

MOON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Community Report

2007 - 2008



Moon Area's mission is to educate every student in a respectful, safe, enriching environment through comprehensive programs that inspire excellence, lifelong learning and responsibility.

Dear Moon Area Community:

It is with extreme pleasure and pride that I present to Moon Area families and community members our district's 2007-08 Community Report. This revamped report showcases facility improvements, details this school year's financial plan and, most importantly, celebrates achievements by our talented students.



At Moon Area, teachers, staff and administrators consistently strive to prepare students for future endeavors and that effort is evidenced in evolving technology initiatives, new curriculum adoptions and student successes.

Academically, our students are excelling. All seven district buildings attained Adequate Yearly Progress as set forth by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) guidelines and numerous grades exhibited impressive improvements over previous performances on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment exams, a major NCLB component. High school SAT scores are climbing and students are taking advantage of artistic, academic and athletic opportunities offered by Moon Area as the district realizes its role as a leader in the educational community.

This report contains just a portion of the wonderful and exciting educational work we are doing in Moon Area. We remain focused on continuing our tradition of excellence as this is simply the beginning of a successful future for our district.

Sincerely yours,

Donna K. Milanovich, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## Moon Area School District Board of Education



The 2007-08 school directors were (front row, left) Jeffrey C. Bussard, Nicholas R. Pollack - Treasurer, Carol S. Cellini, Mark E. Ulven - Vice president (back row, left) Mark E. Limbruner, Lisa A. Wolowicz - Secretary, Mark E. Scappe - President, Rosemarie L. Varsanik and Benjamin G. Bonham.

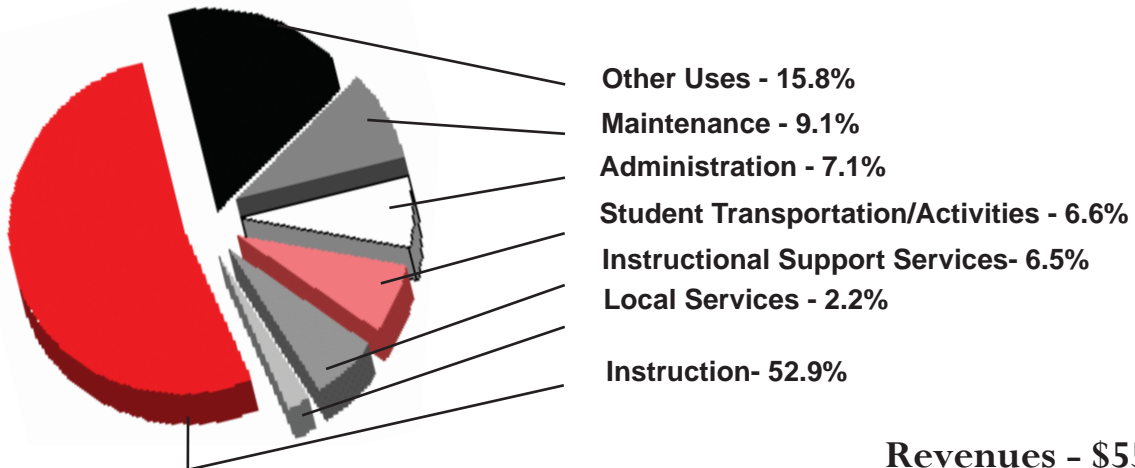


Moon Area administrators finalized aspects of the high school construction project throughout the 2007-08 school year. Their preparation will culminate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new high school in early spring. Eckles Architecture has created a collegiate design for the 186,011-square foot building to convey a stunning facility from every angle. The athletic entrance (*above*), administrative entry (*top right*) and main entrance (*right*) will incorporate tan and crimson accents that also will be integrated into the middle school renovations. To accommodate construction, the former Carnot Elementary was demolished, new traffic lights were installed on University Boulevard and Beaver Grade Road and an athletic field was constructed at McCormick Elementary.

