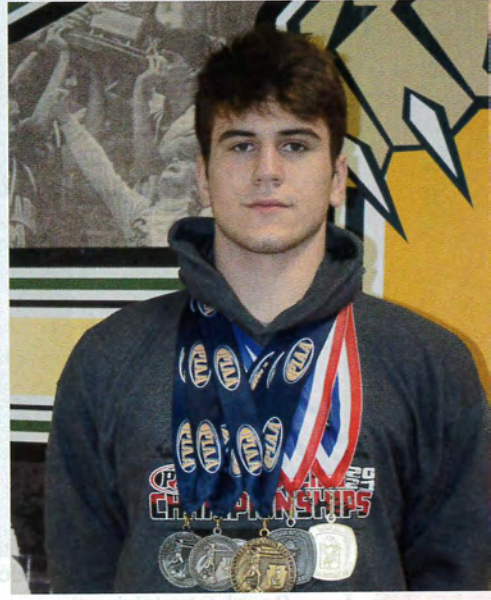


CARLYNTON

School District News



Carlynton School District

- 32 Striving for Excellence
- 33 Carlynton Ranks Among Top Schools in Region
- 34 Cougar Connection
- 37 Cougar Football Program Receives Generous Donation
- 38 Athletic Accolades
- 39 2021-2022 School Year Calendar
Save the Dates



Striving for Excellence

Congratulations to newly inducted members

Carlynton Junior-Senior High School honored newly inducted members of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Societies at a virtual ceremony earlier this year.

The event, designed to recognize those who embrace and model the pillars of scholarship, leadership, service and character, opened with special words from advisors **Cynthia Eddy** and **Marisa Rusinko**, followed by introductions of the society officers. Serving as elected officers of the National Honor Society are President **Reece Smith**, Vice President **Desmond Corrado**, Treasurer **Gina Ulizzi** and Secretary **Mary Dougherty**. Joining them as National Junior Honor Society officers were President **Sean Hart**, Vice President **Abigayle Tomaszewski**, Treasurer **Gabriel DiPietro** and Secretary **Sienna Schmidt**.

Founded on April 3, 1931, the Carlynton High School National Honor Societies have grown steadily in membership, providing a legacy of students who are celebrated for academic achievement and for embodying the characteristics that define the national organization. Candidates for induction are reviewed by a select faculty council who carefully examines the attributes of each nominee before recommending them for membership into the society.

National Honor and National Junior Honor Society members participate in a number of community services activities during the school year and into the summer. Many activities, such as the annual blood drive, were scratched this year due to the pandemic. Even still, the organizations held a food drive to benefit the Light of Life Rescue Mission and Homeless Shelter and assisted with a spring spruce up at the Carnegie Free Library. On a cold evening in April, members helped to fill a Ryder truck with furniture in support of the Knights of Columbus of Crafton. The volunteers made quick work of hauling tables, chairs, mattresses, couches and more to the truck and packing it tightly. The gently-used furniture was transported to the Madonna Hope House in West Virginia.

In May, some 50 members of the organizations volunteered to brighten and beautify three lots in the West End of Pittsburgh by planting flowers in community garden plots prepared by the Western PA Conservancy.

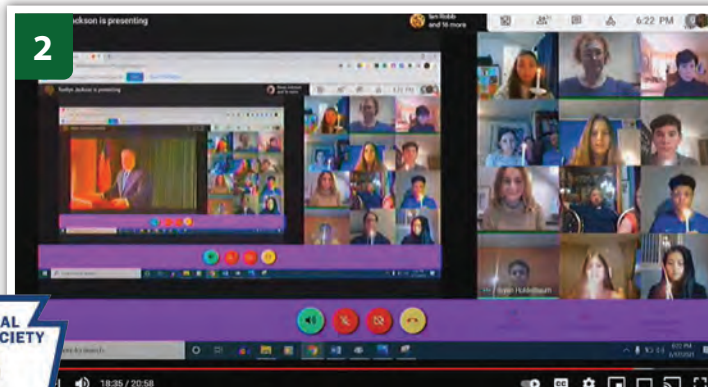
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING 2021 INDUCTEES:

National Honor Society

Haylee Boggs
Skyla Brown
Alyse Crown
Mary Dougherty
Georgie Gamble
Lance Henderson
Elena Johnson
Austin Milliner
Shelby Palmer
Pam Smith
Alby Varghese
Taylor Zaletski
Elaine Zhang

