

## GILLINGHAM CHARTER SCHOOL

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Gillingham Charter School Students/Staff Waiting for Answers

### WHAT

Gillingham Charter School (GCS) students (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders) and 2 staff are going to the US District Court to present their oral arguments to Judge Mehalchickin in favor of their Civil Rights lawsuit against 4 defendants: the Pottsville Area School District; superintendent Dr. Sarah Yoder; and Kayla Peters and Cynthia Stasulli, two school district counselors. These 4 defendants are filing to dismiss the case which was filed against them on October 21, 2024.

The plaintiffs filed the civil rights lawsuit claiming 9 civil right violations that occurred on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, when the charter school students and staff were denied access to a public college fair at Pottsville Area School District. Gillingham students and staff were asked to leave the premises, though other public and even private schools were not asked to leave. The Gillingham students and staff knew their rights as public school students and staff and stayed because they wanted the same opportunity as all the other school districts to talk to every college representative in attendance.

The event was captured on social media on YouTube and TikTok. Some of the video links can be found on Gillingham's website:

<https://gillinghamcharterschool.com/?playlist=69088bb&video=e0f6626>

Judge Mehalchickin will listen to the arguments and ask questions before ruling. Following oral arguments, judges typically take the matter under further advisement and then issue a written decision on their rulings. If the motion is denied, the case will then proceed to discovery, which will involve the exchange of documents between the parties and depositions of the individuals involved under oath.

“Gillingham Charter School students walked into Martz Hall looking for an opportunity, just like everyone else, to gather information about options for their future after graduation. That opportunity was taken away from my students, and I would love for their voices to be heard,” GCS Athletic Director Lenny Martin said.

**WHEN**

Friday, March 21, 2025

- 1:00- Oral Arguments PASD Motion to Dismiss

**WHERE**

US District Court (235 N Washington Ave, Scranton, PA); 235 N Washington Ave,  
Scranton, PA 18503

**ATTACHED**

[Gillingham Students' and Staff 1986 Civil Rights Lawsuit](#)

[Brief in Opposition to Pottsville's Motion to Dismiss](#)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

KIRA NAGLE, et al.,

Plaintiffs

v.

POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL  
DISTRICT, et al.,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:24-CV-1808

(MEHALCHICK, J.)

**ORDER**

**AND NOW**, this 25th day of February 2025, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the Court shall hear oral argument on Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (Doc. 10) on **Friday, March 21, 2025 at 10:00 AM** in Courtroom #1, William J. Nealon Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 235 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Plaintiffs' motion for leave to file a sur-reply brief (Doc. 16) is **DENIED**.

**BY THE COURT:**

*s/ Karoline Mehalchick*

**KAROLINE MEHALCHICK**  
United States District Judge