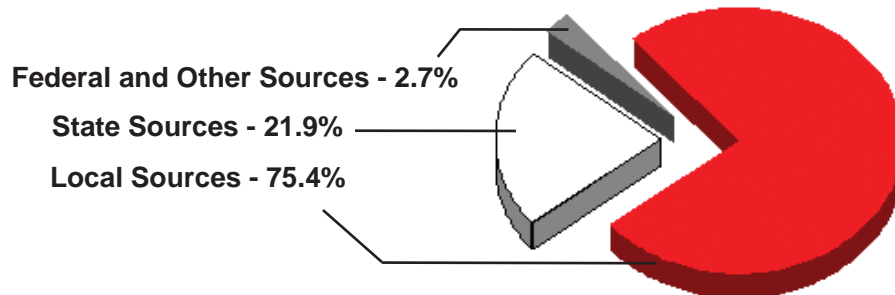


## 2008-09 Operating Budget

Expenditures - \$56,552,080



Revenues - \$55,279,117



Moon Area School District strives each year to deliver high-caliber education for students while adhering to fiscally responsible ideals. Those efforts continued this year with the 2008-09 budget that levied 20.47 mills in real estate taxes. Moon Area's real estate tax millage rate ranks as the **13th lowest out of 42 Allegheny County suburban school districts**. The budget, approved in June, includes nearly \$1.3 million in non-recurring expenses and provides for crucial educational inclusions and vital facility improvements for MASD.

Budgeted enhancements include:

- ▶ Districtwide social studies curriculum adoption with new textbooks and related materials.
- ▶ Replacement and upgrade of 200 computers and 14 interactive whiteboards among many other items as part of the Technology Refresh Program.
- ▶ Allotments for a Director of Operations to oversee all district facilities and a Public Relations Officer to coordinate internal and external MASD communications.
- ▶ Asphalt repairs at all district buildings.
- ▶ New physical education equipment including mountain bikes and in-line skates.
- ▶ Computer network upgrades to facilitate high-speed communication capabilities for video conferencing and distance learning opportunities.
- ▶ A \$700,000 transfer to the capital reserve fund, the district's saving account, for capital improvements.
- ▶ A \$400,000 budgetary reserve deposit for unforeseen expenses and \$325,000 in extra energy costs.

# Technology Initiatives Keep MASD on the Educational Forefront

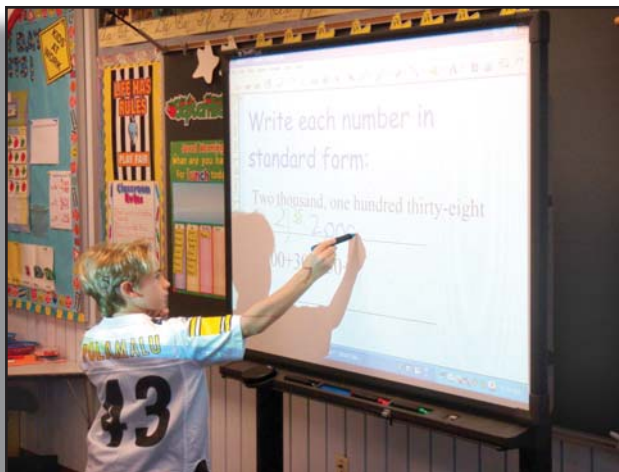
In step with Moon Area's five-year, cyclical Technology Refresh Program, the district acquired and replaced numerous computers, printers, interactive whiteboards and other technological equipment, in addition to launching many new software applications servicing all district departments.



