

Cedar Cliff Special Interest News

Mrs. Angela Kamps, M.Ed. Gifted, Gifted Support Teacher
June 2024, Year-In-Review

CC Academic WorldQuest Team Advances to Nationals in Washington D.C. for a second consecutive year!



On Saturday, April 20, Cedar Cliff's first-place Academic WorldQuest team along with their advisor, Mrs. Angela Kamps, represented the state of Pennsylvania and The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg at the National Academic WorldQuest competition in Washington D.C. **Congratulations to Caleb Masshardt (captain), Rory Gannon, Rayna Johnson, and Jackson Kane (pictured above with Mrs. Kamps).**

Students prepared and then tested their knowledge of world affairs against the top teams across the nation at the beautiful United States Institute of Peace. Our Cedar Cliff team made the most of their time in D.C. visiting the United States Supreme Court, The National Museum of American Diplomacy, and the National Mall.

Students were privileged to listen to addresses by top world affairs leaders including LeAnne Howard, Special Advisor NATO National Security Council; JP Feldmayer, Director for NATO and European Affairs; and Joseph Sany, Ph.D., Vice President, Africa Center U.S. Institute of Peace.

Cedar Cliff ended the 10-round competition with a score of 68/100 points and an impressive 16th place in the nation!

CCHS Teams Compete at the Regional Academic WorldQuest Competition Temple University, Harrisburg on Saturday, March 16, 2024 Cedar Cliff teams bring home First Place and Second Place!



In order to advance to the nationals, students competed against other area high schools at the regional Academic WorldQuest competition, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. Mrs. Kamps has been guiding our Cedar Cliff teams for 10 years. This outlet has grown in popularity at CCHS to include 16 students (four students on a team) this school year!

As advertised on the national World Affairs Councils of America's website, *"The Only Test You Can Take With Your Friends. Academic WorldQuest inspires students, teachers, and parents to embrace global engagement and lifelong learning."* Our Cedar Cliff students had a lot of fun preparing for this test with their friends. Student teams met after school through the months of December to March to share the knowledge that they gained from reading assigned articles and listening to selected podcasts. Teams also participated in Socratic Seminar Discussions focusing on the Great Decisions topics: High Seas Treaty and Mideast Realignment.



Congratulations to the first-place team! Pictured above with Dr. Davis, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg.
From left to right: Rayna Johnson, Jackson Kane, Caleb Masshardt (captain), and Rory Gannon.

Congratulations to the second-place team! Pictured above with Dr. Davis, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg.
From left to right: Linda Alghobari (captain), Tim Valentine, Nicholas Ulkoski, and Ayesha Nasir.

Academic WorldQuest Teams Testing their World Affairs Knowledge



Pictured above, Dr. Davis prepares the high school teams for competition. Our Cedar Cliff teams are ready to begin! Students prepared by studying curated articles on world affairs categories during their Special Interest Independent Study courses, during gifted flex enrichment, at home, and at the library. All members are enrolled in a Schoology course created by Mrs. Kamps. Some of the categories this year included: NATO, The Global South, Sports and Diplomacy, Promoting a Green Europe, Navigating AI, Women's Contributions to Track II Diplomacy, and Country in Focus – South Korea. For more information visit: <https://worldaffairscouncils.org/what-we-do/academic-worldquest/>



Congratulations to our CCHS team participant Pictured above with Dr. Davis, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. From left to right: Valerie Weigner (captain), Eloise Billus, Mikayla Gay, and William Gannon.

Congratulations to our CCHS team participant Pictured above with Dr. Davis, President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. From left to right: Eliot Horn, Zachary Kuhns (captain), Nicholas Olmsted, and Cade Griva.

For more information about the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg and student programs, visit <https://wacharrisburg.org/students/>

National History Day Competition Messiah University, Saturday, March 2, 2024



Congratulations to Trevor Rhodes First-Place Winner in Region 8's Documentary Category!

Trevor addressed this year's History Day theme, *Turning Points in History*, through his research of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911.

