

# Cedar Cliff Special Interest News

Mrs. Angela Kamps, M.Ed. Gifted, Gifted Support Teacher  
May 2022, Year in Review

## **3-2-1 National Academic Competition Cedar Cliff Spring Special Interest Team Places 4<sup>th</sup> in PA!**



Team Members pictured above from left to right. Back Row: Julianna Thompson, Rayna Johnson, Liam Gannon, Evan Heisler, Mikayla Gay, Valerie Weigner, Rebecca Laughlin, Grayson Wertz, Cade Griva, Tyler Rogers, and Caleb Masshardt. Front Row Seniors: Emma Kurtz-Olin, Jonah Schiffgens-Smith, Izzie O'Shell, Kate Gannon, Soloman Khan, Nate Stains and Sunshine Jimenez.

Congratulations to the spring 3-2-1 Academic Team! These Special Interest students, under the direction of Mrs. Kamps, competed in the national 3-2-1 competition on Wednesday, April 6, 2022. Students worked together and had two hours to answer 240 questions ranging from history to math to art and literature. This activity exemplifies our commitment to 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in leadership, teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation.

Captain Kate Gannon, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and Assistant Captain Soloman Khan, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, led the team to a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish out of 21 schools that competed in Pennsylvania. The team had a final score of 332/481 points and a national rank of 27<sup>th</sup> out of 118 teams in the nation. Well done team!



### 3-2-1 Spring Academic Competition Team in Action April 6, 2022



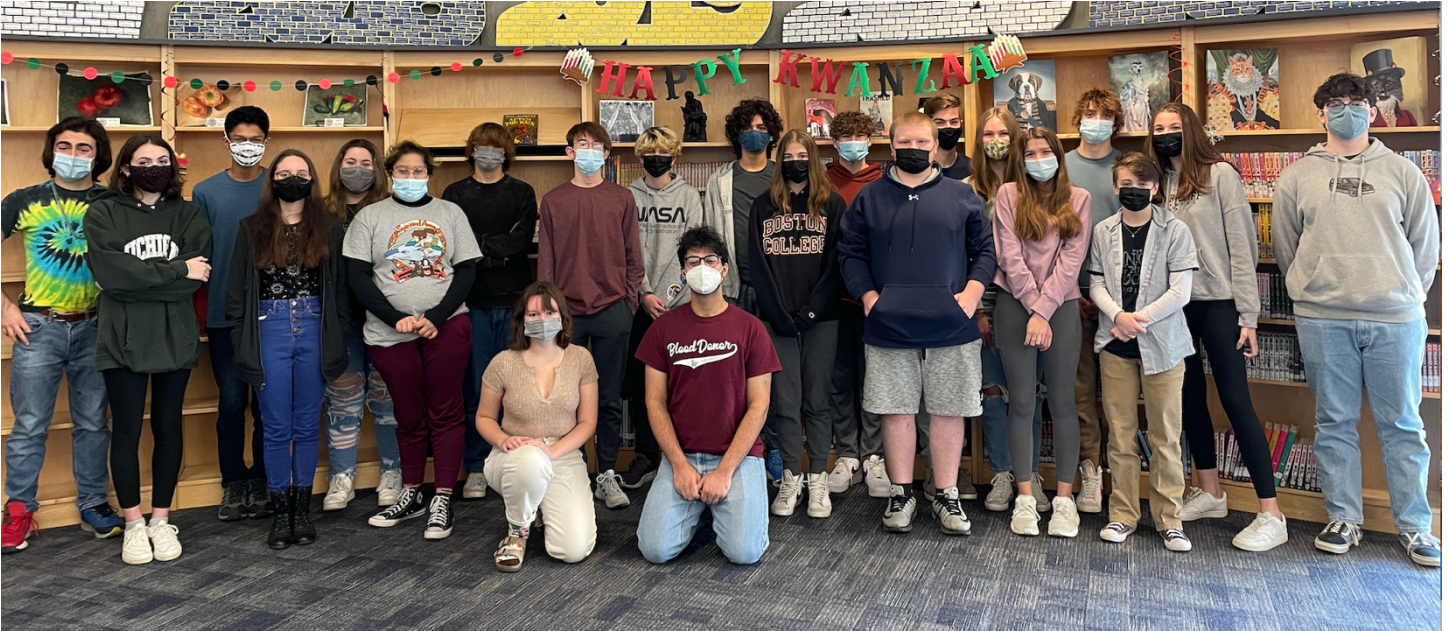
### 3-2-1 Fall Academic Competition Team in Action December 9, 2021