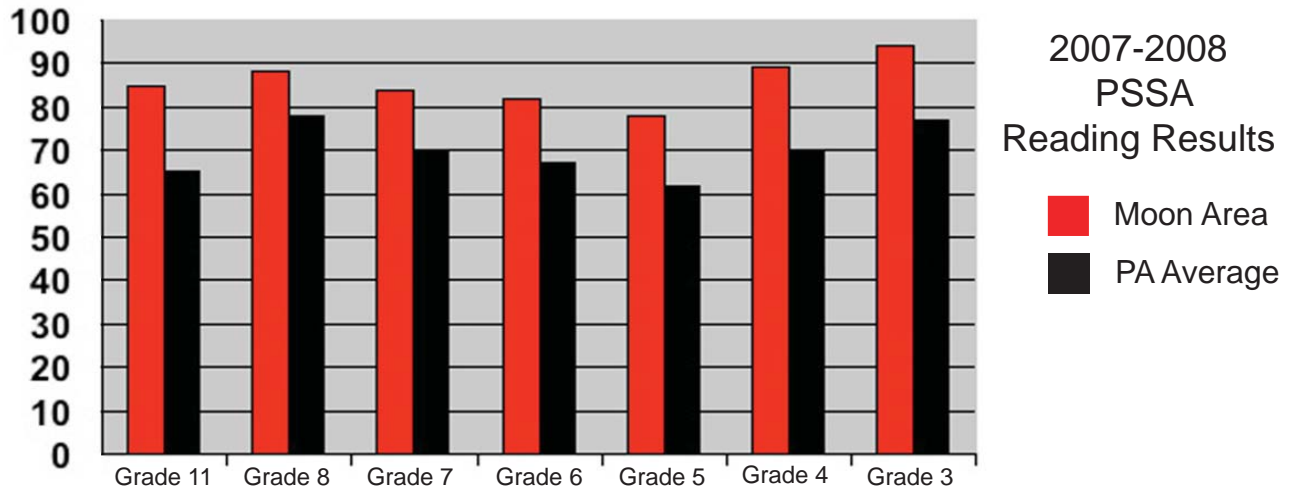
In 2007-08, the district:

- ▶ Upgraded the computer network to provide for more collaboration opportunities.
- ▶ Replaced 200 desktop and laptop computers and all printers in each district classroom.
- ▶ Participated in the advancement of the Regional Wide Area Network connecting all Allegheny County school districts.
- ▶ Designated a full-time employee as a Technology Support Specialist.
- ▶ Upgraded 400 teacher workstations.
- ▶ Expanded MASD's technological base to 1,180 laptop computers, 1,620 desktop computers, 275 printers, 105 LCD projectors and 75 interactive whiteboards.
- ▶ Provided ten online research-based applications in district libraries.
- ▶ Increased software and application database to include more than 500 items for a total amount of programs 10 times greater than utilized in 2000.
- ▶ Updated high school video editing lab with new hardware and software.
- ▶ Enlarged network protection efforts with more SPAM and anti-virus programs and Web site-control software.
- ▶ Installed interactive whiteboards in every high school core subject classroom.
- ▶ Provided all nine middle school teams with a dedicated laptop, LCD projector and interactive whiteboard.
- ▶ Partnered with Carnegie Mellon University and state Attorney General Tom Corbett to pilot elementary-level Internet safety video game.

