visually and technically outstanding.

On April 12, PMHS students were honored at the Pelham Art Center's Opening Reception for the High School Art Salon. This annual exhibition of exceptional artwork ran through April 20, and included the work of our advanced art and photography students. Participating in this year's Salon were **Grace Anderson, Ethan Archibald, Gabriella Bhiro, Lily Burns, Manon Bushong, Domenick Calgi, Zoe Casey, Oisin Connolly, Kaitlyn Czajka, Jordan Edwards-Mayo, Jane Ely, Liza Giantelli, Erin Knapp, Chloe Krulak, Anna Larsen, Audrey Lee, Maddalena Massaregli, Arden Neu, Sarah Palmisciano, Luca Rivera, Amaia Rivers, Anna Ruuge, Aidan Sisk, Meghan Stevens, Natalie Todaro, Ariana Vazquez** and **Peri Zale**.

Mathematics Department

Congratulations go to **Benjamin Hofflich, William Shelton** and **Patrick Shiels** for earning the top three scores on the (American Mathematics Competition) AMC 12.

And congratulations to **Sophie Xu, Silda Neza** and **Matyas Spunberg** for earning the top three scores on the AMC 10.

Performing Arts Department

Congratulations to PMHS chorus teacher, **Mrs. Maria Abeshouse**. She was chosen to lead the Elementary All-County Chorus at the 2018 Westchester County All-County Music Festival Concerts on March 3-4 at the Purchase College Performing Arts Center.

Recently PMHS Choruses were fortunate to work with guest artist Brian O'Connell of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Mr. O'Connell has been on faculty at Boston Conservatory and Berklee School of Music among others. He worked with students on vocal technique, improvisation and expression.

The Chamber Chorus performed at Carnegie Hall on April 14 with Dr. Anton Armstrong of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. They sang four songs with hundreds of students from around the country, and performed a song of their own.

The PMHS band program held a very successful fundraising concert on March 28. The concert featured music from different parts of the world, as well as performances by each middle and high school ensemble. It was also the debut of several new percussion instruments made possible by a generous grant from the Pelham Education Foundation. The entire band program thanks everyone who attended for their donations.

In mid-April The PMHS Jazz Band visited New Orleans to experience jazz in its natural environment. Students participated in master classes, attended performances and immersed themselves in the multiple facets of New Orleans Jazz culture.

Our Orchestra, Jazz Band and Chamber Chorus are preparing for the NYSSMA Majors Festival in May.

Science Department

More than 500 science research students from over 40 schools attended this year's JSHS State Competition during the week of March 5. Congratulations to **Jillian Harrison** and **Emily Xue** for winning 2nd place in the state in their categories.

On March 17 more than 600 students from 40 Westchester and Putnam County high schools showcased their multi-year science research projects in a competitive venue at the 18th Annual Regeneron - Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF) at Sleepy Hollow High School. Participants involved in their high school science research programs, showcased individual and team poster presentations, which were judged by local experts in the fields of life science, physical science, environmental studies, psychology and engineering.

Grand Prize Winners

Intel ISEF (Intel's International Science & Engineering Fair)
Kiera Mallinson - Engineering

International GENIUS Olympiad
Peter Wei - Cellular and Molecular Biology

1st in category:
Peter Wei - Cellular and Molecular Biology

2nd in category:
Hannah Mackay - Neuroscience
Emily Xue - Medicine and Health
Samuel Imperato - Physics and Astronomy

3rd in category:
Francesca Di Cristofano - Cellular and Molecular Biology
Samantha Tsang - Cellular and Molecular Biology
Caitlin Wong - Behavioral

Jillian Harrison - Behavioral
Priya Varanasi - Environmental Science

4th in category:

Alyssa Wong - Cellular and Molecular Biology
Aidan Sisk, Bernadette Russo, Morgan McLean (team) -
 Environmental Science

Special Awards

American Meteorological Society Award - **Aidan Sisk, Bernadette Russo, Morgan McLean**
 ASU Walton Sustainability Solutions Initiative - **Eyuel Bekele**
 Ricoh Sustainable Development Award - **William Taubner**
 Innovations in Biological Sciences Research Award -
Jonathan Girolamo
 Mianus River Gorge Ecology Award - **Mateo Rivera**
 Behavioral Science Achievement Award - **Anais Leon - Kelly**

A participating Pelham Senior was featured at the Regeneron
 - WESEF on News 12

<http://westchester.news12.com/story/37748933/students-compete-at-westchester-science-and-engineering-fair>

Congratulations to the following PMHS Science Research Students: **Francesca Di Cristofano, Sarah Ellenbogen, Morgan McLean, Hailey Nelson and Bernadette Russo.**

Their four projects won a finalist standing at the Genius Olympiad competition recently held online. Genius Olympiad is an international high school project competition founded and organized by Terra Science and Education, and hosted by the State University of New York. This year 1,657 projects from over 70 countries were submitted. In June these students will compete at the 2018 International Genius Olympiad Fair in Oswego.