National Junior Honor Society

Mateo Carrasco
Jordynn Carter
Quinland Delrosario
Shaunte Deluca-Turner
Kiyona Dias
Sarah Duffy
Oscar Garcia
Connor Hart
Bryan Holderbaum
Carter Litterini
Lana Mihelcic
Eva Milliner
Grace Prepelka
Ian Robb
Danielle Smith
Dakota Stanton
Olivia Thompson



1. Sean Hart, president of the National Junior Honor Society, explained the virtues of service during the virtual ceremony.

2. Principal Michael Loughren led a simulated candle-lighting ritual with newly-inducted members who lit candles in their own homes to partake in the remote ceremony.

3. NHS and NJHS volunteers gathered on a Friday evening, working quickly to remove furniture from the Knights of Columbus and load it onto a truck.

4. Eighth graders Mateo Carrasco and Connor Hart carried a small dresser to a truck bound for the Madonna Hope House in West Virginia.



CARLYNTON RANKS AMONG TOP SCHOOLS IN REGION

In its spring issue, U.S. News and World Report featured schools across the nation, ranking them by academic performance. In the Pittsburgh region, 132 schools made the list, with Carlynton climbing to the 39th spot. The data for the report was taken from the 2018-2019 academic year and is based on achievement rates on advanced placement tests, proficiency on state assessment scores, college readiness and graduation rates.

With data compiled from 711 public and charter high schools across the Commonwealth, Carlynton was ranked 183rd.

Principal Michael Loughren shared the news with staff in an email. "Our continued commitment to providing an inclusive school community that pushes each student to pursue excellence in their pursuits has moved us up the charts. We rank among the top 1/3 of schools in the region," he wrote.

The U.S. News and World Report rankings can be found at <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/pennsylvania/rankings/pittsburgh-pa-38300>.

Carlynton Junior/Senior High School

Carnegie, PA | Carlynton School District

#39 in Pittsburgh, PA Metro Area Rankings
#4,504 in National Rankings

Cougar Connection

PROMOTING COMMUNITY, EXCELLENCE AND CHARACTER



Fifth grader **Joey Helbig** puts the finishing touches on his lunar space craft.

▲ In the weeks leading up to the successful landing of the NASA rover, Perseverance, on Mars, fifth graders of Carnegie Elementary explored, researched and developed their own space rovers in the classroom and then launched them on a simulated surface of the red planet. As part of a multi-tiered assignment, students were challenged to design a shock-absorbing system that would contain and protect two “astronauts,” or marshmallows, when the crafts landed or were dropped from a standing position to a hard surface. Students used materials such as paper cups, plastic straws, tape, index cards and cardstock to design the rovers. While counting down the days to the actual landing of Perseverance on Mars, the fifth graders read articles about space, science and technology, created a Mars Lander video game using Scratch Studio, studied all aspects of the red planet, prepared a written narrative and participated in a crater modeling activity.



Ghasak Al-Ibadi, Rimas Al-ajwe and Kennedy Segeleon launch their space rovers on a simulated surface of Mars.

▲ Crafton Elementary School has been recognized as a member of the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support network for the 2020-2021 school year. The recognition comes on the heels of the school’s commitment to developing the whole child by removing non-academic barriers to learning. The entire staff of Crafton Elementary strives to promote academic excellence by modeling expected behaviors. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a school-wide strategy for helping all students achieve important social and academic goals, enabling them to become productive, responsible citizens. As part of the PBIS program, faculty, staff and administration communicate expectations for positive behavior in and out of the

classroom. The plan profiles the 3B’s for success: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Ready. The staff conveys these expectations to students by encouraging and acknowledging positive behaviors with verbal praise and other incentives.

▲ Juniors **Katie Fox, Sarah Pallus** and **Audrey Robb**, and sophomore **Alyse Crown** had the opportunity to join state representatives Dan Deasy and Anita Kulik in an online forum to discuss school related topics. The Zoom meeting gave students the chance to ask questions about the Keystone Exams, the free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs, charter school reform and plans for fully reopening schools in Pennsylvania in the

fall. Katie Fox said the process allowed her to better understand the roles of the representatives. “The process allowed us to understand how they (the representatives) work with different school districts in our area, trying to address each district’s obstacles,” she said. “The one thing that made an impression on me was their interest in us and how the pandemic has affected us,” said Alyse Crown. “They wanted to know how we are preparing for college in spite of the pandemic and asked how our generation is dealing with mental health issues. I was glad to hear adults, who are usually more distant from younger generations, ask us about these issues and care enough to want to help,” she added.

