

Student Team from Monroe Career Technical Institute Named PennDOT Regional Innovations Challenge Winner

By PennDOT

Allentown, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) today announced that a team of students from the Monroe Career Technical Institute in Monroe County has been selected as the PennDOT Innovations Challenge winner in the Allentown-based, District 5 region. The PennDOT Innovations Challenge – now in its eighth year – is a statewide competition for high school students to develop creative and strategic solutions to real-world transportation challenges.

The Innovations Challenge reflects the Shapiro Administration’s focus on a safe, efficient transportation system and gives students an opportunity to explore a career in state government.

Mentored by Ross Ruschman, team members include: Leylla and Neylla Joseph.

“More than 90 percent of the unbelted travelers who died in crashes on our roads last year could have been saved by seat belts,” said PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. “In a crash, a seat belt can mean the difference between life and death. We need to reach our drivers and riders with that message.”

For this year’s challenge, students were asked to develop a cost-effective, innovative solution that can help PennDOT more effectively increase motorist awareness for seat belt safety and change driver behavior to improve roadway safety.

On average, more than 350 unrestrained fatalities occur on Pennsylvania’s roadways annually. PennDOT is committed to continuously improving roadway safety and deploys a multi-faceted strategy, which involves promoting behavioral programs and implementing infrastructure improvements. Nevertheless, the number of unrestrained fatalities remains high and changing driver behavior is crucial to solving this issue.

The winning regional team’s innovation was Love. Life. Click. A strategic initiative designed to raise awareness for seatbelt safety and improve driving behavior.

Regional Innovations Challenge winners will be invited to present their solutions to the PennDOT Secretary and a panel of judges in April, when a statewide winner will be determined. For this year’s challenge, the Transportation Policy and Education Foundation, an educational arm of the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors organization, the American Council of Engineering Companies of PA, the Mid-Atlantic Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Pennsylvania are providing a combined total award of \$6,000 to the statewide winning team.

For complete Innovations Challenge details, visit the PennDOT website.

Subscribe to PennDOT news and traffic alerts in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties at www.penndot.pa.gov/District5.

Sustainability Tour

KICK OFF EARTH MONTH THINKING GREEN

April 16, 2025

5:00pm—7pm

Grand Central Landfill/Energy Center

910 W Pennsylvania Ave Pen Argyl

An event for all ages—bring the family!

Tour begins promptly at 5pm.

Learning Opportunities:

Waste Reduction Tips

Recycling the Right Items

Trash to Energy Tour

Landfill Bus Tour

Register by April 1, 2025

Email Adrienne Fors

afors1@wm.com



Bangor Area School District Kindergarten Registration Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 1, 2025

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
WELCOME CLASS OF 2038!

The Bangor Area School District (BASD) is excited to welcome the Class of 2038! The kindergarten team at Five Points Elementary School is looking forward to working with our new kindergarten class for the 2025-2026 School Year. A child is eligible for kindergarten if he/she

- is at least the age of five (5) years by August 25, 2025.
- resides within the boundaries of BASD.
- successfully completes the district’s kindergarten screening process.

Kindergarten registration is online. Online kindergarten registration is available for parents and/or guardians through the district website (www.bangorslaters.com). Once packets are received and confirmed complete, BASD will contact parents/guardians to schedule a kindergarten screening appointment in June of 2025. Completed packets must be received no later than May 16, 2025, to guarantee a screening appointment in June. A completed registration includes:

- Parent/Guardian Photo Identification
- Proof of child’s birth date (must be at least five (5) years by August 25, 2025)
- Two (2) proofs of residency
- Immunizations
- Physical Exam Record
- Dental Exam Record

To schedule a screening appointment, the completed online registration and mandatory documents must be submitted and approved by the registration secretary. Kindergarten screenings for the 2025-2026 School Year will occur in June of 2025. All screenings are by appointment only. An adult must accompany the child for their screening appointment. Our kindergarten staff is eager to meet and work with your child!

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Joseph Kondisko, Director of Student Services
Bangor Area School District
123 Five Points Richmond Road
Bangor, PA 18013
610-588-2163

PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

The Pen Argyl Area School District is offering a property tax rebate program.

You may qualify if:

1. You have owned and occupied your home during the period for which you are claiming a rebate. Rebates are granted for your primary residence only; and
2. (a) You or your spouse (if living with you) were 65 years or older as of December 31, 2024; or
(b) You were a widow or widower during all or part of 2024 and were 50 years old or older as of December 31, 2024; or
(c) You were permanently disabled during all or part of 2024, and you were unable to work because of your medically determined physical or mental disability which is expected to continue indefinitely; and
3. Your total annual income, including the income of a spouse residing with you, was \$45,000 or less in 2024. (IMPORTANT: only report 50% of your Railroad Retirement benefits and 50% of Federal Social Security Act benefits); and
4. 2024/25 Pen Argyl School District Real Estate Taxes were paid in full.
5. Only one member of your household may file a claim.
6. Delinquent taxes **DO NOT QUALIFY**.

The deadline for filing an application is June 30, 2025

Applications are available at the Pen Argyl Area School District Office, or call the District Office at (610) 863-3191 option 7.