

Cedar Cliff Special Interest News

Mrs. Angela Kamps, M.Ed. Gifted, Gifted Support Teacher
May 2023, Year-In-Review

Academic Worldquest Team Advances to Nationals in Washington D.C.!



Our first- place regional Academic Worldquest team of Rory Gannon, Caleb Masshardt (captain), Rayna Johnson, and Jackson Kane, along with advisor and teacher Mrs. Angela Kamps (pictured above) traveled to Washington D.C. on April 28 & 29 to represent Cedar Cliff and the state of Pennsylvania! Thanks to Dr. Joyce Davis and *The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg* for sponsoring the regional competition. Students prepared for months reading and studying articles to finally test their knowledge on world affairs topics against the best high school teams in the nation. High school teams from Alaska and Hawaii made the long trip to compete. Our Cedar Cliff team brought home 13th place in the nation!

This year's topics included *Atrocity Prevention*, *Autocracy versus Democracy*, *the Future of Supply Chains*, and *Securing the Future of the World's Wildlife*, to name a few. Preparation and participation in the competition directly align with 21st century skills curriculum.

The *World Affairs Councils of America* sponsors the national competition, which was held at the United States Institute of Peace. While in Washington D.C., Cedar Cliff students met with PA Senator Bob Casey Jr.'s team to discuss policy issues and tour the Capitol. Students also attended a welcome reception at the Organization of American States and listened to presentations by Ambassador William Taylor, *U.S. Institute of Peace* and Ambassador Oksana Markarova, *Ukraine Ambassador to the United States*.

<https://www.worldaffairscouncils.org/WorldQuest/>

CC Academic Worldquest Team Makes the Most of Washington D.C.

Thank you to Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey Jr. and his team for welcoming Cedar Cliff students while we were visiting Washington D.C. Regina Brennan, Sydney Brooks, and Thomas Murabito greeted us at the Russell Senate Office Building. Students discussed policy issues with Senator Casey's team and then took a guided tour of the Capitol Building!



Pictured Above: Cedar Cliff Academic Worldquest Team competing at the United States Institute of Peace.

Pictured Above: Dr. Joyce Davis, CEO and President of World Affairs Council of Harrisburg, with the Cedar Cliff Academic Worldquest Team

**Regional Academic Worldquest Competition
Elizabethtown College, Saturday, March 4, 2023
Cedar Cliff Takes 1st Place & 2nd Place**



Three Cedar Cliff teams (pictured above) prepared for and competed in the regional Academic Worldquest competition hosted by Elizabethtown College and The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg on Saturday, March 4.



Congratulations to our first-place team! Pictured above from left to right: Rory Gannon, Caleb Masshardt (captain), Rayna Johnson, and Jackson Kane

Cedar Cliff teams won first place and second place at the regional competition! Cumberland Valley took third place.

Congratulations to our Second-Place Team!

Second-Place Team pictured below from left to right: Mrs. Kamps (advisor), Nicholas Olmsted, Cade Griva, Eliot Horn, Zachary Kuhns (captain), and Dr. Joyce Davis, CEO and President of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg



Each team of four students tested their knowledge against other neighboring high school teams, which included Milton Hershey High School, Dover High School, and Cumberland Valley High School.

Cedar Cliff students met after school with Mrs. Kamps and their teammates to discuss their world affairs topics and preparation. When asked, "Did you enhance your knowledge of world affairs?" Cade Griva responded, "Yes, I am now very educated in the ways that governments interact with each other (in the fashion of sanctions), and I now have a lot of knowledge in the field of supply chains and their future."

Pictured to the left from left to right: Cedar Cliff's Academic Worldquest team of Tyler Rogers, Mikayla Gay, Valerie Weigner (captain) and William Gannon.

PennLive highlighted Cedar Cliff's success:

<https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2023/04/students-from-cedar-cliff-are-ready-to-take-on-washington-and-lead-the-world-social-views.html>

If link will not connect, google search (Penn Live Cedar Cliff Academic Worldquest)

GHD Engineering

February 22, 2023



Pictured Above: Students from Cedar Cliff and Red Land visit GHD Engineering. Mrs. Margo Weigner, GHD Engineering, Mrs. Kamps, CC Special Interest teacher, and Ms. VanEtten, RL Special Interest Teacher, coordinated the event for the students.



During Engineering week in February, Mrs. Kamps took interested Cedar Cliff students to GHD Engineering in Camp Hill to learn more about various engineering specialties and to gain insight into projects. Students rotated to different stations to speak with a variety of professional engineers. They learned about career possibilities and specific projects involving effective water use.

