



Good News Bulletin

April 2022

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

We are proud to announce The Students of the Month have been selected for April 2022 They are:

Freshman – Christa Tramontana
Sophomore – Julia Giaquinto
Junior – Ashleigh Dreyfuss
Senior – Prem Jani

The above students have met the following Criteria:

1. Must meet high academic standards in class.
 2. Exhibit positive character and influence on class/school, dignity, respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, and citizenship.
 3. No unexcused lates of any kind for the month.
- No discipline referrals in the last month.
Congratulations to all of you!

ACADEMIC TEAM

Congratulations to the MTHS Academic Team for reaching the playoffs in the annual Allentown Academic Open. Team Monroe 1, including seniors Siri Harish and Aditi Mahendran and junior Philip Regalado reached the Quaterfinals, and Team Monroe 2, including seniors Sarah Benedicto and Hiba Siddiqui and juniors Emily Bai and Obai Ahmed, reached the Semifinals. Congrats again to the MTHS Academic Team!

The MTHS Academic Team held its first annual Battle of the Brains on Thursday, 4/1/22. 20 teams representing various clubs and honors societies from MTHS competed in a Jeopardy-Style trivia tournament. The hard work of the Academic Team really paid off, as the tournament was a great success. We are looking forward to making this tournament an annual event here at MTHS!

VIDEO PRODUCTION



Senior Francesca Giannola won the jury prize at this year's Kent Place Film Festival. Her short film "Return To Sender" was produced in collaboration with "Syndicate Productions", a Monroe based media production company cofounded by MTHS alumni. You can see Francesca's film by following this link: <https://youtu.be/ODk7H-fl3BA>

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



Summary:

Our panel was centered around the topic of environmental justice which is a social movement to address the unfair exposure of poor and marginalized communities to harms associated with resource extraction, hazardous waste, and other land uses. In the panel we discussed environmental justice in our communities and abroad. Our panelists came from a variety of backgrounds with some working on local environmental justice right in New Jersey and some working on environmental justice with the White House.

Our Panelists:

Dr. Nicky Sheats, Esq. - Director of the Center for the Urban Environment at Kean University with work on air pollution, climate change, cumulative impacts, developing EJ legal strategies and increasing the working capacity of the EJ community. Also works on the White House EJ Advisory Council.

JV Valladolid - Frontlines Communications manager for Ironbound Community Corp. with a focus on connecting the dots between Environmental Justice issues and reproductive health impacts.

Brenda M. Trejo Rosas, MPH - PhD Candidate in the Environmental and Occupational Health Department at George Washington University researching the role of endocrine disrupting chemicals and epigenetics in uterine fibroid (UF).

Anna Maria Peñaherrera - Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator at the Office of Environmental Justice within the New Jersey DEP. She assists in the coordination of Community Engagement Sessions, which highlight EJ concerns within Overburdened Communities (OBCs) and provide opportunities for systemically underrepresented groups to engage with panelists on pressing community EJ issues.

Kim Gaddy - Founder and Executive Director of the South Ward Environmental Alliance, a grassroots Environmental Justice organization of residents and community based organizations whose mission is to create healthy and vibrant neighborhoods.

- The panel overall went very well! We had 70 participants at a certain point, and many students from MTHS
- It ran for 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- We had questions that certain club members created and then we had a live Q&A session during which we were able to have students ask questions. People were also able to put in questions through a Menti-meter and towards the end we were able to ask those questions as well.

KEY CLUB



This past weekend was the 76th annual District Educational Conference. 11 students and myself attended. It was our first time in attendance at this conference, representing MTHS.

A small recap as to what Key Club is and what we do as a club:

- **High school** student members of **Key Club** perform acts of service in their communities, such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing and organizing food drives.
- The core values of Key Club International are **leadership, character building, caring, and inclusiveness**. They also learn leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects, and holding leadership positions at the club, district and international levels.
With that said, we earned several awards including the highest role that can be achieved at the state level.

