



**FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL**

# STEELER Nation News

**LIVE BLUE AND GOLD**  
January 2022

Happy New Year  
**2022**

## LANGUAGE DEPT. & PHOTOJOURNALISM STUDENTS EXPLORE CARNEGIE MUSEUMS

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Students pose in front of Teeny Harris exhibit (above), Dontaé Bell, Allen Michael Jackson and Mackenzie Ulan row a canoe, students pose in front of Monet "Waterlilies," (top, left) in front of real and casted T Rexes and Maria Harrison shows her favorite, Jackie Robinson, photo.

Sra. Torres procured several dozen tickets to the Carnegie Museums of Art and History in order to take Language Department and Photojournalism students to the Pittsburgh, PA destination in mid January 2022.

Students earned an invite to the free field trip through demonstration of outstanding effort, behavior, interest and or academic achievement in language and journalism classes and clubs. Small groups of students toured the Museum of Natural History led by docents that provided background information on several Native peoples of the Americas and Ancient Egypt.

Following lunch, teachers guided students through the permanent photography collection of Teeny Harris, a prolific African American photojournalist that photographed African American life in Pittsburgh prior to and during the

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# JUNIOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



**8th Grade Awards:** **Top CDT:** Darnel LaCamera, Toni Butler, Kiara Wilson. **Top Edmentum:** Juelz Johnson, Toni Butler, Kayvon Evans, Anton Sharper, Gabby Yaple. **Most Improved Edmentum (ELA):** Kiara Wilson. **Top Blue Ribbon:** Toni Butler, Kiara Wilson, Jordyn Jackson, Kayvon Evans, Darnel LaCamera, KaMya Thompkins, Gabby Yaple. **Top 5 Students:** Toni Butler, Darnel LaCamera, Kayvon Evans, Kiara Wilson, Ky' Ashia Mitchell, Kiara Wilson, Dharvesh Sahadeo, Ja'Niya Daniels, KaMya Thompkins, Alauna Crawford, Darnel LaCamera, Dharvesh Sahadeo, Kiara Wilson, Gabriella Yaple. **Citizenship/Current Events Award:** Dharvesh Sahadeo.

**7th Grade Awards:** **Top CDT:** Lydia Latzoo, Kammy Dean, Kiara Thompson. **Top Edmentum:** Lydia Latzoo, Kiara Thompson, Autumn Brownlee. **Most Improved Edmentum (ELA):** Brooklyn Hughes. **Top Blue Ribbon:** Hailey Golub, Kiara Thompson, Xy'Onna Robbins, Demarion Odem, Je'Mya Jackson, Brooklyn Hughes, Lydia Latzoo, Maddy Harrison. **Top PSSA Practice Questions:** Lydia Latzoo, Bashie Parker, Kiara Thompson. **Top 5 Students:** Lydia Latzoo, Kiara Thompson, Jada Kennedy, Maddy Harrison, Kammy Dean, Hailey Golub. **Citizenship/Current Events Award:** Shalae LaCamera. **Perfect Attendance Award:** Corey Wilder

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# Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Smith

BY Bryan Phillips

Mrs. Smith has been working at Farrell High School for 18 years. She graduated from Kent State University with a B.S. in English Education, and Master's in Literacy Education. She teaches English 9-12 Honors, and English 10. Mrs. Smith is the Head of the English Department, Farrell Teachers Association Secretary, and a member of the Safety Committee.

Mrs. Smith believes it is essential to build a relationship with her students in order to understand who they are. "School is way more than a textbook." For example, in her current Juniors' Honor Class, she noted that she has been able to see them grow personally and academically throughout the years. She views her role as a teacher to be to educate, motivate, and inspire students. Mrs. Smith loves her work with literature and working with her students. She says, "No two days are ever the same." Some advice that she would give to a FHS student wishing to be successful, "High school is

like any adventure or challenge you may face: You get what you put into it."

A challenge that all teachers have faced in recent years is that of Covid 19. Mrs. Smith has found this to be an especially challenging area of teaching because of all the changes it has brought to FHS. It has made it troubling for a student and teacher to develop a routine, with the risk of always being able to get sent virtual or get Covid and be out of school for 7-14 days. That is valuable school time being missed with your teacher.

