

# Phoenixville Community Education Foundation



*Taking Education to New Heights*

## Catalog of Programs 2018-2019

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120 Main Street, Box 348  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
Phone: 610.933.5911  
E-mail: [jcadigan@pcefonline.com](mailto:jcadigan@pcefonline.com)  
[www.pcefonline.com](http://www.pcefonline.com)

*The mission of the Phoenixville Community Education Foundation is to secure and provide resources that enhance the overall educational experience within the Phoenixville Area School District including learning initiatives, preparedness programs and out of the classroom activities.*

*The Phoenixville Community Education Foundation (PCEF) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable organization founded in 2002*

# PHOENIXVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## EITC Approved Programs

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Program**

Phoenixville Area School District (PASD) participates in the CollegeBoard® Advanced Placement Program. The AP program serves the Phoenixville Area High School (PAHS) students who are capable of pursuing college level studies, have met the prerequisites for the chosen course, and are interested in working at an advanced level. PCEF makes grant funds available to PASD to help economically-disadvantaged students offset the cost of these test fees.

### **Afterschool Envirothon Club**

The Envirothon Club at Phoenixville Area Middle School involves the students in a spring program that focuses on our community's environmental health issues. Specialized instructors from Green Valleys Association give participants the knowledge and information they need to make lasting changes in their community.

### **Dual Enrollment**

High school students have an opportunity to gain college credit prior to graduation through this program. The Phoenixville Area School District (PASD) is partnering with Delaware County Community College and Montgomery County Community College so students will be able to take courses for high school and college credit. Tuition assistance is provided to students with financial need.

### **Odyssey of the Mind (OotM)**

OotM is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students. PASD offers this program at the elementary and middle schools. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. OotM develops critical thinking, creative problem solving skills and team work in the participants. The students build public speaking and dramatic skills, and learn how to operate within the constraints of time and place. The teams participate in competitions at the local level, and if they qualify, they move on to the state and world competitions.

### **PA Junior Scientists Program**

The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) is a statewide organization designed to stimulate and promote interest in science among its members through the development of original research projects and investigations. This project encourages students to actively participate in science and math by following a scientific method to select a project, research the background, formulate a hypothesis, develop an experiment to prove or disprove the hypothesis, and to collect and analyze data from their experiment. Students prepare a written report and give an oral presentation including audiovisuals at a regional competition, and if

awarded a red or blue ribbon, move on to the state competition hosted at The Pennsylvania State University – University Park.

### **Phoenixville Robot Works**

Phoenixville Robot Works is a program offered to Phoenixville Area High School students to inspire them to be science and technology leaders. It encourages them to put their math and science skills to full use by engaging them in exciting programs that build science, engineering and technology skills. Robot Works also promotes self-confidence, communication, collaboration and leadership. Students design, build and program robots to perform set tasks assigned by the FIRST Robotics National Organization. Once built, the students attend competitions to test their robots against other high school teams.

### **Stepping Up Summer Literacy Program**

The Stepping Up Summer Literacy Program is an invitation-only, tuition-free, four-week program designed for students in the district who have completed grades K through 5. Eligible students are reading below grade-level (as indicated in the mid-year DRA and/or DIBELS data) and are at risk of losing reading skills over the summer. Eligible students receive the literacy support they need to prevent the 'summer slide.'

### **Video Production (Phantom TV)**

Phoenixville Area High School hosts a fully functional television studio as well as equipment for 'on the spot' reporting and coverage of events. Students and specialized instructors handle all aspects of running the Phantom TV studio and programming is broadcast through a local cable channel into the community. The studio requires student participation before and after school as well as on weekends, and year round, including the summer. Funding is used to purchase additional and/or updated technology to produce professional quality broadcasts. The high school also uses the studio to teach multiple courses in broadcasting and production; it provides students with an invaluable learning and possible career development opportunity.

### **Youth & Philanthropy Program**

The Youth & Philanthropy programs at Phoenixville Area Middle School and High School enable students to work in a youth-run "Board of Trustees" setting. Students design their own learning/giving situation within the framework of community health and implement a grant-giving program to support the efforts of local nonprofits in their community. This program empowers the students to become young philanthropists and teaches students that everyone can make a difference by giving the commitment of time to help better the community.

**PHOENIXVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
**Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Programs**  
**Supported through EITC**

PASD Inclusive Preschool  
*Phoenixville Area High School and*  
*Phoenixville Area Early Learning Center*

Phoenixville Area Children's Learning Center  
*310 Main Street and 400 Franklin Avenue, Suite 140*

Stepping Stone Education Center  
*400 Franklin Avenue, Suite 250*

## PHOENIXVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### District Wide Programs

#### **Air Force Junior ROTC**

AFJrROTC began in 2015 at the Phoenixville Area High School. This national program is designed to educate and train high school cadets in the fundamentals of the U.S. Air Force's core values of "integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do." The cadets support their school community and the community at large through service hours while maintaining the required academic standards.

