



SONEW

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THE CLASS OF 2019

Valedictorian: Megan King

"In life, we might also be presented with the risk that accompanies opportunity, where we must decide whether to settle or accept the challenge. From this school, we have learned how to solve equations, how to manage time, how to communicate, and how to be compassionate toward others.

We have all of the tools necessary to succeed. But now it is our responsibility to both implement them and develop the courage and confidence to make decisions regarding our futures and fully commit to them. Class of 2019, may you always choose paths that lead to contentment or personal growth and live your lives to the fullest extent. I can't wait to see what you all will accomplish. Congratulations!"

Salutatorian: Jenna Conty

"Members of the Class of 2019, I hope that you never forget who you are, where you come from, and the road you took to get there. When you forget, you start taking things for granted, you start forgetting who you are, and where you were, and how much you progressed to where you are now. Nothing will ever truly be handed to you, and not everything is easy. Choices are made to distinguish us; Choices are made to separate us; Choices are made for ourselves. And choices will continue to be made for our future that we now have to think about because it is time. We must look further ahead in the tunnel that we have unknowingly created, we must follow all the way to the end of the tunnel until we see that light, the light of illumination and achievement. Then we must reach out for it and seize it. And we must do that for ourselves."





SENIOR PROFILES

From the Classroom to Beyond

JULIANNA OHR



By Abby Fullem, Junior

Applying to and choosing a college can be very stressful, but Julianna Ohr already has that figured out. This fall, senior Julianna Ohr will be attending Washington and Jefferson College and majoring in chemistry. She has received the Presidential Scholarship (Scholars Award).

"I was informed right around Christmas time that I did receive it," Ohr said, "My parents opened the letter before me because they were so anxious. It was such an awesome feeling."

This scholarship covers almost half of the total cost of her tuition. She also received two other smaller scholarships for an overall total of about \$120,000.

Ohr said that, for her, "The answer to, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' has never changed." She said she has always wanted to be a doctor. According to Ohr, her grandfather had serious medical issues, so when she visited with her "Meemaw," the nurses and doctors let her play "pretend" doctor."

"They even gave me a real stethoscope from the hospital," Ohr said, "I still have it in my room."

Additionally, taking intro to chemistry and AP chemistry helped Ohr decide to be a doctor, ad she said that chemistry "is something I really love and enjoy."

"There are times where you will feel so overwhelmed, and it can be very overbearing. It's so essential to never lose sight of your future. It's also critical to remember that junior year truly is so, so important in terms of post-education. Never slack off no matter how tough it gets. It'll pay off in the end."

Ohr says that the she feels as though the Southmoreland faculty is "truly remarkable" when it comes to helping students.

"Any time I ever needed help or advice, I know there's someone I can turn to- no matter what," she said. "I think that's my favorite thing about this school district, and I'll carry that with me for the rest of my life."

Finally, Ohr believes that it is important to remember to look at colleges whenever you get the chance.

"Always be browsing colleges, even if it's just for 5-10 minutes during lunch or before you go to bed," she said. "It's so, very essential to be constantly aware of different opportunities there are in terms of college. Waiting until the beginning of senior year is not ideal at all, and will add so much stress to your life."

"Also, remember to never take a moment for granted while you're in high school," she continued. "I never realized how true it is that these four years really do fly by in a flash. I feel like I was just here for freshman orientation. Now, I'm close to graduating after all the work I've done these last 12 years. It's insane."

**"The answer to,
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want to be when
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CASSIE STEELE

By Erin Polakovsky, Senior

Southmoreland senior Cassie Steele has big plans.

Cassie Steele hopes to show that “a small town girl can become something so much bigger,” and to make her family, community, and self proud.

As editor of the yearbook and a member of many clubs, Steele is a fixture at many community events, camera in hand. She hopes to earn a degree that will allow her to be “fully creative” and “have a fun time in life.”

What makes Cassie special is her acknowledgment that life, specifically from the ages of 14-18, is a “hard and challenging time.” Noting that students at this age are finding themselves and what is best for them, Cassie believes that “if someone is having an ‘off’ week, or even an ‘off’ day,” that checking on them is beneficial, especially from teachers.

Cassie encourages current and future students to focus on themselves, “study hard and enjoy every single moment and appreciate every teacher” in their days at Southmoreland, and says that she is thankful for all the “lessons, memories, laughs, and tears” she has experienced in the halls of Southmoreland High School.



"...thankful for all the lessons, memories, laughs, and tears' she has experienced in the halls of Southmoreland High School."

ALEXIS KLATT

By Abby Fullem, Junior

Who knew that a hobby that a girl begins when she is 4 could lead to a college scholarship? Alexis Klatt committed to Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, WV, her junior year to play softball and major in biology.