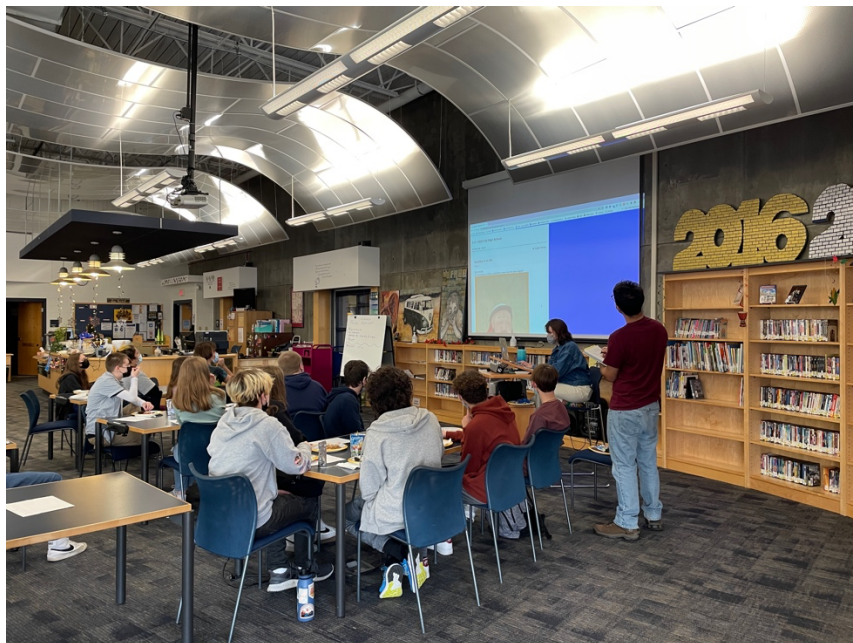


# Fall 3-2-1 Academic Competition Special Interest Team

## Places 5<sup>th</sup> in PA and 25<sup>th</sup> in the Nation!



Team members pictured above left to right and back to front: Nate Stains, Julianna Thompson, Jonah Schiffgens-Smith, Emma Kurtz-Olin, Izzie O'Shell, Sunshine Jimenez, Liam Gannon, Tim Valentine, Rayna Johnson, Parker Graf, Eloise Billus, Jackson Kane, Cade Griva, Caleb Masshart, Valerie Weigner, Rebecca Laughlin, Tyler Rogers, Tristan Metherell, Mikayla Gay, Evan Heisler, Kate Gannon, & Soloman Khan.



On December 9, 2021 Cedar Cliff Special Interest students competed in the fall 3-2-1 Academic Competition. Under the leadership of seniors Kate Gannon captain, and Soloman Khan assistant captain, the team answered 240 questions scoring 350 points with 72.9% correct. Questions focused on a wide range of topics including music, math, and science. The team ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 21 schools participating in PA and 25<sup>th</sup> out of 158 schools competing in the nation. Well done!



# Academic Worldquest Team Advances to Represent Cedar Cliff and Pennsylvania at Nationals!



Above: team preparation meeting in Mrs. Kamps's room

Through the CCHS Gifted Program, two Cedar Cliff Special Interest teams prepared for the Academic Worldquest competition, which was held on Saturday, April 2 via Zoom and sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg.

**Our teams won first and third places!** Led by Kate Gannon, our first-place team of Jackson Kane, Rory Gannon, and Nick Olmsted beat Cumberland Valley's team by 1 point and advanced to represent Pennsylvania on April 30 in the National Academic Worldquest Competition! Valerie Weigner led our third-place team, which included Liam Gannon, Mikayla Gay, and Caleb Masshardt.



Zoom competition photo above, left to right, top to bottom: Jackson Kane, Mrs. Kamps, Mikayla Gay, Liam Gannon, Caleb Masshardt, Rory Gannon, Nick Olmsted, Kate Gannon, and Valerie Weigner

Through the CCHS gifted program, students self-selected their categories and prepared throughout the year by reading curated articles on international topics, such as CDC and Global Health, Insecurity in China's Neighborhood, Climate and Migration, and Digital Currencies, to name a few. This competition exemplifies personalized learning, 21st century skills, and experiential learning. This is the third time in the past seven years that Cedar Cliff has advanced to the national level!