## Classrooms For the Future - Year Two

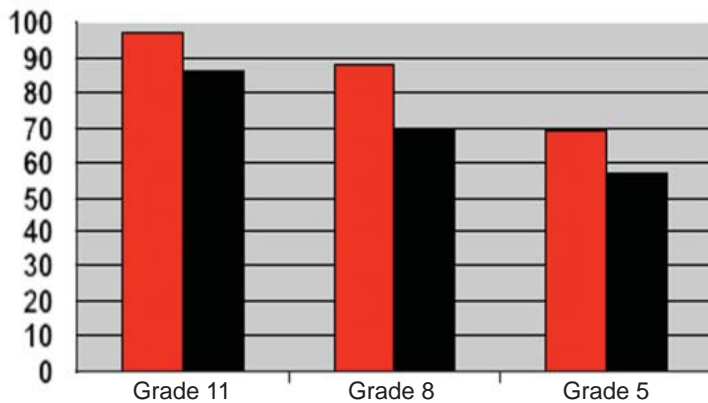
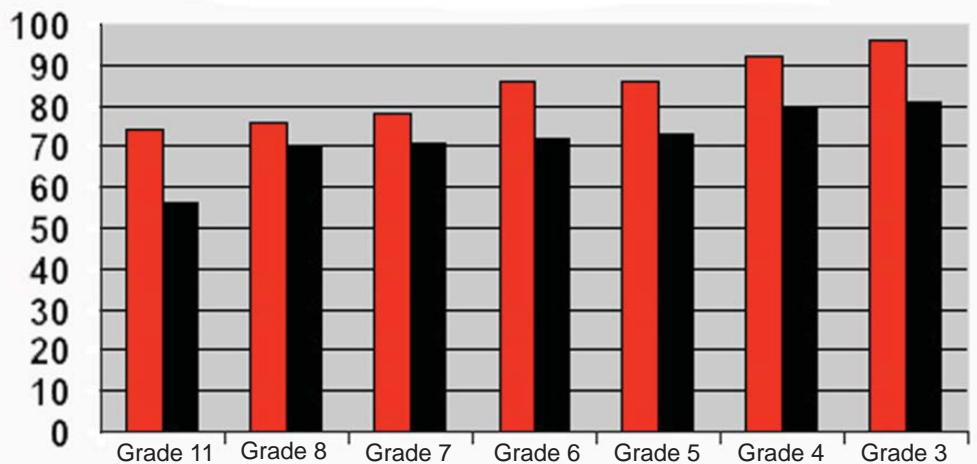


MASD was awarded \$300,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the second year of the Classrooms for the Future initiative in 2007-08. Since the program's inception in 2006-07, Moon Area has received \$732,000 to improve high school instruction through updated technology in core subject areas of language arts, math, social studies and science. From the high school, the same technology endeavors will be utilized in the district's middle school and all five elementary schools ensuring students are accustomed to the technology at all points of their educational careers.



**2007-2008 PSSA Math Results**

■ Moon Area  
■ PA Average



**2007-2008 PSSA Writing Results**

■ Moon Area    ■ PA Average

Moon Area attained Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all seven district buildings as determined by the federal education act No Child Left Behind (NCLB) guidelines. On the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment exams, students achieving advanced and proficient reading requirements improved 3.1 percent and advanced and proficient math requirements climbed 2.1 percent districtwide. In all, nearly 86 percent of Moon Area students scored proficient or higher in reading, and nearly 84 percent achieved proficient or higher in math.

Under NCLB benchmarks for 2007-08, 63 percent of students were required to be on grade level in reading and 56 percent in math. Middle school students returned the highest gains with a 4.1 percent gain in math and a 3.8 percent jump in reading. McCormick Elementary School fifth-graders scored 100 percent proficient on the math portion. AYP also is determined by participation, graduation and attendance.

## Class of 2008 - Top Ten Graduates

**Stephanie Jackson** - Case Western Reserve University  
**Aaron Hassett** - University of Pittsburgh Honors College  
**Ashley Herbert** - Cedarville University  
**Kathleen Mulvaney** - Penn State University  
**Kevin Tomb** - Westminster College  
**Sophia Bender** - University of Pittsburgh  
**Stephanie Dombrowski** - Penn State University  
**Amy Lutz** - Penn State University  
**Elizabeth Frick** - Allegheny College  
**Vincent Pronesti** - University of Pittsburgh Honors College

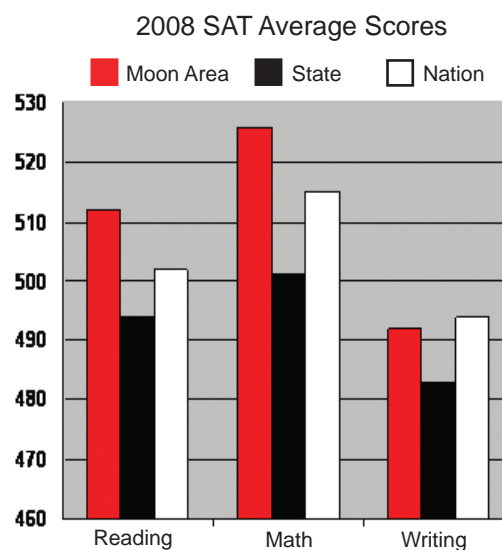


*Kate Kovach and Nikki Ripple*

Of the 302 graduates in the Class of 2008, 84 percent planned to further their education at 78 different colleges, universities and technical schools including the United States Military Academy at West Point, American University and the University of Pittsburgh.

