

# Pemberton Pride

The Newsletter of Pemberton Township Schools

May, 2025

## PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS CELEBRATES MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Pemberton Township Schools honored military students with a variety of activities and events throughout the month of April. The United States Department of Defense celebrates

The Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center was the first school in the district to host its annual military family breakfast on April 3rd. Parents were invited to attend a

fully-catered breakfast with their children, provided by the district's food services department. Emmons Elementary School, PTHS, Stackhouse Elementary School and Busansky Elementary School hosted military family breakfasts the following week.

Fort Dix hosted its annual Month of the Military Child assembly on April 11th. The ceremony honored children of active-duty military members with songs, poems and speeches, and featured keynote speaker Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. McIntosh.

The celebrations continued with a district-wide "Purple Up Day" on April 15th. Students and staff at all schools



*PTHS JROTC cadet Elizabeth Roeckel sings the National Anthem at the school's Military Family Breakfast on April 9th.*

wore purple in honor of military children. The color purple represents all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The month concluded with a military family breakfast at Helen Fort and Newcomb Middle Schools, and Denbo-Crichton Elementary School. Helen Fort hosted a school-wide assembly to recognize military-connected students. Major Brett Farewell from JBMDL served as a keynote speaker. Newcomb also conducted a parade around the school's driveway to honor military connected students and their families.

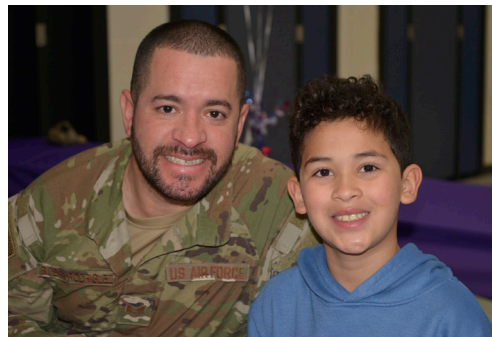
"We are honored and proud to have this opportunity to support our military families," superintendent Jeff Havers said. "Our strong relationship with JBMDL helps us to recognize and support our military-connected students and their families with uniquely designed activities and events."



*Students at Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School celebrate National Purple Up Day on Tuesday, April 15th.*

over 1.6 million military children nationwide each year with the Month of the Military Child initiative that was created by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1986.

The celebrations kicked off with members of the Pemberton Township High School JROTC program visiting Fort Dix Elementary School to provide the school's K-5 students with Junior Achievement lessons on April 2nd. Instruction included grade-appropriate lessons in civics, financial literacy, and needs versus wants.



*Jose Rivera Rodriguez of the United States Air Force, left, joins his son, third-grade student Julian Rivera-Dipini, right, at Busansky's Military Family Breakfast.*



Pemberton Learning Community: Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time



# PTHS RECOGNIZES SENIORS ON DECISION DAY



*Pemberton Township High School recognized seniors on Decision Day on May 1st. College Decision Day is an annual occurrence across the nation. May 1st is the deadline for high school seniors to decide which college or university they will attend in the fall.*

*PTHS celebrated the occasion with a photo booth, refreshments and a plethora of fun activities for students to participate in both inside and outside the auditorium lobby. Pemberton Pride!*



## PTHS HONORS 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### Share the News!



Congratulations to the Pemberton Township High School 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees! Sitting L-R: Kathleen Ann Levine, Susan Lucas, Alice Stockton-Rossini, accepting for Dr. Carol Lynne Powell is her sister Carla Powell. Standing L-R: Cody McNaughton, Howard Karl Butcher, Mary Douglas (nee Emmons), Ishana C. Allen and James T. Cummings.



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PTFEF supports Pemberton Township Schools by funding upgrades and resources beyond the regular school budget—partnering with educators, families, and the community to enhance student success.



# HELEN FORT TEACHER AND PTHS GRADUATE

## HONORED WITH NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

Helen A. Fort Middle School announced that Reading Teacher Jennifer Jdrzejewski, a graduate of Pemberton Township High School, has been named a recipient of the prestigious Winslow Coyne Reitnouer Excellence in Education Award, presented by Learning Ally.

This national honor recognizes outstanding educators who go above and beyond in their commitment to student achievement, inclusivity, and educational excellence. Ms. Jdrzejewski was selected for her exceptional dedication, instructional innovation, and the meaningful relationships she builds with her students.

As a recipient of this highly competitive award, she will receive \$5,000 to support her continued professional growth, classroom initiatives, and school enrichment efforts. Her story and impact will also be featured nationally through a recorded spotlight by Learning Ally.

“What makes this moment even more special,” said Aaron Eyler, principal of Helen Fort, “is that Jennifer is a proud graduate of our district, born, raised, and now teaching right here in Pemberton. She is a shining example of the incredible impact our alumni can have when they return to serve their community.”



Her recognition is a win not just for Helen Fort, but for all of Pemberton.”

“Ms. Jdrzejewski’s recognition underscores the power of educators who understand and reflect the community they serve,” Eyler added. “We celebrate her achievement and thank her for her continued passion and dedication to our students.”

## CAREER DAY AT DENBO-CRICHTON



*Denbo-Crichton hosted its annual Career Day on May 16th. The occasion welcomed several representatives of organizations including RWJBarnabas Health, Public Service Enterprise Group (PSE&G), the New Jersey Department of Corrections, the United States Armed Forces, Hamilton Township Municipal Court and the Burlington County Department of Human Services, among others. Students participated in numerous hands-on activities and were able to explore different career opportunities!*





# PTHS Senior Selected for North-South All-Star Football Game

PTHS senior Elisha Zapata-Small was selected to play in the annual Phil Simms North vs. South All-Star Game for New Jersey high school football seniors. Zapata-Small was one of 97 players selected to participate, and one of only 26 players recognized by the New Jersey Army National Guard in the first annual Phil Simms North vs. South Selection Tour on May 6th. The game will be played at Kean University on Sunday, June 8th. Zapata-Small will represent PTHS on the South team. Congratulations, Elisha!



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Congratulations to PTHS senior Sophia Gaztambide-Rios on being selected to the New Jersey Cheerleading and Dance Coaches Association All-State team! Sophia was one of 30 student-athletes selected statewide. She was recognized at a ceremony in Neptune, New Jersey on May 18th. This prestigious program highlights those who exemplify excellence in athletic ability and sportsmanship. This competitive evaluation process also considers an honoree's impact in their school and community. Pemberton Pride!



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