

# Cedar Cliff Special Interest News

Mrs. Angela Kamps, M.Ed. Gifted, Gifted Support Teacher  
May 2021, Year in Review

## Academic Worldquest Teams Compete at the National Level!



[World Affairs Councils of America](#)

[World Affairs Council of Harrisburg](#)

Congratulations to the Cedar Cliff Special Interest Academic Worldquest teams! On March 20, our teams won first and second places in the Harrisburg competition, which advanced the teams to compete at the national level on April 17, 2021! Typically, we would have traveled to Washington D.C. for the national competition, but this year it was held on Zoom. More than 400 students on 105 teams competed from across the country. Cedar Cliff students prepared for the competition in Gifted Independent Study or through flex enrichment by reading about world affairs in ten different competition categories: Global Protests; Shifting Sands, the Arab Spring 10 Years On; International Labour Organization; The U.S. Foreign Service Office in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Country in Focus: Uzbekistan; Exploring Peace in a World of Conflict; Fraying Alliances, Looking to a Post-Pandemic Economy; Great Decisions; and Current Events.



**Congratulations to our first-place team!** They each won \$50 from the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg and advanced to tie for 13<sup>th</sup> place out of 42 at the national competition. Pictured above: Fiona Hilt, Mrs. Kamps (advisor), Addison Clouser (captain), Kate Gannon, and Soloman Khan-Syed.

**Congratulations to our second-place team!** They each won \$25 from the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg and advanced to tie for 29<sup>th</sup> place out of 42 at the national competition. Pictured above: Maria Rahmouni (captain), Mrs. Kamps (advisor), Michael Flamini, Mikayla Gay, and William Gannon.

## Congratulations Scholastic Writing Winners



Students prepared entries for the Scholastic Art and Writing competition as self-selected personalized learning projects during their time in the Gifted Special Interest Independent Study course or through their enrichment time out of flex periods. Congratulations to the students who were recognized with regional honors!

[Scholastic Art and Writing](#)

Pictured above from left to right: **Charlie Hoke**- Silver Key Flash Fiction, **Braedon Dibble**-Honorable Mention Science Fiction & Fantasy, **Natalie Delavan**- Gold Key Personal Essay & Memoir, advanced to national level, **Tristan Metherell**- Honorable Mention Personal Essay & Memoir, **Kayleigh Hart**- Honorable Mention Science Fiction & Fantasy, **Grayson Wertz**-Honorable Mention Science Fiction & Fantasy, **Maria Rahmouni**- Honorable Mention Poetry, Honorable Mention Personal Essay & Memoir, Gold Key Poetry advanced to nationals, Silver Key Poetry, Honorable Mention Writing Portfolio, and **Fiona Hilt** (not pictured)- Silver Key Short Story.

## VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay First-Place Winner

### Congratulations to Cedar Cliff junior Soloman Khan-Syed!

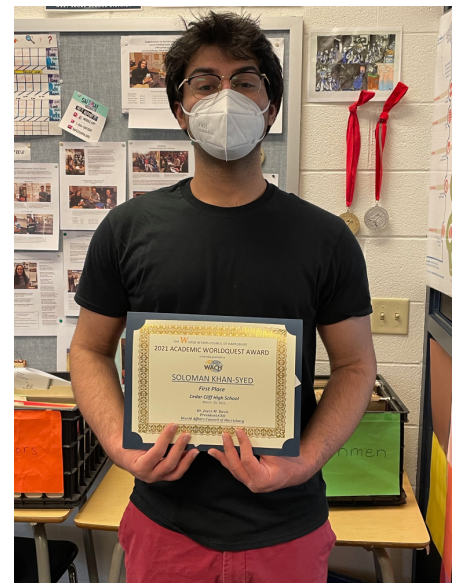
Soloman won first place and \$300.00 in the regional New Cumberland VFW Post Voice of Democracy audio essay competition. Soloman prepared his essay as a self-selected personalized learning Special Interest enrichment project.

Soloman's audio essay answered the theme, *Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?* Soloman's winning audio essay then advanced to the District 18 level, which judged student winners from Cumberland, Dauphin, and Lebanon Counties.

Soloman's essay won second place at this advanced District 18 level, and he was awarded an additional \$400.00! Well done Soloman in addressing the theme and winning second place at the district level!