Graduates earned more than 175 academic and athletic scholarships from various educational institutions.

Moon Area students exceeded their state peers in all aspects of the 2008 College Board SAT exam. On the standardized test, students averaged a reading portion score of 512 versus the state average of 494. Math scores were 526 topping the 501 state average and a 492 average writing score put Moon Area students above the state average 483 point score.



## Preparations for the Future

Moon Area offered College in High School courses that allowed high school students to earn college credits while still enrolled in MAHS. Courses coordinated through the University of Pittsburgh included physics, applied calculus and statistics.

Moon Area provided eight Advanced Placement (AP) courses that offered college-level education without leaving MAHS. A total of 216 high school students enrolled in English literature, calculus AB, calculus BC, U.S. history, European history, U.S. government and economics, chemistry and biology in 2007-08. At the end of each course, students may elect to take an AP exam. Scores of 3 or above award students college credit.

The Dual Enrollment Program is in its second year in Moon Area with a total of nine MAHS students participating. Students attended classes at the high school in the morning or afternoon and traveled to a local higher education institution for a portion of the day making the most of their educational time. Participating schools included Robert Morris University and Community College of Allegheny County.

High school students learned about building healthy relationships in new Expressing Change With Healthy Outcomes classes. Moon Area was one of only four area schools chosen to host the free program provided by Twogether Pittsburgh. Volunteers attended weekly, two-hour lessons for seven weeks.

▶ 2008 graduate **Sophia Bender** was named a National Merit Scholarship winner in the 2007-08 program. Only 700 students nationwide were awarded a \$2,500 scholarship out of 1.4 million students who entered the 2008 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT exam. 2008 graduates **Aaron Hassett** and **Amy Lutz** were designated National Merit Scholarship commended students and were among the top five percent of entrants.

▶ MAHS students were accepted to shadow professionals in possible career fields through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's 2007-08 Apprenticeship Program. Participating students included: **Leah Bubeck** (Art Careers), **Alex Colarossi** (Civil and Environmental Engineering), **Melanie Fonner** (Architecture), **Anne Maines** (Journalistic Writing/Reporting), **Ankit Medhekar** (Biotechnology), **Kayla Miller** (Photography), **Maddison Paule** (International Affairs), **Michael Saylor** (Civil and Environmental Engineering), **Anita Shriver** (Musical Theater) and **Joshua Slaby** (Animation).

▶ Parkway West Career and Technology students gained workplace experience through the center's Co-op Program. Students included: **Renee Daniocek** (Cosmetology), **Scott Kruman** (Drafting and Design), **David Lanigan** (Machine Tool Technology), **Andria Morrison** (Cosmetology), **Ben Neumann** (Food Store Operations), **Breanna Razete** (Cosmetology), **Zachery Ross** (Auto Body Technology) and **Brandon Sealock** (Machine Tool Technology).



*Sarah Michelbrink was second runner-up in the Northern Alliance Against Highly Addictive Drugs poster contest.*



*Ankit Medhekar, Ling-Ling Lee and Abe Stucky represented Moon Area in December on KDKA-TV's Hometown High Q competition, hosted by KDKA anchor Ken Rice.*

▶ The College Board named **Aaron Hassett**, **Stephanie Jackson**, **Melissa Opsal** and **Vincent Pronesti** 2008 AP Scholars with Distinction following their performance on the college-level Advanced Placement exams. **Elizabeth Donahoe**, **Ling-Ling Lee**, **Ankit Medhekar**, **Kevin Tomb** and **Kaitlyn Wauthier** were named AP Scholars with Honor. **Sophia Bender**, **Lauren Deem**, **Stephanie Dombrowski**, **Travis Duncan**, **Siddarth Govindarajan**, **Elizabeth Hatton**, **David Homol**, **Aradhana Purker** and **Anita Shriver** were named AP Scholars. Only 18 percent of the 1.6 million high school test-takers performed at a level to merit recognition.

