

# Rose Tree Media Reporter

April 2022



## DISTRICT NEWS

### District Examines Inclusivity and Belonging

The Rose Tree Media School District continues to examine systems, processes, and instructional practices throughout its schools to ensure that it is meeting the needs of all students. It is working to pursue its equity vision: *The Rose Tree Media School District cultivates and supports an inclusive culture where everyone belongs and each person's inherent dignity is honored.*

In October 2021, the District partnered with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) to conduct an equity audit to examine the RTMSD's current practices and how the District can improve in the critical areas of educational equity, belongingness, and inclusion. A DCIU team conducted 211 individual interviews with RTMSD staff, held numerous focus groups, and conducted classroom walkthroughs across each school in the district. The team collected data, input, and feedback from RTMSD staff and other stakeholders related to the district's ongoing work to support dignity and belonging for all.

On March 10, the DCIU presented its [final report](#) to our Board of School Directors. The report offers a path for RTMSD to continue its mission of ensuring an equitable educational experience for each and every student.

On March 22, the District hosted its first Dignity and Belongingness Community workshop. More than 40 parents, teachers, and a Penncrest High School student came together at Springton Lake Middle School. Teachers representing school equity teams from across the district facilitated the workshop in small groups.

"This opportunity for dialogue and discussion is critical to supporting connection, common understanding, and collaboration and I thank our families and our faculty who gave their time to join us," said Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen during the Superintendent's Report at the Board's Legislative Meeting on March 24.

Find more information about Inclusivity & Belonging on the [RTMSD website](#).



## TWO RTM EDUCATORS RECEIVE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Congratulations to Marie Costa, an educator at Media Elementary School, and Crystal Grace-Green, an educator at Glenwood Elementary School, recipients of a 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Foundation!

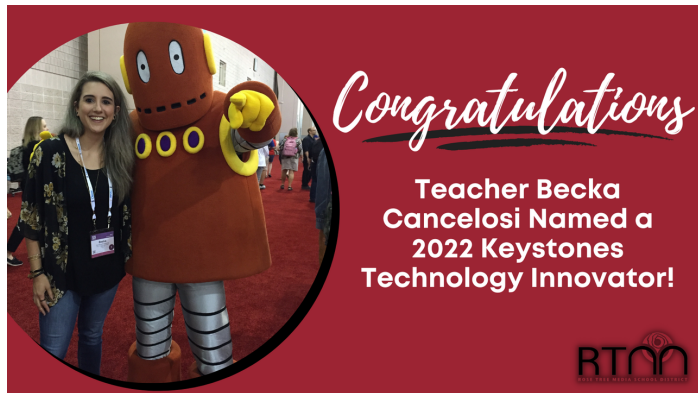
Twenty outstanding and dedicated teachers in our area won the award this year. Recipients each receive \$1,000 towards classroom expenses and a commemorative keepsake. Each recipient's school also receives a \$1,000 award.

Included in the hundreds of nominations were educators from schools serving students in Delaware County, Chester County, New Castle County, and Philadelphia. The teachers were formally recognized at a celebration during the month of April.



## INDIAN LANE'S BECKA CANCELOSI NAMED KEYSTONES TECHNOLOGY INNOVATOR

The Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology (PAECT) has named Indian Lane Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Becka Cancelosi a 2022 [Keystones Technology Innovator](#). With this honor, Cancelosi joins a group of Pennsylvania teachers who are using technology in creative ways to engage learners and raise student achievement across grade levels.



"We would like to congratulate Ms. Cancelosi on this state-level recognition for her outstanding work in integrating technology into her classroom," said John Reid, Indian Lane Elementary School Principal. "She is known for her energy and passion for ensuring her students have access to the most robust learning opportunities possible. We are excited for her to have this opportunity, which we know will benefit her students for years to come."

As part of the designation, Cancelosi will attend the [Keystone Technology Innovators STAR Summit](#) at Shippensburg University in late July. There, she will explore new teaching and learning strategies and meet other educators with whom she can collaborate and share ideas.

## National School Social Work Week

During National School Social Work Week (March 7-11), the District took a moment to express its appreciation for Bernadette Dacanay, our K12 Home and School Visitor. She does a tremendous job ensuring our students have what they need to be successful at RTMSD. Her role includes the back-to-school supply drive, winter coat distribution, support for homeless and foster care students, and more.



Thank You, Bernadette Dacanay!



