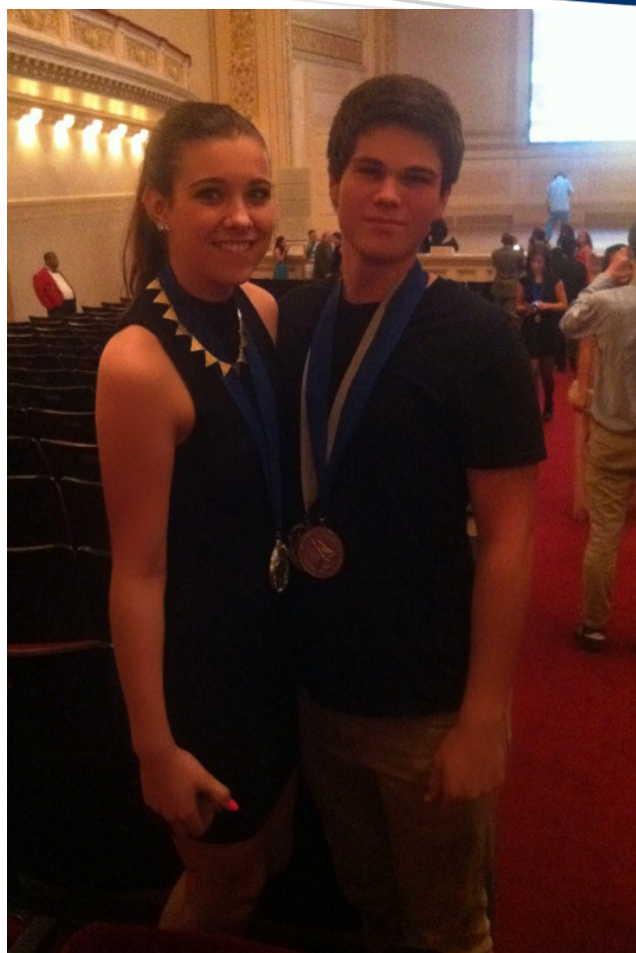


# Special Interest News

## Cedar Cliff High School

Mrs. Kamps, Teacher of Gifted



### Tess Beinhaur wins National Scholastic Writing Award

Tess Beinhaur traveled to New York City this past June to receive national recognition at the 2014 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Tess won a national silver key award for her personal essay, *Raining Blue*, which she completed in Mrs. Kamps' class as a Special Interest Independent Study project.

As a national winner, Tess has been identified by a panel of creative professionals as one of the most talented writers in the nation. This year, almost 255,000 works of

art and writing were submitted. Only 1% were recognized at the national level.

Billboards at Times Square welcomed the Scholastic Writing and Art winners. The top of the Empire State building was lit in gold to honor the students.

Tess, along with the other national winners, attended an awards ceremony at the world-famous Carnegie Hall on Friday, June 6. First Lady, Michelle Obama, addressed the winners via video. Nick Cannon, of *America's Got Talent*, served as the guest speaker.

Pictured above: Tess Beinhaur with another national winner, Case Baumgarten, at Carnegie Hall

Tess commented on her experience, ““When I was standing in Carnegie Hall, it felt so surreal. Something I wrote was acknowledged and admired by the entire world. I could not stop smiling. It felt like a dream, and I didn’t want to wake up.”

## Zach Bygall and Nicole Rupnik win the Regional PA Stock Market Game!

Congratulations to junior Zach Bygall and senior Nicole Rupnik. They placed first out of 159 teams competing in the ten-week fall Pennsylvania Stock Market Game. The simulation ran from October 10, 2014 to December 12, 2014. Zach and Nicole beat Delone Caholic, Boiling Springs, Hershey, Halifax, Chambersburg, and Newport High Schools. Not only did they win first place in the region, but they also finished 15 out of 1,387 teams competing in the state.

Zach and Nicole participated in the online PA Stock Market simulation during their flex periods through Special Interest. They received "\$100,000.00" to invest in the stock market. At the conclusion of the simulation, they ended with an equity of \$117,367.55. Their biggest earning stock was NBIX, Neurocrine Biosciences Inc., a company, which develops and commercializes drugs for neurological and endocrine-related diseases. They purchased 2,200 shares on October 17 for \$17.02 and ended the game at \$21.97 a share.



Zach Bygall pictured above

The stock with the biggest percentage of gain, 73.19%, for Cedar Cliff during the simulation belonged to Nathan Helvy and Noah Farrell. They purchased 500 shares of HA, Hawaiian Holdings, an air transportation company. Purchase price was \$13.66 and the end price was \$23.65 with a 73% gain.



