

Cedar Cliff Special Interest News

Teacher- Mrs. Kamps

May 2017

Special Interest Academic Worldquest Team
Advanced to National Competition in Washington D.C.!



Congratulations to winning senior student team members: Avery Peiffer, Nada Rahmouni, Patrick Yohe, and Aidan Moretz (pictured above) who won first place on Saturday, April 1 at the Academic Worldquest competition held at Elizabethtown College and sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg. Two Special Interest teams from Cedar Cliff competed at the regional level (see photo far right). The senior team won the regional competition and then advanced to represent Cedar Cliff and the state of PA at the National competition in Washington D.C.

Students prepared for months in and out of their Special Interest flex time and Special Interest Independent Study class by studying topics that affect our world such as: infectious diseases, women in technology, global megacities, and climate geopolitics; to answer 100 questions focused on these issues. Mrs. Kamps served as the advisor for the teams and accompanied the winning team to Washington D.C. for nationals.



Junior team members who also competed at Elizabethtown College included: Oussama Rahmouni, Patrick Wiestling, Anthony Perez, and Jacob Miller (pictured above at far right).



Pictured Above from left to right: Russell Goodman, Dr. Joyce Davis, Patrick Yohe, Aidan Moretz, Nada Rahmouni, Avery Peiffer, Mrs. Angela Kamps. Students received their first place award at Elizabethtown College on April 1, 2017.

Our first place team beat teams from Milton Hershey, Harrisburg Academy, and Cumberland Valley to emerge victorious on April 1, 2017.

These students then advanced to represent Cedar Cliff and the state of PA in Washington D.C. on April 28 and 29 competing against other teams across the country. They attended a welcome reception at the United States Institute of Peace to engage with staff and learn about the USIP's important work around the world. They competed at the National Press Club on April 29.

Thank you to the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg and Dr. Joyce Davis, who served as the National Master of Ceremonies, for sponsoring the local competition and sponsoring our stay in Washington D.C. We are very proud of the students' efforts and accomplishments!



National Competition at the National Press Club, Washington D.C.

Corinne Firestone Competes in History Day at Messiah College



Freshman student, Corinne Firestone represented Cedar Cliff at the History Day competition on Saturday, March 4, 2017. Over 550 students from 32 schools competed in the largest history day regional event to be held at Messiah College. This year's competition theme was *Taking a Stand in History*. Corinne wrote a research paper focusing on the heroes of September 11, 2001 who took a stand against terrorism on United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Corinne conducted her research as one of her Special Interest enrichment projects out of her flex this year with Mrs. Kamps. Next year's 2017-2018 History Day theme is *Conflict and Compromise*.

Update on Voice of Democracy Competition Results



Pictured above from left to right at the VFW banquet: Ms. Chenlye Lauer, Auxiliary president; Nada Rahmouni, Caroline Kaiser, Maura Fleming, and Mr. Joe Colonna, VFW Post 537 Commander.

The Voice of Democracy audio essay competition resulted in three Cedar Cliff Special Interest students, pictured above, winning awards and scholarship money. Students wrote and recorded audio essays as Special Interest projects addressing the theme *My Responsibility to America*. Nada Rahmouni and Caroline Kaiser's essays advanced to the second level to win additional scholarship money and awards. Congratulations to them! The theme for next school year is *American History Our Hope for the Future*. The first place prize at the national level is a \$30,000.00 scholarship.

Special Interest Students Compete in Computerized Titan Business Challenge Simulation



Nathan Helvy, senior Special Interest student, organized the first Cedar Cliff in-house Titan Business Challenge for our students this year. The competition was held in February for student teams of two. The teams prepared for the competition during their Special Interest flex and Independent Study class time. In the simulation, students learned about budgeting skills for a small business by selling futuristic products called “hologenerators.” The teams made decisions about pricing their product and marketing costs as well as analyzing production demands, capital investment, depreciation and demand potential in order to achieve the highest performance index.

After two rounds of competition, the team of Max Clark and Nathan Helvy won second place, and Noah Farrell and Patrick Yohe won first place. Student winners are pictured above with their prizes, which consisted of Amazon gift cards, candy, and certificates, courtesy of Mrs. Kamps.

Thanks to Nathan Helvy for resurrecting this competition, which Junior Achievement discontinued three years ago. The students had a fantastic time!

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Congratulations to Special Interest students who entered and won awards in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition! Students worked on their submissions as Special Interest projects. Over 2,300 entries from over 70 area schools submitted pieces for consideration. Students were recognized at a regional awards ceremony in Harrisburg. Those students who won Gold Key awards advanced to the national level for judging. Well done!