“I’ve always had a dream of playing college softball,” Klatt said. “I’ve also always wanted to major in biology and become an endocrinologist. When I was a child I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism, and I’ve wanted to learn more about the disease.”

Klatt is a finalist for a major scholarship called the Elk’s Most Valuable Student Scholarship. She made it past both the district and state rounds for this scholarship. As mentioned earlier, Klatt received an athletic and academic scholarship; therefore, she will be paying less than \$10,000 to go to college.

After getting her degree, Klatt would like to be a successful endocrinologist or pharmaceutical sales representative.





ERIN POLAKOVSKY

BY CAILEIGH JOHNSTON

As members of the 2019 graduating class prepares for their futures, a moment must be taken to admire those who have had a positive impact here at Southmoreland High School.

One of those is Erin Polakovsky, who serves as a beaming ray of sunshine who is often found smiling down the hallways, often carrying three or four cups of coffee in her hands because she knows just how important the little things (like coffee) are to people.

For Erin Polakovsky, kindness is in her blood, and that's why she is planning on continuing to help people after her graduation from Southmoreland.

"I'll be attending California University of Pennsylvania working on a degree in psychology."

Because of her own personal experiences, Erin is an expert at taking the good out of every situation and letting it lead her in the right direction.

"The loss of my father pointed me in the direction of psychology as a profession," she said. "Receiving counseling after his passing inspired me to help others."

Erin learned the importance of helping others from not only her personal life, but also her experience here at Southmoreland.

"Mr. (Chuck) Brittain always says that when you're down the best thing to do is to help others," she said. "I figured that he was right and that I could do that for the rest of my life and make a living by doing it."

She added that her participation in Reading Buddies and Lunch Bunch "make me want to help people too."

Erin is determined to make a name for herself in the CalU community and has already begun. She was awarded the Vulcan Merit Scholarship through CalU which is \$1,800 a semester, renewable for four years. She also was awarded the Phil Schaltenbrand Westerwald Pottery scholarship.

Erin believes some of the hard work of applying for college should include applying for scholarships.

"I have also applied for more than 10 other scholarships," she said. "Some are CalU specific and others are local."

With determination and goodwill in her heart, Polakovsky has set impressive goals for herself. In 15 years she plans on, "doing well in my own psychology practice, having achieved a psychology degree."

As her time here at Southmoreland is coming to an end, she has some words for current and future students and students.

"Students are people too," she said. "They have lives, struggle, face hardships and adversity, just like everyone. Just because they're kids doesn't diminish that. The more that adults not only acknowledge this but also actively work to understand and be helpful through these situations, the more you'll get out of teaching."

She added with a smile: "Find out what makes you the happiest and figure out how to get paid for it."



COLIN SHERBONDY

By Paige Ladowitz, Senior

Colin Sherbondy will be attending Seton Hill University for pre-medical studies in the fall.

The science-based learning opportunities provided by the district coupled with his passion for helping people in need finalized his pursuit for a career in the medical field.

Not only is his dream career becoming a reality, he is receiving the Aloysia-Lowe Scholarship for \$20,000. This scholarship is awarded to incoming freshman who have achieved a GPA OF 3.75 or higher and over an 1150 on the SAT.

His projection for his future revolves around being a pediatrician with his own private practice.

Colin hopes that the staff at Southmoreland will continue to push students to their full potential and for the students to believe that “If you can dream it, you can do it. Never stop trying and always do your best. Kindness goes a long way.”



Senior Lauren Metz is going to attend Westmoreland County Community Center (WCCC) to join a nursing program and look to graduate with an associates degree of nursing. Afterwards, she is planning to further her education by earning her Bachelor of Science in nursing degree.

“You need to know where you are going to after high school and have a plan,” she advised her fellow students. “Get all your assignments for school done on time and don’t get yourself behind, because once you fall behind it’s hard to catch back up.”

Looking toward her aspirations, Metz said she wants to be in Florida on the gulf side as a registered nurse working in hospital step-down neonatal intensive care unit. She added that she would like to get married, have children and be successful so that she can “give my children the life I wish I could’ve had.”

Metz said that teachers should try and “teach the students material that’s actually going to benefit them and try and connect lessons to real life.”

LAUREN METZ

By Alexis Hull, Junior

KAELEI WHITLATCH



Kailei Whitlatch, aspiring journalist, will be attending Robert Morris University to study communications, focusing solely on journalism.

Through her childhood experience, fate led her on the path to her goals.

While reminiscing about her past, Whitlatch remembers that “growing up, I always enjoyed watching the news. I would come home from school and watch Ellen, Oprah, and the 5 o’clock news. When 7 o’clock would roll around, I would watch Inside Edition and Entertainment Tonight.”