As a club we earned the following honors:

- **Early Bird Award** (for the paying of dues)
- **Big Ten Award** (increasing the size of membership by 10 percent or more)
- **International Distinguished Club** (most dedicated members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty throughout the service year)

Individual Awards

Distinguished Club Officer Awards

- **Udana Desilva** – President
- **Danielle Youssef** – VP
- **Emery Kratchman** – Secretary
- **Celine Mossa** – Treasurer
- **Amanda Vaysbuch** – Webmaster
- **Sarah Benedicto** - Editor
- **Ryan Singh** – Fundraising Chair

In addition, **Udana Desilva** was elected Lieutenant Governor for Division 8 – she will be responsible for supporting and growing the clubs within her division and serving as a liaison between the district and the club.

Lieutenant Governor Awards

Robert F. Lucas Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Award - **Steven Yuro**
Barrie H. Werfel Outstanding District Board Member Award - **Eric Wong**

Finally, **Eric Wong** was elected to be the District Governor of NJ Key Club 2022 – 2023

- **He will train other district officers, appoint committees and assign directives, build and maintain relationships with other Kiwanis-family leadership and communicate district needs and desires to the international board liaison.**

UNIFIED PE

April was disabilities Awareness month. The MTHS Unified programs hosted a very successful “Take the “Dis” out of (Dis) abilities week. The goal was to project acceptance and inclusion for everyone in the MTHS community.

- Monday was “World Down Syndrome Day”- We wore crazy sock to show representation for our friends who an extra chromosome.
- Tuesday was “positively purple day” – we sold positive quote bracelets and wrote positive quotes to our friends on our padlet page.
- Wednesday was “Tackling our Differences” Day- we wore our favorite team jersey to represent our teammates who have different abilities then us.
- Thursday was “Uniquely the same Day”- we brought out our similarities by dressing like our friends on twin day!
- Friday was “kindness is a super power” day- We wore red in solidarity to represent the responsibility and power that we have in making our community inclusive for all!

Attached, is a picture of MTHS unified rockin red for “Kindness is a super power” day!

Our high School Unified Partnership leaders assisted with elementary events. Oak tree had a Unified paint night where students were able to paint original stripes on zebras to recognize how beautiful being unique can be. Mill Lake had a Unified Steam around the world night” wear students explored the 7 continents of the world through “steam” based activities. Barclay Brook hosted a “Safari Night” students were able to explore 3 stations, yoga stories, obstacle course and arts/crafts.



PAWS FOR CAUSE

MTHS STUDENT NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

THE DANGERS OF DEER IN NEW JERSEY

Long legs, small tails, and cloven-hoofs are all characteristics of the gracious animals we call deer. These animals are great prey for hungry predators prowling around and they only eat grasses with maybe a fruit here or there. So how can these peaceful animals that don't seem to shake society, make such a huge problem?

Deer tend to create predicaments for people who live in New Jersey because of their ever growing population. Whitetails are the most common species of deer in New Jersey with 125,000 white-tailed deer living in this state, while one hundred years ago there were none at all. The U.S. white-tail population has grown from 300,000 to 30 million over the course of just 100 years. Whitetails are able to live in multiple types of land habitats, including farmlands, brush fields, and forest edges. The population keeps growing because deer do not have any natural predators here like lions and large cats. Their only real predators are humans, cars, disease, and dogs.

With one of the deer major predators being cars, this causes a problem with humans in New Jersey. With an average of 200 deaths per year, deer are more likely to kill you compared to other animals. There is an even higher chance of a vehicular accident when it comes to motorcycles rather than cars. Autumn is the time when deers look for mates. This is when most deer caused accidents are reported. In 2018, New Jersey, October-December was reported to contain 5,271 deer-related crashes. This is an accident every 25 minutes.