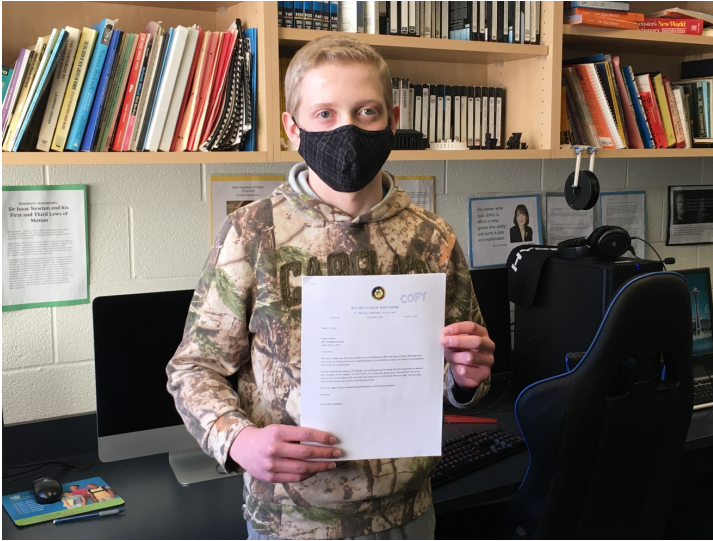
The national winner of this competition is awarded a \$30,000 scholarship. The competition is open to 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students each year.

[VFW Voice of Democracy](#) The 2021/22 theme is *Where Do We Go From Here?*





## West Shore Rotary Four-Way Test Essay Competition



Congratulations to 9th grade student Ethan Hoffert!

Ethan won recognition in the West Shore Rotary's Four-Way Test essay contest by addressing the prompt, *Is it the Truth? – How I Define What is True in My Life*. The competition was open to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Ethan won acknowledgement and a monetary award. Ethan prepared his essay as a Special Interest self-selected project during his flex enrichment time.

Congratulations on the award and in representing Cedar Cliff in this competition!

## Zyler Woof wins 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the PA Stock Market Simulation

Congratulations to senior Zyler Woof!

Zyler recently finished in third place out of 68 teams competing in the 10-week Regional Spring PA Stock Market Game Simulation (Feb. 8-April 16), sponsored by the Foundation of Free Enterprise! The Foundation recognized Zyler during a recent Zoom Awards Ceremony on May 18.

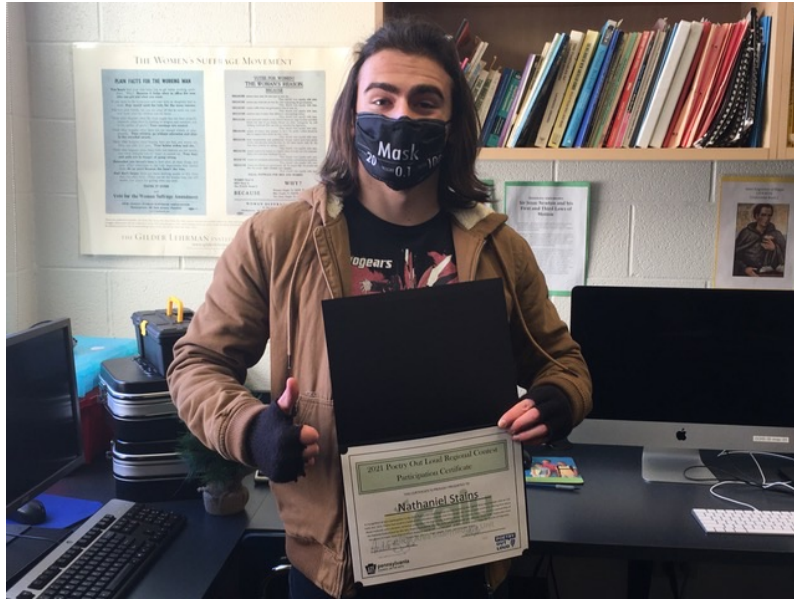
Zyler invested "\$100,000.00" in the stock market and ended the 10-week competition with an equity of "\$109,711.94."

Zyler outperformed neighboring teams from Manheim, Trinity, Ephrata, Hershey, and Red Land. Zyler's top earning stock was short selling 95 shares of Game Stop to make over \$10,000.00 and a 40% return. Great job Zyler!