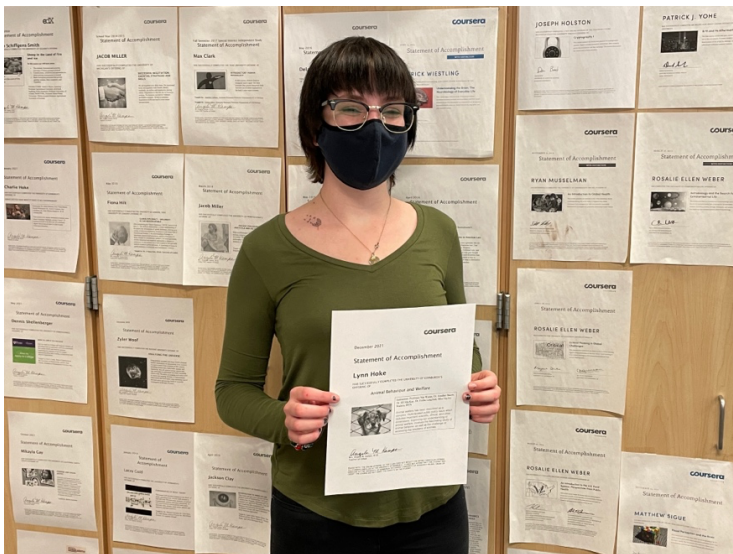


# Special Interest Independent Study Course

The 62 students in the Cedar Cliff gifted program have the opportunity to take the elective course, Special Interest Independent Study course, listed as course # 888604 in the course selection handbook. Gifted students may select and list this course on their course selection cards. Students have the ability to customize their educational experiences based on strengths and interests to create a course they will love.

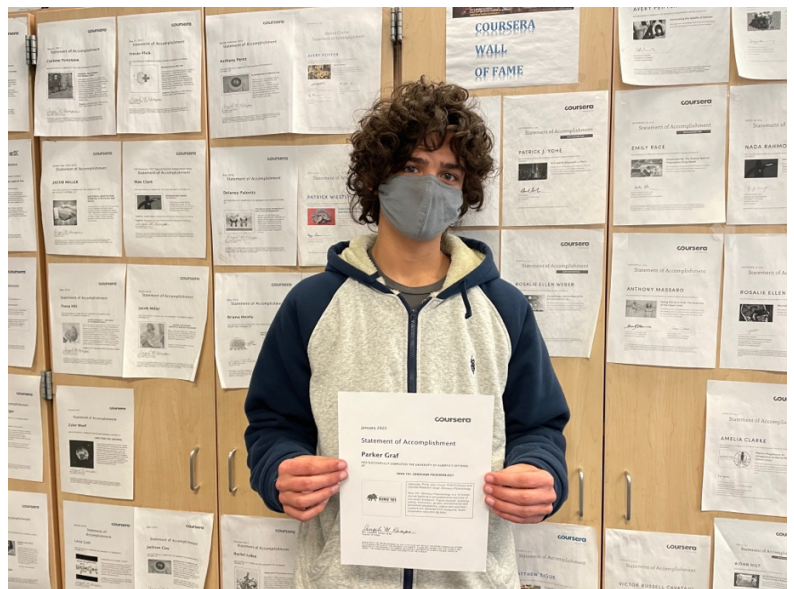
Mrs. Kamps guides and grades the student work, focused on standards. Students meet with other 9-12 gifted students in class for 50 minutes a day for a semester, receiving a grade and .5 credit, which appears on the student's transcript. Students present passion projects to their independent study peers, discuss two philosophers' works each semester, and study individualized areas of interest. This year some students chose to complete free Massive Open Online Courses offered by prestigious universities via coursera.org, edx.org, and codecademy.com. Students do not receive college credit from these institutions for these free courses, but they do learn from esteemed experts in the content areas. Here are some of their accomplishments!