A problem deer make for local farmers is loss of crops. Deer eat around \$15 million worth of goods grown outside on farms. This causes a problem because hard working farmers are losing millions of dollars worth of crops to these animals. Not only do deer eat farmers' crops but they ruin the small gardens of local residents in New Jersey. They eat all kinds of fruits, vegetables, plants, and flowers that people grow. This definitely enrages the people. Why spend so much money on a nice garden when deer will come in to ruin it.

A final reason why deer cause problems is the spread of diseases. Lyme disease is a major problem for people. This disease can easily spread to people and could cause serious illness or even death. Another disease deer can spread is Chronic Wasting Disease. It is in New York and Pennsylvania but has not spread to New Jersey yet. This is spread by deer touching their noses together. It is important to let them naturally stay on their own. Being antisocial as a deer can actually save their lives.

Deer are very important animals. Their most important quality is they are a good dinner for other predators. They keep other animals full, but with all the vehicular accidents, crops lost, and diseases, they are actually not very good for mankind.

3-D CLUB

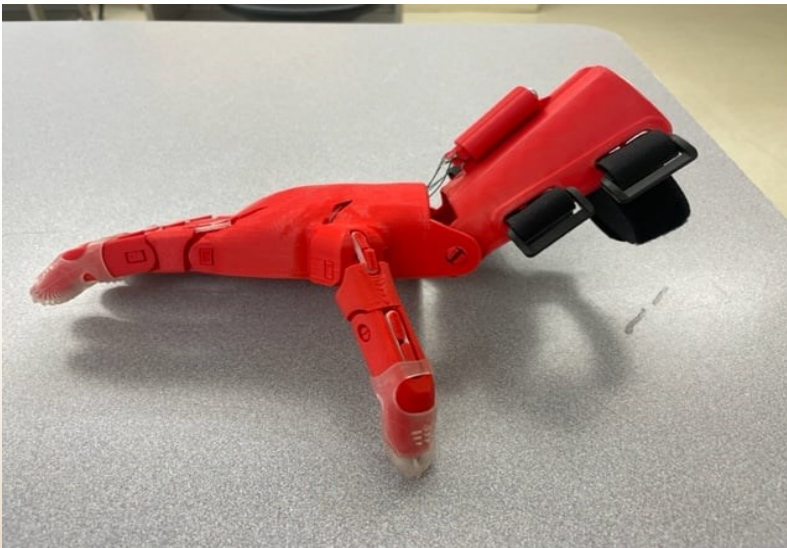


I just wanted to share the good news. MTHS is now an official e-Nable Chapter. We are fortunate enough to be able to design a prosthetic arm for one of our very own students, Luca. He has been a part of our team and we wanted to thank him and his parents for allowing us to design a prosthetic arm for him. Currently, we are in process of 3D printing and assembling this device. This device is unique as it is elbow driven: thus a recipient must have a functional elbow that bends to force the fingers to close the hand.

Our talented engineering students have done a wonderful job thus far. I congratulate them on their efforts and we look forward to making a difference in Lucas' life.

We designed Mother's Day gifts and are doing Father's Day gifts for club members. This is a collaborative team club effort. Kudos 3D Design Club and engineering students!

Here is the link/reference to our FB page, **e-Nable MTHS** .



NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY

The MTHS National Art Honor Society participated in the ***Design Your Own Destiny*** contest for New Jersey's Division of Highway Traffic Safety. The "Design Your Own Destiny" contest invited New Jersey residents ages 15 and up to create their own version of colorful steering wheels showcased in the innovative "Take Control of Your Destiny" campaign to raise awareness of distracted driving and inspire drivers of all ages to stay focused on what lies ahead – every time they get behind the wheel.