“Being involved in theater throughout my life, I have a passion for being in front of people, so I am not very camera shy,” Whitlatch continued. “I’ve always liked to know what is going on in the world - good, bad, or in between. I feel that if we learn from our experiences, we can grow and learn from our mistakes. Being informed in the first step.”

Kailei’s journalism teacher, Mr. Chuck Brittain, said that he has always maintained hope that one of his former students finds success in that field.

“I hope that some day I turn on the TV and see you reporting the news,” he told Whitlatch. “That’s always been a dream of mine, to see a former student as a TV news reporter.”

When the storms come to destroy whatever in its path, when the unimaginable becomes reality, when daily life occurs, new reporters and journalists are there to provide nations with valuable information to its citizens.

Through RMU’s merit scholarship, Whitlatch will be awarded \$12,000 annually based on her SAT scores and transcript. She has also applied for RMU’s Women’s Leadership and Mentorship Program, which includes a \$1,000 annual scholarship. According to their website, the program is “a select program for 25 students each year that teaches leadership skills and provides opportunities that foster young women’s ability to contribute, lead, and engage in mutually beneficial mentoring relationships. Cohort members are partnered with a one-on-one peer mentor and a faculty or staff mentor, and in their junior year, with a professional mentor.”

And with words to improve Southmoreland’s faculty in general: “Remember that your students are human beings. We have many things going on in our lives such as work, family responsibilities, social events with friends, and piles of homework. If we don’t have that assignment in exactly when you want it, most of us are responsible enough to get it back in to you in a timely matter.”

In 15 years, Whitlatch hopes to be working in a news station, entertainment or local/national, as an anchor or a reporter. Her “reach for the stars” goal is Good Morning America, but she would also love to be on a news station preferably in Pittsburgh or New York City.

“Stay positive,” Whitlatch advised her classmates. “I have found throughout my years that negativity has been the root of all my problems, socially and academically. You have to focus on the future and what’s ahead, and don’t stress so much on the ‘now.’ Most of your problems happening now, you won’t even remember in a few years.”



RETIREE PROFILES

From the Classroom to Beyond

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE 2019 RETIREES

CHUCK BRITTAIN

" It means that we are fortunate to work with and interact with so many special people; and that the academic achievement we have been recognized for has come as a result of many years of hard work, dedication and commitment from students, teachers and administrators. I believe superior results reflect superior leadership."

MIKE SAUNDERS

The best part was when my father told me that they called me and I was to report. I could feel the pride in his voice. I'm proud to say that I've been a part of this very successful group of unique individuals.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE A SCOTTIE?

SHEILA BOOTS

"I'm so glad to have been a Scottie for all these years. Everyone here has always been so welcoming. (Being an original Wildcat from Latrobe is my secret identity!) I'm so proud of all my colleagues here and the students we've all worked together to mold. You have all meant so much to me."

DARCY PALLONE

"I cannot believe I am at this stage of my life. The end of your career will come quickly, cherish the important moments with your students. I am a product of Southmoreland, raised my daughters in our district and taught thousands of students. I have witnessed many successes come from Southmoreland. It is always with pride when I say that I teach at Southmoreland."

KATHY THOMPSON

"Extremely proud to be a Scottie, loved working for the district."

DENISE SAUNDERS

"When I was a kid, I used to pretend to be a teacher. I would create worksheets, lecture, etc. for my friends and family. It was an honor teaching with all of you. I had a lot of fun over the last 27 years!"

DONNA SHRUM

Being a Scottie is being a part of something bigger than myself for the purpose of helping others to set and achieve goals for a brighter tomorrow.

JILL HANN



STAFF PROFILES

From the Classroom to Beyond

SMS CELEBRATES DAY WITHOUT HATE

By Jennifer Tarasky

This year SMS celebrated our second annual Day Without Hate on May 10. For those unfamiliar with this day, Day Without Hate was initiated in 2007 by a group of students in Colorado who wanted to do something positive to help combat school violence. It is normally the last Friday in April, but due to PSSAs, we had to postpone.

A big difference this year from last is that the FOR (Friends of Rachel) Club students and the SAP team collaborated to plan the day. Committees were formed and students either created posters to cover the main corridor, made candy bags for each student with an inspiring message attached, or cut out designs for students to use for locker decorating. FOR Club students came early to school on May 10th to decorate the sidewalks with uplifting quotes, but unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate! They were disappointed, but they were very excited to pass the candy out to students as they walked in the building.

Students were asked to wear red in support of the day to represent Scottie pride, love, and our connection to one another. Earlier in the school year, there was a t-shirt design contest and our winner chose red as the color, perfect for our day. Students were encouraged to decorate their lockers with kind messages and to show their individuality. Despite the rain deterring our sidewalk plans, the day was a success. Since our FOR Club was just formed in December, we are hoping to start planning for Day Without Hate even earlier next school year so that it can be the best one we've had so far!