Mrs. Smith is married with one dog and two cats. Her dog's name is Hudson. The two cats are named Rueben and Roscoe. Some hobbies that Mrs. Smith enjoys when she is not teaching are reading, cooking, traveling and shopping. After retirement, Mrs. Smith would like to become a professor and travel some



more. Some places she has had the chance to travel to are Riviera Maya, Mexico and Charleston, South Carolina. South Carolina has become a second home to her and her husband. A favorite quote of Mrs. Smith comes from George R. R. Martin "I have lived a thousand lives and I have loved a thousand loves. I've walked on distant worlds and seen the end of time."

## FHS ELECTIVES

By Diamond Lewis

Elective classes are part of a required graduation plan. They allow students flexibility in how they fulfill the requirements. Students can use electives to enhance career possibilities, or to learn new skills. Students have the ability to choose their electives, ideally, it makes them more eager to engage with the material. This being the case, a greater variety of electives offered would provide students an enhanced opportunity to discover areas that they may have never been exposed to before and increase the potential for student engagement.

Farrell students and teachers were given an opportunity to offer their opinion on elective offerings through a Google Form survey sent out in December 2021. The top choice, selected by 70% of the students at FHS, was Drivers Education. Approximately 50% of survey participants are interested in Interior Design, Business courses and Psychology. The survey also gave students the opportunity to offer creative responses. Some students think Architecture, Art and Culinary Arts, Public Speaking, Music Production, Animation, Creative Writing, and Metal Shops would be a great fit for FHS. Several students commented with their opinions about why adding more electives would be a good idea, some examples are the following:

*"It would help diversify our school and give the students at Farrell a better chance in the 'real world.' By having different electives, students have different chances to find what they love and what they are interested in for their future."*

*"I feel like Driver's Education and Personal Finance are especially important. These classes actually teach you life skills that you would use. Even though we do have a finance class, I feel like we take it way too early. We aren't using that stuff when we are in 8th grade so why are we learning it then?"*

Steeler Nation News addressed some of these ideas with an interview with our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Titus. When asked which, if any, extra electives would benefit our students, she responded that more electives would almost always benefit students, but that staffing, enrollment numbers and budgets are all important considerations in instituting new programs of study. She added that the field **Computer Science is a new innovative class that will benefit our students and will be taught next year by Mr. Gregory.** Hopefully, in the future, FHS will be able to vary elective offerings so that students can expand their career opportunities.





# Mental Health Check:

## Can Social Media be Altering your Mood?



BY Jada Williams

Social media is a never ending topic of discussion. People of all ages use it and it can be used for just about anything. Because it has many uses and users are emboldened by a perceived sense of anonymity, it can be used in negative ways. These people that use platforms in a pessimistic way can cause negativity in other users. This can result in deterioration of someone's mental health.

Mental health is a person's state of well-being, emotionally And psychologically. It is something that most people don't even pay attention to or consider. Spending more than 3 hours per day, on social media, puts adolescents at a higher risk for mental health problems. "13% of kids ages 12-17 report depression and 32% report anxiety." (Clark)

A big contributing factor to bad mental health on social media is cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person. "Cyber bullying can include posting, sending, or sharing negative, false, harmful, or mean content about someone else." (Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)) 59% of teens living in the United States experienced cyberbullying or online harassment. This

can lead to depression, anxiety, increased feeling of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleeping and eating patterns, decrease in academic achievement, and increase in likelihood to miss or drop out of school.

Sometimes negativity can be caused in users unintentionally. For example body dysmorphia is a mental illness that involves obsessive focus on how they appear. Body dysmorphia can result from a plethora of things but it is very common for it to develop from engaging in social platforms. "Constant exposure to altered images can lead to an unhealthy pressure to achieve unrealistic body types." (Adkins) This results in body dysmorphic behaviors, especially for teens, who are more likely to have insecurities and depression.

Unhealthy mental health because of social media isn't limited to one age group and can be difficult for anyone one going through it. So, how exactly do you deal with it? Something that you can start with is taking a break. You can take a break from social media by deleting an app and downloading it again when you're ready or limiting the time that you spend on it each day. Another option is therapy. Therapy can help with all types of mental health issues and not just the ones pertaining to social media.

## FHS Administrators Tighten Cellular Device Rules to Curb Usage During Instructional Time

### *Here are YOUR thoughts:*

BY Allen Mychael Jackson

High School Spanish teacher, Senora Torres, feels like it's a "positive change school wide." She feels that there has been a dramatic increase of learning in her classroom instead of having to redirect people about their cellphones all day. When interviewed, Mr. Sipos and Mrs. Guth agreed with this positive outcome.