## Fall Semester



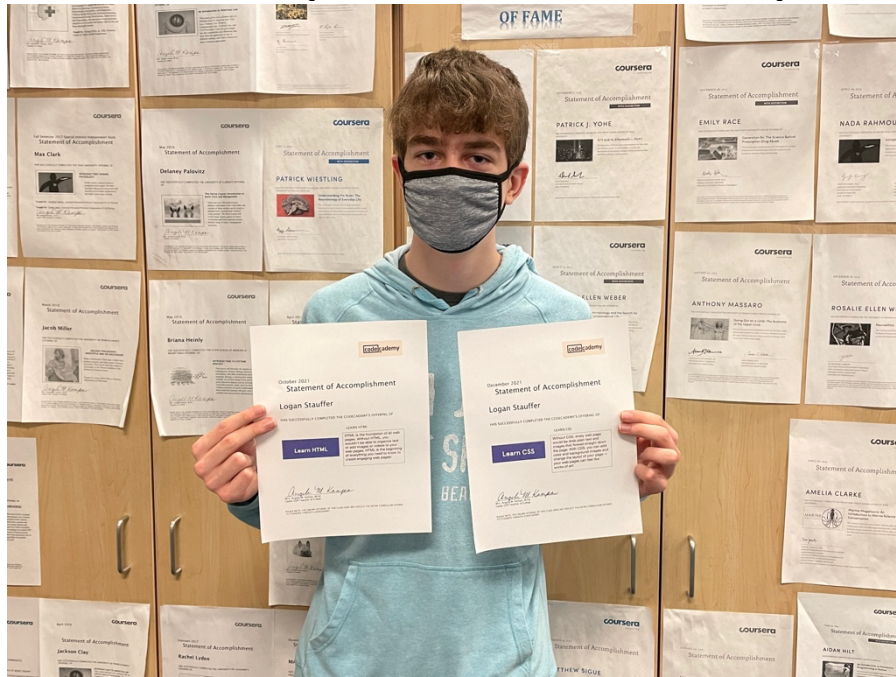
As one of her independent study projects, sophomore student **Lynn Hoke** successfully completed a 10-week coursera course through the University of Edinburgh on *Animal Behaviour and Welfare*.

Freshman **Parker Graf** successfully completed a 12-lesson coursera course through the University of Alberta on *Dino 101: Dinosaur Paleobiology* as one of his individualized independent study projects.