Zyler chose to prepare and participate in this competition as a Special Interest flex enrichment project. Other Cedar Cliff gifted students who chose this as a personalized flex enrichment activity included the teams of Evan Heisler and Grayson Wertz (ranked 6/68), Ian McCurdy (ranked 7/68), Maddie Graf and Mikayla Gay (ranked 13/68), Cade Griva and Eliot Horn, Karina Chima, and Michael Flamini. During their gifted enrichment time, students learned about the basics of researching companies and making investment decisions of buying, selling, short selling, and short covering. Teams had success with their investments in Tesla, Amazon, and Alphabet Inc. [PA Stock Market Simulation](#)

## Poetry Out Loud!



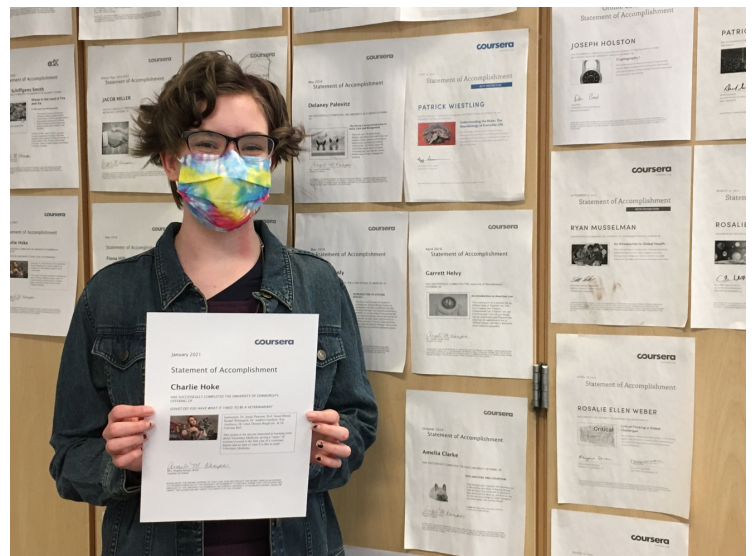
Congratulations to junior **Nathaniel Stains** who advanced and represented Cedar Cliff High School in the Regional *Poetry Out Loud* competition on February 3, 2021! The competition was held virtually and sponsored by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. Nathaniel interpreted and presented three memorized poems to a team of judges, teachers, and fellow competitors. The high school contestants represented Cumberland, Dauphin, and Lebanon counties. Nathaniel chose to prepare and memorize these poems as a personalized enrichment flex project through the gifted program. Nathaniel did a fantastic job! Way to go! [Poetry Out Loud](#)

## Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and Independent Study

During the fall semester, ninth grade student **Charlie Hoke** completed an online course, *Do You Have What It Takes to Be A Veterinarian?* The course was offered free of charge through The University of Edinburgh via Coursera.org.

Charlie watched online lectures by professors who are experts in their field, took Cornell notes, and completed quizzes. Charlie successfully completed the course and earned a Statement of Accomplishment. She self-selected this course as a personalized learning project through the gifted program's Special Interest Independent Study Course.

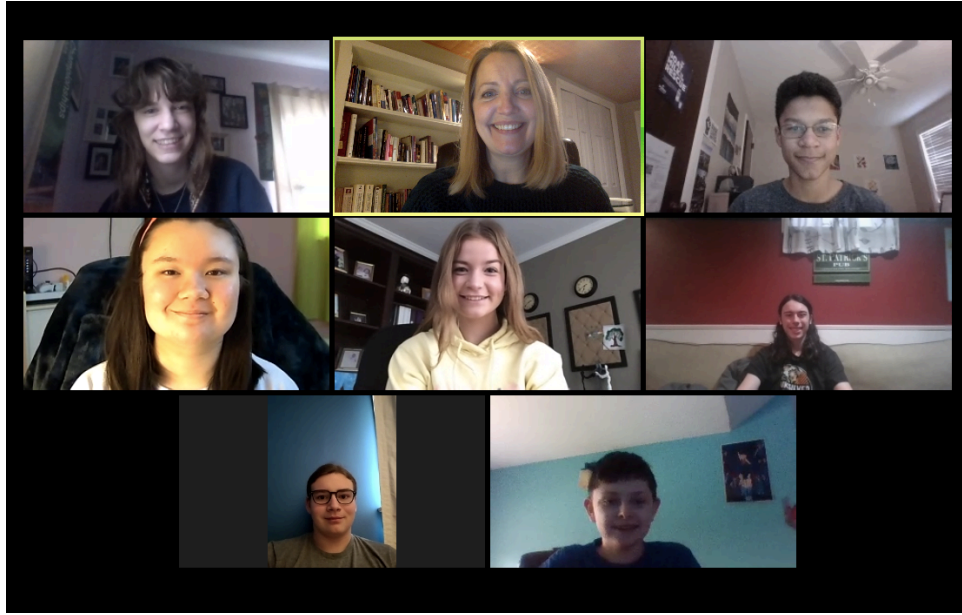
Students may choose from a wide variety of MOOCs including [Coursera](#), [edX](#), [Khan Academy](#), and [Dash Coding](#).