#### **Defined STEM**

Defined STEM is an initiative put in place at the Phoenixville Area Middle School. Teachers are asked to have lessons that are engaging and relevant, cross-curricular, focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, differentiate learning, incorporate non-fiction reading and writing and provide an authentic assessment of their students' understanding. We see this as the core fundamental of what STEM education is all about and Defined STEM strives to bring this type of learning to each teacher and student in a school

Defined STEM's Performance Tasks are built from the UBD (Understanding By Design) framework and present a real-world problem within the context of a career/industry. The career based videos frame the task, which allows the students to see the task through the career lens. These video lessons show the students the practical application of the educational concepts they are learning in school.

#### **Destinations with Direction**

This Phoenixville Area High School program is designed to engage and motivate high-potential, mostly first-generation students to pursue opportunities in higher education. These students have the opportunity to work with a college professor, college student mentors and counselors. Through the program, the students participate in a college tour, visiting schools of various sizes, both public and private. Higher education scholarship awards are presented to students who complete participation in the program

#### **Math 24**

This is a math program for all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is a unique mathematics teaching tool that helps train young minds in the processes and patterns of mathematics. The students practice and compete in the classroom throughout the school year, culminating in a district-wide competition. The top students from the district competition move on to compete with students countywide.

## **Grants Programs**

### **Activities Access Grants**

PASD students may apply to PCEF for up to \$300 in funding to help cover the cost of school-sponsored activities that cost more than they or their families are able to afford.

### **AP Testing Fees**

PCEF provides funding to help pay for AP test fees for students whose families cannot afford the costs. Students may apply for a grant by contacting their guidance counselor.

### **Principal Grants**

This program provides funding to the PASD principals for programs/projects in their buildings that enhance the education of all their students.

### **Student Mini-Grants**

PASD students may apply to PCEF for up to \$300 in funding to help cover the cost of certain educational opportunities that occur outside of the school district.

### **Teacher Mini-Grants**

PASD teachers may apply to PCEF for up to \$350 in funding to help bring new and innovative learning opportunities into their classrooms.

## **Model United Nations**

Model UN is an extracurricular club at the high school. The students gain invaluable skills in research, public speaking, negotiation and leadership, while competing with their peers from around the world. Students participating in this program thoroughly research a given country, its viewpoints, and its political initiatives in preparation for attendance at a regional conference. During conferences, participants learn to examine international disputes and negotiate with allies and adversaries to resolve conflicts and assemble international cooperation.

## **Olweus Bullying Prevention Program/SWPBP**

Olweus is a whole-school program that has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying in the school setting. PASD has incorporated this program at the Phoenixville Area Middle School. Through teacher training and student participation, the program is designed to reduce existing bullying problems, prevent the development of new bullying and improve peer relations, thereby making the school a safer and more positive place for students to learn and develop. SWPBP is a complementary program that emphasizes positive behavior on the part of the school community.

### **Operation FOCUS/Post-Prom**

The Post-Prom event is a volunteer led effort to provide a safe environment to our students on the evening after the prom. Students spend the night in the high school enjoying games, entertainment and refreshments. Donations to this effort are made through PCEF and PCEF also provides funding for the event.

### **Pack-A-Backpack**

The Pack-A-Backpack program provides grade-appropriate school supplies and backpacks to students in need in the Phoenixville area. Students are identified either through the free and reduced lunch program or recommended for the program through the guidance office at the schools. This program ensures that all students start the school year with the supplies they need to be successful in the classroom.

### **PAPA S.A.F.E. Program**

Summer Academics For Enrichment offers youth in grades 2 through 5 a free six-week enrichment camp that provides a supportive and structured environment to practice academic skills over the summer months. Participants develop self-esteem and positive social skills through healthy interactions and recreational activities. PCEF supports this program by securing and dedicating funds to pay for Friday fieldtrips.

### **Phantom Food Packs**

The Phantom Food Packs program provides weekend food packs for PASD students living with food insecurity in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. The students are identified by the school counselors and their families are invited to participate in the program. The Food Packs ensure that our youngest students are receiving the proper nutrition throughout the weekend.

### **Physics Team**

The high school Physics Team provides students with a love of science and physics the opportunity to work on high level, open-ended physics problems. The students research a problem, conduct experiments, and draw conclusions that will advance scientific understanding. The team participates in the U.S. Young Physicists Tournament where they present and debate their research and conclusions in front of renowned scientists and their peers from high schools around the country.

### **Scholarships to Graduating Seniors**

Four Phoenixville Area School District college-bound seniors receive PCEF scholarship awards (currently \$2000 each) annually upon graduation from high school. PCEF also facilitates the awarding of scholarships to graduating seniors for local organizations or individuals.

**Special Requests**

Each year PCEF sets aside funds for special requests that are brought to the board by PASD faculty and administration. These are projects/programs that were not built into the annual budget and are typically new initiatives.