



Purple & Gold

December 2022

DECA ADVANCES TO THE STATES



On November 22, 2022, the Upper Darby High School DECA team went to St. Joseph's University to compete in their district-level competition. UDHS competed against the following schools: Lower Merion High School, Harriton High School, the Baldwin School, the Shipley School, Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, the Friends School, Friends Central School, Upper Merion High School, and Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. All of the

students placed in the top 10, and many will move on to the Pennsylvania States Competition in Hershey, PA, this coming February. Congratulations to all of our team members. The following students advance to State Competition:

Cierra Brown, 1st place, Principles of Business Management and Administration

Taylor Williams, 3rd place, Principles of Hospitality and Tourism

Oyin Olowu, 3rd place, Principles of Marketing

Vy Lam, 4th place, Principles of Marketing

Jason Haq, 3rd place, Automotive Services Marketing

Hamza Ansari, 2nd place, Business Finance Series

Joanna Ngo, 4th place, Business Services Marketing

Asnan Nabi, 4th place, Entrepreneurship

Aiden Moore, 5th place, Entrepreneurship

Laura Ibrahim, 1st place, Hotel and Lodging Management

Zainabe Hizouni, 2nd place, Marketing Communications

Somaya Begum, 5th place, Retail Merchandising

Tanveer Kaur, 4th place, Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Team Events:

Thanh-Thu and Fariha Khan, 2nd place, Buying and Merchandising

Rachel Fitzpatrick and Amar Kuriakot, 3rd place, Buying and Merchandising

The Team was also happy to welcome back Mr. Meehan from his tour of duty in Kuwait!

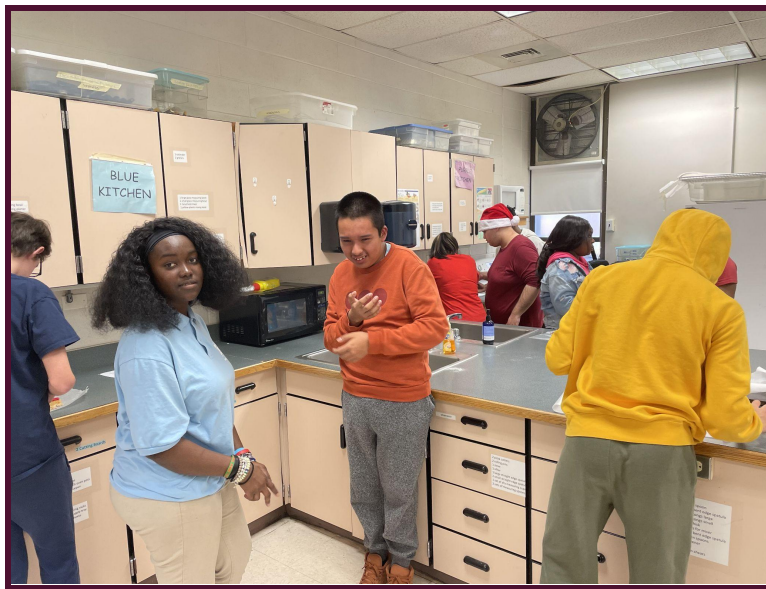
SPECIAL EDUCATION CORNER

Best Buddies Club Gets Ready for the Holidays



The Best Buddies Club had their holiday get together on Wednesday, December 14. Best Buddies is an organization founded by Anthony Shriver (son of Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver), which fosters one-to-one friendships between individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. During this meeting, the students had a lot of fun making holiday cookies together.

Pictured above are club president Liz Gbenga working with Elijah and Gregorio.



Unified Bocce

The UDHS Unified Bocce team has kicked off its 2022-2023 season with coaches Taylor Goerlach and Jessica Conley! For those of you that may not be familiar, Special Olympics Unified Sports combines people with and without intellectual disabilities on sports teams for training and competition. People with intellectual disabilities are classified as Special Olympics Athletes, and people without intellectual disabilities are classified as Unified Partners. All Unified Sports are meant to be competitive, and the goal of each Unified Sports team is to emphasize the principle of meaningful involvement which ensures every member is presented with opportunities to contribute to their team's performance. We have an awesome team that practices every Tuesday from 3:15PM - 4:15PM. If you are interested in joining, please contact Ms. Goerlach at tgoerlach@upperdarbysd.org as we are still in need of Unified Partners to be successful this season. If you are a spring or fall sports player, this is a great opportunity to stay competitive in your off season. Did we mention that championships are in Hersey, PA?



Polar Plunge

Polar Plunge is happening February 10, 2023 at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia! As our Autistic Support and Life Skills classes are gearing up to take the plunge, check out our fundraising page and consider donating to a plunger! Here is the link to our page: <https://give.specialolympicspa.org/team/460896> Our Upper Darby Royals are currently in 3rd place overall for fundraising. Hopefully our UDHS colleagues can send us up to the top!

Gift Wrapping Services for the Holidays

The elves of Room 172 (our life skills 18-21 students) are at it again this year and looking to spread some holiday cheer by wrapping your holiday presents. If you would like to have some assistance with gift wrapping, please drop off your gifts to Room 172 throughout the month of December. You may provide gift wrap, or we will wrap in paper of our choice. Also, please ensure that your gifts are labeled, so we can properly label them once wrapped. Wrapped gifts can be delivered to your room at your request.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

UDHS Participates in Model Senate with World Affairs Council

Upper Darby students participated on Thursday, December 15, in the 2022 Model Senate on The Foreign Relations Committee, hosted by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and held at Temple University's Fox School of Business.