Hanna Edwards	Honorable Mention Poetry <i>Ronan</i>
Maura Fleming	Gold Key, American Voices Nominee Poetry <i>Hidden Signs</i>
Maura Fleming	Honorable Mention Personal Essay/Memoir <i>The Suicide Talk</i>
Maura Fleming	Silver Key Personal Essay/Memoir <i>Un Mundo</i>
Maura Fleming	Honorable Mention Flash Fiction <i>Goodnight Moon</i>
Maura Fleming	Honorable Mention Personal Essay/Memoir <i>Little Me</i>
Hannah Flick	Honorable Mention Poetry <i>A Fleeting Thing, His Home, Gratification</i>
Hannah Flick	Silver Key Drawing Illustration <i>Host</i>
Emily Guk	Honorable Mention Drawing and Illustration <i>December 10</i>
Rhiannon Loza	Honorable Mention Drawing and Illustration <i>Oh Happy Day</i>
Rhiannon Loza	Honorable Mention Drawing and Illustration <i>Fatten Them Up</i>
Abigail McBeth	Silver Key Poetry <i>The Absence of You</i>
Abigail McBeth	Honorable Mention Poetry <i>Human</i>
Lenora Pierce	Honorable Mention Writing Portfolio <i>I Promise It's Not So Bad</i>
Nada Rahmouni	Gold Key Poetry <i>Eden</i>
Nada Rahmouni	Gold Key, American Voices Nominee Poetry <i>This Poem is not About a Romantic Drama</i>
Nada Rahmouni	Gold Key Poetry <i>This Poem is not About Snow White</i>
Nada Rahmouni	Honorable Mention Poetry <i>Hermetically Sealed</i>
Nada Rahmouni	Silver Key Writing Portfolio <i>Youth</i>

Nada Rahmouni- National Scholastic Writing Award Winner Travel to Carnegie Hall, New York City For Awards Ceremony!



Mrs. Kamps is proud to announce that senior Nada Rahmouni will be receiving national recognition for her poetry. Nada won **two Scholastic Writing National Silver Medals and an American Voices award** for her poems entitled: *This Poem is Not About a Romantic Drama* and *This Poem is Not About Snow White*. First Nada won gold keys at the regional scholastic writing level, which then advanced to the national competition, to then culminate with these honors. Over 330,000 entries were submitted for art and writing, so the fact that Nada won at the national level places her in the top 1% of entries in the nation. Nada submitted her creative writing pieces as a Special Interest project through Mrs. Kamps. Nada will be traveling to New York City in June for the Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall!

Special Interest Independent Study Class Lateral Thinking Puzzle Winners



Congratulations to the fifth block Independent Study class: Garrett Helvy, Erik Homovich, Nithin Pranesh, and Nathan Helvy (pictured left). These students won the lateral thinking puzzle competition among Mrs. Kamps's Independent Study classes. They solved puzzles for the entire semester in the least amount of time. Mrs. Kamps rewarded them with a *Joey's Chicken Shack* treat at the end of the school year.

Special Interest Students Take Online College Courses

The following students took free online college courses via coursera.org during this school year during Special Interest Independent Study, through flex period enrichment, or on their own time. The students do not receive college credit for the courses, but they do gain valuable knowledge on the subject matter of their choice.

For more information visit [coursera.org](https://www.coursera.org), also on Mrs. Kamps's website.

Amelia Clarke *Dog Emotion and Cognition* Duke University

Marisa Williamson *Epidemics- The Dynamics of Infectious Diseases* Penn State University

Rachel Lyden *Doping: Sports, Organizations, and Sciences* University of Lausanne

Garrett Helvy *Introduction to Psychology* University of Toronto

Thussenthan Walter-Angelo *Understanding the Brain: The Neurobiology of Every Day Life* University of Chicago