▲ Eighteen members of the Carnegie Elementary Amazing Alternatives Club volunteered for a community service project by meeting at the Forsythe Mini Golf course in Carnegie on a Saturday morning to rake leaves, clean out debris and sweep the greens. Led by teacher and club sponsor **Julie Lewis**, the group arrived ready to work and spent the morning preparing the course for its annual spring opening. Splitting up into teams of two or three, the youngsters tackled all 18 holes. With a short break for lunch, they completed the work by mid-afternoon. Miss Lewis said the idea to clean the course came when meeting a new student, **Emmett Spitzer**. Emmett's family owns the golf course and his mom was pleased to have the help of the volunteers. As a show of appreciation, each worker received two passes from the Spitzers, who invited the students to come back and enjoy some miniature golfing. The Carnegie Amazing Alternatives includes students in grades



Fifth grader **Ghasak Al Ibadi** gathered and hauled away several large buckets of tree branches that had fallen on the miniature golf course.



Sixth graders **Grayson Jodon**, **Charleigh Coulter**, and **Ella Warga** worked as a team to remove leaves from course, which is located off of Forsythe Road in Carnegie.

four to six. Each month, the group strives to complete a service project to benefit the community and beyond. In November, students donated to "Stuff a Bus" for Toys for Tots. In December, they created and

sent eCards to area hospitals for patients, and in January, club members wrote letters to residents living in the Honus Wagner Senior Apartments in Carnegie.

▲ A show of kindness in its truest form was exhibited by Crafton Elementary students as they hosted a school-wide *Team Lexi Day* to honor fellow student **Lexi Schmidt**. The fifth grader was diagnosed with leukemia last July.

Team Lexi Day began as students lined up outside the school, awaiting Lexi's arrival. Cheers and chanting began as Lexi walked toward the school's entrance and peers followed her to class.

The day-long event, combined with academics, included a dance-a-thon at the top of each hour. Students jumped to their feet as music blared from the sound system, playing Lexi's top list of favorite artists. Lexi joined in, dancing with friends while all took care to adhere to the social distancing guidelines.

The event was facilitated by fifth graders with the help of teachers **Noreen Kelly** and **Robin Wenrich**. In the weeks prior to the activity, students sold t-shirts to raise money for Lexi's treatment. The bright orange and blue shirts were worn on *Team Lexi Day*, adding to the festivities.

Students have displayed encouragement and compassion for their classmate since her diagnosis. Last year, when treatment began and Lexi was losing her hair, a number of friends shaved their heads in support.



1



2

1. Lexi Schmidt sits at her desk, decorated by classmates for *Team Lexi Day*.

2. "Her fight is my fight!" Students sold t-shirts to support classmate Lexi Schmidt as she battles leukemia.

3. Banners of support were hung and carried by students in the hallways who cheered as Lexi entered the school.



3

CONTINUED

▲ National Honor Society officers **Reece Smith** (president), **Desmond Corrado** (vice-president), **Mary Dougherty** (secretary) and **Gina Ulizzi** (treasurer) led a food drive to benefit the Light of Life Rescue Mission and Homeless Shelter, located on Pittsburgh's Northside. Students collected jars of peanut butter and pasta sauce, bags of jerky, cans of soup and fruit, and boxes of crackers and cereal to deliver to the shelter. Over 440 pounds of food was collected and transported to the mission by students and parent chaperones. All members of the honor societies contributed to the collection of nutritious items.



NHS officers **Gina Ulizzi**, **Mary Dougherty**, **Reece Smith** and **Desmond Corrado** carry boxes of food collected in school and donated to the Light of Life Rescue Mission and Homeless Shelter.