An abundance of students will testify that they feel uncomfortable not having access to their personal devices all day. Sophomore, Taveion Taylor, explained that he feels very uncomfortable not having access to his phone because in the case of an emergency, he wants to be able to get a hold of somebody on his own. Multiple students have agreed with this senti-

ment. Two Senior students, Omar Stewart Jr. and Taidon Strickland added their input. Omar says that he feels that it is worse for him because the people that had their phones were quiet, and now that they don't have that opportunity with their phones, they talk amongst their friends and distract him. Taidon Strickland also noted that he is doing well, but he was doing just the same when he had his cellular device. Senior, Azariya Talbert, feels it makes no difference to her and that she has always done well with or without it.

We also need our phones for school technical reasons. Students get

frustrated that some of the browsers they need to use for information in school are blocked on Chromebooks. In this case, students feel that they should at least be able to ask our teachers to use them in a positive way without getting in trouble or causing problems.

There are other positive outlets to using phones in school for example, Some people come to school with personal issues on their mind and they do better in school listening to music. It is their way of getting away and how they find peace. Woodshop Teacher, Mr Sipos, explained that he misses our students in his class listening to music. He says that students work better with music in the Woodshop.

Clark, Maria. "40+ Frightening Social Media and Mental Health Statistics." 40+ Frightening Social Media and Mental Health Statistics, Etactics | Revenue Cycle Software, 9 Dec. 2020, <https://etactics.com/blog/social-media-and-mental-health-statistics?format=amp>.

Adkins, A. (2018, May 9). How social media contributes to body dysmorphic behavior. The Lexington Line. Retrieved January 24, 2022, from <https://www.thelexingtonline.com/blog/2018/5/7/how-social-media-contributes-to-body-dysmorphic-behaviors>

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA). "What Is Cyberbullying." StopBullying.gov, 5 Nov. 2021, <https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it-of-social-media>

Anderson, Monica. "A Majority of Teens Have Experienced Some Form of Cyberbullying." Pew Research Center: Internet, Science & Tech, Pew Research Center, 14 Aug. 2020, <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/09/27/a-majority-of-teens-have-experienced-some-form-of-cyberbullying/>.

# Farrell Holiday Escape Room

“Students are so involved and focused on completing their classroom escapes. They proudly discuss their successes. What a great idea!” ~Mrs. Bolyard

Motivating students before the holiday season can be especially challenging. This past December, Chemistry Teacher and resident Escape Room Guru, Mrs. Guth, came up with the perfect remedy. A Farrell High School Escape Room that featured fictitious computer hacker, Dr. H. Ater, that was holding the students captive in the school until they cracked the codes in order to combat the unleashed computer virus locking down the school!

Students worked in every class to complete subject specific challenges and

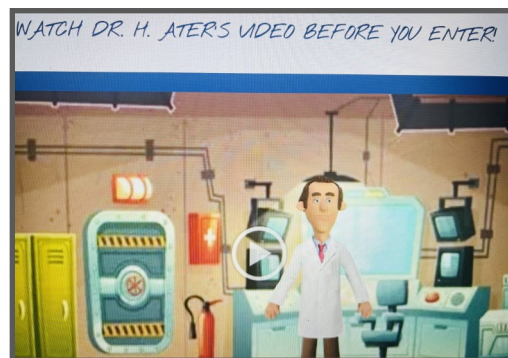
puzzles in order to get codes and unlock the building. Students that were successful in all of their class challenges not only earned top grades, but even won some tasty, food prizes dished out by Mrs. Guth at the end of the challenge!

Both students and teachers enjoyed the fun, academic and collaborative twist before settling into a nice holiday break. **Special thanks to both Mrs. Guth and Mrs. Armour for the many hours of planning and work that went into executing this creative academic challenge.**