STEM IN THE CLASSROOM

Mr. Sharek and Bots IQ

By Alexis Hull, Junior

Decades ago technology began to swarm the country. Phones, computers, and gaming systems became a common occurrence. What was seemingly impossible became shockingly widespread and accessible right from your pocket. This was adapted to the classroom to move with the future, and the future is essentially bright for Jason Sharek's BotsIQ class.

Southmoreland High School, an institute for overachievers, has become part of the Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ (BotsIQ SWPA) Organization, a part of New Century Careers in Pittsburgh in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Foundation (NTMF).

Founded by high school students inspired by careers in manufacturing through design and interested in building 15 pound battling robots, statistics show that these types of careers in the future will be on a high demand-especially within the Southwestern Pennsylvania Area.

Each school team, determined to build the best and the newest, partner with an industry adviser from a manufacturing company in the area. Southmoreland has teamed with Penn State Tool and Die, Reynolds Machine Co, KAF-TECH Industries, and Tech Met Chemical Milling Inc. As a valuable resource in understanding such tech, the sponsors provide technical information, materials, and machining services to assist the students in making a successful battle bot. This contains an intricate and tedious process over a year which is then tested against $\frac{1}{3}$ of the schools in a regional Preliminary Competition (Typically March at WCCC in Youngwood). At the end of the school year, all the schools meet at CALU for the Final Competitions and to see who will be victorious.

"This has been a great avenue for the students who are pursuing careers in manufacturing and industry. Since I've started teaching 4 years ago, three former BOTSIQ students have went on to complete an internship with Penn State Tool and Die and others have entered technical majors at WCCC and CALU. I've built my STEM classes to be industry based-many skills are small skill representations of what they will see on the job," said Sharek.

Southmoreland entered two teams this year- Anthrax (Team 1) and Fury (Team 2). There are three specific kinds of classifications in ranking scores given to the young aspirants: Documentation, Combat, and Grand Champion. Fury placed 8 out of 80 of the combined final ranking of documentation and combat scores which is a Southmoreland best.

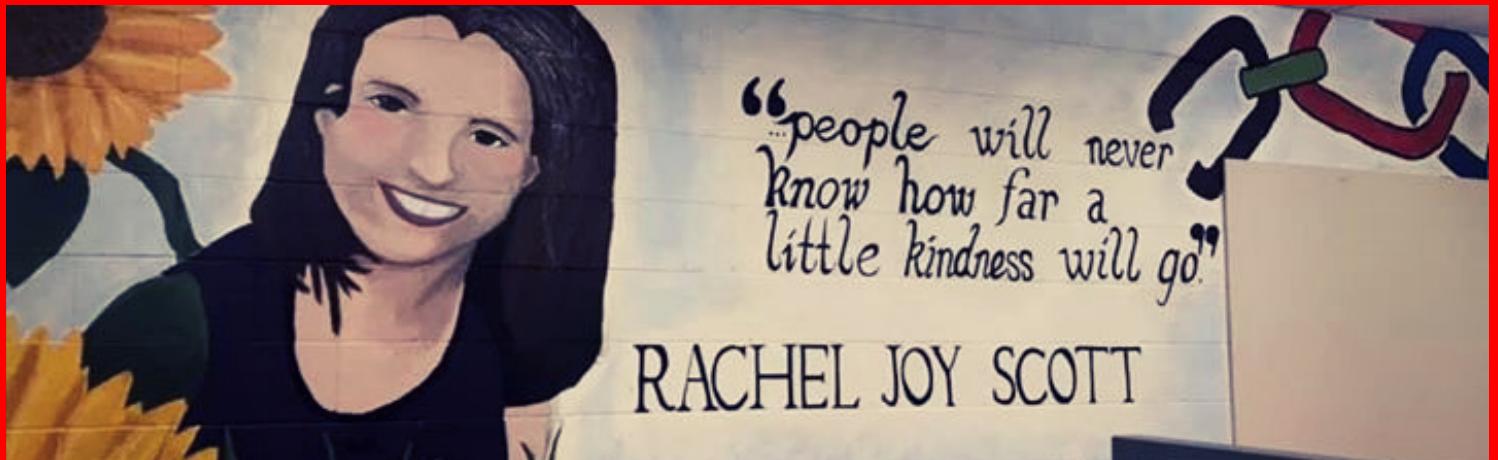
The STEM Department offers various electives, many of which serve as suggested prerequisites for Competitive Robotics. The in-depth elective covers skills from Computer Aid Drafting (CAD), Material Processing and Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Machining, Robotics, Programming, and Electronics.

"Many of the high demand careers available today require many of the skills learned in STEM based classes. A department goal in general is making these classes available to everyone of all skill levels. Not all students are comfortable using machinery; but there are more skills needed in BotsIQ. Leadership and teamwork are needed to develop a successful robot; communication between the members is the hardest skill to master in such a short time period," states Sharek debating the confusion of what STEM truly means.