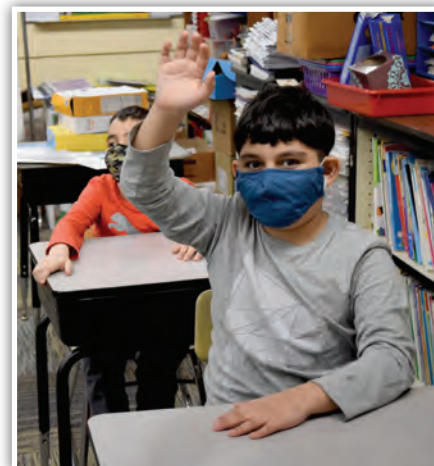
A scale at the Light of Life Mission and Homeless Shelter recorded 444 pounds of food donated by members of the National Honor Society.

▲ Gene Natali, author of *The Missing Semester*, was the keynote speaker for a virtual mini-conference enjoyed by gifted students **Eric Burcham**, **Desmond Corrado**, **Alyse Crown**, **Reece Smith** and **Alby Varghese**. Sponsored by the Western PA College Success Roundtable, the conference provided resources for students as they plan for the transition from high school to college or career. Each participant received a free copy of the author's book.

▲ Carnegie Elementary second grade teacher **Mary Campbell** applied for and received a \$2,500 grant to incorporate engineering and technology into her classroom. The funds are earmarked for a number of coding applications and robots, KNex building sets and Apple iPads to provide students with hands-on challenges that will stimulate the imagination and provide problem-solving opportunities. "Engineering education is based on real-world problems. It helps to foster creativity and instills habits of perseverance and persistence," Mrs. Campbell said. The educator believes the activities, which she plans to incorporate into the academic curriculum, will develop teamwork, leadership and communication skills. "I want my students to learn that failure is okay, but the right outcome can be discovered through trial and error and determination," Mrs. Campbell stated. "I consider it a huge success when I see my students engaged and developing real-world developmental skills."

▲ The high school peer-to-peer physical education classes promoted the *Spread the Word* inclusion campaign during the month of April. In a year when students were faced with isolation and exclusion, the campaign encouraged tolerance and acceptance of individual differences and urged students to reach out and connect with others. The peer-to-peer group created and hung a large banner in the hallway outside the cafeteria for students to sign and pledge to practice inclusivity.

▲ In the year since the COVID-19 pandemic touched the lives of everyone living in Pennsylvania and across the nation, First Lady Francis Wolf reached out to communities across the commonwealth asking for photos to represent the heroes of the state. Among thousands of photos submitted, hundreds were selected for a virtual photo exhibition titled *One Lens: Sharing Our Common Views*. First Lady Wolf hoped to capture a collection of Pennsylvanians to tell a story during an extraordinary time in history, sharing "how we work, how we play, how we go to school, and how we have endured." Among the photos selected for the exhibit were two of our very own Carlynton students, submitted by the District. The first shares the story of Carnegie Elementary third grader **Sameer Abu Aldehen**, a young English Language Learner who exemplifies the rich cultural diversity of students within the school. The second photo represents the adversities students have faced this past school year. Despite a pandemic and a curtailed homecoming celebration, **Evan Walker** joined fellow-court members in wearing a face mask during the event. The full photo exhibit can be found at www.pa.gov/one-lens.



Carnegie Elementary third grader **Sameer Abu Aldehen** participates in an ELL class.



Homecoming court member **Evan Walker** sported a face mask designed for the occasion. These two photos of district students were selected for a statewide virtual photo exhibition.

▲ As an Earth Day service project, fifth graders of Carnegie Elementary converted hundreds of plastic grocery bags into plarn, or plastic yarn. The plarn will be donated to a local senior center and crocheted into woven sleeping mats for the homeless and some will be used for a weaving project in an art class. Prior to creating the plarn, students read the book *One Plastic Bag* by Miranda Paul that tells the story of a group of women from the small West African country of Gambia who created woven plastic mats from plastic bags. Teacher **Scott Donnelly** rolled the activity into lessons about recycling to encourage students to discuss and reflect on ways to care for the planet.



Carnegie Elementary fifth graders celebrated Earth Day with a service project by creating plarn, or plastic yard from grocery bags. The plarn will be crocheted into plastic mats for the homeless. The project was completed after reading the story of *One Plastic Bag*, which tells a story about women from Gambia who recycled plastic bags into woven mats.