## Honoring Our Board of School Directors

January 2022 was School Director Recognition Month across Pennsylvania. The Rose Tree Media School District thanked the nine members of our [Board of School Directors](#) for their volunteer service to our schools, our students, and our community.



- Ken Dinitz
- Hillary Fletcher
- Jackie Gusic
- Susan Henderson-Utis
- Shelly Hunt
- Robert Kelly
- Susan Layne
- Theresa Napson-Williams
- Kelly Schaffer



### Room to Learn, Room to Grow

Increasing enrollment has led to the need to create a responsible, sustainable, and beneficial growth plan for the Rose Tree Media School District. Our Board of School Directors has concluded that a staged investment plan over the next decade is the most responsible plan for our District and communities.

Learn more about our new elementary school building project at our Room to Learn, Room to Grow website: <https://www.roomtolearnroomtogrow.org>.

### Options for Viewing Board Meetings

The Rose Tree Media School District community is able to watch Board of School Directors meetings on the district's YouTube channel, [RTMSD Media](#). These meetings are both aired live and archived for later viewing. In addition, board meetings are aired on the school district's cable channel on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Board meeting agendas, calendars, minutes, and summaries are available on the [district website](#).



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY 2022

### Elementary School Celebrations of Black History Month

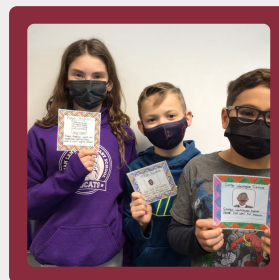
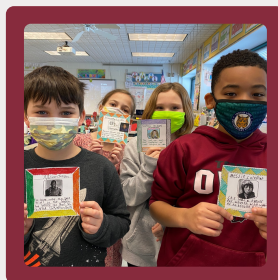
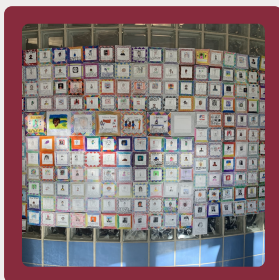
To celebrate Black History Month, elementary schools in the Rose Tree Media School District engaged in learning and service projects.

The **Glenwood ES** equity team and teachers shared numerous resources, including classroom read-alouds, biography lessons, and a Black History Month Display hung in the main hallway. On February 15th, the Musicopia West African Drum and Dance performed at an all-school virtual assembly.



All **Media ES** students participated in a day of service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each grade level chose a specific project to complete. Students collected toiletries for the Media Fellowship House, collected and sorted clothing and baby items for Cradles to Crayons, filled herb bags for the Media Food Bank, made origami hearts for the patients at Riddle Hospital, and created cards for veterans at the Aldan Post and seniors at Granite Farms Estates.

**Indian Lane ES** students worked together to create a Black History Month Quilt that was hung in the school lobby. First- and second-grade classes created one quilt square featuring the accomplishments of an inspirational individual. Third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students each selected an African-American individual to learn more about and created a square to add to the quilt. Students also read books to learn more about black history, the contributions of a variety of African Americans, and the value of diversity.



**Rose Tree ES** hosted Noah Lewis, a colonial war reenactor, who presented to an assembly of fifth-grade students. Mr. Lewis portrays Ned Hector, a bombardier at the Battle of Brandywine and considered one of the heroes of the battle. Ned was one of the many African Americans who fought for America's freedom from Great Britain. The assembly was interactive, with students learning how to fire a cannon and about the everyday life of a Revolutionary War soldier.





## READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY: MARCH 2, 2022

### Read Across the ... Rose Tree Media School District!

Here are some highlights from Read Across America Day...

**Indian Lane ES** celebrated Read Across America Day in a variety of ways during the month of March:

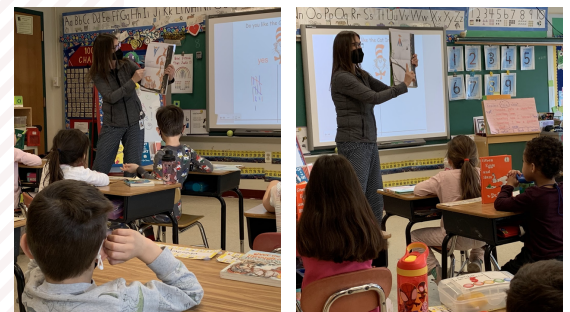
- "You've Been Book'd" where students' names are read on the morning announcements and win books.
- "Bookstagram" where students can submit a photo of themselves holding a favorite book to be printed on a poster and hung around the school and digitally displayed on the announcements.
- Welcoming student readers from Springton Lake Middle School to read books to students in kindergarten through third grade.
- "March Book Madness" where students vote on books to select a winner.