Special thanks to Mrs. Margo Weigner, GHD Senior Project Engineer, for arranging the speakers and agenda and inviting West Shore students to the event. GHD Engineering is a global company “committed to addressing the world’s biggest challenges in the areas of water, energy, and communities.”



Mrs. Margo Weigner pictured above with Cedar Cliff students.

Susquehanna University Creative Writing Day

October 21, 2022



On a beautiful fall day in October, Cedar Cliff Special Interest students who have an interest in creative writing attended intensive writing workshops at Susquehanna University. Students attended a faculty/student reading and panel question and answer session as well as writing workshops with professors. Mrs. Kamps coordinated the trip for interested students.

Pictured Above: Mrs. Kamps, Special Interest Teacher, with Cedar Cliff students.



Pictured Above: Students from Cedar Cliff and Red Land attending the Writing Workshop Day

VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Winners



Congratulations to the 2022 VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Winners. Pictured above, left to right: **Ethan Hoffert, Jackson Kane, Natalie Delavan, and Caleb Masshardt** (not pictured: **Owen Badders**). Students submitted audio essays addressing the theme: *America Where Do We Go From Here?* For the 2023 competition, we congratulate **Ethan Hoffert and Jackson Kane** as winners! The 2023 theme questioned: *Why Is the Veteran Important?*

Students completed their audio essays as Special Interest projects with Mrs. Kamps. Local awards ranged in value from \$100 to \$500. The National Award Winner receives \$35,000. For next year's competition, interested students will answer: *What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?*

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

History Day, Messiah University



On Saturday, March 18, 2023, junior Caleb Masshardt represented Cedar Cliff High School at the PA History Day competition at Messiah University. Caleb addressed this year's theme, *Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas* in the form of a research paper entitled: *Revival to Revolution: How the First Great Awakening Shaped American Values*. Caleb worked with Mrs. Kamps to complete the project as a Special Interest/History class enrichment activity.

Next year's History Day theme is *Turning Points in History: People, Places, Ideas*. Students may choose among different outlets to create videos, websites, performances, project boards, or research papers.

The National History Day's motto is: *Studying the past to inform the present and shape the future.*

Learn more at: <https://nhd.org/en/>

2023 South Central PA Scholastic Writing Winners



Congratulations to Cedar Cliff's Scholastic Writing Winners! Special Interest students completed writing and/or revising as enrichment projects with Mrs. Kamps. Gold and Silver Key Medalists were invited to the awards ceremony held at the State Museum in Harrisburg on March 4, 2023. Winners are pictured above from left to right:

Emma Beatty	Honorable Mention	Short Story	<i>Peace</i>
Jenna Sadowski	Honorable Mention	Short Story	<i>We Need to Talk</i>
Andrew Wickenheiser	Honorable Mentions	Poetry	<i>False Memories and Scenes from a Modern Zoetrope</i>
Lynn Hoke	Silver Key	Poetry	<i>I am the name of the eighth deadly sin</i>
Tristan Metherell	Honorable Mention	Poetry	<i>Consume Slowly</i>
Valerie Weigner	Honorable Mention	Poetry	<i>The Most Beautiful Ballerina</i>
Rebecca Laughlin	Honorable Mention	Critical Essay	<i>The Importance of Saving Endangered Species</i>
Jackson Kane	Silver Key	Flash Fiction	<i>Orthorexia</i>
Madeline Graf	Honorable Mention	Flash Fiction	<i>Borrow, or Rob? (not pictured)</i>
Dzejla Kunovac	Silver Key	Short Story	<i>Regret (not pictured)</i>

PA Stock Market Game Simulation

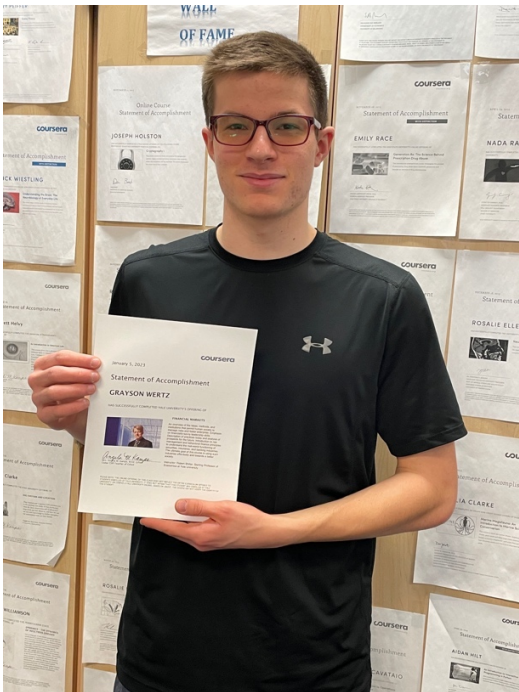


Students in Mrs. Kamps's Special Interest Independent Study classes and enrichment flexes learned about finance and investing by participating in the 10-week online PA Stock Market Game Simulation, sponsored by PA Foundation for Free Enterprise Education.