▶ MAHS student **David Korotky** won \$3,000 and two trophies for Moon Area by claiming a communicating science award with his film "Silent Cities" and an Abstract Award for "We Have The Sun" in the 2008 C.A.U.S.E. Challenge Film Festival. The C.A.U.S.E. festival, short for Creating Awareness and Understanding of our Surrounding Environment, promotes environmentalism in young adults through film and utilizes a partnership between Bayer Corp., Carnegie Science Center's SciTech Initiative and Pittsburgh Filmmakers.

▶ High school students **Kaitlyn Wauthier**, **Kayla Miller**, **Dan Murray**, **Zac Liskay** and **April Peng** and middle-school students **Pietari Sulkava**, **Nora Kupiec**, **Selin Sirinterlikci**, **Sarah Henderson**, **Sarah Kelly** and **Jenna Murray** attended the 2008 Academic Games Leagues of America National Tournament in Kissimmee, Fla., on April 25 - 28. Kaitlyn placed first in the senior division and Dan and April placed third in the junior division in the presidents category competition. The students qualified to compete by winning the regional competition in the presidents category at Robert Morris University in September. This was Kaitlyn's third year of national qualification.



April Peng and Dan Murray placed third in presidents category competition in the 2008 Academic Games Leagues of America National Tournament's junior division in April.

- ▶ High School DECA members competed at the International DECA Conference in Atlanta on April 25 - 30. **Jeff Snaman, Joshua Payton, Jason Clary, Marco Bartoletta and Darren Burns** qualified for the conference by finishing first and second in the Retail Merchandising Services, Tourism Management Team and Buying & Merchandising Management Team state DECA competition at Hershey in February.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Governor's School of Excellence selected **Ling-Ling Lee** to attend the program's Health Care School at the University of Pittsburgh in summer 2008. Lee was chosen on the academic merits of her application. She was one of 3,736 applicants who competed for 788 positions in eight different schools.
- ▶ **Jim Palamara, Vash Patel, Abe Stuckey, Aman Saleh and Nikole Warn** designed and developed a radio-controlled and autonomous, hybrid robot for First Tech Challenge Robot Competition. Held at Weatherly Area School District, the competition drew teams from as far away as Singapore. The robotics team represents a partnership between MAHS and Robert Morris University's Engineering Department. Students are mentored by RMU Engineering Department Associate Professor Arif Sirinterlikci.
- ▶ MAMS student **Allison Murphy** was chosen to represent the entire district in the Downtown Vibrancy Project at Point Park University held on June 23 - 27. She helped determine a plan to create a healthier downtown Pittsburgh during the five-day program after meeting with local leaders.
- ▶ **Madeline Scanlon** was Moon Area's first National History Days state-level participant at Millersville University in May. She qualified by placing in National History Day Pittsburgh competition with her project "Conflict and Compromise at the Constitutional Convention."
- ▶ MAHS students **Sophia Bender, Siddarth Govindarajan and David Defuccia** participated in the National Vocabulary Championships qualifier held at Keystone Oaks High School in January. Qualifiers scored top marks on an exam taken by more than 300 MAHS students.
- ▶ MAMS students **Chad Trice and Vidisha Sharma** placed in the Top 20 out of 150 students at MATHCOUNTS Regional Competition at Robert Morris University.

## Faculty Recognition

**Joe Martonik**, middle school science teacher, was named a 2008 Teacher of Excellence Award finalist. The award recognizes and honors outstanding teachers and is distributed by the Teacher Excellence Center, which represents 19,687 teachers in 83 southwestern Pennsylvania school districts.

