



SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

On Thursday, April 21, the South Park High School Concert Band performed at the Music Performance Assessment at California University of Pennsylvania. The students prepared two pieces to perform for a panel of judges and participated in a sight-reading. The concert band received an overall rating of Superior, which is the top score given!

Following the performance, the students attended a clinic with Dr. Jason Worzbyt, associate director of bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



BOOK BRACKETS

Second grade students participated in a book tournament throughout March. The second grade teachers and students read the 16 books selected for the book tournament, and students voted on their favorite selections to advance to the next round.

The featured titles were of various genres, such as biographies, realistic fiction picture books, award-winning literature and nonfiction. Our students learned about story elements, comprehension strategies and making connections with the text throughout this fun learning event! The book selected as champion, *The Koala Who Could*, showcased a theme of courage.



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 2	Special, Non-Voting Board of Directors Meeting (In-Person) 6 p.m., South Park High School Cafeteria
May 12	Board of Directors Meeting (In-Person) 6:30 p.m., South Park High School Cafeteria
May 13	No School for Students (Act 80 Day)
May 17	No School for Students (Act 80 Day)

HANDS-ON, TASTY LEARNING

Fourth through eighth grade students in the gifted program learned from engineers during a hands-on assembly on Thursday, March 30. The special program, organized by Mrs. Cosey, taught students about nuclear reactors by giving them the chance to build an edible candy reactor! Engineers from Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory walked students through the basics of a nuclear plant and helped them assemble their own reactor.



SPARKING NEW IDEAS

Five new educational programs and initiatives are launching throughout the South Park School District this spring thanks to funding from the South Park Education Foundation. Earlier this school year, the South Park Education Foundation opened applications for its second round of SPark Grants. South Park educators in every school were given the opportunity to dream big and apply for funding through the Foundation. All applications were reviewed by the South Park Education Foundation's grants committee, a group of area educators who work in administrative roles throughout western Pennsylvania. The Foundation's Board of Directors voted to approve more than \$4,200 in grants this semester. The 2021-2022 SPark Grants Program was supported by PNC Bank.

The projects coming to South Park schools thanks to the South Park Education Foundation include:

SPEC Chill Corners



This pilot program will extend the resources of Allegheny Health Network's Chill Room at the elementary center to one classroom in each grade-level. The Chill Room, part of AHN's Chill Project, provides a mindfulness-informed and preventative school-based behavioral health program for students and staff. Counselors equip students with the techniques to achieve greater academic success, reduced anxiety, and better decision making. Each classroom in this pilot program will receive sensory items, calming methodologies and techniques based in mindful practices, and instructional tools. The application was submitted by teachers Ellisen Lowe, Angela Cieslak, Anne Meikle, Melanie Lewandowski, and Jessica Kurek, along with Cheyenne Kovach, AHN therapist, and Kathy Wooddell, AHN behavioral health educator.

SPMS Book Vending Machine



Eagle readers are future leaders. That's why the South Park Education Foundation was thrilled to support the proposal from sixth grade ELA teacher Nicole Ruscitto. Thanks to funding from the Foundation, Mrs. Ruscitto will be adding a book vending machine to her class. Students will be offered a gold coin when they are recognized for being kind and respectful to their teachers and peers. Students will use that gold coin to select a free book from the vending machine!

SPHS Counseling Suite Welcoming Environment



All high school students spend time in the counseling office suite when they meet with their counselor and discuss courses, future plans or emotional needs. Counselors Bethany Chicora-Lewis and Natalie Liptak envisioned a much more welcoming space for the students – an environment where students can collaborate and feel welcomed, relaxed, and encouraged. Thanks to a SPark grant, the counseling suite will have a new look, with new furniture and features, creating a mentally healthy area.

Since 2019, the South Park Education Foundation has awarded more than \$12,000 in educator grants and \$14,000 in student scholarships. The Foundation opened Class of 2022 scholarship applications last week.

SPHS Bots IQ Team



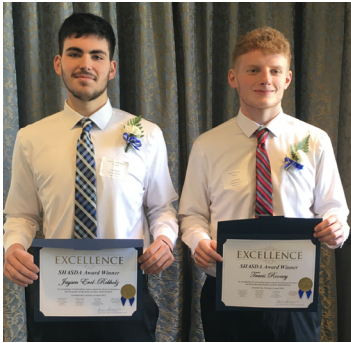
The South Park Education Foundation is excited to support the South Park High School Bots IQ team. As part of the Bots IQ team, students compete and test a battle-ready robot against 70 other area schools. As they build their robot, students gain technical skills needed to create a real product, apply hands-on fabrication techniques, and build and assemble components. The lessons they learn will certainly position them for success in future education and careers. Dave Bailey, high school teacher, submitted the SPark Grant application and requested the funding so his students could focus their limited time on the design process instead of fundraising for the needed materials. The South Park Education Foundation can't wait to see what these high school students create!