Pictured above: Zach Bygall, Hunter Reiner, Jamison Count, Maura Fleming, Noah Farrell, and Nathan Helvy.

Out of 10 Special Interest teams competing from Cedar Cliff, four of them placed in the top 11 out of 159 teams competing in the PA Stock Market Game.

## Stock Market Winning Teams

Noah Farrell and Nathan Helvy finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place with an ending equity of \$105,683.92. Maura Fleming and Hunter Reiner finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place with an equity of \$103,629.00. Jamison Count and Savannah Walker ended in 11<sup>th</sup> place with a final equity of 103,501.73.

Some of the biggest earning stocks for Cedar Cliff teams included: Neurocrine Biosciences, Hawaiian Holdings, Delta, Costco, Yahoo, Cumulus Media, NewLink Genetics, and Under Armour.

## Students Win Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition



Megan and Marie prepared for the Voice of Democracy audio essay competition through Special Interest. Students wrote and then recorded a three to five-minute essay addressing the prompt, “*Why Veterans are Important to Our Nation’s History and Future.*” Students have the opportunity to win a \$30,000 national scholarship. The audio essay competition is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Students from schools across Cumberland County entered the competition. Cedar Cliff was thrilled to have two of the three winners. Locally, Megan Weller won second place and \$150.00. Marie Jendrysik won third place and \$100.00. Megan completed her essay as a Special Interest Independent Study class project. Marie completed her essay during her Special Interest flex time.

Congratulations to juniors Megan Weller and Marie Jendrysik, pictured above with Lynn McCormick of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

## Students Complete Online College Courses

Congratulations to Special Interest Independent Study students who successfully completed online college courses through coursera.org earning certificates of accomplishment.

Briana Heinly- *Visual Perception and the Brain* through Duke University

Avery Peiffer- *Generating the Wealth of Nations* through University of Melbourne

Matthew Sigue- *Visual Perception and the Brain* through Duke University



## Special Interest Students Enter Scholastic Writing and Art Competition

Students in Special Interest Independent Study class and in Special Interest flex prepared for and entered the Scholastic Writing and Art Competition in the following categories. Winners will be announced in February. We wish them well!

### **Science Fiction/Fantasy**

Nada Rahmouni – The Vial  
Tess Beinhaur- Journey in Slight  
Jordan Mushalko- The Fluttering Encounter  
Eneida Giboyeaux- An Angel From the Fire  
Nolan Stopfel- Escape?

### **Poetry**

Bethany King- Only Mostly Dead  
Bethany King- Malleable Time  
Rachel Dunmire- Breathing Recollections  
Hailie Baker- Daddy's Little Girl  
Tess Beinhaur- The Colors of Us

### **Novel**

Lenora Pierce- The Viridian War  
Aidan Hilt- Planetfall

### **Art- Drawing**

Nithin Pranesh

### **Short Story**

Oussama Rahmouni- Russel  
Hannah Flick- Counterblow  
Emily Race- The Older Man

### **Journalism**

Megan Weller- Looking Back

### **Flash Fiction**

Nada Rahmouni- Blood and Bitter  
Nada Rahmouni- Lilac Absent Mornings  
Tess Beinhaur- You Knew She Liked Tea

### **Personal Essay**

Johna Cook- A Tale of Two Grandmas  
Nada Rahmouni- Misguided Wanderlust  
Tess Beinhaur- The Cliffs  
Tess Beinhaur- Everything I Never Got To Say  
Tess Beinhaur- A Usual Night



## Creative Writing Day at Susquehanna University



On November 3, ten Special Interest students and nine English students attended a creative writing workshop day with Mrs. Kamps and Mrs. McKay at Susquehanna University.

The day began in the theater listening to a faculty and student reading. Nada Rahmouni commented on the reading she enjoyed most, "The slam poem because she evoked so many emotions, told her story, and still managed to make us laugh." Eneida Giboyeaux stated, "I liked the piece about the family on the run because it was suspenseful." Bethany King described what she learned from the opening readings, "An esoteric topic can be explained with contextual examples."

Students then attended small group workshops to write in genres ranging from poetry to science fiction to novel. Jordan Mushalko described the short story workshop, "We were given a prompt of describing a farm from the farmer's point of view after the night his child had died."

Susquehanna University offered the day free of charge and included lunch for everyone. A big thank-you to the U.S. Army Recruiting Center in Mechanicsburg for providing the transportation for the students to and from the event!