**Nancy Burgunder**, middle school keyboarding and computer science teacher, attended the Governor's Institute on Financial Education at Elizabethtown College in July to learn how to include age-appropriate financial concepts into lesson plans. She is preparing for a story-time session that teaches the ideals of saving money at the Moon Township Public Library.

**Warren Kooi**, high school chemistry teacher and Oracle Academy instructor, was chosen as Global Lead Adjunct for the Oracle Academy PL/SQL programming course. He provides support for academy instructors around the world. Mr. Kooi also taught at the Oracle Academy Institute, helped judge the 2008 Academy International Data Modeling competition and developed a global support forum.



MAHS Marching Band received runner-up honors at their first Pa. Interscholastic Marching Band Association Championships.

MAHS Symphonic Band was selected to perform at the 13th Annual Arts in Education Day at the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg in May. The ensemble was selected out of 150 groups by a resume of performance experience and a recording sample.

Moon Area fifth and sixth-grade singers **Nicole Bojanovic, Sam Gregory, Dana Murray, Rocco Maue, Ryan Otto, Megan Schoeneweis, Garrett Thomas** and **Tiffany Turbish** participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District I Elementary Sing Fest in March at Winchester Thurston School in Pittsburgh. Each student submitted an application for the honors ensemble and was chosen on the basis of their vocal talent.

Elementary students combined for the first Moon Area Festival Chorus and performed at the sixth-grade choral concert. The 45-member chorus was created as part of teacher **Jaime Frye's** Leadership Academy in the Arts project.

The music department held its inaugural All-MASD concert that involved over 500 students in March. The 2008-09 concert is planned for Feb. 28.

**Nick Antonucci** (Bass Trombone), **Shane Emrich** (Tuba) and **Keith Petersen** (Baritone Sax) earned spots at the PMEA Senior High District I Band Festival held at Trinity High School in January.

Middle School singers **Samantha Hough, Jamie Greene** and **Eric Lewis** participated in PMEA Jr. High District Chorus Festival at Pittsburgh's Creative and Performing Arts School in April.

MAHS Marching Band completed the organization's first full year in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA) competition circuit. Band members represented Moon Area in four competitions notching two first-place wins and two second-place finishes in the AAAA division including a runner-up award in the band's first PIMBA Championships at Elizabeth Forward High School.

MAMS students **Neil Frick** (Baritone), **Chris Nan** (Trumpet), **Abbey Bartus** (Violin) and **Sarah Finnegan** (Violin) participated in the PMEA District Band and Orchestra Festivals at Carlynton and Upper St. Clair high schools in February and April.

**Sara Farwell, Colin Farley, Ryan Butya, Kevin Tomb** and **Elizabeth Hatton** qualified for the PMEA District I Chorus at Derry Area High School. Sara, Colin, Kevin and Elizabeth advanced to PMEA Region I State Chorus and Sara and Colin were selected for PMEA All-State Chorus held in Hershey. The pair also was presented with 2008 state House of Representatives Citations of Excellence.

**Michael Saylor** (Cello), **Ling-Ling Lee** (Violin) and **Geordie Smith** (Violin) were selected for the PMEA Senior High District Orchestra Festival held at East Allegheny in January.

2008 Honors Choir traveled to Chicago to participate in a choral clinic conducted by VanderCook College of Music.



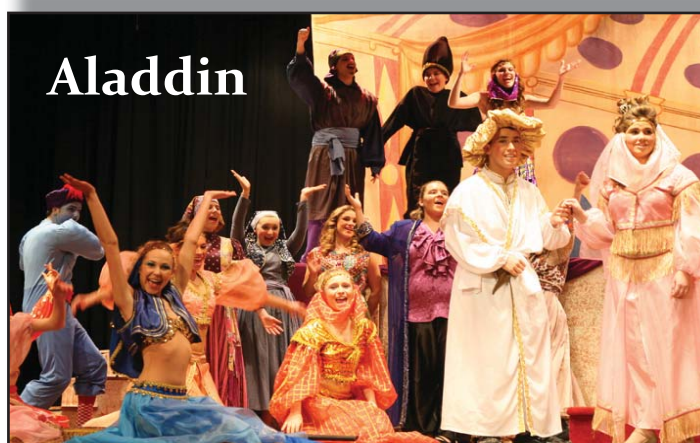
Bon Meade Singing Tigers sang at the 75th Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conference in Hershey in April. The then-fifth-grade ensemble was selected from an audition sample recorded by this year's seventh-grade students.