Joshuah Weaver and **Will Kocher** competed in the fall competition from 9/26/22-12/02/22. **Evan Heisler**, **Grayson Wertz**, **Cade Griva**, and **Eliot Horn** competed during the spring session from 2/6/23-4/14/23. Student teams received "\$100,000" to invest in the markets during the 10-week period. They researched companies, financial reports, and current events to complete simulated transactions to buy, sell, short-sell, and short-cover shares of real-life publicly-traded companies.

Special Interest Independent Study Course Coursera and Codecademy Course Completion

Sixteen gifted students took the Special Interest Independent Study elective course for a grade and credit this year with Mrs. Kamps. Students were extremely productive! Examples of self-selected personalized projects included: composing music, learning Japanese, creative writing, reading novels, college personal statement writing, researching/applying for scholarships, preparing an Eagle Scout project, and completing college course content through free Massive Open Online Courses. Mrs. Kamps and the students created individualized rubrics to grade each specific unit of study. Students also completed collaborative Socratic Seminar Philosophical Discussions studying Franz Kafka's *Passers-by* and examining book 24 of *The Iliad*.



Congratulations to **Grayson Wertz**, 12th grade, (pictured to the left).

Grayson completed the online coursera course *Financial Markets* through Yale University.

Grayson earned a Statement of Accomplishment during his fall semester Special Interest Independent Study course with Mrs. Kamps for the completion of the online course.

Grayson will be attending Messiah University in the fall.

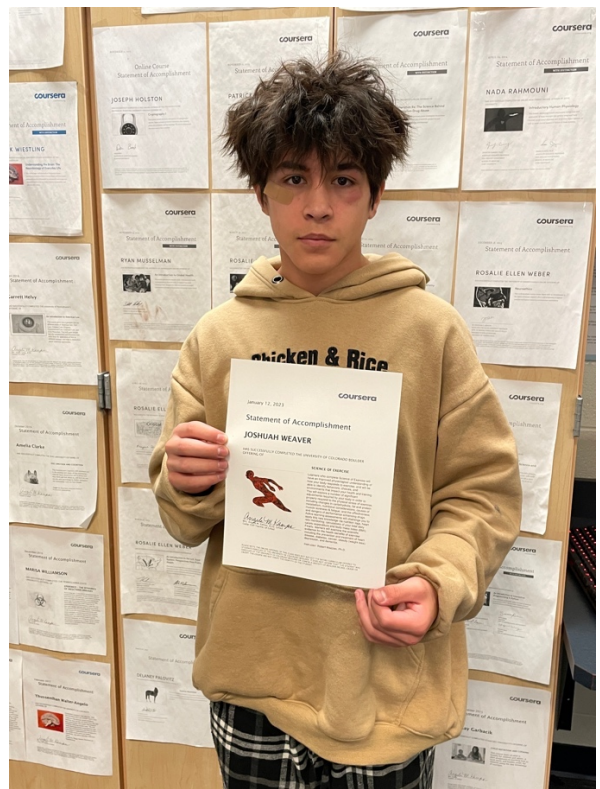
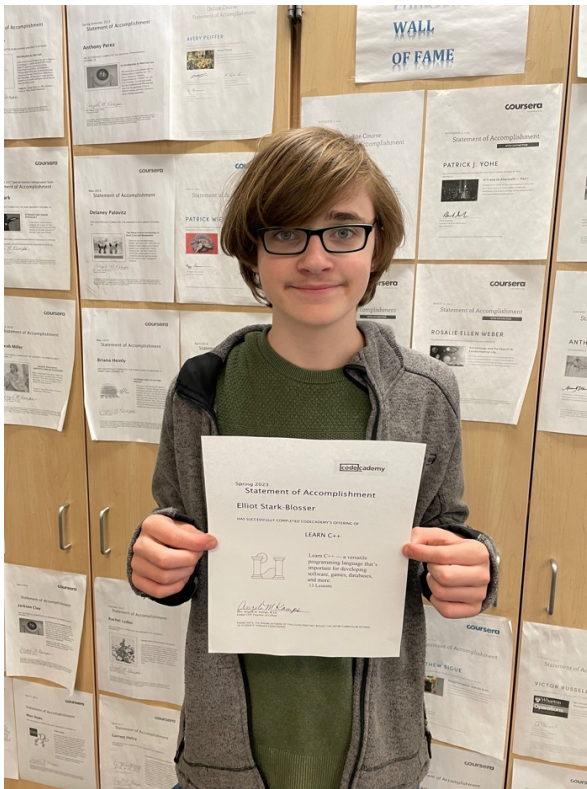
Congratulations to **Logan Stauffer**, 12th grade, (pictured to the right).