Trevor self-selected this project as an enrichment activity through Special Interest flex with Mrs. Kamps.

Trevor conducted a tremendous amount of research, focusing on primary resources from this time period and event. He then wrote a script, filmed, and then edited a video documentary, *The Flame that Sparked Change*. This project included a detailed annotated bibliography as well. Trevor's individual video documentary won first place at the regional competition, which advanced him to the state level of competition. Due to scheduling conflicts, Trevor was not able to compete at the state level. Nonetheless, he did an amazing job garnering a first-place finish at Messiah University!

VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition

Congratulations to Cedar Cliff's VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Winners!

Caleb Masshardt, Jackson Kane, and Andrew Wickenheiser (pictured right) won recognition in this year's Voice of Democracy audio essay competition!

Each student addressed the theme, *What are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?* in a written speech that was then recorded and submitted to local VFW organizations for judging.

The VFW Post of New Cumberland awarded Caleb Masshardt first place!

The VFW Post of Etters awarded Jackson Kane first place and Andrew Wickenheiser second place!

All three students completed their audio essays with Mrs. Kamps as Special Interest Independent Study projects or as gifted flex enrichment activities. The VFW Posts honored the students with cash awards and participation in banquet events.



National Fall 3-2-1 Academic Competition 5th Place in PA!



On Friday, December 15, Special Interest students competed in the National 3-2-1 Academic Competition. Students compete as one team in this academic competition. **Students elected Valerie Weigner as captain and Caleb Masshardt as assistant captain (pictured above in front).** The team had two hours to answer a range of computerized academic questions in areas of science, math, literature, and music, to name a few. **Our fall team ended the competition 5th in PA out of 18 teams and 26/113 in the nation!**



For the competition, the team has three tries to get the correct answer. Here is an example: A Surname is the answer. Three-point clue: In an erroneous work, who explained why there were exactly six planets? Two-Point Clue: He concluded that, as a planet moves in its orbit, a line from the sun to the planet sweeps out equal areas in equal times. One-Point Clue: The planet-detecting space telescope is named for what German astronomer? Answer: Kepler

Investing in the PA Stock Market Game Simulation



Through Special Interest, Students competed in the 10-week fall stock market game simulation from September 25-December 1. Students received, “\$100,000.00” to invest in the market and conduct online trading, which mimics actual online stock trading platforms.

Pictured left: Parker Graf, Tim Valentine, and Jackson Kane competed as a team. They ended with a profit and a final equity of \$106,059.98 in 24th place out of 130 teams in our PA region. Their highest earning stock was AMC.

Pictured right: Tiger Zebrowski competed as a solo team. Tiger ended with a profit and a final equity of \$104,177.45 in 43rd place out of 130 teams in our PA region. Tiger’s highest earning stock was Uber.

Students prepared with lessons and online resources provided by Mrs. Kamps. Teams participated in this activity as a Special Interest Independent Study project and as a flex enrichment activity.

The Foundation for Free Enterprise Education sponsors and organizes the online program.



National Sojourner Essay Competition



On April 11, 2024, the Harrisburg Chapter No. 76, National Sojourners, honored Cedar Cliff students for their award-winning essays addressing the theme *Causes of the American Revolutionary War*. Pictured above left to right: Glenn Kurzenknabe, Past President, Essay Contest Chair, Ian Nelepka 3rd place, Jackson Kane 2nd place, Caleb Masshardt 1st place, and Dawin Gaston, Chapter President. Students won scholarship cash awards. Both Jackson and Caleb wrote their essays as self-selected Special Interest projects with Mrs. Kamps.