**Glenwood ES** was lucky to have Penncrest High School students visit and read books to students on March 2nd! The Penncrest readers did a fabulous job engaging the younger students.

Students also participated in "March Book Madness"! Sixteen books competed in the tournament, selected to adhere to this year's theme: "Glenwood Superheroes."

**Media ES** invited students and staff to wear pajamas for Read Across America Day this year. Students and staff brought in their favorite books to read during classroom "Drop Everything and Read" times. "Mystery readers" (teachers from across the grades) also stopped by classrooms to read -- much to the surprise and enjoyment of the students.





## MEDIA ELEMENTARY

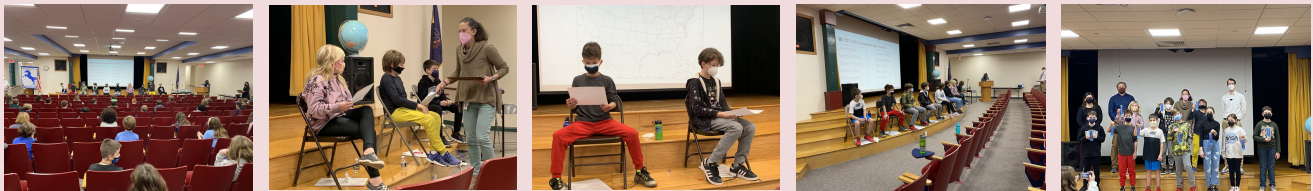
### Media Elementary Students "Traveled" The World

Media Elementary School held its annual Cultural Heritage Day in February. There were a variety of countries for students to visit! Students used passports and each of them "traveled" abroad to visit two countries. Thank you, MES families, for sharing your culture and heritage!



### Geography Bee Champion Crowned

Congratulations to Chance Gray, Media Elementary's new Geography Bee Champion! Maxwell Syzchtel finished in second place and Haily McGuire in third place.



### Media ES at One Hundred Days

In February 2022, Media Elementary School kindergarteners and first-grade students celebrated the first 100 days of learning by participating in a parade, counting collections, and dressing like centenarians.



### Student Artwork to Adorn Riddle Hospital's Patient Pavilion

Organized by [Project S.N.A.P.](#), all fifth graders throughout the district made artwork for Riddle Hospital's New Patient Pavilion. Here are several of the contributions from Media Elementary students!



### Intramural Sports Program Keeps Media ES Students Active

Media ES students participated in the intramural sports program before and after school during the winter months. The morning program, for first to fifth graders, had students using jump ropes, hula hoops, and scooters in tag and fitness challenges. The afternoon program invited fourth and fifth graders to work on more advanced skills and team play in basketball, track, and volleyball with a focus on participation, improvement, teamwork, and sportsmanship.





## GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY

### Glenwood's 2022 Winter Olympics

Glenwood Elementary School students participated in their own version of the Winter Olympics, complete with opening and closing ceremonies!

Each class represented a different country to compete in various academic competitions. Students in kindergarten through second grade created a "maze" for their ice skaters after learning the properties of magnetism. Students in third, fourth, and fifth grades learned about potential and kinetic energy, and designed a "downhill skier" to race down a wooden ski slope!

At the Olympic Closing Ceremonies, students received awards for their participation and winning events. Mrs. Coatesworth, Glenwood's music teacher, also led the fifth-grade Ukulele Club through the halls to celebrate the closing ceremonies.



### Crazy 8s!!!

Ms. Salera is sponsoring the "Crazy 8's" Math Club this spring, for third-grade students. This after-school club encourages students to collaborate, problem-solve, and follow multi-step directions, to complete challenging math projects.



During the first club meeting, students built "glow stick" tessellations while studying the different characteristics of geometry!

### 200,000 Minutes of Reading?!?!

Glenwood Elementary School kicked off its Annual Read-A-Thon in March!

Students had the opportunity to create an account, share the information with family and friends, and log their reading minutes. There are many incentives for reading, including raising money for the school playground through donations



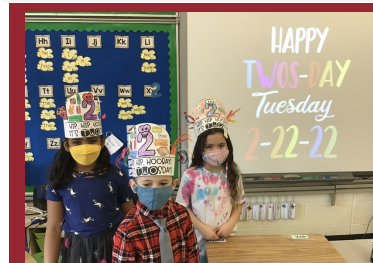
from readers' families.