Charlie Hoke pictured above with her Statement of Accomplishment by the Coursera Wall of Fame in the Special Interest room.



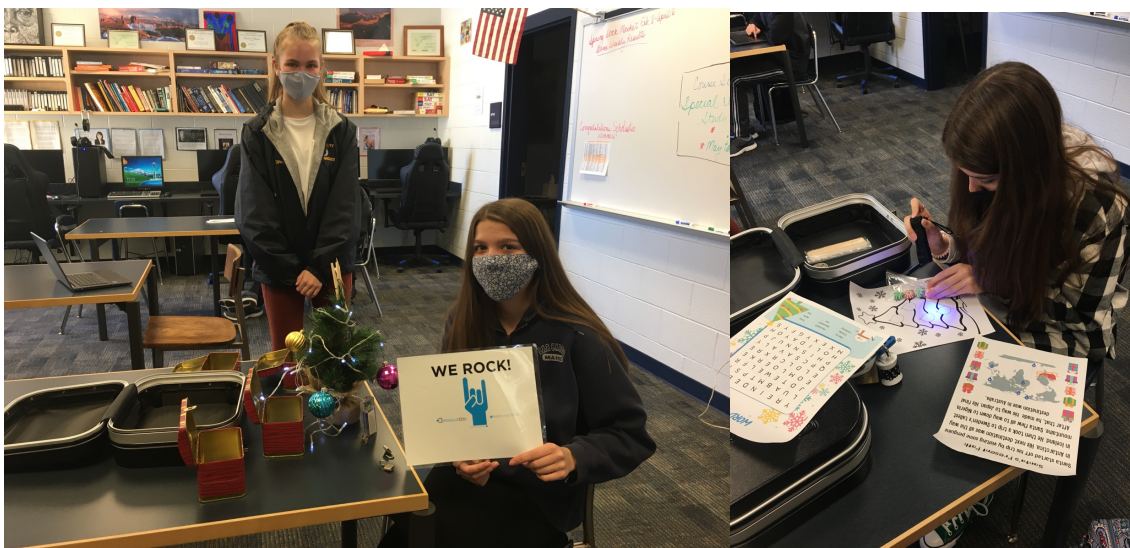
## Special Interest Independent Study Course



Pictured above: students attending Mrs. Kamps's second period S.I. Independent Study Course during the fall semester. From left-to right: Fiona Hilt, Mrs. Kamps, Jonah Schiffgens-Smith, Kayleigh Hart, Kassidy Kramer, Jackson Clay, Sean McCurdy, and Eliot Horn.

Students may take the Special Interest Independent Study course for a grade and .5 credit by scheduling the [S.I. Independent Study Course 888604](#). This year five independent study courses were held fall semester and four occurred in the spring semester. In addition to self-selecting individualized areas of study based on strengths and interests, students complete two Socratic Seminar Philosophical Units each semester. Students analyzed and discussed primary text documents written by Plato, Aristotle, Ayn Rand, and Immanuel Kant. Some individual projects included studying Arabic, Japanese, creative writing, and computer programming. For more information watch Mrs. Kamps's [video explanation of course](#) and review the [course description](#).

## Break Out!



Freshman student **Valerie Weigner** created an original holiday themed break out activity as a flex enrichment project. Valerie designed puzzles and set combination locks in order to produce this one-of-a-kind challenge. Fellow freshman student Rebecca Laughlin had fun testing the activity and solving the puzzles! She was successful in breaking out!