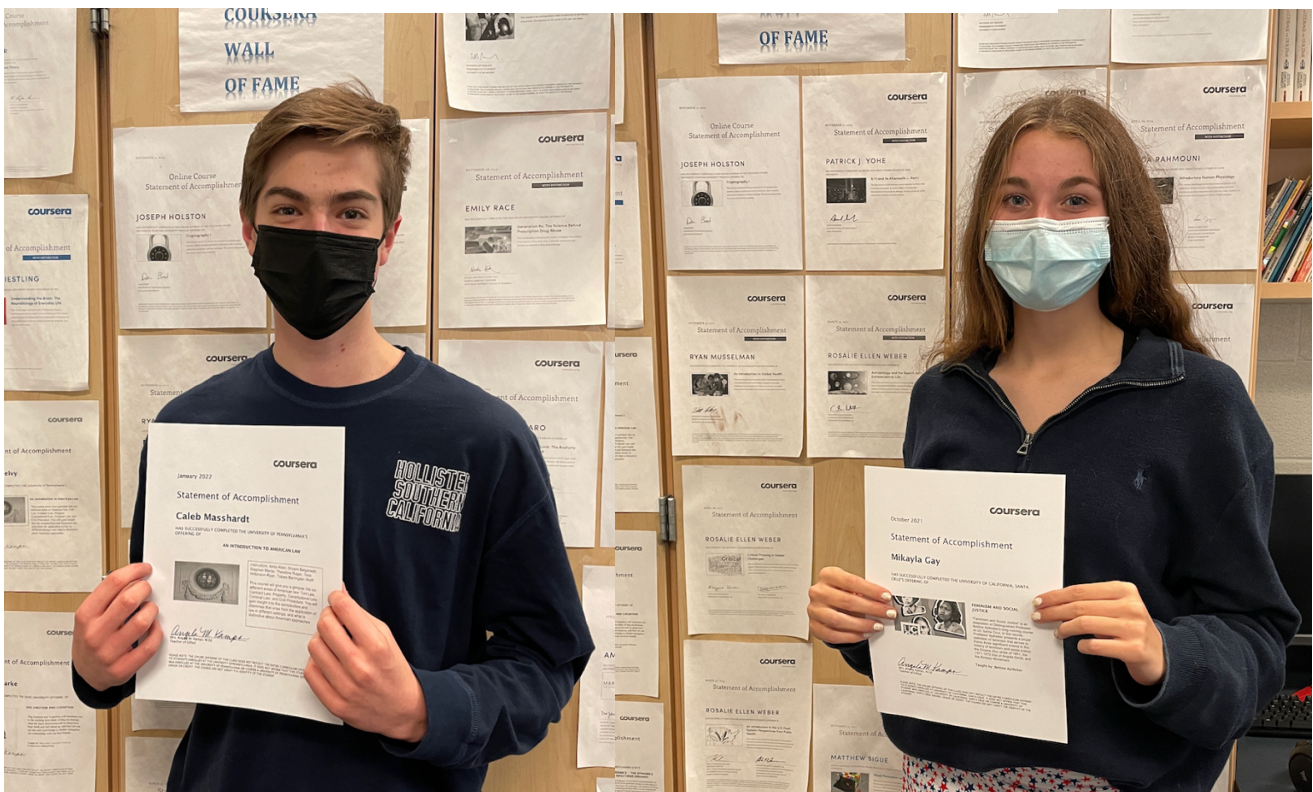




## More Massive Open Online Course Completion!



**Logan Stauffer**, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, completed two computer coding courses through Codecademy during his fall Special Interest Independent Study course. Logan successfully completed *Learn HTML* and *Learn CSS*.

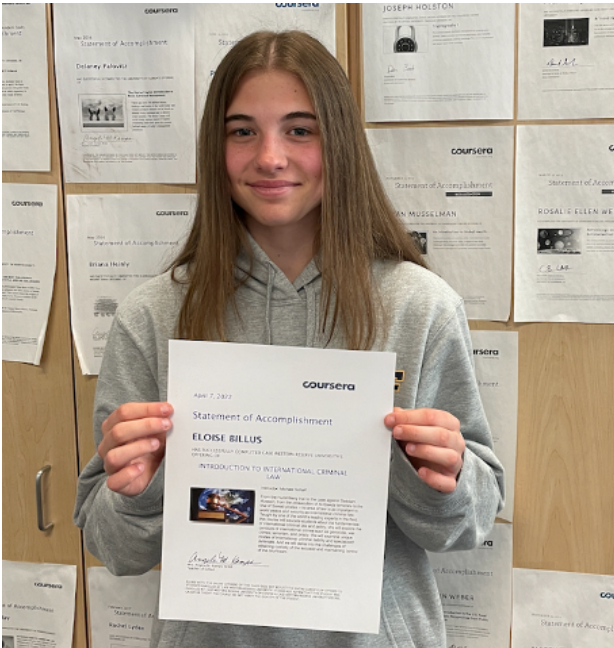


As one of his Special Interest Independent Study projects, sophomore **Caleb Maashardt** successfully completed the six-part coursera course *An Introduction to American Law* offered by the University of Pennsylvania.

**Mikayla Gay**, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, chose to complete the coursera course *Feminism and Social Justice* offered by The University of California, Santa Cruz as one of her fall Special Interest Independent Study projects.



**Spring Semester**  
*Special Interest Independent Study*  
**Massive Open Online Course Completion**



**Eloise Billus**, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, successfully completed the coursera course, *Introduction to International Criminal Law* through Case Western Reserve University as one of her self-selected Special Interest Independent Study projects.

**Congratulations to our Gifted Senior Student Scholarship Recipients**  
**Attending Princeton and Penn State!**



Pictured Above: Soloman Khan and Lucie Farrell

**Soloman Khan** will be attending Princeton University this fall on a full scholarship to study engineering. Soloman was also selected out of a competitive pool of over 5,300 applicants to be a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship <https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/> **Lucie Farrell** will be attending Penn State with a full scholarship to study engineering. Lucie was the recipient of the Clark Scholars Program <https://www.engr.psu.edu/clark-scholars/index.aspx>



# GHD ENGINEERING PRESENTATION



At the beginning of the school year on September 23, GHD Engineers gave a virtual presentation to Cedar Cliff and Red Land junior and senior students interested in learning more about the different fields in engineering.

Teachers of Gifted, Mrs. Kamps and Mrs. VanEtten organized the presentations for the high schools. Mrs. Margo Weigner, GHD Senior Project Engineer, coordinated the GHD presentation to include GHD engineers in the fields of civil, environmental, mechanical process, structural, and electrical engineering.