This year, Glenwood students collectively read for approximately 200,000 minutes! Amazing!

### A Recognized Focus on Positive Behaviors at Glenwood

Glenwood students are regularly recognized for demonstrating the shared values of being Ready, Respectful, Responsible, and Kind. The treasure chest of green paws, its recognition system, is overflowing!

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) recognized Glenwood for its continued fidelity of implementation of [Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports \(PBIS\)](#) at the Universal (Tier 1) level and for initial recognition of fidelity at the Targeted (Tier 2) level. The PDE recognizes schools annually through the [PAPBS Implementers' Forum](#). Congratulations to Glenwood students and staff!



### TWOSday at Glenwood

Glenwood Elementary School students celebrated "TWOSday" on February 22, 2022 by participating in math and reading activities centered around the number two. It was a wonderful experience for students to learn about this "once-in-a-lifetime" occurrence!

ROSE TREE ELEMENTARY

## Rock Your Socks!

Rose Tree Elementary once again partnered with the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware to ROCK YOUR SOCKS!

On March 21, Rose Tree Elementary celebrated World Down Syndrome Day, a global awareness day that has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The date is the 21st day of the third month to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down Syndrome.



Any student that wished to participate could wear their own pair of mismatched socks to school or purchase a pair of socks at school for \$2.00. Rose Tree ROCKED its SOCKS to advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down Syndrome in our schools, community, and around the world.

### Donations to Providence Animal Shelter

During the month of February, Rose Tree Elementary's Starfish Project collected supplies for the Providence Animal Shelter. The shelter offers life-affirming rescue, medical care, treatment, protection, and placement of companion animals that forever upholds the critical importance of the human-animal bond.

### Rose Tree Students Earn "High Five" Tickets

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program creates schools where all students succeed. With the help of the school mascot, RTES announced its first round of Lucky Draw winners who received their PBIS rewards. Students who earned "High Five" Tickets were entered into drawings for extra prizes. Winners were randomly chosen and celebrated during lunch!

### Publication Celebration

Ms. Loughlin's fourth-grade classroom celebrated the inaugural publication of their literary magazine. Students took their pieces through each stage of the writing process and collaborated to prepare their work for publication. Each student received a copy of the class magazine to share with their families and had the opportunity to "read and review" each story, sharing positive feedback on one another's work. Students should be proud of their accomplishment!



## March Book Madness at Indian Lane

Mrs. Hatton, Indian Lane's teacher librarian, selected 16 books and set them up in a bracket. Teachers volunteered to record themselves reading each of the books for students to enjoy. After listening to a pair of books, the students voted on their favorites until the winner was determined.

Check out the March Book Madness [presentation!](#)

### MARCH BOOK MADNESS

Vote for your Favorites

Here's how it works:

1. Listen, watch, or read the selected books.
2. Choose which one of the two is your favorite.
3. Vote! One vote per pair per person.
4. Watch as books advance on the bracket.

Vote for one or all of your favorites!

## INDIAN LANE ELEMENTARY

### Indian Lane Celebrates 100-Day Mark

First- and second-grade students at Indian Lane Elementary School celebrated the 100th day of school on February 10, 2022. First graders dressed up like they were 100 years old. Second graders wrote about what they would do if they had \$100. Kindergarten students celebrated the 101st day of school by dressing as Dalmatians.

K-2 classes also participated in a variety of fun number activities throughout the day to celebrate this milestone.



## Bobcat Brags Reinforce Positive Behaviors

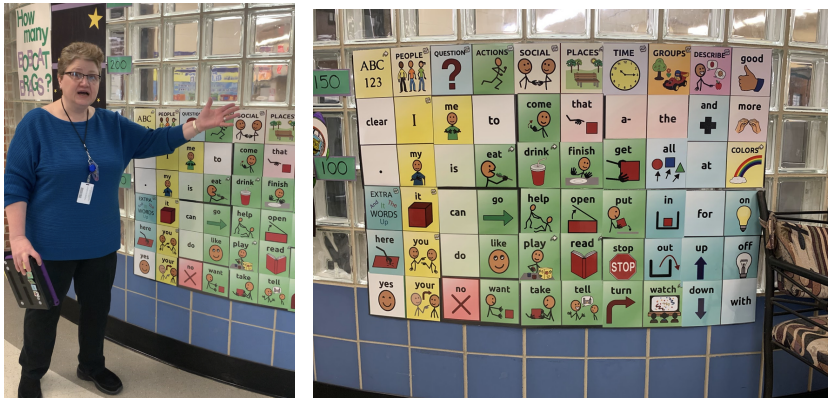
Indian Lane Elementary School students earn a reinforcer each time they achieve a goal of earning 400 Bobcat Brags. The latest reinforcer chosen was a recess dance party! Students played outside on the playground while fun music blasted through the speakers.