SPHS History Pear Deck Subscription



High school history teacher Jeff Boles won't be giving typical history lectures thanks to a grant from the South Park Education Foundation. Instead, his students will be engaged, excited and focused on the material using the learning tool, Pear Deck. With Pear Deck, Mr. Boles will teach lessons with interactive questions and collaboration, formative assessments and audio recordings of historical events. Pear Deck will certainly inspire the curiosity of high school learners!

AWARD RECIPIENTS



South Park High School seniors Jaysen Erol and Travis Rooney received awards from the South Hills Area School Districts Association during a breakfast in Southpointe on Saturday, April 23.

The awards recognize students who have shown determination to excel both in and out of the classroom.

K-1 PRINCIPAL NAMED

At the April 13, 2022 Board of Directors regular meeting, Mrs. Kelli Dellarose was approved as the early childhood K-1 principal at South Park Elementary Center effective June 8, 2022. The addition of a second administrator position at the elementary center was necessitated by a nearly 11% increase in enrollment at the elementary center over the past four school years. Mrs. Dellarose will join Dr. Rob Furman who will be the principal for second through fourth grades at South Park Elementary Center.



Mrs. Dellarose joined the South Park School District as middle school assistant principal in December 2020. Prior to joining the South Park School District, Mrs. Dellarose served as an assistant principal in the Ringgold School District at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Mrs. Dellarose also has a decade of classroom experience as a chemistry teacher at the Brownsville Area School District. While at Brownsville, Mrs. Dellarose received the California University 40 under 40 award, the Herald Standard Excellent Educator award, the Jefferson Awards Most Outstanding Faculty Advisory awards for the region and nation and the National Philanthropy Award for the Pittsburgh region. She also sponsored a student program to raise more than \$300,000 through grant writing, corporate support and fundraising to revitalize the town square of Brownsville.

Mrs. Dellarose graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a chemistry certification in 2007. She earned her master's degree in school administration and leadership from California University of Pennsylvania in 2010.

The South Park School District Board of Directors has scheduled a Special, Non-Voting Meeting for the purpose of discussing addition and renovation projects at South Park Elementary Center on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in the South Park High School cafeteria, 2005 Eagle Ridge Drive, South Park, PA 15129.

CAREER FAIR

On Friday, April 22, all sophomores and interested juniors and seniors visited a trade/technical career fair hosted by the high school counseling department at South Park High School. Representatives from local trade and technical schools, unions, professions and branches of the military helped students learn more about the opportunities that may await them after high school. Students were able to visit as many stations as they wanted to, as well as ask questions and receive additional information to take home about a number of career options.



ATHLETE SIGNINGS

Three more South Park student-athletes will continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level after graduating in June.

Brandon Clifford will attend Pitt Johnstown and play baseball.

Jordan and Madison Fiorentini will attend Thiel College and play volleyball.

Congratulations, Brandon, Jordan and Madison!



SEVENTH-GRADE DEBATES

Mr. Barnhart's seventh grade ELA classes debated Mrs. McElhaney's seventh grade ELA classes on Tuesday, April 12. The debate topics were focused on seventh grade students and included the pros and cons of social media, video games, foreign language classes, and cell phones.

The debates were based on PSSA writing standards and PSSA speaking/listening standards as students prepared argumentative essays for their debate information.



BRAIN DRAIN

Elementary and middle school students in the gifted program visited South Park High School on Tuesday, April 5 for the annual brain drain event. High school students organize the fun, interactive and competitive morning of games and activities.



DISCOUNTED KENNYWOOD TICKETS

South Park's Kennywood Picnic is Monday, June 6, 2022. This year, there are two ways to purchase discounted school picnic tickets.

Discounted school picnic tickets will be sold in each South Park school on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Representatives from Kennywood will be at South Park Middle School from 8:15-9:15 a.m., at South Park Elementary Center from 9:30-10:15 a.m., and at South Park High School from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Tickets are \$29.99 each, and only cash or money orders will be accepted. Tickets purchased at the in-person sale will be valid any operating day in May or June. Tickets will expire June 30, 2022. This is the only day tickets will be sold in South Park schools.

You may also purchase discounted school picnic tickets any time on kennywood.com. However, please know that processing fees will be added to online orders. First, visit kennywood.com; click on the BUY TICKETS tab and select TICKETS from the dropdown; click on the orange BUY NOW button on the page; in the top left corner, select PROMO CODE. A box will appear where you will enter promo code SOUTHPARK. Once entered, click SUBMIT. Select the number of tickets you would like to purchase and click NEXT. You must select a date to visit. Surcharges may apply if tickets are used on a different date other than selected. School picnic tickets are not valid after June 30, 2022. Follow all remaining prompts to purchase your school picnic tickets. For additional information on Kennywood ticket policies, please contact Kennywood directly.

South Park School District • 2005 Eagle Ridge Drive • South Park, PA 15129 • (412) 655-3111

The South Park School District's mission is to provide an educational atmosphere where all students have opportunities to discover their talents, develop their abilities and achieve the expectations embedded in our educational program to become responsible and productive members of society.

Board of Directors

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