

# NORTH POCONO SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Looking ahead to the future

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Great strides are being taken within the North Pocono School District as they await word for their ranking for America's Most Challenging High Schools, celebrate wins by the Mock Trial team and the Science Olympiad, using a new anti-bullying program, begin to implement a recent decision to place a new policy for Narcan on the Board of Education agenda for approval, and partnering with the Moscow Borough for their almost completed tennis courts and a summer project of refurbishing the football field and track.

The Washington Post will be announcing their America's Most Challenging High Schools ranking in April with North Pocono awaiting their ranking, which was 436 last year.

The Washington Post takes the "total number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education tests given at a school each year and divides by the number of seniors who graduated in May or June."

Public schools achieving a ratio of at least 1.00, "meaning they had as many tests as they had graduates," are placed on the national list;

last year North Pocono had a ratio of 1.130.

According to Bryan McGraw, Superintendent of North Pocono School District, "We have invested in Chromebooks at the high school, which is a complete upgrade in our technology used for educating the students.

"We are implementing a new Olweus Bullying Prevention Program at both North Pocono Intermediate and Middle Schools. "Jefferson and Moscow Elementary Center are a year ahead with the program. Our plan is to move it to the high school."

According to the Olweus website, "The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, or OBPP for short, is the most researched and best-known bullying prevention program available today."

"OBPP is recognized by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence as one of only 11 Blueprints Model Programs and by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as a Model Program — two of the highest honors a prevention program can attain."

Olweus' program goals are to reduce existing and prevent developing bullying problems, and achieve better peer relations.

North Pocono High School's Science Olympiad, competing in the Regional Olympiad at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, came

home with a first place win for the entire Northeast region consisting of 15 counties.

This first place win sends the team to the state competition for the fifth straight year.

Of the 23 events, the North Pocono team, coached by Lindsay Croom, medaled in 19 of them, finishing in the top five in 22 of the 23 competitive events which earned them a bid to the state competition in April at Juniata College.

The team, ranked tenth in the state, will compete against 36 other schools from across the state for the State Championship.

North Pocono High School had a strong season with their Mock Trial Team, competing in District 1 of Region 10.

The mock trial season consists of two trials with only the teams that win both trials advancing to the semi-finals.

They won against Abington Heights in the first round, which was the first time they beat them in the past twenty years.

The second trial win against Western Wayne secured a spot in the semi-final round.

When North Pocono took on Scranton Prep in the semi-finals in a very close trial, they lost to Scranton Prep. It was a great season for the Mock Trial team.

Recently, the state decided to make avail-

able a remedy for an opioid overdose to public schools.

North Pocono School District, although preferring to push for prevention, but acknowledging this major health problem, wanted to have medicine available in case of a health crisis brought on by an overdose.

Naloxone is a medication able to reverse an overdose caused by either prescription medication or heroin.

According to the No. 227-C Narcan Policy, "A priority focus of the North Pocono School District is prevention and education related to substance use and abuse.

"However, the District recognizes the need for anticipating and preparing to respond to a variety of emergencies.

"When emergencies happen, including drug related-emergencies, managing incidents at school is vital to positive outcomes."

These events, policy changes and kudos are a reflection of the hard-working administration, educators and staff who play a vital role in preparing students for their bright futures.

"The mission statement of the North Pocono School District is to educate and challenge all students to their maximum potential and prepare them for the demands of a global society."