INDIAN LANE ELEMENTARY

## Communication Board Encourages Acceptance

Julia Friedgen, Speech and Language Therapist at Indian Lane, works with several students who use communication boards and talker devices to communicate. Since students do not have their boards or devices with them at all times, Mrs. Friedgen created a large communication board and posted it outside of the school cafeteria.

The idea is to give students who use the communication board an additional opportunity to use the pictures to communicate with peers and teachers. Posting the communication board in a public place also supports acceptance and understanding of this means of communication.



## Polar Pop Raises Over \$6,000 for Special Olympics

This past autumn, Indian Lane students resumed the Unified Bocce Club, a program through Special Olympics where students with disabilities and peers have the opportunity to play bocce together.

In February, led by Student Council, the school community raised funds for the Special Olympics of Delaware County by participating in the Polar Pop. Families and staff members were asked to donate and record themselves popping balloons filled with cold water over their heads.

The school community surpassed the \$4,500 fundraising goal, raising \$6,050 for Special Olympics! Check out [the video!](#) Mr. Reid, Mr. Frank, Mr. Fischer, and Dr. Sitkowski each received a Polar Pop in front of students as a fun reward for surpassing the goal!

## Virtual Paint Night Hosted by Indian Lane PTG

In late February, Indian Lane's PTG organized a Virtual Paint Night in collaboration with the Rockdale Art Center. Families were given an opportunity to purchase and pick up paint kits before the event and join a Zoom meeting to paint a bobcat paw on canvas.





SPRINGTON LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## A-P-R-I-L K-I-M Spells Her Way to Success

Congratulations to Springton Lake seventh grader April Kim for her second-place finish in this year's countywide Spelling Bee sponsored by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit!

April fought hard for 18 rounds of competition!



## SLMS Recognized by State Education Department

Springton Lake Middle School was recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for its three-year participation in the [Path to Graduation \(P2G\) initiative](#). The program helps to ensure that middle-school students are on a positive trajectory and on the path to graduation. Dr. Layton & Mrs. Ross accepted the award on behalf of SLMS.



## Springton Lake's Beauty and the Beast

On March 3-5, Springton Lake Middle School performed the Disney Jr. version of Beauty and the Beast. Two of the three shows were sell-outs!

It was SLMS's first musical production since 2020 and the debut of Hedgerow Theater directors Robert Pellechio and Shaun Yates. Eighty students were part of the cast and crew! The show was co-directed by David Sikorski with special help from 8th grader Jack Janovsky.



## Springton Lake Students & Faculty Face Off in Hoops for Hope

In March, SLMS hosted the 17th Hoops for Hope Student-Faculty Charity Basketball Game after a one-year hiatus. The Hoops for Hope Basketball game is always a spirited and good-natured rivalry between the 8th-grade basketball team and the teachers.

The Spartans directed their fundraising efforts to the Eagles Autism Foundation's [Eagles Autism Challenge](#) this year. It is dedicated to raising funds for innovative research and programs to help people affected by autism. Through the school's efforts, more than \$3,600 was raised for this charity! Thank you to everyone who helped make Hoops for Hope a success this year!



PENNCREST HIGH SCHOOL

# THE GRYPHON: BEST LITERARY MAGAZINE IN PENNSYLVANIA



The Pennsylvania School Press Association honored *The Gryphon* with the Keystone Award for Best Literary Magazine! Congratulations to Jim Zervanos and *The Gryphon* staff at Penncrest High School:

Mackenzie Alkins, Emma Baylor, Rebecca Bernstein, Gwen Chorney, Charles Contrucci, Brianna Lemisch, Zoe Mackenzie, Anastasia Petridis, Shannon Tonetta, and Lauren Troy.