Cole Porter's "Anything Goes"

More than 60 middle and high school thespians and dancers performed "Anything Goes" for the first time in Moon Area in April. Lead roles in the High School Drama Club spring musical were held by **Sara Farwell**, **Colin Farley**, **E.J. Doychak**, **Elizabeth Hatton**, **Michael Goffus** and **Lauren Corcoran**. The show also was **Debby Kennedy's** final turn at the Moon Area theater helm after 14 years in the director's chair.

High School Drama Club presented their annual fall play "Aladdin" on Nov. 20 - 23. The show featured more than 85 cast and crew members. While some actors were new faces, while many were old favorites to Moon Area theater fans. Actors included **Lauren Corcoran**, **Colleen Keeney**, **Megan Ogden**, **Ethen Omer**, **Ryan Butya**, **Sebastian Clark**, **Alex Belohlavek** and **Ryan Suchy**. **Laura Mitchell** served as director after many years of helping former director **Debby Kennedy**.



Aladdin



- ▶ 2008 graduate **Stephanie Wirtz** won the Viewers Choice Award at Pittsburgh Technical Institute's High School Student Art Show for her acrylic on canvas work (left).

- ▶ Allard Elementary students created a "River of Words" by combining art and science in a new initiative undertaken by art teacher **Kristin Hartman** and science teacher **Christine Duschack**. Approximately 40 fourth-graders researched the Ohio River's water was healthy enough to sustain microscopic life and translated the scientific process into a stained glass window inspired by research and a field trip to Robin Hill Park.

- ▶ 2008 graduates **Brittney Story** and **Emily Kuklish** held "The Awesome Art Show" as part of their senior projects in March at Allard Elementary. The show featured more than 130 pieces of numerous artistic mediums by Moon Area High School students.
- ▶ **Sarah Michelbrink** received second runner-up honors in the Allegheny County Northern Area Alliance Against Highly Addictive Drugs Poster Contest. The MAMS student was honored at a luncheon attended by Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.
- ▶ Hyde Elementary student **Jennifer Ferrone** won first place in the third through fifth-grade category of the 2008 American Chemical Society's Chemists Celebrate Earth Day Illustrated Haiku Contest - Pittsburgh Division.
- ▶ Each Brooks and McCormick elementary student chose their favorite piece from the year to exhibit in schoolwide spring shows. Approximately 700 pieces were displayed.



Moon Area School District  
8535 University Boulevard  
Moon Township, PA 15108  
www.masd.k12.pa.us  
412-264-9440

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## ATHLETICS

### 2007-2008 Achievements



- ▶ **Boys Basketball** team were section champs, WPIAL finalists and finished as PIAA State Semifinalists. Graduating senior Brian Walsh (*left*) was named First Team All-State and Gatorade Pennsylvania Player of the Year.
- ▶ **Gymnastics** team won a WPIAL Championship and were named PA Classic Champions (*bottom right*).
- ▶ **Girls Cross Country** team secured All-Section championships and competed in the WPIAL playoffs.
- ▶ **Girls Volleyball** team advanced to the WPIAL playoffs.
- ▶ **Boys Baseball** team finished as WPIAL semifinalists after competing in the WPIAL playoffs (*bottom left*).
- ▶ **Girls Soccer** team advanced to the WPIAL playoffs.
- ▶ **Girls Track** team secured an All-Section Championship and competed in the WPIAL playoffs.
- ▶ **Girls Basketball** team qualified for the WPIAL playoffs.