From impossible to an extremely possible goal, BotsIQ students are given the necessary skills and teaching intertwined with determination to achieve a successful life in the STEM or manufacturing industry.



RACHEL'S CLOSET



“COMPASSION IS THE GREATEST FORM OF LOVE HUMANS HAVE TO OFFER.”

By Nicole Pruchnic and Jen Tarasky

Rachel's Closet is inspired by a beautiful young woman named Rachel Joy Scott. Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999, however that was only the beginning of her story.

Rachel believed even at a young age that she would die young, but she had a sense of peace with that since she was convinced that her two hands would touch millions of people's hearts. She knew her life mattered, and today to so many of us around the world it does. We know the name Rachel Joy Scott, not only by the horrific way she died, but more importantly we know her because of the way she lived. Her message to all of us is that, no matter your history or circumstances, your life matters too. If she was alive today, she would probably ask you to have the courage to do what is right, even if it isn't easy or popular.

She'd encourage us to intentionally reach out to those in need; and would remind us, as she wrote in her final essay that, “Compassion is the greatest form of love humans have to offer.” Rachel had a “theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same.” Rachel's closet is one way our school and many around the United States are doing just that.

Most of us at some point in our life have needed, or will need help, in some sort of way. Rachel's closet is a safe place for all our students to go if that time is now.

The closet can provide our students with clothing, shoes, outerwear, or personal hygiene products. The closet is filled entirely by donations from our staff, families, friends, and community members. Any student at SMS can use the closet. The outpouring of generosity and support from our entire community has been amazing.

Even our high school art students and their teacher Liz Goodman had a hand in making the closet at SMS a beautiful tribute to both Rachel Joy and our district. The difference it has made in so many of our student's lives here at SMS is overwhelming and heartwarming. We have had the great pleasure of watching our kids walk out of the closet on a day of shopping with a bag of clothes and a smile. The students shopping feel good about themselves and so do our FOR club members that help to run the closet. It teaches our students compassion and empathy for others and to appreciate the things some of us have that others may not. The students feel part of something that feels makes them feel good and gives them the ability to help others.

Moving forward to next school year, Rachel's closet will be open to every SMS student on Wednesdays during Student Support Period and by individual requests. We look forward to tentatively another clothes drop off in July and Back to School shopping in August. Please continue to check Southmoreland Middle School Facebook page for all future updates.

KELLY DERR

"I can honestly say that when I'm able to shape age appropriate behaviors that support students to be able to maintain in the regular education classroom, that is when I truly feel like I've accomplished something amazing."

2018 ANNIE SULLIVAN AWARD RECIPIENT

by Abby Fullem, Junior

Mrs. Kelly Derr is an Autistic/Life Skills Support Teacher in the Primary Center. She is a mother to three children, Josie (4), Norah (2), and Hudson (2 months), and a wife who enjoys travel, camping, and music.

Derr was selected as the 2018 Annie Sullivan Award Recipient sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units and the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit.

"This award recognizes outstanding special educators for facilitating acceptance of students with disabilities in schools and communities," Derr said, "It is quite an honor to even be nominated let alone selected. It is very humbling to know that my hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed."

Derr was presented the award at the Intermediate Unit 7 board meeting.

When asked about her proudest teaching moment, Derr said, "It is hard to recall just one of my proudest teaching moments. I can honestly say that when I'm able to shape age appropriate behaviors that support students to be able to maintain in the regular education classroom, that is when I truly feel like I've accomplished something amazing."



Derr wishes that people could see "the love and dedication" she and her paraprofessionals give to the students.

"The role of a teacher has evolved, and we are so much more than educators," Derr said, "I want others to focus on my student's strengths rather than their areas of need."

Derr's future goal is to "continue learning and growing as an educator."

"There's always something new to learn as the whole world is a classroom," Derr said, "In my fourteen years as a special education teacher, I have learned just as much from my students as they have from me."

"BEAUTIFUL GIRL, YOU CAN DO AMAZING THINGS!"



MRS. LAYMAN AND NJHS

By Joselyn Busato, Junior

According to USA Today, over 40% of students in middle school had experienced some form of bullying in 2017. This was an increase from years prior, in which about 25% reported that they had been bullied. Why the sudden spike? Many blame social media. As the world continues to become increasingly electronic, it's more common for young people to own cell phones. A study done by Bridgewater State University reports that 90-91% of middle schoolers own one, and that a majority of those surveyed claim to use social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat on a daily basis. These outlets to the internet and public interaction allow for numerous forms of cyber bullying, such as name-calling, false rumors being spread, sexual harassment and physical threats. Bullying has not only become common, but expected, in a time where social media flourishes and a person can be hurt without ever being touched. It has never been easier to ruin a person's self-esteem.