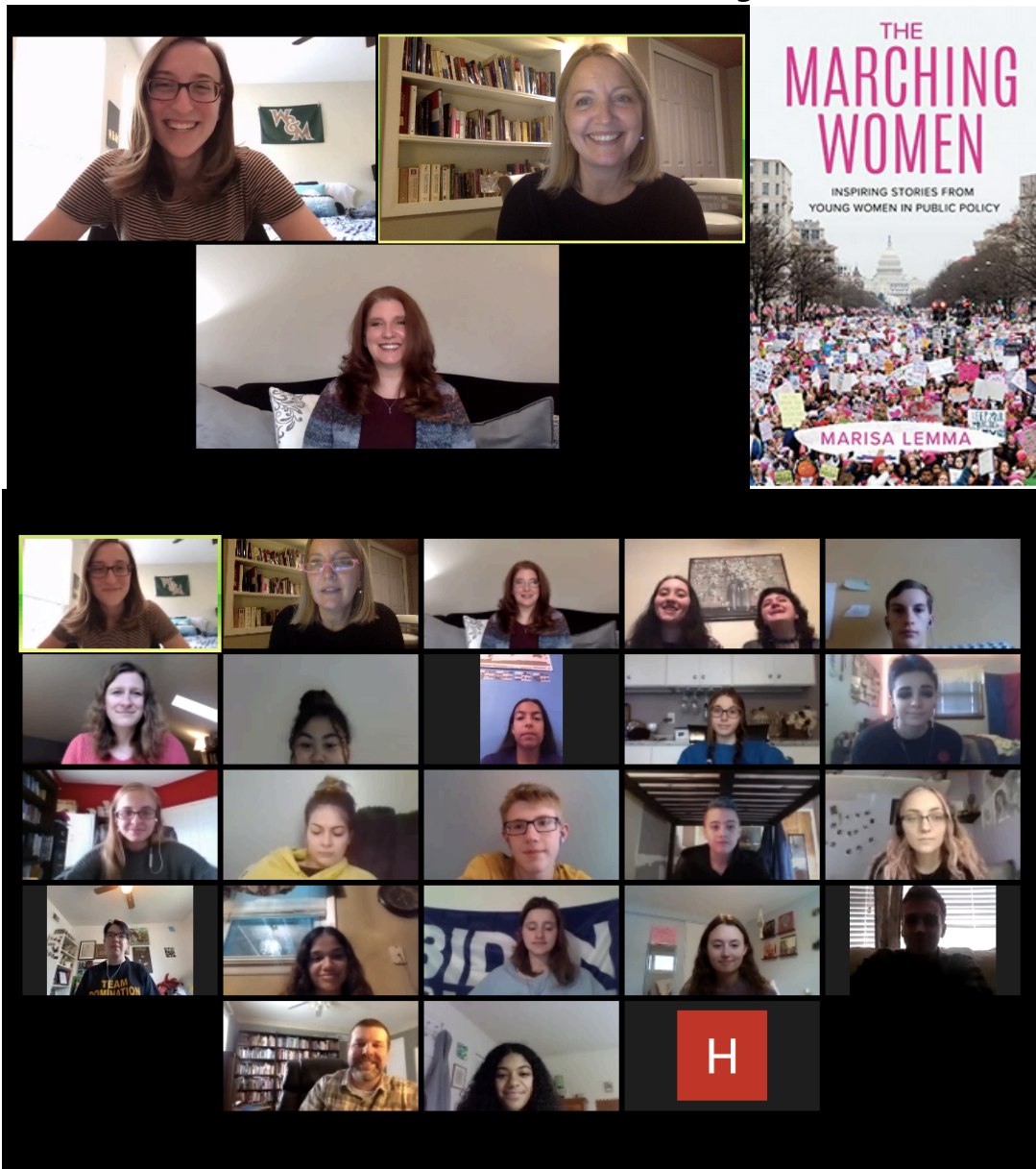
# Red Land and Cedar Cliff Gifted Programs

## *Special Interest Speaker Series, Marisa Lemma*

In order to inspire, engage, and empower students; the Red Land and Cedar Cliff Gifted Programs jointly organized a Special Interest Speaker Series. The presentations occurred after school via Zoom and were available to all interested high school students.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> we welcomed author **Marisa Lemma** to present information on researching, writing, and publishing her book, *Marching Women Inspiring Stories from Young Women in Public Policy*, a book that explores the ways for young women to create change in their communities. A Georgetown professor reached out to Marisa to encourage her to write her book through the [Creator Institute Program](#) a hybrid publishing program. Marisa is a first year Master of Public Policy student at the University of Virginia. Prior to starting at UVA, she attended the College of William & Mary, where she received a Bachelor's degree in government.