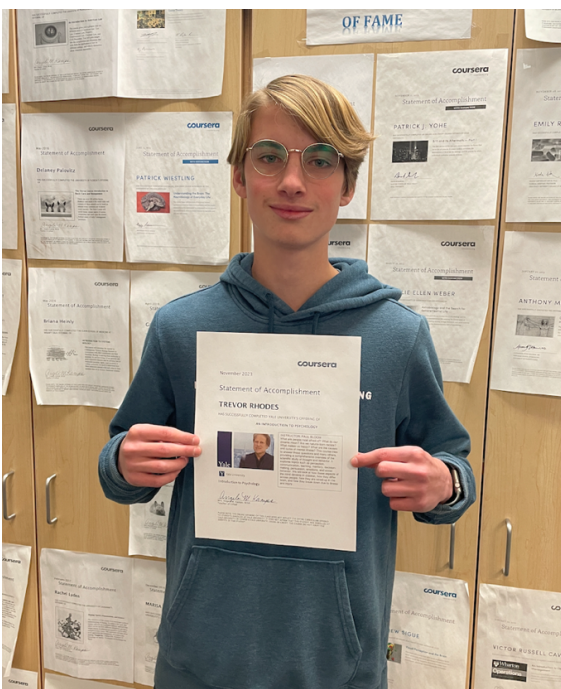
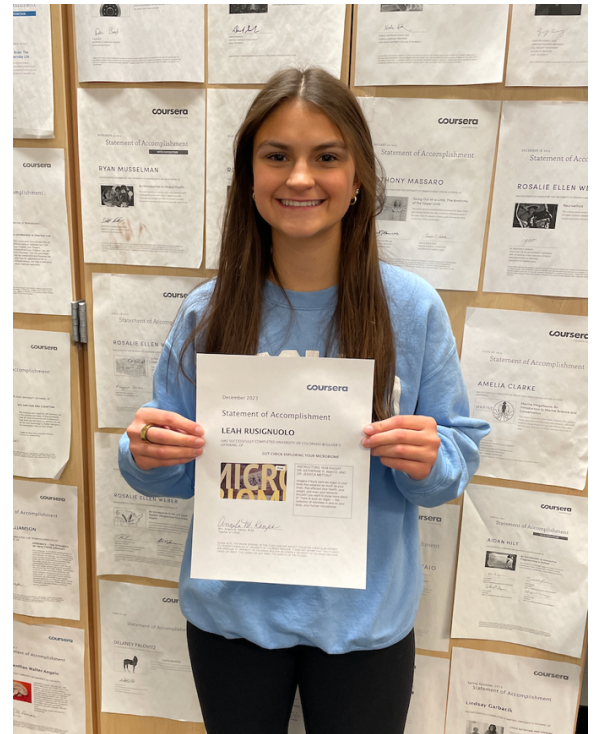
Special Interest Independent Study and Flex Enrichment Massive Open Online Course Completion

Twenty-three gifted students took the Special Interest Independent Study elective course for a grade and credit this year with Mrs. Kamps. Students were extremely productive during this course! Examples of self-selected personalized projects include: creative writing, essay and scholarship writing, college research and application, book study, guitar study, and college course content completion through free Massive Open Online Courses.

Congratulations to **Leah Rusignuolo**, 10th grade, (pictured right).

Leah completed an online coursera course *Gut Check Exploring Your Microbiome* through University of Colorado, Boulder.

Leah earned a Statement of Accomplishment during her fall semester Special Interest Independent Study course with Mrs. Kamps for the completion of the online course, which included lectures, quizzes, projects, and readings.



Congratulations to **Trevor Rhodes**, 9th grade, (pictured left).

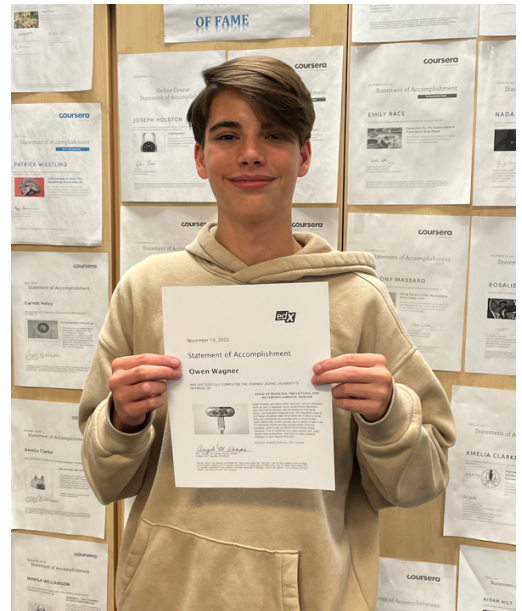
Trevor completed an online coursera course *An Introduction to Psychology* through Yale University.