Middle school could be seen as the bridge between becoming a young adult and still having the permission to be a kid. The years spent in middle school are when most teens and preteens are discovering for the first time who they really are, the types of friends they want to surround themselves with, the clubs they'll join, the classes they'll flunk and the ones that they'll put effort into, the person that they want to be. Taking on new responsibilities, trying to balance new sports and extracurricular activities, along with a social life and the sudden overwhelming amount of homework, can all put a significant amount of stress and pressure on students. Another factor of this stress, that has become more prominent now than ever, is bullying.

Now, more than ever before, it is crucial that these young adults have some sort of support system, if not from their families, then from their schools. It is crucial that they understand that they are loved and respected by someone, even when it may seem that the rest of the world is against them. It is crucial that they know they are not alone. Southmoreland Middle School's computer science educator Mrs. Jane Layman and the members of the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) couldn't agree more, and earlier this year, made the decision to take action.

After seeing a similar idea on Pinterest, Layman set the project in front of the committee of esteemed students to turn one of the school's restrooms into a positive, uplifting space where students are met with affirmations that they may have needed to get through the day.

“DO WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHAT IS EASY.”

This project began with the girls’ restroom, as a large majority of bullying in middle school has been found to be centered around a girl’s self-image and physical appearance.

Using quotes such as, “Beautiful girl, you can do amazing things!” and “Do what is right, not what is easy,” they adorned the stalls and walls with colorful reminders to keep going. In a place where negativity can be spread so easily, the NJHS students hoped that this space could be a source of encouragement.

“[We] thought that it would be a really nice thing that we (NJHS) could do as a service project and a way to help students see their worth,” says Layman. And helped it has.

The updates have received very positive feedback from the student body, and have reportedly helped to boost the spirits of anyone who sees them.



“SEEING ALL THE
POSITIVE QUOTES...
PUTS ME IN A GOOD
MOOD.”

“When entering the bathroom that is decorated, I automatically feel happy,” says student Emma Galbraith on the renovations. “Seeing all the positive quotes... puts me in a good mood.”

Along with these messages, the NJHS also implemented a station with “perfumes, lotions, and products to freshen [students] up,” as said by Angelina Zaffina. “Girls will come out of the bathroom and talk about how nice it is.”

In upcoming years, Layman and the members of NJHS hope to continue this project in other restrooms around the school, including the boys’.



ALUMNI PROFILE

From the Classroom to the Grammys



A GRAMMY AND A DEBUT ALBUM

BY KAELEI WHITLATCH

Nate Fox's humble beginnings started in Scottdale as a graduate of Southmoreland.

"When I was in the 7th grade, my friend Ryan Vasquez asked me to come over to his house one night and make a rap song with him. That night led to a group of my friends and I making different rap songs over the next few years," Fox said. "At a certain point we needed original production for our songs, so I learned (how to use) a few software programs and found a niche for the production side, and I've stayed with it since."

Fox, 31, is an established music producer living in Los Angeles. According to The Brain Music website, he has worked with the likes of Lil Wayne, Iggy Azalea, and most notably, Chance the Rapper.

Fox graduated from Southmoreland and attended the Cuyahoga Community College studying Recording Arts, as well as Slippery Rock University.

One day, years after creating music and sharing it with the world, going from city to city, his career took a turn when he met Chance the Rapper.

"I met Chance at a music festival called South by Southwest in Austin, Texas around 7 years ago. I had been doing music stuff in Cleveland and he was releasing stuff in Chicago, so we both had heard of each other when we met," Fox said. "I gave him a CD which had some beats on it, those would become songs like 'Juice' and 'Favorite Song.' He called me one day and asked me to come to Chicago to help him make project called Acid Rap."

Eventually, Fox needed to settle down, and "it only seemed right" to move to LA.

"I drove in a car with my friend Amy Narodovich from Pittsburgh to Cleveland, then St Louis, through Colorado to LA. I had been on tour for a couple years and it was time to live somewhere," Fox said. "Having just done a publishing deal with Disney Music, a lot of the work I had scheduled was coming via LA."

The Disney Music Group deal is "a joint venture" between DMG and producer Freddy Wexler's company, the Brain, according to their website.

"I should have seen (the deal) coming," Fox said on the Brain Music's website. "My grandfather once had a job doing electrical work at Disneyland. He had one of the Disney cartoonists draw a picture of Goofy, and signed it to me. I've had it since I was a kid."

While living in LA, Fox said it is "a blessing" to make music with Chance the Rapper, and cites his biggest professional accomplishment as winning a Grammy for Rap Album of the Year for Chance's record *Coloring Book*.