**Marisa Lemma Author of *The Marching Women***





# Red Land and Cedar Cliff Gifted Programs

## *Special Interest Speaker Series, Neil Connelly*

On November 13<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Neil Connelly, published author and professor of English at Shippensburg University.

Professor Connelly presented a very interactive creative writing workshop to the attendees. He instructed on word choice and descriptive details as well as pacing.

In addition, he presented sample writing prompts and offered helpful tips and recommendations when addressing students' writing samples.

Professor Connelly is the Keeper of the Writer's Lighthouse at Ship [First Light](#), *The Online Journal of Exceptional High School Writing*.









*Author Visit*

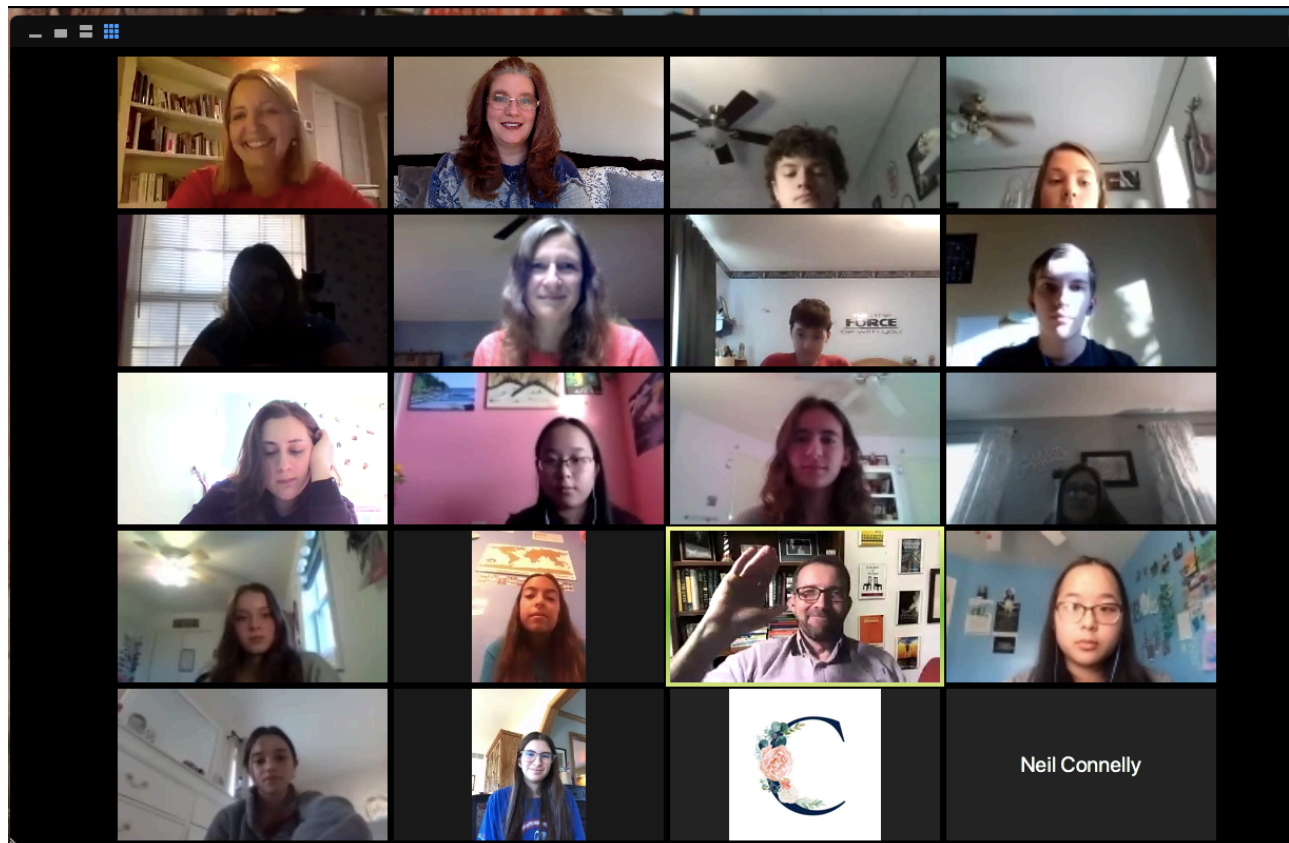
# NEIL CONNELLY

NOVEMBER 13TH @ 2:05

Fill out the [form](#) to RSVP and to obtain the Zoom link.