Trevor earned a Statement of Accomplishment during his fall semester of Special Interest flex enrichment with Mrs. Kamps. Trevor successfully completed all modules of the online course, which included lectures, readings, and quizzes.

Congratulations to **Owen Wagner**, 11th grade, (pictured right).

Owen completed an online EdX course *Food as Medicine: Preventing and Reversing Chronic Disease* through Doanex, Doan University.

Owen earned a Statement of Accomplishment during spring semester sophomore year in the Special Interest Independent Study course. Owen took detailed notes on lectures and successfully completed all module content.



Congratulations to **Leah Heisler**, 9th grade, (pictured left).

Leah completed an online coursera course *Old Norse Mythology in the Sources* through University of Colorado, Boulder.

Leah earned a Statement of Accomplishment during her fall semester Special Interest Independent Study course with Mrs. Kamps. Leah successfully completed all modules of the course, taking detailed notes on lectures and reading material.

Congratulations to **Caleb Masshardt**, 12th grade, (pictured right).

Caleb completed an online coursera course *A Law Student's Toolkit* through Yale University.

Caleb earned a Statement of Accomplishment during his spring semester Special Interest Independent Study course with Mrs. Kamps. Caleb completed all online modules with detailed notes and written assignments.



More Massive Open Online Course Completion



Congratulations to **Ashley Rogers**, 10th grade, (pictured left).

Ashley completed the coursera course *What is the Metaverse?* through Meta.

Ashley earned a Statement of Accomplishment during her fall Special Interest Independent Study course with Mrs. Kamps.

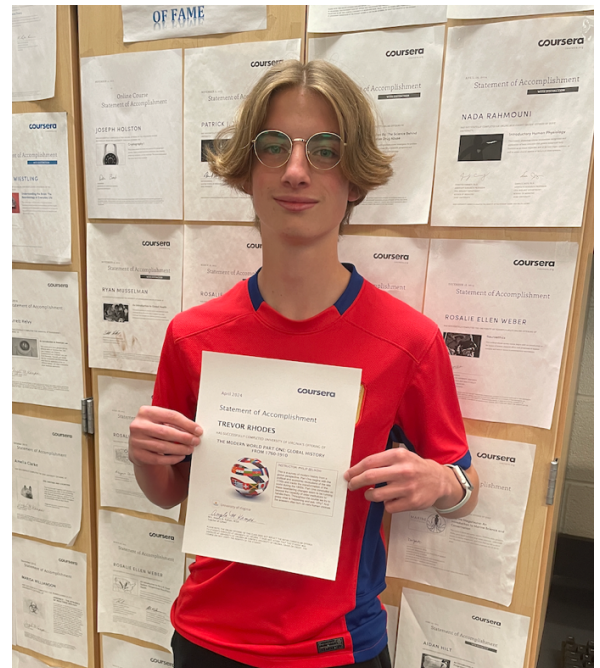
Ashley successfully completed all modules, which included online lectures, notes, and activities.

Congratulations to **Trevor Rhodes**, 9th grade, (pictured right).

Trevor completed the coursera course *The Modern World Part One: Global History from 1760-1910* through University of Virginia.

Trevor earned a Statement of Accomplishment during his spring flex enrichment with Mrs. Kamps.

Trevor successfully completed all of the modules, which included online lectures, notes, and quizzes.



