



# AEIO Programs

**FIRST Robotics** - FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics promote interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This year Abington had 20 students competed in the “Recycle Round-Up”. The game required teams to build a robot capable of lifting and stacking large rectangular totes, standard size recycling cans, and pool noodles (the litter). The team participated in two district competitions and advance to regionals.

**Forensics (Speech & Debate) Team** – The high school’s team of 30-40 students participate in fifteen tournaments. Students develop skills in research, analysis, critical thinking, teamwork and communications. They compete in formats such as Public Forum Debate, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Informative and Persuasive Speaking, Congressional Debate, and many others. The team garnered numerous awards at the local, regional, state and national level - including qualifying 8 students to represent AHHS at the NCFL Grand National Tournament in Ft. Lauderdale FL.

**Odyssey of the Mind** – This year, Abington Heights School District had roughly 90 students participate in this creative problem solving competition that includes students from kindergarten through high school. It was another successful year. At the regional level of competition, 13 teams participated and 6 teams scored high enough to advance to the State Tournament. 3 of those teams advanced to the World Finals, that was held in May, 2015, at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

**Arts Alliance** - This intense two month program integrates the visual and performing arts with the academic curriculum for the fourth grade class at Newton Ransom Elementary School. They hosted two artists in residence, Mr. Adam Maalouf, a professional percussionist, cellist, and composer who resides in New York City and Ms. Laura Ancherani from the Symmetry Dance Company and studio located in West Scranton. The program resulted in the students performing a show called “Into the Mystic Blue” for the school community. They danced, acted and sang inspired by the ocean and later shared their artwork and research projects.

**Earth Camp** – This summer camp runs almost 4 weeks and receives funding for its Environmental, ART and Health programs geared toward Abington middle school students. Approximately 30 students participate each year. Activities build on the lessons from the classroom curriculum integrating science and art in meaningful ways.

**Behind the Scenes** – This is a new after school program at the middle school that introduces students to a variety of staging challenges they must overcome through creative problem-solving, effective group communication and teamwork. They explore full-scale stage production and basic theater terminology. Standard theater equipment, funded in part by AEIO, helps train students to become a “technical theater specialist” and hopefully become backstage crew for several school productions and concerts.

**FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)** – Similar to FIRST Robotics, Tech Challenge is a STEM program but is built on a smaller scale. This year Abington hosted two teams. They had to create an 18x18x18 inch robot to remotely lift, transport, and deposit whiffle balls of various sizes into tubes of various heights. Both teams traveled to three qualifying tournaments and made it to the playoff rounds each time.

**Tastes of the World** – We continued to fund this seventh-grade cultural celebration of the four foreign languages taught at the middle school. The language/cultural exploratory program involves approximately 260 students. In addition to the course curriculum, students research traditional cuisine and dances from various regions and create visual presentation. Tastes of the World offers an opportunity for students to try authentic dishes and experience music and live dance performances from the regions where Russian, French, German and Spanish are spoken.

**The Gathering at Keystone College** – The Gathering is a theme-based four-day literature conference in July that celebrates literature. Participants explore creative impulses, embrace individual expression, and discover their capabilities. Again this year Abington High School will send nine students and one faculty to “The Gathering”. The 2015 theme is “The Story” and will host a variety of different presenters, workshops and activities.

**Science Olympiad** – The program provides hands-on experiences in 23 various events with a focus on STEM. Some branches of study include Mathematics, Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Technology, Forensics, Astronomy, and Robotics. The teams participated in two regional and two invitational tournaments, as well as advancing to the State Tournament at Juniata College, in Huntingdon, PA. The middle school team exceeded expectation for being the youngest team in the state with a 1<sup>st</sup> Place for “Fossil” event and 5<sup>th</sup> Place for “Write It Do It”. The high school team received a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in “Bungee Drop” and 4<sup>th</sup> Place in “Geologic Mapping”.

**Russian Olympiada** – This year eighteen Abington Heights Russian language students participated in a one-day arduous competition on Russian language and culture. Students were exposed to native speakers, professors, and other Russian language learners from around the mid-Atlantic. The students participating earned gold and silver medals and many had perfect scores this year. Some upper classmen also competed for the ultimate prize: a chance to study abroad in Russia.

In addition to the above EIO programs, AEIO also funded the purchase of five **Standing Workstations/Desks** for Clarks Summit Elementary School to better accommodate children with learning differences. The AEIO also help supplement the high school Yearbook Committee purchase of official school **Camera Equipment** and assisted with the purchase of **Gym Equipment** for the high school. Along with other sponsors, we also contributed to the construction of a new **Outdoor Classroom/Pavilion** at Newton-Ransom Elementary. And again this year we sponsored the **Kuiper Award** that is given to an individual acknowledging their excellence in teaching.

