



*Compiled by Victoria Ludkowski*

**2019 - 2020 Issue 1**

**October 2019**

Mark Your Calendar! It's about that time to launch a new school year with PTSA Academic Boosters!

### **Next PTSA - Academic Boosters Meeting:**

Thursday, October 10th, 2019  
Starts promptly at 8 a.m. (\*note the earlier time)  
In the Yorker Room

Please join us for a "mission and vision" meeting. We will review how our Committee has evolved over the years to support academics at York and brainstorm new initiatives. We welcome all suggestions!

## **YORK ACADEMIC UPDATES**

### **FCCLA Students Honored**

York students earned gold, silver and bronze medals at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference, which took place in Springfield in April. York students won 19 gold medals and 21 silver medals at the event. Three York Students: Yusarah Haswarey, Kayla Tutunji and Elizabeth Greiwe earned "Most Outstanding" distinction, which was awarded to those with the top project in their category. (from the Elmhurst Independent)

### **Math Contest**

Perfect papers from this month's math contest included: Calvin Wiersum, Javier Carreon and Andrew Brooks in Geometry and Aaron Taub in Advanced Algebra! (from York Parents Facebook Page)

### **National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists**

Congratulations to the nine York High School seniors who were announced as Semifinalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. The seniors are: John Devine, Timothy Hradil, Aaron Ludkowski, Dylan Mahoney, Kol Rollins, James Sampson, Allison Splitstone, Matthew Splitstone and Paige Szipszky. Our students will be honored by the District 205 Board of Education this fall. They also will have the opportunity to advance in the competition and be considered for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2020 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. Click this [link](#) for more information. (from the CUSD 205 Facebook page)

### **SkillsUSA**

York students earned medals at the SkillsUSA State Competition, which took place in Springfield in April. The honored students included Joseph Gemini, who earned first place in Technical Drafting CAD and Jeff Wasco, who earned first place in Screen Printing Technology. (from the Elmhurst Independent)

### **Wagner Scholarships**

The Brian Edwin Wagner scholarship of which \$2,500 is awarded to each recipient toward their college tuition and two York Students were selected this year. Katy Clugg was accepted to the University of Maryland and will major in criminology and criminal justice. She hopes to one day serve our country in the FBI. The other student is Abigail Hohman, attending the University of Kentucky and majoring in elementary education. She hopes to replicate Brian's work ethic of sound judgment and committing herself to volunteer programs. (from the Elmhurst Independent Newspaper).

## **WHAT TO DO: OCTOBER**

Here is your grade-by-grade checklist which is focused on what York has to offer. Click [here](#) to access the Monthly Planner Checklist Grade-by-Grade Guide for York Students and Parents.

- Introduce yourself to your counselor if you have not done so already.
- Bring questions/conflicts early to teachers.
- Prepare to make course selections for next year.
- Check out the Performing Arts Calendar for band, orchestra, choir, dance and drama performances
- Attend a College Fair. Get acquainted with schools and representatives. Visit the CCRC page for information.
- Parents: attend Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Parents: log in to PowerSchool to sign up for daily school announcements.

**Juniors:**

- York administered optional PSAT/NMSQT is given to juniors. This is the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship. Refer to the chapter on testing in the “Making the Most of York” parent guide provided by the Academic Boosters. Visit the College Board website for prep resources.

**Seniors:**

- Refine your college list.
- Check out the CCRC [college prep programming](#).
- Start researching scholarships.
- FAFSA and CSS filing dates are 10/1.
- Attend college meetings with representatives visiting from York.
- Visit the CCRC for important college forms:
  - o Transcript Release Form ([green](#)) for each school in Naviance.
  - o Transcript Request and Tracking Form ([pink](#)).
  - o Counselor Recommendation Form ([blue](#)).

## RESOURCES

**York PTSA Academic Boosters Committee**

*Academic Boosters* (PTSA-AB) is the academic advocacy committee of the *York PTSA*, spotlighting those York clubs and PTSA events/activities which are academically-oriented. By developing parent guidebooks, online tools and organizing monthly PTSA-AB presentations by York faculty and administration, PTSA-AB offers ALL parents a terrific way to learn about the amazing environment at York and how to navigate and balance the many academically rich opportunities for their child.

York Academic Boosters are committed to raising school and community awareness of academic achievement at York High School. We do this by:

1. Partnering with York and the community to recognize both high achievers and those who strive to improve;
2. Working to increase participation in and recognition of academically related clubs and activities at school and in the community; and
3. *Advocating* for strong and diverse course offerings that challenge every student.

**Advocate + Partner + Encourage + Celebrate**

- **Like us on Facebook:** visit our page “York PTSA Academic Boosters” and click the ‘like’ button.
- Visit our website at: <https://york.elmhurst205.org/parentstudent-resources/academic-boosters-ptsa> to find more information about our organization and support for your student during their years at York.

- Our main publication is the “[Making the Most of York](#)” guidebook which was written by York parents for York parents.
- Our Monthly Checklist is a [Grade-by-Grade Checklist](#) for Students & Parents written by parents who have ‘been there’ (not an official District 205 document).
- [Join](#) PTSA online. [Download](#) the PTSA Membership Form.

Note: If you have an academically-oriented club or team, and have news to share, you can post on our [York PTSA Academic Boosters Face book Page](#)! Share your proud moments and encourage others to get involved. Page posts are monitored for appropriateness.

## SPOTLIGHT EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPS

The Academic Boosters committee shines a light on PTSA’s academically-oriented events/activities at York, including:

October 16 – [Fall Testing Day - PSAT](#) \*\*

November 5 – [National Honor Society Induction](#)

December 4 – [8<sup>th</sup> Grade Transitions \(Activity & Academic Night\)](#)

December 18-20 – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Finals

February 24, 7-9pm – [Life After York Q & A; Parent to Parent Advice on College & Other Paths to Success](#)

March tbd – [World Language Honor Societies Induction](#)

April 14 – Spring Testing Day \*\*

April tbd – [National Technical Honor Society Induction](#)

May 1 – [Duke Decision Day](#)

May 4-15 – AP Testing

May 6 – [Academic/athletic Awards Night](#)

May 17 – York Graduation

May tbd – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Finals

\*\* For Information about Testing at York, Visit:

“[Making the Most of York: A Parent to Parent Guide](#)”

**Go Dukes!**