photo by Erin Collins

 Into the Hurricane 2017	 The Miracle Stealer 2010	 St. Michael's Scales 2002	 Brawler 2019	 Buddy Cooper Finds a Way... 2004	 In the Wake of Our Vows: St... 2017	 The Midlife Crisis of Co... 2013	 The Pocket Guide to Divo... 2014
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## 3-2-1 National Academic Competition

This year Cedar Cliff Special Interest students continued their participation in the online Academic Competition, the 3-2-1 Competition. Students competed in both the fall and spring settings via Zoom, answering 200 wide-ranging questions, which focused on math, science, art, music, history, and literature.

### FALL 3-2-1 TEAM



On November 20, 2020, the fall team scored 323 points with 67.2 % correct. They ended with a rank of 7th out of 17 in the state of PA and 37/117 in the nation. Pictured above from the top: **Kate Gannon, Mrs. Kamps, Zyler Woof (captain), Ethan Hoffert, Nathaniel Stains, Tyler Rogers, Emma Kurtz-Olin, Mikayla Gay, Evan Heisler, Ana Jimenez, Braedon Dibble, and William Gannon.**

### SPRING 3-2-1 TEAM



On March 12, 2021, the spring team scored 241 points with 61% correct. They ended with a rank of 10<sup>th</sup> out of 21 in the state of PA and 78/131 in the nation. Pictured above from the top: **Kate Gannon (captain), Mrs. Kamps, Zyler Woof, William Gannon, Nathaniel Stains, Mikayla Gay, and Braedon Dibble.**



## WING Mentoring



Pictured from the top: Kaila Hanlin, Mrs. Kamps, Heather Myers, Margo Weigner, Maria Rahmouni, and Lucie Farrell

On February 25, **Maria Rahmouni**-12<sup>th</sup> grade Cedar Cliff Special Interest student and **Lucie Farrell**- 11<sup>th</sup> grade Cedar Cliff Special Interest student had the opportunity to speak with three female scientists from GHD as part of their Women in GHD (WING) mentoring initiative. Margo Weigner, senior project engineer at GHD; Kaila Hanlin, architect at GHD; and Heather Myers, biologist at GHD discussed what led to their courses of study, their degrees, and their projects at GHD. It was an inspiring and informative session!

## AuthorShip Winner

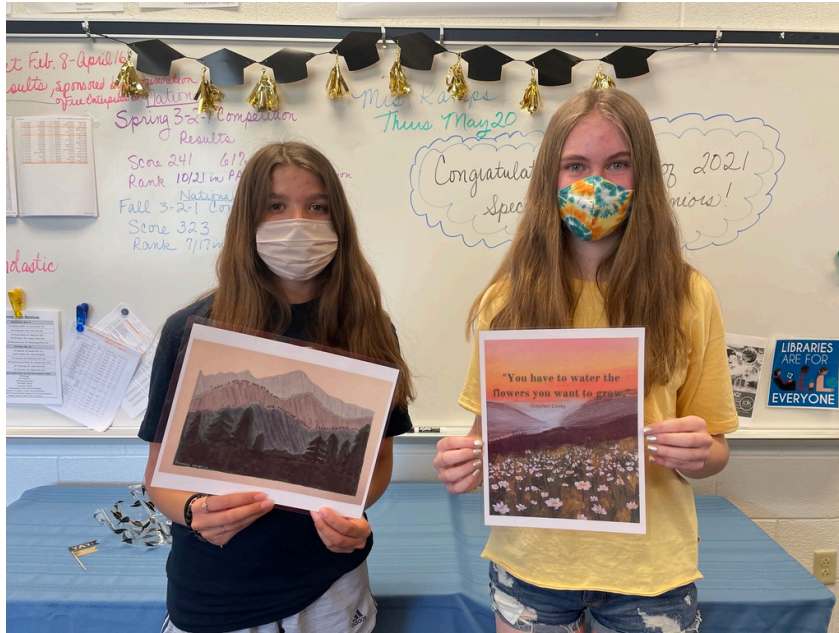


**Congratulations to senior student Maria Rahmouni!** Maria won second-place in Shippensburg University's AuthorShip competition for her fiction piece *The Cave*.