Trevor Flick *Psychological First Aid* Johns Hopkins University

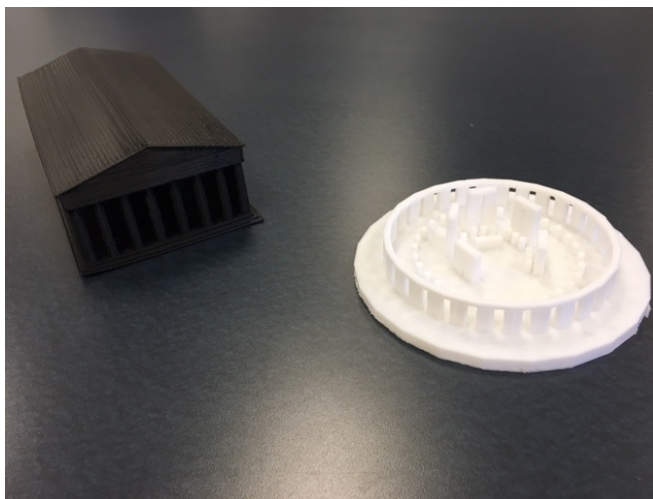
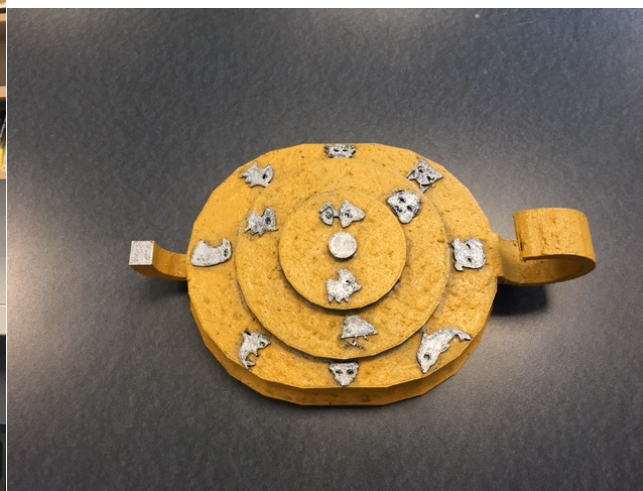
Corinne Firestone *Greening the Economy: Sustainable Cities* Lund University

Students Participate in the Spring 3-2-1 Academic Competition



On April 4, Special Interest students competed in the nationwide online academic contest, the *3-2-1 Competition*. Our team spent two hours answering 100 questions focused on a variety of topics including: music, math, science, literature, and art. Senior Aidan Hilt was elected to serve as the captain of the team. Senior Aidan Moretz was elected as second in command. The team had a final score of 271/486 points raking 60 out of 139 in the nation and 7 out of 22 in PA.

Students Create 3-D Printer Projects



Seniors Nathan Helvy, Lenora Pierce, and Matthew Sigue (all pictured above) completed projects using the new 3-D printer this school year. Matthew and Nathan created small replicas of The Parthenon and Stonehenge for Mr. Reilly's World History display case. The students used the sketch up computer program to design the structures and then printed them using the 3-D printer, located in Mr. Sload's room, a West Shore Foundation Grant recipient.

Nathan recreated the West Shore School District's Lamp of Excellence in Education with each school's mascot highlighted on the top of the structure. Lenora Pierce used her artistic skills to design the mascots and paint the lamp.

These projects are excellent examples of the interdisciplinary approach to learning, using the team efforts of the students and the different departments: gifted, history, and art to create meaningful final structures. The students used their Special Interest Independent Study class time, flex time, and out of school time to plan and prepare for the final printing. Throughout the process, the students dedicated much effort to problem solving any issues met with the 3-D printer and/or design program to have ultimate success!

Congratulations to Graduating Special Interest Students!

On Friday, May 19, Mrs. Kamps honored the Special Interest seniors with a breakfast gathering. Twenty-one Special Interest students graduated this year. During the meeting, students received mementos from Mrs. Kamps as well as the letters that they wrote to themselves during their freshman year.

Out of 21 seniors, 19 students took the Special Interest Independent Study elective class at least one time during their high school years. Many of those students also participated in the gifted program out of flex periods and/or regular education classes for enrichment/acceleration. They have been a special group!

Two senior Special Interest students, Maura Fleming and Nithin Pranesh, took the Independent Study elective class each year of high school and were presented with special gifts from Mrs. Kamps.



Senior Special Interest Students' Plans We Wish You Well!



Hailie Baker- IUP Pre-Med

Grant Breneman- Colgate- Mathematical Economics

Sarah Brock- James Madison University- Biophysical Chemistry

Amelia Clarke- Penn State Harrisburg- Elementary Education

Hannah Edwards- Elizabethtown College- English

Noah Farrell- University of Pittsburgh- Statistics

Maura Fleming- Duquesne University- Pharmacy

Nathan Helvy- University of California Berkeley- Physics

Aidan Hilt- University of Rhode Island- Computer Science

Abigail McBeth- University of New Mexico- Computer Science

Aidan Moretz- Lehigh University- Mechanical Engineering

Jordan Mushalko- Duquesne University- Chemistry

Avery Peiffer- University of Pittsburgh- Electrical Engineering

Lenora Pierce- Bloomsburg University- Pre-Vet

Nithin Pranesh- Penn State University- Computer Science & Mathematics

Emily Race- University of Miami- Biomedical Engineering

Nada Rahmouni- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill- Biology

Hunter Reiner- Elizabethtown College- Engineering

Matthew Sigue- West Virginia University- Computer Science

Claire Tierney- Tufts University- Chemical Engineering

Patrick Yohe- University of Pittsburgh ROTC Program- Business