*“The puzzles were so fun!”* ~Andrea Walters, 9



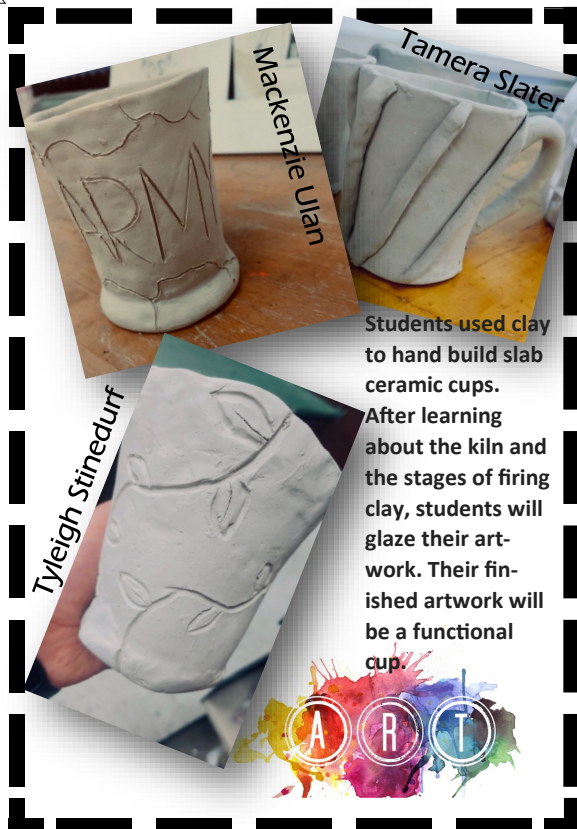
Ryan Stewart, Grade 10, work at cracking Escape Room (above) Screengrab (below) shows video of Dr. H. Ater, ER mastermind.



## Here's What's Cookin' at FHS



Rise and SHINE! 8th Graders are cooking up breakfast: KyAsia Michelle Campbell and Jaidyn Depute (left), Ciara Wilson, Janita Daniels and Johan Russo (bottom left) and TRodney Ollie and Zaniya Thomas (bottom right) prepare scrambled eggs and bacon.





# Student Spotlight: Sanaa Brodie

BY Santana Bankston

*Steeler Nation News* is introducing a new feature, FHS Student Spotlight. In order to be selected for FHS Student Spotlight you must possess a number of positive and / or leadership qualities, such as, hard worker, good role model, and outstanding academic or athletic talent. This month's Student Spotlight goes to Senior student, Sanaa Brodie. She was chosen because she is an amazing role model who others look up to. She is a straight A student and scholar athlete. Sanaa always has a smile on her face and is constantly uplifting others, even on her worst days.

Throughout high school, Sanaa has been an excellent student. She is a student with a 3.9 GPA, and is an overachiever in all her classes. Sanaa is very determined when finishing her work and refuses to let herself slip up. "I always want to be the best me I can be, so I will always work hard no matter what," says Sanaa. Her classmates would describe her as goofy, studious, and athletic. With all the memories Sanaa has made at Farrell High, her favorites are being crowned 2021 Homecoming Queen and Talent Show. Special thanks to the teachers who helped Sanaa get to where she is now, "Mrs. Kladitis and Mr. Cardamone helps me through every school year. Mrs. Kladitis is the perfect mentor and role model. Mr. Cardamone always brightens my day. He knows how to cheer me up

even on my worst days." I asked Sanaa what she does to help the underclassmen on her teams and she says, "I mainly work on setting an example, I love to encourage others. I just want to see them suc-

ceed. For my underclassmen, I would tell them to do their best inside and outside of school, and stay true to yourself," says Sanaa.

Sanaa is a scholar athlete. She listens to motivational music, runs, and stretches before each game. When she is not playing on the court she is constantly practicing and working on her court skills that need improvement. Her biggest accomplishment in her sports history is going to states for Track in the Spring of 2021. "If I get a scholarship for Track or Basketball, I would take it depending on the school." She takes her sports very seriously and could be an amazing college athlete. Sanaa plans to go to college to be a Health Administrator.

Outside of school, Sanaa likes to sing, dance and play video games. From making Tik Toks to doing song covers, Sanaa's fantasy career is to be an entertainer. Her mother is her biggest inspiration. She

raised Sanaa as a single parent. She has her Master's Degree in Social Work and is an overall great role model. One of Sanaa's biggest fears is not making a name for herself. Sanaa wants to be well known everywhere she goes. "You have to be persistent and hard working to get to where you want to be," says Sanaa.



## Junior High Awards, contd. P. 2

**High Honor Roll:** Kammy Dean Hailey Golub, Maddy Harrison, Shalae LaCamera, Lydia Latzoo, Franklyn Dulin, Morreaz Nixon, Aireonna Ward, Ernest Latzoo, Cailey List, Quentin Zagotti.

**Honor Roll:** Omario Boatwright, Jayla Deitz, Jada Kennedy, Zain Mishata, Quentin Odem, Giani Scott, Kiara Thompson, Corey Wilder, Kayvon Evans, Jimmy Gadson, Juelz Johnson, Darnel LaCamera, Dharvesh Sahadeo, Ka'Mya Thompkins, Kiara Wilson, Jiada Brodie, Daijah Gilbert, Zoe Mishata, Chaurice Ousley, Taemar Pierce.