The program explored two topics of critical importance confronting the legislative branch of the United States. Students examined, from the perspective of U.S. Senators and Expert Witnesses, the investigation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and assessed an appropriate U.S. response. The second topic touched on the ever growing presence of China

in the Middle East, with students exploring legislative opportunities to protect U.S. interests in the region.

Students in the 2022 Model Senate program represented selected senators, committee co-chairs, expert witnesses, and journalists as they sought positive solutions to ongoing issues of national and international concern.

At the meet, several Upper Darby students won special awards. Congratulations to

Ben Maitre, Outstanding Senator Honorable Mention

Andy Luu, Outstanding Senator Honorable Mention

Micha Freeman Stephens and Rayan Hansali for Outstanding Co-Chairs



From Left: Ben Maitre, Micah Freeman-Stephens, Andy Luu, Rayan Hansali, Khandakar Mahin, Kevin Rihel

UDHS Participates in 10th Annual Ethics Bowl

Congratulations to the students involved in the 10th Annual Upper Darby High School Ethics Bowl. The students' dedication to preparing, writing, and researching was complemented by their high level of diplomacy, decorum, and polite discourse.

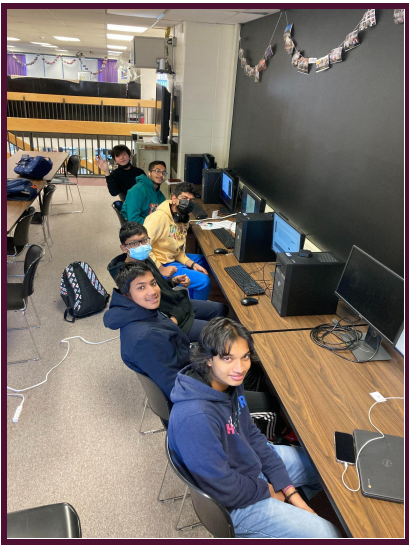
The Annual Upper Darby High School Ethics Bowl has been a proud tradition here since 2012. Each year, the Parr Center for Ethics releases fifteen new cases, of which our Seminar students choose their favorites to apply various ethical theories learned in class. This year, students prepared a case about a pregnant woman's bodily autonomy, and another case that dealt with securing justice for the murder of Emmett Till— seventy years after the crime. Additionally, motivated student members of The Upper Darby Society of Ethics study all fifteen cases in preparation for the Regional High School Ethics Bowl held in February at Villanova University. Last year, Upper Darby made it into the semi finals, placing 4th out of 16 schools.



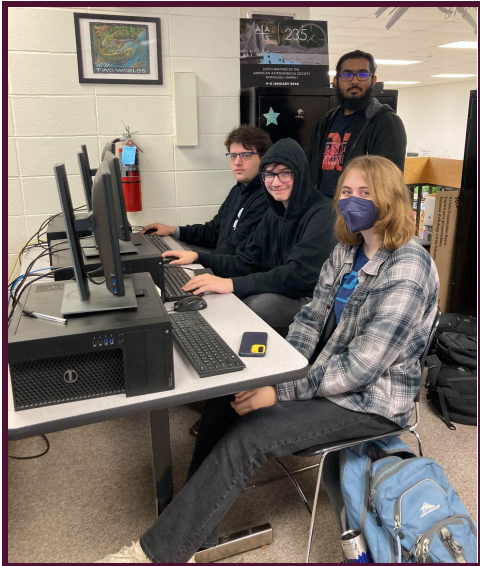
UDHS Participates in a National CyberPatriot Competition

This year, UDHS has three teams participating in the national CyberPatriot competition, sponsored by the U.S. Air Force. The competition puts students in the positions of newly highered IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. Teams find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities while maintaining critical services.

This year all three teams scored high enough in preliminary rounds to place them in the Gold Tier in the State Round, held on Friday, December 9. We are currently awaiting the results of the State Round.



Khatib Ashraf, Mohammad Haque, Muntassir Nabeel, Manveer Singh, Ridwan Muntasir, Thomas Hong



Konstantine Papakonstantinou, Jacob Aaron, Shaikh Ahmed, Sophie DeMott (missing: Abrar Laskar)



Terrance Godwin, Ryan Clarici, Daniel Quillen, Jadon Bandolon, Antwan Davis (missing: Nick Fitzpatrick)

SHOUT OUTS

Varsity Basketball Coach and Math Teacher Ryan Crossman would like to send a shout out to Amy Sandman, who works as a PCA with Special Programs. Says Mr. Crossman: “I wanted to give a personal shout out to Amy Sandman! She has been amazing helping our basketball team with food supplies and a microwave. I mentioned one time that we were in need, and she has been there every step of the way. Gatorades and protein powders as well. She is always in a good mood and has made a huge difference for our kids.”

“Shout Outs” is a new feature to this newsletter. If you have one, please email dzoccola@upperdarby.org.

SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars for some big dates coming up in the UDHS social calendar:

December 20–9th Grade Shadow Day

December 22–Operation Royal Pride

December 25-January 2–School is closed

January 3-UDHS Scholarship Meeting for Seniors Block 3
January 4-Algebra Keystone Exams
January 5-Algebra Keystone Exams
January 6-Literature Keystone Exams
January 9—Literature Keystone Exams
January 10-Biology Keystone Exams
January 11-Biology Keystone Exams
January 11-UDHS Home & School Assoc. Meeting
January 16-Martin Luther King Day
January 17-20-Final Exams/End of the Semester



Have a story idea? Please email dzoccola@upperdarby.org.