Logan completed the online Codecademy courses: *Learn C# Introduction, Methods, and Arrays and Loops*.

Logan earned several Statement of Accomplishments for his completion of computer coding courses during his spring semester Special Interest Independent Study course with Mrs. Kamps.

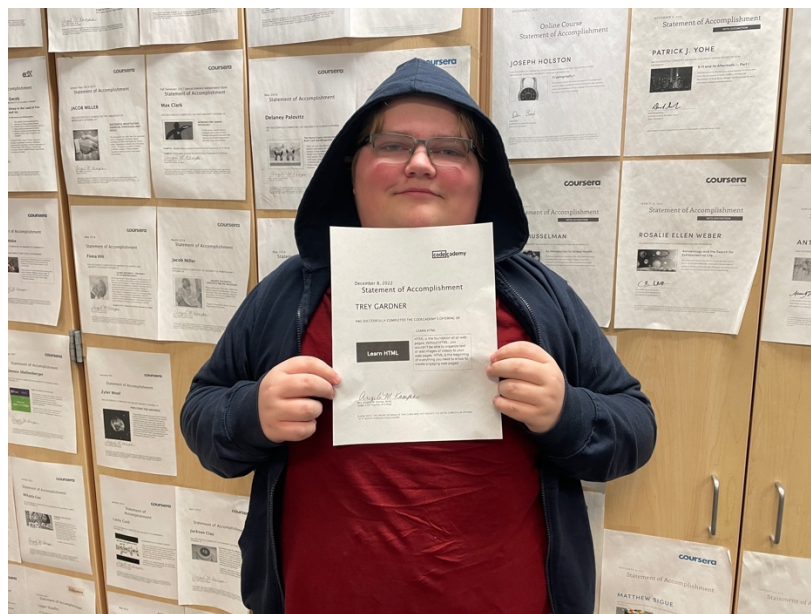
Logan will be attending RIT to major in computer game design in the fall.





Congratulations to **Elliot Stark-Blosser**, 10th grade, who earned a Statement of Accomplishment for his completion of Codecademy's course *Learn C++* in computer coding. Elliot completed the course during his Special Interest flex enrichment time with Mrs. Kamps.

Congratulations to **Joshua Weaver**, 9th grade, who earned a Statement of Accomplishment for his completion of Coursera's *Science of Exercise* course through the University of Colorado Boulder. Joshua completed the course during his fall Special Interest Independent Study class with Mrs. Kamps.



Congratulations to **Trey Gardner**, 9th grade, who earned a Statement of Accomplishment for his completion of Codecademy's course *Learn HTML*. Trey completed the course during his fall Special Interest Independent Study class with Mrs. Kamps.

3-2-1 Academic Competition Team FALL 2022



On December 19, 2022, Special Interest students competed in the online 3-2-1 Academic Competition under the guidance of Mrs. Kamps. Students answered questions focusing on world languages, history, literature, science, art, math, and music. **Caleb Masshardt**, 11th grade, and **Evan Heisler**, 12th grade, led the team as captain and assistant to finish the competition with an **overall rank of 7/20 in PA and 37/136 in the nation!**



Twenty-two Special Interest students in grades 9-12 (pictured above) acted as one team in the fall 3-2-1 Academic Competition. Team members answer 240 questions (80 triads) in two hours. Not only does participation in the competition foster the 21st century curriculum skills of leadership, teamwork, collaboration and cooperation; it's also a lot of fun!

3-2-1 Competition Team
Spring 2023, March 30, 2023
5th Place in PA!