Social Studies Department

Congratulations to **Helen Meyerson**, who placed at the regional National History Day competition on March 10 at St. Thomas Aquinas College. Helen placed first in Senior Individual Documentary and moved on to the New York State competition on April 23 in Cooperstown.

Helen's project is entitled "*How New Amsterdam First Became New York: Peter Stuyvesant's Surprising Compromise.*"

Congratulations also go to **Nicholas Lieggi**, who was named a Honorable Mention winner in the 2017-2018 "We the Students" Essay Contest. He will receive a \$500 cash scholarship sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute.

Social Studies teacher, **Mr. James Ferreri** has been accepted to the rigorous Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher Seminars for K-12 educators. This summer, he will attend "Gettysburg: History and Memory," a class at Gettysburg College focused on the experiences of soldiers and civilians as a way to better understand the battlefield itself. The weeklong workshop includes daily programs with leading American historians, visits to local historic sites, and hands-on work with primary sources.

Also, Social Studies teacher **Ms. Megan Rice** has been accepted to the Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) 2018 Summer Tour by the Goethe Institute. She will join social studies and STEM educators from across the country on a two-week learning tour of Germany, including pre-tour classes, readings, and lectures as well as post-tour lesson and unit development for implementation into the classroom.

As a reminder, the 2018 Transition Global History and Geography Regents Exam for all 10th graders will take place on the morning of Tuesday, June 5. Students are to report to the Middle School gymnasium at 8:15 am and will be excused from their classes for the three-hour exam period. Additional information will be sent in a separate email.

World Languages Department

French teacher Mrs. Ariadne Lividatis has been published for the second time this year in the American Association Teachers of French National Bulletin. Her article focused on completing speaking assessments in the 21st Century classroom using Google Voice.

On April 12, the World Language Department held its annual Honor Society Induction. Our congratulations go to the inductees, their parents and teachers. A total of 93 students were inducted.

The Pelham Memorial High School Chapter of the Société Honoraire de Français

Stephan Akichy, Jennifer Bell, Lorenzo Bertuccioli, Manon Bushong, Richard Che, Connor Evans, Benjamin Glickman, Sophia Juliano, Grace Miske, Madelyn Ploch, Julia Plourde, Leana Rutt, Gabriel Sucena and Alex Walker.

The Vittorio Emanuele Chapter of the Società Onoraria Italica
Asia Bertuccioli, Lucy Conway, Rafael DaCruz, Claudia Dodge, Kathryn Fugazy, Jonathan Girolamo, Edward Groome, Quinn Humphrey, Megan Leichtman, Jenna Letizia, Christian Morfit, Kristina Roksvold and Sara Veteri.

The Latin National Junior Classical League Honor Society
Elise Aronson, Lucy Bischof, Rachel Brewer, Alison Emery, Connor Fleming, Siobhan Joyce-Farley, Zara Levy, Sophia McSpedon, Kristina Pompilio, Margaret Solimine, Ella Stern and Meghan Stevens.

The Federico Garcia Lorca Chapter of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica

Daniel Bernstein, Gabriella Bhiro, Madeline Bryce, Lily Burns, Anna Calvaruso, John Carew, Erin Cohen, Kevin Coleman, Samuel Cork, Casey DeJesus, Emma Dickson, Charlotte Edmunds, Nahian Ehtesham, Sarah Ellenbogen, Julia Figueiredo, Jack Gates, Katherine Hart, John Hopkins, James Hupprich, Linda Jaimes, Julia Kaplansky, Adriana Kartanadi, Isabel Kenny, Simon Keough, Ashhab Khan, Charles Kuster, Lauren Kuster, Meredith Kuster, Zachary Leonard, Julia Loughman, Tara Matz, Lindsay

McNamara, Charles Miske, Arden Neu, Kiera O'Connor, Camilla O'Keefe, Alanah Parker, Stephanie Porfirio, Ava Ravitz, Jayson Reynolds, Luca Rivera, Hana Rogatsky, Liam Ronan, Kimberly Rosell, Kaitlyn Rubbo, Michael Salama, Elias Salmeron, Joseph Silva, Elizabeth Sotolongo, Eric Sotolongo, Eleanor Tahbaz, Emily Talamas, Ariana Vazquez and Daniel Walsh.