**Honorable Mention:** Autumn Brownlee, Dorean Cain, Terri Gregory, Brooklyn Hughes, Je'Mya Jackson, Jakiah King, Alexander Lee, Amyah Moody, Bashie Parker, Aaron Pegues, Audrina Ravenscraft, Oy'Onna Robbins, Alauna Crawford, Ja'Niya Daniels, Jordyn Jackson, Aaren Jones, Ky'Ashia Campbell, Mia Chambers, Cevaea Day, Autumn Scarbrough, Andrea Walters.

## Museum Field Trip

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"The best part was being able to see what Egyptian life was like back in the day, and to see the different kinds of gems and other cool things. It was fun to explore new things to learn new things!" -Kahmia Atwood

Civil Rights Movement. The Carnegie Museum is home to an entire collection of the work of this well known photojournalist.

While in the Art Museum, the group moved on to French Impressionism, including the famous Claude Monet *Waterlilies*, Renoir, VanGogh and several examples of French Pointillism paintings and Degas sculpture.

With the free time remaining, students perused additional art exhibits, as well as the gemstones and dinosaur exhibitions in the Natural History Museum at their leisure.

Students participated thoughtfully and enthusiastically during the visit and provided positive and reflective feedback following the trip. Student conduct and intellectual contribution were both exemplary and noted as such by tour docents.



Omar Stewart Jr.'s rendition of life imitating art

# COACH T MARKS MILESTONE,

## *Athletes talk Season Prospects*

BY Allen Mychael Jackson

The Girls' Varsity Basketball Team is back and better, bigger and stronger than before. They are looking to make a stand out season this year with the help of their stand out Head Coach Ed Turoskey. Coach Turoskey had recently accomplished a milestone of 300 wins in his coaching career on December 27, 2021, against Meadville in the Christmas Tournament. He was presented with a plaque with his name and accomplishment on it, and included a picture of him after the championship game. It was presented by the FHS athletic director, Coach Amp.

Coach T said, "Achieving 300 wins is a great accomplishment and it's humbling to be mentioned in the same company as the Great Coaches that did it before me! I really don't think about these things. I have been really fortunate throughout my years to have coached so many great student athletes! No achievement is going to change myself or my team. We are going to continue to work hard every day to get better!" The girls came in first place in the tournament and

were provided a trophy.

Shooting guard, Sanaa Brodie acknowledged his great work and commitment to his team and players. "It's a great opportunity to work with Coach T

*"Those 300 wins are a result of the players working hard and striving to be the best!" Coach T*

understands his players and also understands what needs to be done to win games." Several other teammates echoed this sentiment, noting that it is great to be a part of such an outstanding accomplishment.

This year's Girls' Basketball Team has many standout Senior players, such as Sanaa Brodie, Deryah Stewart, Jaylie Green, Demariah Burns, and Cyncere Harden-Mann. They are all pursuing collegiate careers post high school, and most have received basketball offers or academic scholarships. Sanna Brodie has basketball offers from Geneva College and Penn State. She also



because he understands what needs to be done to win games." Several other teammates echoed this sentiment, noting that it is great to be a part of such an outstanding accomplishment.

Demariah is still considering attending college without continuing her athletic career.

The girls' record in mid January is 5-3. They have played Sharon, Hickory, Meadville, Slippery Rock, Mercer, West Middlesex, Neshannock, and Commodore Perry, and have only lost to Hickory, West Middlesex, and Neshannock. The team is focusing on beating their two biggest rivals to be in the playoffs. It has been a tough battle for the girls especially going against Kennedy and Westmiddlesex for years. The team believes that this is their year to beat both teams. Forward Cyncere Harden Mann noted that, "If we play to our potential, and as a team, we can beat

them." Demariah and Sanaa said something along those lines about their potential, but also emphasized their size, with their forwards, and speed, with their guards, makes them strong contenders. The girls feel as if they can make a good run to making it to states, especially the Seniors. They plan on ending the year on a good note. Demariah noted "There is always room to make it far in anything as long as you put your mind to it. Our chances are very high beating the teams we need to beat to make it to states we just have to work to get better." The Athletes are performing very well, and hope that the best is yet to come this year.



Girls' Basketball Team, coaches, trainers pose with First Place trophy after XMas Tourney.



# Whatcha gonna do in 2022?

BY Zoe Mishata

New Years. It's a holiday that is celebrated by different people, at different times, and is welcomed in different ways. Due to the variety in celebration choices, I recently sent out a survey that asked about ways people choose to celebrate and resolutions they may have for the coming year.