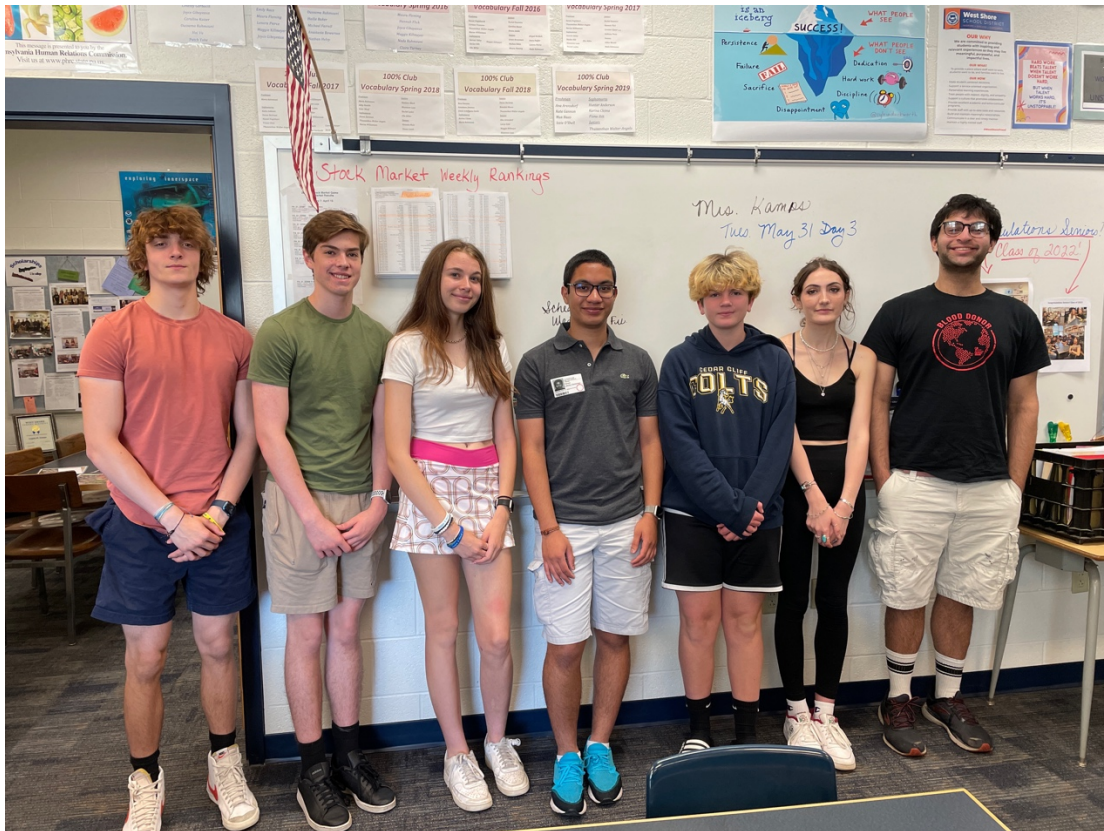
Congratulations to our Special Interest Spring 3-2-1 Academic Competition Team! The team consisted of eighteen students who tackled a myriad of questions in varying subjects. Led by **Caleb Masshardt**, 11th grade (captain) and **Jack Kane**, 10th grade (assistant); the team ended with a **final rank of 5/22 in the state of PA and 14/100 in the nation!**

Here's a sample question: This country is home to the largest statue of a horse (3-point clue). It's the least densely populated country in Asia. Buddhism is the predominant religion there (2-point clue). Name this nation that borders both China and Russia (1-point clue). Answer: Mongolia

Special Interest Alumni Guest Speakers

May 31, 2022

Thussenthan Walter-Angelo, Class of 2020, visits from Princeton University



From left to right: Tyler Rogers, Caleb Masshardt, Mikayla Gay, Thussenthan Walter-Angelo (alumni guest speaker), Rayna Johnson, Julianna Thompson, and Soloman Khan.

Class of 2020 Cedar Cliff graduate, **Thussenthan Walter-Angelo** (pictured in center above) returned to the Cedar Cliff Special Interest classroom last May to speak with interested students about his experiences as a Princeton University student. He answered student questions and offered helpful advice.



Pictured above: Evan Heisler, Kayleigh Hart, Thussenthan Walter-Angelo, and Eloise Billus

Thussenthan spoke with two different Special Interest student groups. He discussed the college research and application process as well as the importance of extracurricular activities, internships, and mentors.

In May of 2022, Thussenthan had just finished his second year at Princeton University. He is majoring in molecular biology and double minoring in computer science and neuroscience.

Last summer, Thussenthan interned at Harvard Medical School where he worked on RNA interference cancer research. Way to make Cedar Cliff proud!