Each engineer gave an overview of his/her discipline and educational background and answered student questions focused on the most challenging aspects of the career and the most rewarding projects. It was a wonderful afternoon highlighting these diverse and varied STEM careers.



# WRITING & ART Scholastic Winners!



Pictured above from left to right: Emma Beatty, Natalie Delavan, Tristan Metherell, Lynn Hoke, Grayson Wertz, Jackson Kane, and Evan Heisler

Congratulations to our students who won recognition in the Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art and Writing Competition! Many of these students self-selected this outlet as a Special Interest Independent Study course project or as an enrichment activity for Special Interest flex. Students who won the highest honor of gold key had their work advance to the national competition for judging. Well done!

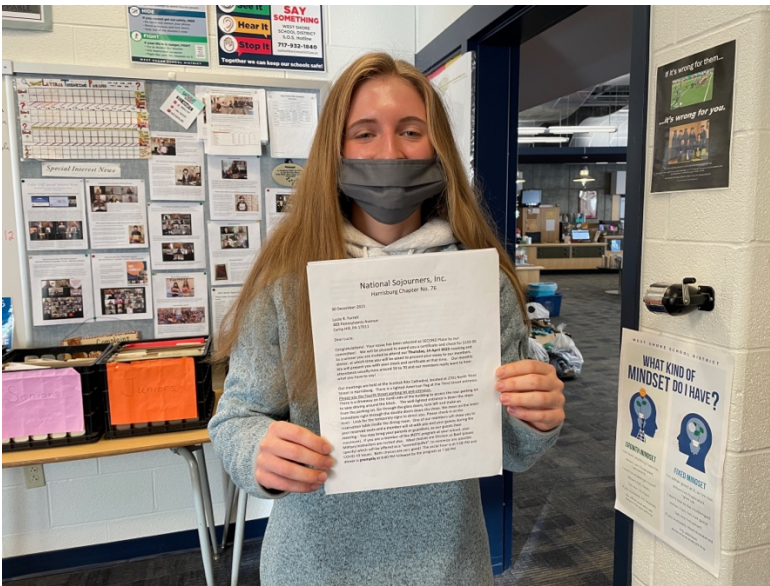
Student	Award	Category	Work Title
Emma Beatty	Silver Key	Short Story	Trapped in the Corner
Natalie Delavan	Gold Key	Painting	Little Brother
Evan Heisler	Honorable Mention	Humor	A Few Moments in the Tumultuous Life...
Lynn Hoke	Honorable Mention	Poetry	How Many Starfish Started as Just a Limb?
Jackson Kane	Gold Key	Short Story	Smile
Tristan Metherell	Silver Key	Poetry	Pericardium
Tristan Metherell	Silver Key	Humor	Tybalt & Mercutio
Tristan Metherell	Gold Key	Humor	The Haunted Summer
Grayson Wertz	Silver Key	Science Fiction & Fantasy	ReGenesis



# Sojourner 2022 Essay Contest Winners!

## Theme—Perseverance

Special Interest students chose this essay outlet as self-selected enrichment project to complete during flex time with Mrs. Kamps's guidance and feedback. Students analyzed and responded to the following prompt: *Recovery from the challenges of 2020 and 2021 will require each of us to examine what we believe and how each of us will make a difference in our country. As Adlai Stevenson said, "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." As a young adult, what have you learned this past year that will help you overcome the challenges in the future?* The following Special Interest students did an outstanding job developing their essays as enrichment project submissions: Owen Wagner 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Rebecca Laughlin 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Valerie Weigner 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Maddie Graf 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and Lucie Farrell 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



Congratulations to **Lucie Farrell** who won second place in the Sojourner Essay contest for National Sojourner Harrisburg Chapter. Lucie was recognized at the April 14 dinner meeting and was awarded \$150.00 for her essay on perseverance!

Congratulations to **Maddie Graf** who won third place in the Sojourner Essay contest for the National Sojourner Harrisburg Chapter. Maddie was awarded \$100.00 for her essay on perseverance!





**World Affairs Council of Harrisburg  
Youth Arts Competition  
Congratulations to Valerie Weigner 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner!**



Valerie self-selected this art outlet as a Special Interest flex enrichment project.

The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg sponsored the competition this fall, which was open to students in 6-12 grades interested in creating a piece of art promoting COVID-19 vaccination. Valerie developed her submission for entry and won second place and \$75.00! Valerie's art appeared on the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg's website and is featured below along with her written explanation.