**Financial Literacy Winner
Caleb Masshardt Speaking at the State Capitol Building
Next stop...Harvard!**



Congratulations to **Caleb Masshardt**, 12th grade Special Interest student! Caleb won third place (tie) and \$1,000 for his essay addressing the theme, *What Does Financial Literacy Mean to Me?*

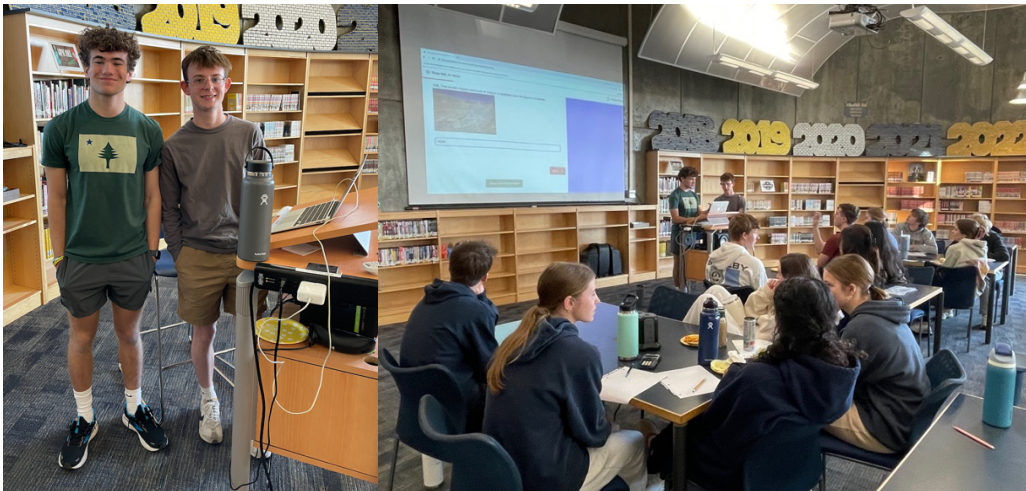
On April 26, Caleb was honored at the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building and asked to deliver his essay to the audience. This annual Financial Literacy Scholarship Competition is sponsored by Harrisburg University, Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, and Members First Federal Credit Union. Caleb entered this essay as one of many Special Interest activities this year.

Caleb will be attending Harvard this fall to major in government!

National Spring 3-2-1 Academic Competition



Congratulations to our Spring 3-2-1 Academic Competition team! On March 22, 2024, students worked together as a team to compete in this two-hour, online academic competition. The team finished with a score of 259 points and a rank of 9/22 in PA and 38/102 in the nation! Students participate in this activity through Special Interest and under the direction of Mrs. Kamps. Students elected Jack Kane to serve as their captain and Tim Valentine to serve as the assistant captain (pictured below).



Congratulations Scholastic Writing Winners!



Pictured above left to right: Rory Gannon, Caleb Masshardt, Valerie Weigner, Rebecca Laughlin, Olivia Arnwine, Noah Gallo, and Andrew Wickenheiser. Pictured below: Tristan Metherehl.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art and Writing Awards! Many of the students completed their writing as self-selected Special Interest Independent Study projects or as flex enrichment projects.

Gold Key Recipients

Tristan Metherehl for Poetry *Mikey*
Tristan Metherehl for Dramatic Script *Four Irish Children*

Silver Key Recipients

Olivia Arnwine for Poetry *Father's Gun*
Noah Gallo for Humor *Dwayne Dorkus: An Idiots Detective*
Rory Gannon for Short Story *Grace*
Tristan Metherehl for Senior Portfolio *The Scattering of a Teenage Heart*

Honorable Mention Recipients

Noah Gallo for Poetry *A Villanelle: "It was the best of times; it was the worst"*
Rebecca Laughlin for Personal Memoir *Appreciating Every Moment*
Caleb Masshardt for Critical Essay *Exploring Selfishness in Ayn Rand's Anthem*
Tristan Metherehl for Poetry *The Breath Between My Broken Ribs*
Valerie Weigner for Personal Memoir *A Hidden Melody*
Andrew Wickenheiser for Poetry *Oh; Hear her Drums*

Congratulations to Tristan Metherehl whose gold key award-winning work advances to the national level for judging!