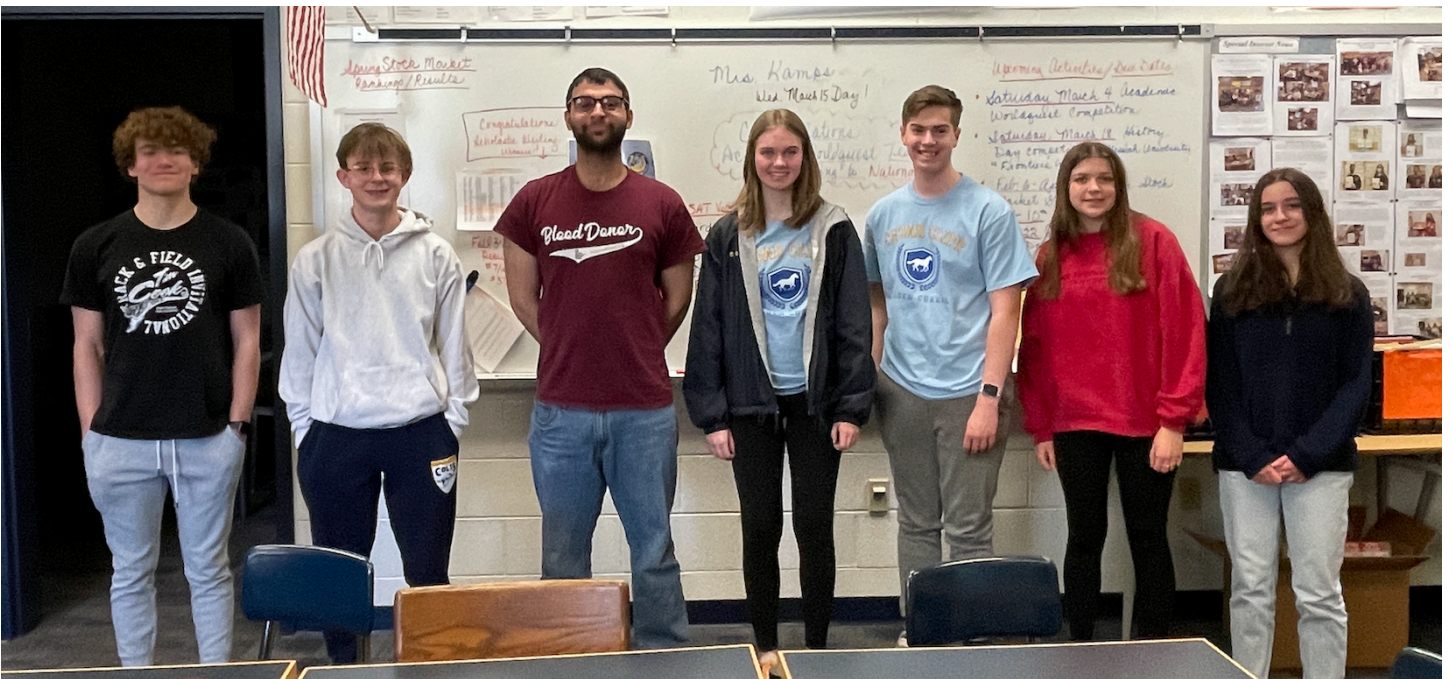
Class of 2021 Alumni, Fiona Hilt and Maria Rahmouni, Return to Cedar Cliff



Pictured above from left to right: Caleb Masshart, Tyler Rogers, Rebecca Laughlin, Mikayla Gay, Valerie Weigner, Fiona Hilt (guest speaker), and Maria Rahmouni (guest speaker)

On January 12, 2023, Mrs. Kamps had the pleasure of welcoming former Special Interest students and 2021 Cedar Cliff graduates **Fiona Hilt and Maria Rahmouni** to speak with Special Interest students about their college experiences! Fiona is currently attending Harrisburg Area Community College with future plans to transfer to Millersville University to obtain her secondary education teaching degree in history. Maria is attending University of Virginia pursuing computer science. Fiona and Maria discussed their college major selections, the concept of college “fit,” and college affordability. They answered many student questions as well.

Soloman Khan, CCHS Class of 2022 & Princeton University Student, Visits Cedar Cliff



Pictured above, left to right: Jack Kane, Tim Valentine, Soloman Khan (guest speaker), Valerie Weigner, Caleb Masshardt, Rebecca Laughlin, and Dzejla Kunovac

On March 15, 2023, Mrs. Kamps welcomed Soloman Khan back to Cedar Cliff. Soloman just finished his freshman year at Princeton University. He discussed the rigors of college curriculum and the importance of curiosity, self-discipline, and collaboration. Soloman is pursuing an engineering degree.

