South Park Cheerleaders Compete in PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships in Hershey

Congratulations to the South Park High School cheerleaders for competing in the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships in Hershey on January 20 and 21. Before they left for Hershey, students, faculty and staff from South Park High School gathered for a big send-off to wish them luck. The cheerleaders advanced to the semifinal round of the competition.

South Park School District Hires Stephen Budny as Director of Technology

The South Park School District has hired Stephen Budny as its new Director of Technology. Mr. Budny comes to the South Park School District from Westmoreland County Community College where he served as the Director of Information Technology. His work at Westmoreland County Community College included the development and implementation of a strategic plan for information systems, communication networks, instructional labs and classrooms. Mr. Budny previously worked at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit as the Supervisor of Technology.

Mr. Budny earned a bachelor’s degree in communications media and a minor in computer science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master’s degree in information systems management from Robert Morris University. Mr. Budny is expected to start at South Park in early February.

South Park School District Marks School Director Recognition Month

At the January Board of Directors meeting, South Park School District Superintendent Wayne Gdovic thanked the nine members of the School Board for their service as part of School Director Recognition Month.

Superintendent Wayne Gdovic said, “Their commitment, dedication and support never go unnoticed. South Park students come first, and all of us appreciate their tireless efforts to ensure our students succeed.”

The members of the South Park School District Board of Directors are:

- Mr. John Innocenti, President
- Mr. Frank Wentzel, Vice President
- Mrs. Mary Arrigo
- Mrs. Lorraine Blackburn
- Mr. David E. Palmer
- Mr. Wayne Perry
- Mr. Nicholas Rudolph
- Mr. Patrick Sable
- Mr. Norman Solomon
South Park Students Among Top Finishers at SkillsUSA District Competition

Several South Park students who also attend Steel Center for Career and Technical Education were recently recognized at the SkillsUSA district competition. SkillsUSA competitions are events that showcase the best career and technical education students locally, in the state and in the nation.

Morgan Pahler won first place in the commercial baking event. Morgan now advances to the state competition in Hershey this April. Good luck, Morgan!

Adaira Wilson finished in second place in the health knowledge event and Syera Davis finished in second place in the criminal justice event. Congratulations!

South Park High School Student Selected for PMEA District Chorus Festival

South Park junior Samantha Hawk was selected for the PMEA District 1 Senior High School Chorus Festival on January 11-13 at Montour High School. Samantha sang Soprano 1 in the ensemble of 160 students, under the direction of conductor Stan McGill. The festival concluded with a Friday evening concert.

Seventh Grade Students Learn More about Steel Center Programs

Students from Steel Center for Career and Technical Education came to South Park Middle School to give seventh grade students a glimpse at the programs offered at Steel Center. High school students from several nearby districts introduced students to the health assistants, electrical construction, collision repair and refinishing and the medium and heavy truck programs. South Park seventh graders were also able to ask questions about those programs.

South Park Students Win Steel Center Extra Effort Awards

Every quarter, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding attitude, work ethic, attendance and dependability. Instructors choose students to receive the Extra Effort Award. Congratulations to the following South Park students who won the Extra Effort Award:

Nadia Graham- Protective Services
Kevin Somal- Auto Mechanics

Eight Middle School Students Compete in National Hoop Shoot

Eight SPMS students were among the 47 participants in the local round of the Elk’s National Hoop Shoot, a free throw competition, on Saturday, January 7.


First place finishers will compete at the district level in February.