**"Liquid Gold"**



I used a combination of ink, watercolor, and acrylic paint to create my artwork. I depicted a girl getting vaccinated with "liquid gold." The liquid gold symbolizes the COVID vaccine. As the vaccine is injected into the girl's arm, the gold luster is spread throughout her body. The nurse administering the vaccine also has a golden glow as she has already been vaccinated. The theme of the artwork is that as people receive their dose of "liquid gold," they glow with the immunization that they receive from the vaccine.



## Young Voices Virtual Showcase With Neil Connelly Shippensburg University



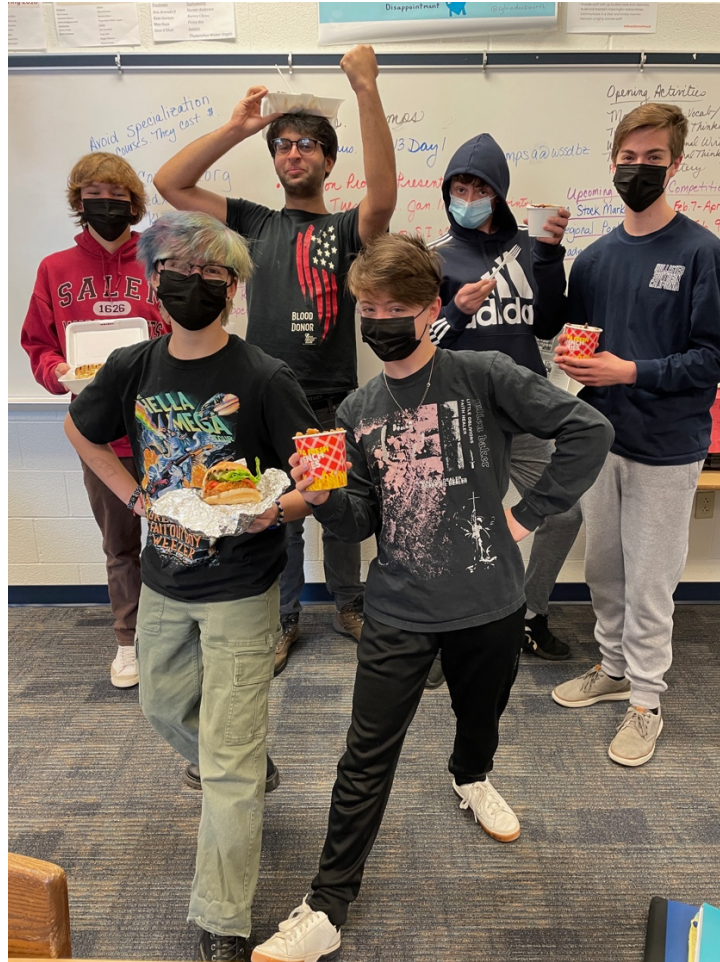
Special Interest students **Percy Baucum**, **Lynn Hoke**, and **Emma Kurtz-Olin** participated in the first *Young Voices Reading* sponsored by The Writer's Lighthouse at Shippensburg University. The event took place the evening of December 7, 2021 on Zoom. Promising writers from local high schools submitted work to Professor Connelly for review and critique. Mrs. Kamps and the students met with Professor Connelly on Zoom prior to the event to review their works and receive feedback. High School writers from Camp Hill High School, CASA, and Cedar Cliff read their works to one another for an evening of poetry and prose.





# *Special Interest Independent Study*

## **Fall Lateral Thinking Puzzle Champions**



Pictured above from left to right, back to front: **Liam Gannon, Soloman Khan, Eliot Horn, Caleb Masshardt, Percy Baucum, & Tristan Metherell**

Congratulations to Special Interest Independent Study period 6 class who won the lateral thinking puzzle challenge! The competition was held among the five Special Interest Independent Study classes in the fall semester. Each class works together to solve weekly lateral thinking puzzles. The class with the fewest number of total minutes needed to solve all of the puzzles during the semester, wins a prize from Mrs. Kamps.

During the fall semester, Mrs. Kamps's period 6 class won and chose food from Joey's Chicken Shack as their reward. Each class solved 21 puzzles for the semester. In solving these puzzles students incorporate collaboration, questioning skills, listening skills, as well as inductive and deductive reasoning.