**Writing Workshop at CCHS
with Author and Shippensburg University Professor
Neil Connely
April 6, 2023**



Professor and author Neil Connely met with a group of aspiring young Cedar Cliff writers to critique three pieces of student work and teach a mini-lesson on enhancing descriptive writing. Student participants signed up with Mrs. Kamps and Mrs. Wolfe in order to attend this interactive and engaging session.

Professor Connely is the author of eight books. Previously the director of the MFA program at McNeese State University, he now teaches undergraduate creative writing classes at Shippensburg University.

Congratulations *First Light* Award Recipients



Valerie Weigner has had two of her poems selected for publication in *First Light*.

In the fall of 2022, her poem *The Most Beautiful Ballerina* was selected for publication.

This fall, her poem *Forget Me Not*, which is shared here, will be included.

The following Cedar Cliff students have been awarded recognition and will be published in Shippensburg University's Online Journal of Exceptional High School Writing, *First Light*, in the fall of 2023. Students entered this publication competition through Mrs. Kamps and the Special Interest program. Congratulations!

Fiction Spectrum Award for High Artistic Achievement
Madeline Graf *Borrow or Rob?*

Poetry Honorable Mention
Valerie Weigner *Forget Me Not*

Nonfiction Honorable Mention
Kayleigh Hart *Beyond the Percentage*

Poetry
Rayna Johnson *Contradiction*

Forget Me Not by Valerie Weigner

I notice the jewelry drowning her new body
Taller, broader, older than it was
Her fingers bubbling with ornate rings
Her wrists drenched in bracelets
Her ears flooded with studs and hoops
Her neck dripping with chains
With tiny pendants
Initials and charms

I am taller, broader, older
With dry and flaking skin
Barren, breakable fingers
Fragile, flimsy joints
Slowly-closing piercings
Unguarded, defenseless neck
No armor, no shield, no shade

She blooms every day without fail
Gold and silver vines snaking all over
A rainforest flourishing from the warmth within
With a canopy that still extends its branches
On the sunniest of my days

My jewelry box's remains rest
Somewhere buried deep in my vanity
They chirp to me in my sleep
And envy my pillow's tears
While returning to dust

Our garden adventures have long since passed
The dirt under my nails was too much to ignore
Each bloom we picked with matching shears
Cut through my gloves with its thorns

A scattering of dropped petals
Are swept into the air
During our dwindling harmonic giggles
And glimpses across the hall
Eyes that still remember
The ecosystem we grew together

Historic Harrisburg Association Award Winner



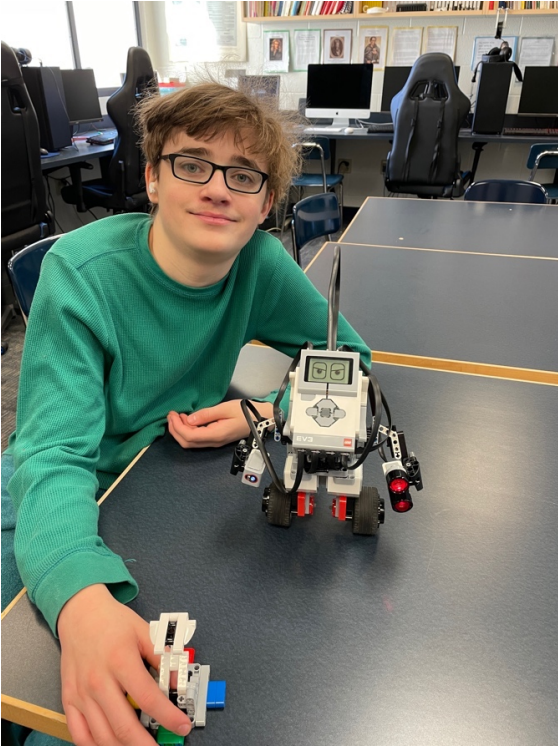
Congratulations to **Caleb Masshardt** who won first place in the Historic Harrisburg Association's essay contest focusing on their 50th Anniversary theme, *Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future*. Caleb entered the essay competition as an enrichment activity through the CCHS Special Interest program. Caleb was awarded his first-place certificate and \$300.00 at the media event in Harrisburg on February 22, 2023. Caleb's winning essay will be published in the spring edition of their magazine, *Harrisburg Heritage*. <https://historicharrisburg.org/>

Special Interest Independent Study Lateral Thinking Puzzle Winners



Each semester Special Interest Independent Study classes have a friendly competition to see which class will win the lateral thinking puzzle challenge, solving all of the puzzles for the semester in the fewest number of minutes. This year's fall semester first-place prize went to **6th period: Owen Wagner and Ian McCurdy** (pictured left) with a total time of 82 min. 23 sec. They chose Joey's Chicken Shack as their reward. For the spring semester the prize went to **1st period: Rayna Johnson, Evan Heisler, and Andrew Wickenheiser** (pictured right) with a total time of 83 min.43 sec. They enjoyed doughnuts as their reward.