▲ The high school's Special Olympic chapter sponsored a Polar Pop Challenge to benefit the statewide organization. Members of the varsity swim team participated by popping a cold water balloon over their heads, as did Principal **Michael Loughren** and Transition Coordinator **Gerald Pepe**. The event supplanted the traditional Polar Plunge which was impeded by the pandemic.



Transition Coordinator **Jerry Pepe** closes his eyes as a cold water balloon is popped over his head by students **Jackson Holt**, **Adam Haas** and **Michael Wilson**.

Cougar Football Program Receives Generous Donation

Gift made in memory of former player

The Carlynton High School football program celebrated a postseason touchdown. The score came by way of a check in the amount of \$1,000, presented to the program on the heels of the fifth anniversary of the passing of 1993 graduate and former Cougar football player **Michael Wenger**.

Wenger, who died in February 2016 of osteosarcoma, cherished the time as a Cougar teammate and the friendships he made at Carlynton. His widow, Kristin Wenger, recalls memorable stories and photos he shared. To honor her husband's memory, Wenger made the generous donation to the football program.

Mike, who grew up in Crafton, was the son of Midge (and the late) Jack Wenger. He became a supervisor for Duquesne Light in the years following graduation from high school. He and Kristin met in 2013 and were married in 2015.

Osteosarcoma is a type of bone cancer that begins in the cells that form bones. Since Mike's passing, Kristin has made annual donations to the Pittsburgh Cures Sarcoma in his memory. "I wanted to do something special for the fifth anniversary of Mike's passing," Kristin said, "Something close to the heart."

Coach Rich Piccinini will use the funds to purchase summer workout gear for the team.

CARLYNTON

ATHLETIC ACCOLADES

In a school year like no other, our Cougar athletes have risen to the top and made the best of a difficult situation. Despite shortened seasons and the need to wear masks while practicing and competing, the ability to partake in a sport allowed student-athletes to break free from the isolation created by a pandemic in a way that was welcomed and appreciated.

The winter sports season saw the boys' and girls' basketball teams entering the playoffs after productive seasons. Junior **Khalil Kerr** and sophomore **Austin Milliner** were named to the boys 2021 WPIAL All-Section. Khalil, a 5'10" guard, averaged 12.4 points per game. Austin, at 5'11", commanded the team defensively and averaged 10 points per game.

Sophomore **Chloe Williams** led the varsity girls' basketball team in rebounds and was named to the 2021 WPIAL All-Section. At 5'10", the guard averaged 10.5 points per game.



The five-time section championship swim team gathers for a photo with coaches Michael Schneiderlochner and Emily Brill.

The boys' and girls' varsity swim teams claimed their fifth consecutive section title this past season. The unprecedented feat was led by top swimmers and seniors **Natali Lutsiv**, **Sara MacMurdo** and **Evan Walker** of Carlynton and **Sarah Barron**, **Carson Gaitens**, **Jack Mickles** and **Gavin Nolf** of Bishop Canevin. WPIAL qualifiers **Natali Lutsiv** and **Sara MacMurdo** finished in 10th and seventh place, respectively. A cooperative agreement between Carlynton and Bishop Canevin High School has grown the number of participants on the team and added to its strength and talent pool.

The boys' and girls' bowling teams, who claim Noble Manor Lanes as their home base, finished their seasons 8-2 to qualify for the Western PA Interscholastic Bowling League (WPIBL) playoffs. In the championships, the boys finished ninth overall while the girls ended the season in 15th place. Individually, three bowlers advanced and performed well in the singles regionals: senior **Andrew Engleka**, junior **Gwen Kalimon** and sophomore **Shelby Palmer**.

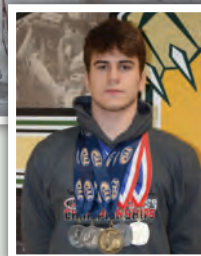


Bowler **Andrew Engleka**, a four-year letterman, rolled a high game of 266 with a 664 series this past season. Coach Dan Kuhn was proud of his athlete's dedication to become an elite bowler, finishing the season as a Top 40 bowler in the WPIBL.

Senior wrestler **Oleg Melnyk**, who captured his 100th victory this season, finished in third place at the Southwest Super Regionals held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The seasoned wrestler also qualified to advance to the PIAA Individual Championships held in March at the Giant Center in Hershey where he placed eighth in the 160-pound weight class.



