

COMMENDATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS  
JANUARY, 2015

**High School**

The 2014 Montage won First Place in the American Scholastic Association Contest.

Editors for the magazine included:

John Benhart, Editor-in-Chief

Kelly Conner, Literary Editor

Sarah Seitanakis, Art Director

Liam Kollar, Layout Editor

Brooks Wilding, Assistant Layout Editor

Sarah Meiman, Public Relations Director

Ricky Alfera, Tori Stevans, Meg Haggerty, Olivia Wright, Jenny Park, General Staff Members

Ms. Elizabeth Cecelia, Faculty Adviser.

The 2014 magazine featured art and literature that explored the relationship between vortexes and our lives.

In addition, the 2014 Montage won the ranking of “Superior” in the NCTE (National Council of Teacher of English) PRESLM (Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines) Contest.

A team of High School students has been named “Best in State” and “Best in Region” in the 2014-2015 Verizon Innovative App Challenge. As a “Best in State” team, the students participated in a live, interactive question and answer session via Google Hangout with MIT’s “Bionic Man,” Hugh Herr, on Wednesday, January 14. As a “Best in Region” winner, the team will receive a \$5000 Verizon Foundation grant to advance the District’s STEAM program and will qualify to compete for “Best in Nation.”

Congratulations are extended to

Michael Nastac

Christina Park

Gaurav Bhushan

Nymisha Rameswarapu

Akshay Prasad and

Vidhi Shah

for creating the “A Look Inside” app, which satisfies the curiosity of the “natural engineer” in every child by providing elementary and middle school youngsters the opportunity to *virtually* explore the inner workings of common devices, from blenders to laptops. The students are sponsored by High School teacher Mrs. Pat Palazzolo.

Bailey Fialkovich, a sophomore at the High School, has been selected to represent the United States in January 2016 at The Cup, a fastpitch softball tournament held in the Netherlands. The North American Select Team (NAST) takes pride in representing our continent with great athletes as well as great people. There are no tryouts for this program and only 50 athletes are selected from across the continent who have a dream of playing internationally. The girls selected for this team are chosen based on their ability to play the game as well as their character, personality, and social skills outside the lines of softball play. Bailey plays shortstop on the USC Varsity Softball Team and AAU PA Renegades.

### **Ft. Couch**

Congratulations are extended to the 16 Fort Couch students who competed at the regional CalcuSolve Competition annual event held at Duquesne University on November 20th. Several students ended the competition with a perfect score and participated in the final tie-breaker round. Sam Ding and Dina Leyzarovich placed in the top 10 as individual student competitors. Also, the team of Sam Ding, Julia Fennell, Serena Luo, and Braden Yates participated in the team tie-breaker round and earned 1st place overall.