Four of our students deserve special mention on having been inducted in two Language National Honor Societies by having achieved a 90% average or better in the upper levels:

Lorenzo Bertuccioli - Italian 2017/French 2018

Casey DeJesus - French 2017/Spanish 2018

Megan Leichtman - Spanish 2017/Italian 2018

Luca Rivera - French 2016/ Spanish 2018

Spanish

Michael Salama won the 2018 Junior Study Abroad Scholarship for his achievement on the National Spanish Examination and for his excellent skills in the Spanish language.

This national award, with a value of \$3,500, is given each year to 24 students from across the country who have earned high scores on the National Spanish Examination and for presenting outstanding samples of their written and oral work in Spanish to a selection committee. In July, Michael will travel to Spain with the other 23 winners to study Spanish language and culture at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Congratulations to Michael on this well-deserved honor.

Italian

During February break, **Ms. Caparotta, Ms. Lakestream, Ms. Snyder** and **Mr. Powers** led a group of 24 students on an incredible tour of Italy. Students practiced their language skills and enjoyed the local culture and cuisine in Sorrento, Amalfi, Positano, Naples, Pompeii, Rome and Florence. They visited the Sistine Chapel, viewed Michelangelo's David, danced the Tarantella, participated in a mozzarella demonstration and tasting, and created their own pizzas in Rome.

Mandarin

On March 1, **Mrs. He's** Mandarin II class visited Siwanoy Elementary School to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year with 3rd grade students. Our high school students introduced Chinese New Year traditions to the 3rd graders and taught them how to play Chinese games and make handicrafts that included Chinese dragon puppets, lanterns, a zodiac wheel and red envelopes.

Extra Curricular and Athletics

Forensics Speech Team

The PMHS Forensic Speech team hosted the Hudson Valley Region State and National Qualifier on Saturday, March 2 at the high school. Congratulations to our State qualifiers:

Hannah McFarland - Original Oratory
Athena Woodfin - Humorous Interpretation
Margaret Solimine and **William Shelton** - Duo Interpretation
Isaac Blackburn - Congressional Debate
Nicholas Lieggi - Congressional Debate
Thomas Roche - JV Extemporaneous Speaking
Michael Salama - Varsity Oral Interpretation
Henry Driesen - Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking

They join the already pre-qualified **Angelina Rosa** in Congressional Debate and **Sophia Leung** in Declamation. This group will represent PMHS at the New York State Championships at Hofstra University in April.

Special congratulations to our National Qualifiers:

Benjamin Glickman - First Place Champion in Informative Speaking

Angelina Rosa - First Place Champion in Congressional Debate

Ben and Angelina will represent New York State at the NSDA National Championships to be held in Ft. Lauderdale this June.

On March 10, the PMHS Forensics Speech Team attended a tournament at Democracy Prep Bronx Prep Charter School. Congratulations to **Benjamin Glickman** - 2nd place in Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking, **Nicholas Lieggi** - third place in JV Extemporaneous Speaking and **Hannah McFarland** - third place in Original Oratory.

On March 17, the PMHS Forensics Speech Team competed at the New York City Grand Tournament held at Stuyvesant High School. Congratulations to semi-finalists **Violet Massie-Vereker** - Original Oratory, **Angelina Rosa** - Congressional Debate, **Benjamin Glickman** - Extemporaneous Speaking and **Nicholas Lieggi** - Congressional Debate. The NYC league also awards a scholarship to the student who has shown dedication, leadership and growth over their high school career. Congratulations to **Angelina Rosa** for receiving the league's \$1,000 Sr. Raimonde Scholarship.

Very special congratulations go to **Sophia Leung** in Declamation and **Henry Driesen** in Extemporaneous Speaking. Both students have qualified for the Grand National Championship Tournament to be held over Memorial Day Weekend in Washington DC.

Lastly, **Mr. Thomas Beck** is being recognized by the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) for his exemplary volunteerism to promote speech and debate. Tom was elected by his peers to serve a two year term as the Hudson Valley District Committee member. As a committee member he continues to make significant contributions in making speech and debate happen for hundreds of students in the Tri State area. We congratulate Mr. Beck on this wonderful honor.

Athletics

Congratulations to **Samantha Volpe** for scoring 1,000 points as a member of the Girls' Varsity Basketball team. She is the

first young woman to accomplish this goal since 2005.

On Thursday, May 3 at 7 pm, the PMHS Athletic Department will host a College Athletics recruiting presentation for parents and students in Alumni Hall. The featured speaker will be Mark Leinweaver, a MLB agent who educates parents, students and coaches on how to best approach the college selection and recruitment process. More information about this informative presentation is available on our website under Need to Know.

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