"(Chance) has a very unique mind and very incorporative process. He is able to see everyone's very special and particular skills and abilities and utilizes them to their fullest potential," Fox said. "It's very impressive and very similar to the way a great teacher operates. Criticism and critique are two separate things from what I've come to learn, and there is an art to delivering both. He has mastered it all and uses his gifts very well."

Fox is also a part of the group Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment, who gained massive popularity after Chance the Rapper had influence with the group. The Social Experiment consists of producers Fox, Nico Segal (formerly known under the stage name Donnie Trumpet), Peter Cottontale, Greg Landfair Jr., and Chance the Rapper. Their album *Surf*, released in 2015 as a free download, amassed millions of downloads and streams. Their song *Sunday Candy* has been streamed over 116 million times according to Spotify.

More recently, the Social Experiment group has branched off, as Fox has joined forces with Segal to create their own record. The duo, under the name Intellexual, released a self titled collaborative album on April 12.

NATE FOX

CONTINUED...

In an interview with Stereogum, Fox and Segal discussed the album and its “intersection of genres.”

“It’s very much a social comment on just where we are in general,” Fox told Stereogum. “I feel like we’re getting more towards the focus of people being people. And I think, for me, this album is a reflection of that, where it’s just music being music.”

This album has been a new endeavor for Fox, since he explored a new element of music he is “inexperienced” in - songwriting.

“I know what sounds good and what doesn’t sound good. Melodies and singing, I understand. As far as words, it was a new process for me,” Fox told Complex. “I was really able to learn constantly from, not just (Segal), but everybody involved - and how they wrote, and what they wrote about, and the ways they looked at things.”

Fox said to Stereogum that he is looking forward to the future of Intellexual through live experiences.

“Fortunately we’re in an age where technology is moving very quickly and music as a whole hasn’t fully embraced the relationship that could be there between those two worlds,” Fox told Stereogum. “What we’ve done is started to explore some of the possibilities and capabilities of today’s technology and how to present music with it. So we do have some really cool things in the works.”

In an interview with Billboard, Fox talked about the album and what he has learned from creating it.

“I’m most proud of our personal and professional growth from this project,” Fox said. “Both (Segal) and I challenged ourselves to the max and I think we both came out much better from it.”



“I FEEL LIKE WE’RE GETTING MORE TOWARDS THE FOCUS OF PEOPLE BEING PEOPLE. AND I THINK, FOR ME, THIS ALBUM IS A REFLECTION OF THAT, WHERE IT’S JUST MUSIC BEING MUSIC.”

Even though Fox lives a busy life working on many various projects throughout the country, he is still thankful for his family back in southwestern Pennsylvania.

“My family has always been supportive of my happiness and my health. They have always wanted the best for me and that has meant different things at different times,” Fox said. “I was fortunate enough to learn early on in life that my parents are also people. It seems like a simple thing to understand, but it takes a special amount of attention and perception to really grasp.”

People will not always agree and people are not always right, but people can always love you. I visit my mom, dad, sister, brother, and my new nephews as much as possible. I mainly see them during holidays and special events, but when time allows I sneak my way back into southwest PA.”

Fox said that as a member of the class of 2005, through his time at Southmoreland he experienced a shift in society.

“Southmoreland at that time to me was at a final stage of a certain time. We were some of the last kids who would know about both life with and without the Internet, Facebook, and Twitter. A lot of the teachers at that time were making that big ‘R’ word (retirement) life choice and it just seemed like things were getting ready to change, not just at Southmoreland but in the world all together,” Fox said. “I think for some of us knew it did, and we knew it would, and felt that, and embraced it. I would like to think I was in that category, but who knows.”

Southmoreland gave Fox “a sense of community.”

“Southmoreland gave a very strong understanding of right and wrong and when it’s ok to push the rules and when to follow them,” Fox said. “I think those are very important social functions that have helped tremendously in navigating a very vast scope of different types of people, with many many backgrounds and ideas that I frequently encounter in the entertainment world.”



"Your dreams can be big, there's enough out there to live them and people out there that want the same things. Do not limit your goals and aspirations."



Fox said that English teacher Mr. Chuck Brittain made a huge impact on his life.

"I would have never expected that someone like Mr. Brittain and his attention to detail, his punctuation on time management, and his demand for TOP quality every time would reflect so much into MY life," Fox said. "I appreciate him so much and think only great thoughts about our time together at SHS. I'll always be indebted to the amount of praise he gave me for my good work, and the scorn he gave me for knowing I could be better."

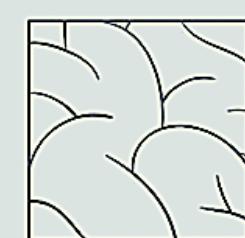
One day, when Fox was in high school, his mom came to school with him and sat in on his classes. When asked about his memories of the day, Fox said he "very much so" remembers it, as his family reminds him of it.