Maria won a monetary award, and her piece is now published in *The Beacon*.

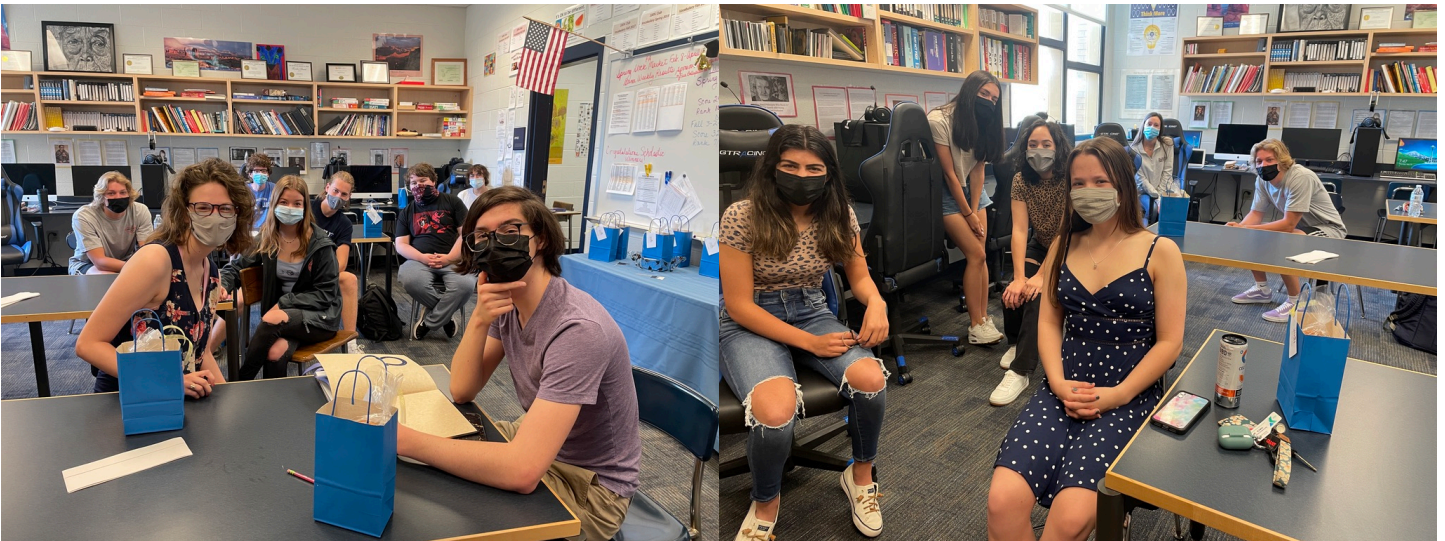
Maria created her story in response to the fall Special Interest Independent study Socratic Seminar Philosophical Discussion based on Plato's *Republic*. Each student created a project to answer the essential question: "According to Plato's *Republic* Book VII: *The Image of the Cave*, what responsibility does an enlightened person have to others? Do you agree? What historical example or present-day example can you present to support your opinion." Maria's project was her fictional story, which she then entered into the competition. Well done!

## The Tradition Continues!



For nine years, freshmen gifted students have been creating original pieces of artwork to present as gifts to our Special Interest graduating seniors. This year we thank ninth grade Special Interest students **Rebecca Laughlin** and **Valerie Weigner** for producing these beautiful mementos for our senior students!

## Congratulations Seniors!



On May 20<sup>th</sup> senior students gathered for our end of the year Special Interest Senior meeting. Students received letters that they wrote to themselves freshman year, watched a slideshow revisiting four years of activities in the high school gifted program, and received items from Mrs. Kamps. We wish our seniors well in their future endeavors and encourage them to return to Cedar Cliff to visit! Senior students: **Hunter Anderson, Lily Berrier, Karina Chima, Elias Domanski-Ferris, Michael Flaminio, Jackson Green, Fiona Hilt, Zoe Koutsokostas, Kassidy Kramer, Kathryn Ottenberg, Maria Rahmouni, Cayden Richard, Abigail Runkle, and Zyler Woof.**