### **Total Times Fall Semester**

Period 1: 136 minutes 45 sec.  
Period 2: 70 minutes 58 sec.  
Period 3: 110 minutes 25 sec.  
Period 5: 103 minutes 55 sec.  
Period 6: 67 minutes 33 sec.



## FLEX ENRICHMENT BREAK OUT!

Special Interest Students had fun creating break out activities for other Special Interest students to solve. These break out scenarios mimic escape rooms. Students have 45 minutes to solve all of the puzzles based on a theme. Students in flex enrichment self-selected this activity to create and/or solve. Many were very successful and had a great time using their critical thinking and problem-solving skills to advance through the challenges!

Pictured below: Senior **Sunshine Jimenez** brought back a Shakespeare break out activity that she had created in Special Interest in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. **Owen Wagner** 9<sup>th</sup> grade and **Owen Shensky** 9<sup>th</sup> grade successfully solved the puzzles and broke out! **Elliot Stark-Blosser** 9<sup>th</sup> grade created an original break out as a flex enrichment activity, and **Jackson Kane** 9<sup>th</sup> grade broke out!





# Cedar Cliff Gifted Alumni Visit Class of 2017



Students in 6<sup>th</sup> period Special Interest Independent Study with our guest speakers. Pictured left to right: Liam Gannon, Noah Farrell, Sarah Brock, Avery Peiffer, Eliot Horn, Tristan Metherell, Caleb Masshardt, and Percy Baucum.

On January 5, 2022 Mrs. Kamps welcomed back to Cedar Cliff former gifted students and Cedar Cliff graduates from the class of 2017!

Sarah Brock, Avery Peiffer, and Noah Farrell returned to share with current Special Interest students their college experiences and their choice of majors.

## Here is the update on our gifted alumni!

**Sarah Brock** is a graduate of James Madison with a BS in biophysical chemistry and a minor in math. Currently, Sarah works as the Lead Patient Care Technician at the UPMC West Shore Hospital and is in the process of applying to medical school.

**Noah Farrell** is a graduate of Pittsburgh University where he double majored in statistics and economics. Currently, Noah is attending graduate school at the University of Florida for sports management.

**Avery Peiffer** graduated from Pittsburgh University with a BS in computer engineering. He is completing a 4 + 1 master's degree program and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh University's MS in electrical and computer engineering program.



Pictured above: Emma Kurtz-Olin with Noah Farrell, Sarah Brock, and Avery Peiffer.



# Congratulations Stock Market Participants



Eight Special Interest teams competed in the 10-week regional stock market game simulation this spring. Students learned about diversification and portfolio management during flex enrichment and independent study. Teams invested "\$100,000.00" in the market using real-time online trading. **Congratulations to the top performing CCHS S.I. students, Liam Gannon, Owen Wagner, and Rayna Johnson who placed 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively out of 110 student teams competing in the region!** Top performing investments were EQT Corp., which increased 70%, Tesla, which increased 28%, and Coca Cola Consolidated, which had a gain of 23%.

## Looking for something to do this summer?

Mrs. Kamps has links and resources listed on her Schoology Roster course for Gifted Students, which all Special Interest students are enrolled in and have access to. Below are some highlights of what is listed within the course folder: Summer Programs/Internships.

**Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week:** "Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week provides practical, hands-on education not found in any other business program. Students are immersed in the exciting world of business, and in one short week, they come to understand and appreciate our American free enterprise system, leaving with a newfound passion and clarity for their future."

Choose your week:                      Dates: July 3-8                      July 10-15                      July 24-29                      July 31-August 5  
Apply: <https://www.pfew.org/pfew-info>

**Teagle Seminar at Dickinson College:** "The seminar is part of a remarkable initiative from the Teagle Foundation which helps introduce high school students to a series of great texts that address fundamental questions about freedom, democracy, and self-government. Everything about the program is **free**, including residential room and board."

Dates: July 10-29 on Dickinson College Campus

Deadline to apply: May 15                      <https://housedivided.dickinson.edu/sites/teagle/how-to-apply/>

**World Affairs Council of Harrisburg Internship** Available to high school and college students: "Students will gain in-depth knowledge of international, national, and local affairs. They will also organize the annual International Young Leaders Conference that will be held via Zoom in August 2022. Hours are flexible and the 2022 program will be REMOTE via Zoom meetings. There also is the possibility of socially distanced visits to area museums, the state Capitol and other locations." Apply: <https://wacharrisburg.org/students/intern/>