"My main memory of that day is how frequently my mom was getting asked to prom. I couldn't help but laugh about that, I mean, the dudes at school weren't anywhere near my mom's league," Fox said. "I also wasn't even upset about it, I felt like I had a pretty solid understanding of the point she was trying to make, plus all my friends are hilarious people that made really funny jokes about it all day, so it kept the spirits high."

From Scottsdale to Los Angeles, Fox has grown professionally and personally.

"To the teachers of Southmoreland: remember that any of these kids could become absolutely anything. Do yoga and meditation during summer break and holidays, and drink a fresh squeezed juice with your coffee," Fox said.

"I apologize if I ever caused any stress to any of you. I appreciate your patience and understanding. Don't ever forget you lead our future leaders. To the current students of Southmoreland, please know that the world is a big place. Your dreams can be big, there's enough out there to live them and people out there that want the same things. Do not limit your goals and aspirations."



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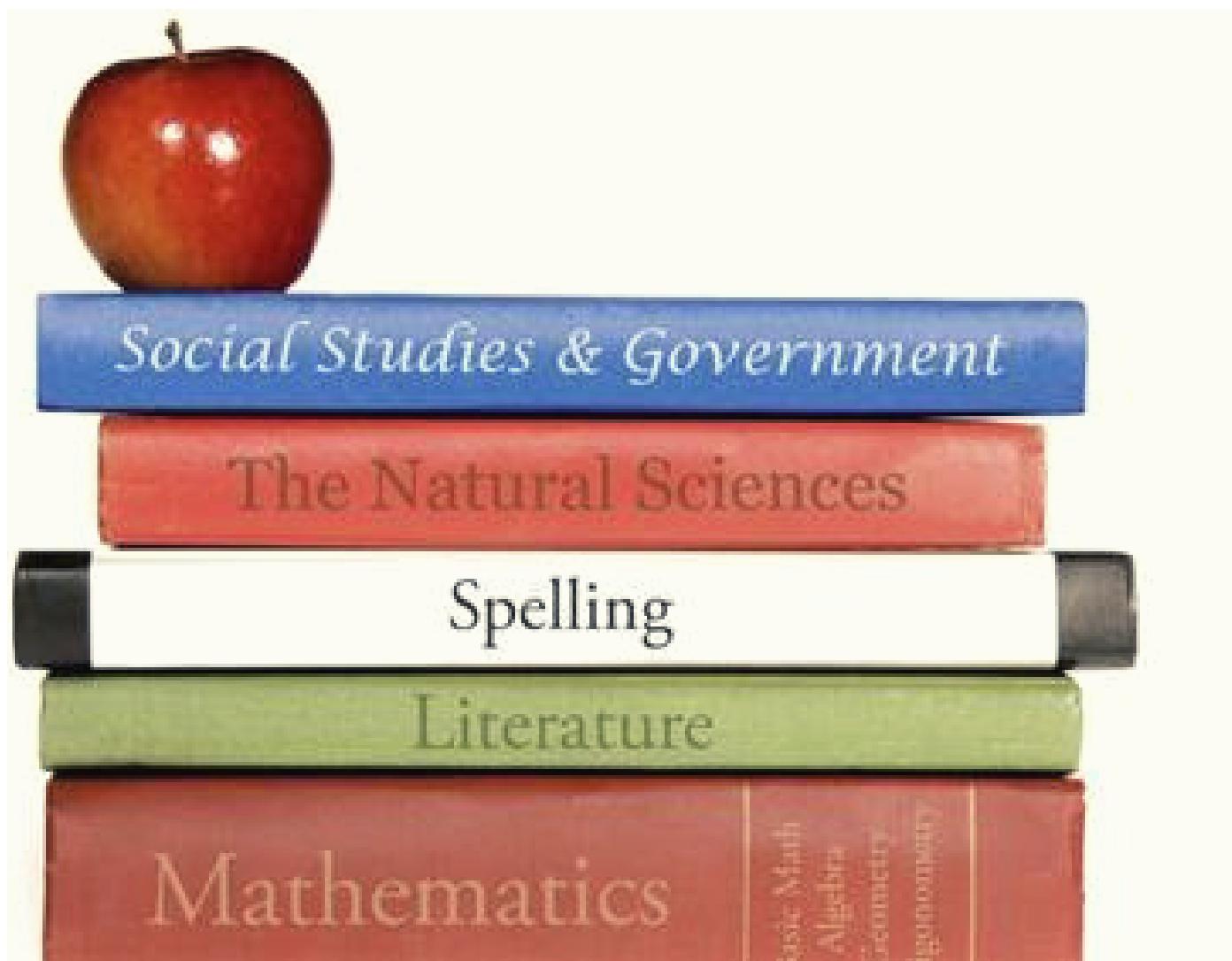
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