Robot Creation during Special Interest Flex Enrichment



Special Interest students have the opportunity to enhance their studies by self-selecting personalized projects to complete during their flex enrichment time with Mrs. Kamps.

Elliot Stark-Blosser, 10th grade (pictured left) chose to focus on his strength and interest in design and coding. Elliot created and programmed a robot. His goal: to build a robot that would perform various functions. He used the Lego Mindstorms kit for construction and the computer software for the programming of his successful creation!

Owen Shenksy, 10th grade, also completed a unit exploring robot creation and programming using Lego Mindstorms. Students who participate in Special Interest flex enrichment have the opportunity to expand upon their strengths and interests by customizing their activities. Other projects included college research, enhancing writing skills, and participating in the PA Stock Market Simulation, to name a few.

Caleb Masshardt Named International Semi-Finalist for Ayn Rand *Anthem* Essay Contest

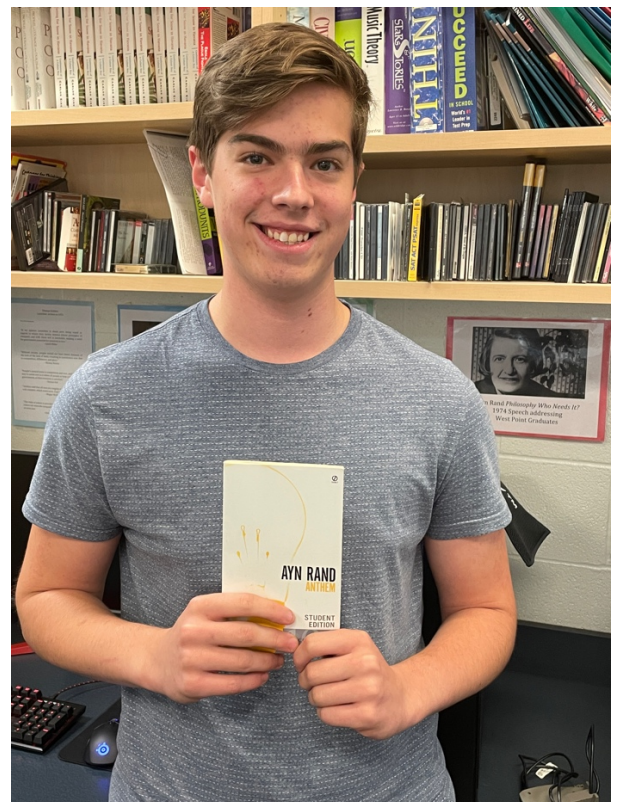
Last summer, Caleb Masshardt became a global semi-finalist for his critical essay analyzing the theme of individualism in the novella *Anthem* by Ayn Rand.

Over 3,812 students from 38 countries entered the essay competition! From those entrants, 50 students obtained semi-finalist status. Congratulations Caleb for reaching that status!

Each year the *Anthem* essay contest is open to students in 8th-12th grade. Students read the novella and then write an essay exploring one of the essay prompts. Caleb pursued this activity as a Special Interest flex enrichment outlet with Mrs. Kamps.

Lauren Lee from South Korea won first place in the competition and \$2,000.

<https://aynrand.org/students/essay-contests/>



**Congratulations Senior Special Interest Students!
Class of 2023
We Wish You the Best!**



On Monday, May 22, 2023, Mrs. Kamps hosted a final get-together for the senior Special Interest students. Students viewed a slideshow presentation highlighting their Special Interest activities over the past four years, enjoyed some light refreshments, and received some mementos and awards.

Congratulations to our senior students pictured above, left to right. **Logan Stauffer, Grayson Wertz, Evan Heisler, Olivia Mohnkern, Kayleigh Hart, Blythe Green, Madeline Graf, and Natalie Delavan.** Also, we congratulate, **Braedon Dibble, Julianna Thompson, and Alexander Steckline,** who were not in attendance.



Traditions continue! Pictured above, senior students open the letters that they wrote to themselves in Special Interest during freshman year, detailing their goals for high school and predictions for after graduation. Seniors also received a piece of original art work created by a freshman student. This year, ninth grade Special Interest student **Dzejla Kunovac** created the inspirational gift (pictured right).