Wrestler **Oleg Melynk** sports the medals he garnished this past season. Melynk received a send-off from peers and teachers as they rallied to extend best wishes by lining the sidewalks of the high school as he was leaving for the PIAA state wrestling championship tournament.



SENIOR ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT



1. Senior **Sara MacMurdo** signed two athletic letters of intent to swim and play women's soccer for Westminster College in the fall. Sara was a standout as the goalie for the varsity girls' soccer team and led the swim team in points as a sprinter. **2.** Seasoned athlete **Desmond Corrado** will run track and cross country for the Allegheny College Gators. The 2020 track season was cancelled due to COVID-19, but in the preceding season, Desmond was a state qualifier in cross country in the fall and a 4x800 relay medalist in track in the spring. **3.** Senior **Emma Weiland** will continue her softball career at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford. A four-year varsity third baseman, Emma also plays travel ball for the Pittsburgh Spirit and hopes to make an impact at the collegiate level.

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year was approved by the school board in February and includes a later-than-normal start date to the school year. Student's first day of school will be Monday, August 30, 2021. The school year will finish June 9 with commencement ceremonies to be held June 10, 2022.

The pandemic created a host of instructional and learning issues for students across the state and the country. Hence, the board and administration pushed the opening day of school back to accommodate plans to address student learning gaps brought on by the pandemic. The district will be providing summer school opportunities with personalized learning activities, remediation programs and additional learning opportunities for students. These services, funded by grant monies, will be provided to students at no charge.

At the elementary level, the District plans to run two 12-day in-person sessions that will focus on literacy, math and unified arts. Designed for students in grades K-3, the first session will be held June 21- July 7, followed by a second session July 8 - July 23. Both sessions will run from 8:40 am to 11:40 am and will be held at Crafton Elementary School. Carnegie Elementary will be used to host our special education programs including the Carlynton Academic Summer Program (CASP), Camp AIM, and other extended school year programming.

At the secondary level, we plan to offer traditional summer school programming for students in grades 7-11 who did not achieve passing marks in English, math, science and social studies. Our goal is to provide students the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to be successful either in the next grade level or sequential course offering. Dates and times of these offerings at the junior-senior high school will be provided to parents.

For all summer programming, the District will provide transportation to and from the buildings and will provide a bagged meal at the conclusion of each day.

Board Approved:
February 16, 2021

Carlynton School District 2021-2022 School Calendar

JULY 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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AUGUST 2021

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SEPTEMBER 2021

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OCTOBER 2021

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NOVEMBER 2021

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DECEMBER 2021

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New Teacher Induction

In-Service Teacher Only

Clerical Day Teacher Only

School Opens

Holiday Schools Closed

Elementary Open House

Secondary Open House

Last Day Underclassmen

JANUARY 2022

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FEBRUARY 2022

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MARCH 2022

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APRIL 2022

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MAY 2022

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JUNE 2022

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30	31					

Testing dates are tentative

KEYSTONE EXAMS

Winter

December 1-15, 2021

Spring

May 16-27, 2022

Summer

July 25-29, 2022

PSSA TESTING

Grades 3-8

English / LA

April 25-29, 2022

Math / Science

May 2-13, 2022

School Make-Up Days

Days marked with a slash

Used ONLY if

remote days are depleted

February 21, 2022

April 14 / 18, 2022

June 10, 2022

Senior commencement will be held Friday, June 10, 2022

Senior commencement will be held Friday, June 10, 2022

SAVE THE DATES

As the 2020-2021 school year rapidly comes to a close, parents and guardians can mark their calendars with the following end of school year activities and events:

May 10-14 Virtual Elementary STEAM Extravaganza
May 13 Crafton Elementary Field Day
May 14 50-Year Celebration with Opening of Time Capsule - JSHS
May 15 Alumni Soccer Tournament at HWF
May 16 JSHS Band Banquet at Robinson Park
May 19 Carnegie Elementary Olympic Day
May 19 Senior Awards Night
May 21 Last Day for Seniors / Senior Breakfast

May 24-26 Keystone Exams
May 26 Junior-Senior Prom at Sera Bella, Canonsburg
May 27 No School
May 28 No School - School Picnic at Kennywood Park*
May 31 No School - Memorial Day
June 4 Last Day of School / Class of 2021 Commencement Ceremony

*Kennywood Park officials moved the school picnic date from May 27 to May 28.