Within the survey, there was one question that asked what the perfect way of celebrating would be. Some answers seemed to reoccur and have similar concepts. An answer submitted by eighth grade student, Janiya Daniels, stated that her perfect New Year's celebration would consist of hanging out with friends, which seemed to be common across many answers. Another answer that survey participants seemed to share, was submitted by one of the Middle School teachers, Mrs. Kladitis. Mrs. K stated in her response that she loves hanging out and spending time with her husband and kids.

Survey participants were asked to check any resolutions that they may have this year from a list of common resolutions. Almost 78% of the participants checked that they chose to maintain good grades, and a little over 43% of them chose to buy something special. Many of the participants selected to stay out of trouble, which totaled to about 57% of the participants. This means that

many of the students here at Farrell Area School District, have set the same or similar goals for themselves. They have also focused on the important things, rather than some common goals set by many.



Following this, I asked if there were any resolutions they set for themselves that were not listed in the previous question. In reply to this, I got a couple answers that stood out. Some of these answers were from various students, such as Ka'Mya grade 8 who simply stated how she would like to change her attitude, and ways of acting this year. Another response that stood out was from Kiara Wilson, Grade 8. Kiara stated that she would like to "stay positive"

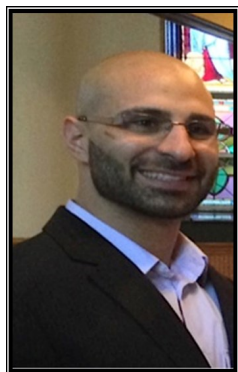
this year. Miss. Grills, full-time FHS Substitute Teacher, has a similar goal to Kiara.

The last question asked if there was anything that the participants would change about the year of 2021, and with this, the most common answer, which totaled to about fifty percent, was to get rid of the Covid-19 virus.

Overall, many of the teachers and students here at Farrell Area School District seem to have the same or similar ideas on how to spend the New Years holiday, and ways to better themselves for the upcoming year.

## FHS SENIORS: Check out these Scholarship Opportunities!

### David Elias Scholarship



David Elias was a 29 year old self-employed businessman from Brecksville, Ohio. He was the owner and operator of Mufflers for Less, a successful business started by his father Robert Elias.

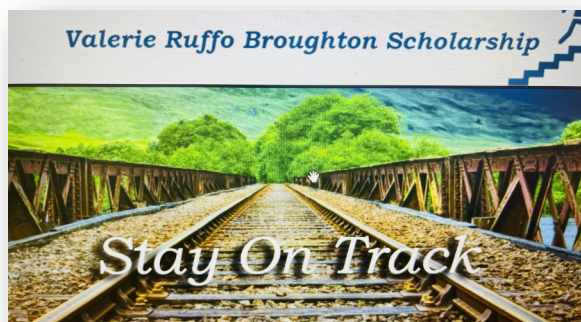
On the night of Tuesday, July 1, 2014, David was killed in a motorcycle accident leaving his family broken hearted.

He was a kind and generous individual whose heart was bigger than life.

David is the cousin of Mrs. Kladitis and along with David's family, they have created this scholarship to help keep David's memory alive. This **scholarship is open to Farrell Area School District Seniors only.**

David's family started the **David Challenge** shortly after his passing. David used to wear a rubber band around his wrist and when he would begin to say something about someone else that was not very kind, he would snap the band, reminding him not to speak ill against anyone. You too can participate in this challenge. Bands are \$1.00 and proceeds go directly toward this scholarship fund.

**Interested Seniors see Mrs. Kladitis for application details.**



The **Valerie Ruffo Broughton Scholarship** will be awarded annually to one eligible applicant in the amount of \$10,000 total scholarship to be paid \$2500 each year for four years, as long as the recipient continues to meet the eligibility requirements and is in good standing at the educational institution the student is attending.

#### **To be eligible, applicants must meet these criteria:**

Be a Farrell High School graduating senior accepted to an accredited, not-for-profit college, university, trade or professional program (such as those offered by vocational-technical schools) as well as traditional curricula offered by colleges and universities, and who plans to enroll full time for the upcoming academic year.

To remain eligible in subsequent years, the recipient must provide a transcript showing satisfactory academic progress towards degree attainment at the beginning of each year.

Current selection committee is made up of five members of the Farrell High School graduating class of 1968.

**Applications are due March 1.**

**Check out the website: <http://vrbscholar.com/#top>**