*The Gryphon* is composed of all student writing (essays, stories, poems) and artwork. It is organized and edited by student staff and dedicated student editors. The magazine is published annually in May and printed by Katie O'Neil in the print shop - enough copies for every student at Penncrest to receive their own!

Please read the [2021 edition](#) of *The Gryphon*! And look for the 2022 edition coming in May!

## Simon Youth Academy Student Assists District While Learning



Edwin Craig is a Senior in the RTM Simon Youth Academy at Penncrest High School. He is working towards graduation this spring while continuing to build his tech skills. Edwin participates in DCTS's Computer Networking and Digital Forensics Program. In addition, his independent study with the Technology Department is giving him a glimpse into the professional world of information technology.

Given Edwin's previous computer-related knowledge and problem-solving skills, the Technology Department is benefiting from his independent study as much as he is. Besides repairing Chromebooks, he has also worked on projectors and printers and has assisted in troubleshooting tech-related issues. When asked about the project Edwin says, "My favorite part of this project is the hands-on learning and working with hardware I wouldn't have access to on my own. I've been enjoying this work and would like to continue as long as possible."

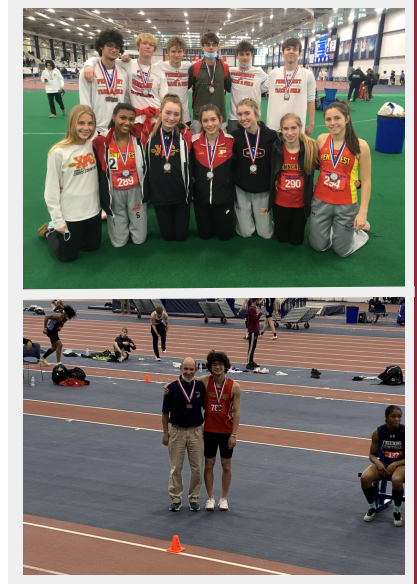


PENNCREST HIGH SCHOOL

## Success at Indoor State Track Championship!

Congratulations to Penncrest High School student-athletes who won 14 medals at the 2022 Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association Indoor State Championship in late February! Congratulations to Girls team members (Keeley Aiken, Zoe Clark, Hannah Puckett, Kelsie Robinson, and Julia Scholtz) and Boys team members (Nicholas Fante, Benjamin Holst-Rightley, Declan Hefferan, Rory McAfee, Daniel Munro, Kadin Salaria, and Jackson Sigda).

Dan Munro finished in third place in the pole vault and set a new Penncrest HS record of 15'4". [Watch his record-setting performance.](#) Wow!



## Student Talents on Display at Senior Variety Show

In February, the Class of 2022 held the first variety show in more than two years at Penncrest High School. Before a live audience, dozens of students showcased talents and sketch comedy. This event was a great success and raised funds for the Class of 2022! Thank you to emcees Jack Gallagher and Jasper Janosky and to directors Kate Skinner and Steve Mescanti.



## Penncrest Student Earns First Place in USA Skills Competition

In January 2022, Penncrest High School student Lucas Sampson earned first place in First Aid and CPR at the 2022 Regional USA Skills Competition Championship and advanced to the state competition in April. He was also awarded a \$2500 scholarship to the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Jack Gommer placed third in Carpentry.

## Information from the District

A large amount of information about the Rose Tree Media School District is available on our website at [www.rtmsd.org](http://www.rtmsd.org).

District Overview: [www.rtmsd.org/Administration2/aboutus](http://www.rtmsd.org/Administration2/aboutus)

Meet our Board of School Directors: [www.rtmsd.org/Administration2/board](http://www.rtmsd.org/Administration2/board)

Finance and Budgetary Information: [www.rtmsd.org/Content2/2134](http://www.rtmsd.org/Content2/2134)

Employment: [www.rtmsd.org/Content2/employment](http://www.rtmsd.org/Content2/employment)

District and School Calendars: [www.rtmsd.org/calmonthview.aspx](http://www.rtmsd.org/calmonthview.aspx)

Archived Newsletters: <https://www.rtmsd.org/Content2/2726>

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## School District News Available to the RTM Community

If you are a Rose Tree Media community member who does not have students in our schools, you are invited to subscribe to regularly receive this newsletter and other pertinent school district news. You can subscribe at this link on our website:

<https://www.rtmsd.org/News/714#sthash.OAgosjH1.dpbs>

Families with students in Rose Tree Media schools will continue to receive such news and information through existing communication channels.