Sophomore, Athena George, is one of two 1st place winners in the contest. We are proud to have 9 other honorable mentions in the contest as well:

Angelina Rufin

Ankitha Ungarala

Jennah Ayoubi

Melissa Xuan, Neeharika Kakanuru & Shalika Thappali

Salma Abbassi

Sana Kakumanu

Sophia Papasso

Morgan Hoiberg

Sanjana Nuti & Neha Jeyaram

Head to <https://www.njoag.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/division-of-highway-traffic-safety-home/design-your-destiny-wheel-contest-submissions/> for a look at the contest and MTHS NAHS work on digital display for the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

Athena George



Angelina Rufin

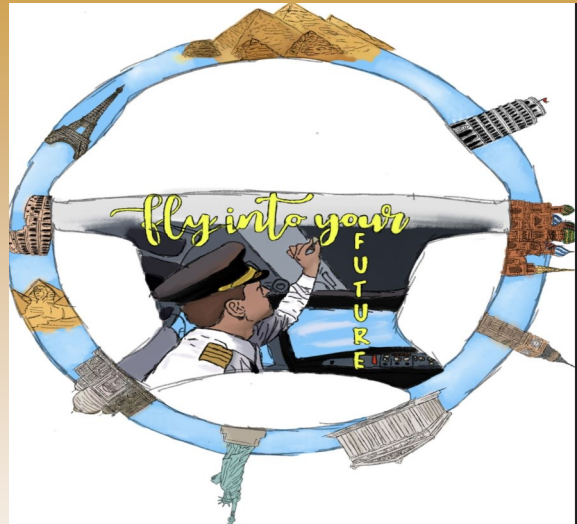


NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY CONT'D

Jennah Ayoubi



Salma Abbassi



Sanjana Nuti & Neha Jeyaram



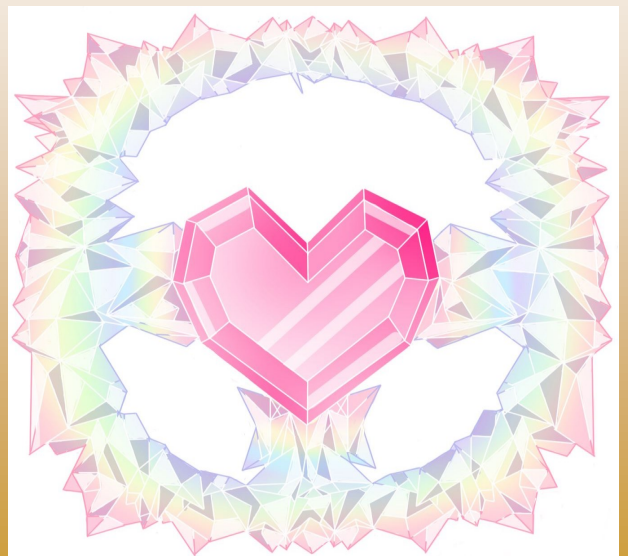
Sana Kakumanu



Melissa Xuan, Neeharika Kakanuru &
Shalika Thappali



Sophia Papasso



NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY CONT'D

Morgan Hoiberg



Congratulations Boys Lacrosse GMC
Champions!!!!!!



NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Good News! Nine MTHS National English Honor Society Seniors, Class of 2022, earned college scholarships by writing award-winning essays for the national essay contest. NEHS chapters across the country read *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, a contemporary novel by Christi Lefteri (2020) that explores the heart wrenching refugee experience of a beekeeper and his family during the 2011 Syrian War. Through the inclement months of November-January, NEHS members honed their literary skills while discussing the book, playing Kahoot games, and brainstorming ideas for the essay prompts using Google Jamboard. Each member wrote their own literary analysis essay, which was evaluated by the national organization Sigma Tau Delta headquartered at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. The winning essayists are:

Surabhi Ashok
Rose Ayar
Emily Carey
Rajika Chauhan
Siri Harish
Thanmayee Kavuri
Maheen Khan
Nazli Mohideen
Mary Rose Salva

This is our third year in a row with a good number of winning essays for this annual contest, a testament to the excellent work being done in the English Department. [Click here for the other 30 winners from states across the country.](#)

Congratulations!

We are very proud of all of our students and their accomplishments!