Special Interest Independent Study Lateral Thinking Puzzle Class Winners

Fall Semester



Congratulations to the fall semester 2nd period class, winners of the lateral thinking puzzle competition with a total time of 64 minutes 15 seconds. The fewest total minutes for the semester wins. Tristan Methereil, Trey Gardner, and Leah Rusignuolo (pictured above left to right) chose muffins and cupcakes as their reward.

Spring Semester



Congratulations to the spring Special Interest Independent Study class winners of the Lateral Thinking Puzzle Competition! Caleb Masshardt, Eloise Billus, and Valerie Weigner won with a total time of 78 minutes and 20 seconds. They chose Chipotle as their reward.

Guest Speakers

CCHS Special Interest Welcomes Home

CCHS Alumni and Former Special Interest Students



On October 18th, we welcomed back to Cedar Cliff former Special Interest students and Cedar Cliff graduates, (pictured left above) Soloman Khan (class of 2022) and Thussenthan Walter-Angelo (class of 2020).

Soloman and Thussenthan spoke with Special Interest students about life and scientific studies and majors at Princeton University. Thussenthan is graduating this year from Princeton and plans to attend medical school.



Pictured above: Caleb Masshardt, Mia Heidelberg, Avery Peiffer, Sarah Brock, Leah Rusignolo, and Owen Badders

On December 21, 2023, we welcomed back to Cedar Cliff former Special Interest students and Cedar Cliff graduates Avery Peiffer and Sarah Brock (both from the class of 2017 and pictured above on right).

Avery and Sarah spoke with Special Interest students about their education, attending University of Pittsburgh and James Madison University as well as their careers in STEM areas. Sarah is currently attending medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine and shared her experiences with admission requirements and training. Avery shared his experience as a software engineer at Alarm.com.

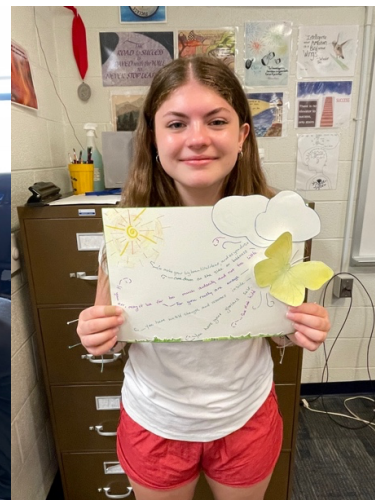
Goodbye Seniors! Best Wishes! We Are Proud of You!



Pictured above from left to right: Ethan Hoffert, William Gannon, Tyler Rogers, Ian McCurdy, Eliot Horn, Cade Griva, Rebecca Laughlin, Valerie Weigner, Tristan Metherell, Mikayla Gay, Chloe Anderson, Lynn Hoke, and Caleb Masshardt

Congratulations to our wonderful Senior Special Interest Class of 2024! On May 21st, Mrs. Kamps hosted a senior celebration. Students received the letters that they wrote to themselves in 9th grade, and we enjoyed light refreshments, a slideshow of photos through the years, and a presentation of awards and mementos. We wish you well in your future endeavors. We hope to see you again for visits!

Students' Future Plans: Chloe Anderson- West Chester University (music education/performance), William Gannon- Notre Dame (history), Mikayla Gay- Duquesne University (marketing), Cade Griva- Penn State (accounting), Ethan Hoffert (Duquesne (biochemistry), Lynn Hoke- Harrisburg Area Community College then John Jay (Forensic Psychology), Eliot Horn- Northeastern University (business), Rebecca Laughlin Penn State Main (architectural engineering), Caleb Masshardt- Harvard College (government), Ian McCurdy- Penn State Main (undecided possibly engineering), Tristan Metherell – Lebanon Valley College (audio and music production), Tyler Rogers- Indiana University, Kelley School of Business (finance), Valerie Weigner- Penn State Main (astrophysics).



Pictured above left: seniors open letters that they wrote during 9th grade. Pictured above right: Leah Heisler, 9th grade, with the inspirational art she created for our graduating seniors. This is an ongoing tradition for our Special Interest students.