



FALL 2022

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

KEEPING TRACK OF THE PACK IN MCSD

THE PAWPRINT



A Note from the Superintendent

Welcome to the first-ever publication of the PawPrint.

As the superintendent of schools, I have the opportunity to visit all the schools in our district to see our classrooms in action, as well as attend numerous sporting events, band and chorus concerts, pep rallies, art shows, STEM fairs, school plays, and band competitions. I can attest that there are many amazing things happening in the Mifflin County School District.

The PawPrint is a district-wide newsletter that will provide a means for students, parents, guardians, staff, and community members to see some of the great things that are taking place in the MCSD.

Students from the Mifflin County High School Journalism III Class, under the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Ashlie Crosson, will be the editors and publishers of the PawPrint. The tentative plans are to have the PawPrint distributed three times a year. Please take this opportunity to read the PawPrint and learn



about some of the amazing work occurring in the Mifflin County School District.

The 2022-2023 school year has started off well for the students and staff.

All of the elementary schools are having suc-

cess with their PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Programs. Students take pride in being respectful, responsible, ready, and safe while at school. The 3rd Grade Farm Field Trip on September 27, was an incredible day for our students. The Mifflin County Farm Bureau and farm owners, the Mike Yoder Family from Belleville helped provide an excellent educational experience to all the 3rd graders within the district.

The secondary staff continues to create an educational setting for students to flourish and excel. Secondary students are finding a balance of academics, extracurricular activities, athletics, and personal growth both academically and socially. When walking in and out of the secondary classrooms, I continue to be so impressed with the learning activities and students' academic performances. Beyond the classroom, the MCHS Homecoming festivities were a huge success culminating with the Homecoming dance on September 24. Over 750 students were in attendance, which may have been the largest dance in school history.

I wish to thank everyone for doing their part to make the MCSD so special as the inaugural issue of the PawPrint demonstrates so well.

Vance S. Varner
Vance S. Varner
Superintendent



@mcsdvvarner

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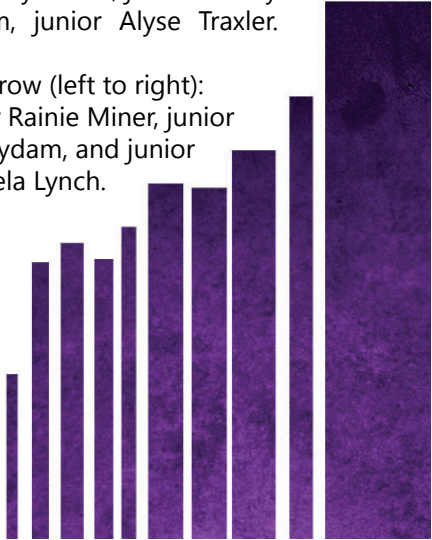
Meet the PawPrint staff



The PawPrint is written and designed by the Mifflin County High School Journalism III class. It is published by Kish Printing in Burnham, PA.

Back row (left to right): Miss Ashlie Crosson (adviser), senior Indya Goss, junior Macey Rheam, junior Alyse Traxler.

Front row (left to right): senior Rainie Miner, junior Liv Suydam, and junior Gabriela Lynch.



Mifflin County High School

Nine earn College Board recognition

Mr. Campagna takes the helm



Greetings Mifflin County High School Parents and Students, My name is Kelly Campagna, and I will be serving as the principal at Mifflin County High School.

As many of you already know, Mr. Crosson has retired, and I have the honor of being his replacement and only the second building principal since Mifflin County High School opened in 2011.

I am very excited about my return to MCHS after two years as principal at the elementary level. I look forward to meeting the students, parents, and members of the community who work together to make Mifflin County High School an outstanding place to work and "educate each student to meet life's challenges."

The Huskies have had a successful start to this school year. We look forward to sharing all of our successes happening at MCHS with you!

Sincerely,
Mr. Campagna



Last month, nine Mifflin County High School students were named recipients of the College Board National Rural and Small Town Award. In addition to attending school in a rural area, students had to meet minimum GPA and AP/PSAT scores. The recipients for the College Board's award are (left to right): Alex Leonard, Noah Buffington, Sarah Diehl, Alex Garner, Kaitlyn Lefevre, Evan Krohn, Sally Lin, Anthony Goldenbaum, and Arizona Walters.

Students relish in high school morale

It's been a strong start to the school year for MCHS. Homecoming festivities were celebrated at the end September. This year's Spirit Days were heavily participated in by the student body and included new favorites, such as Country vs Country Club. The week ended with the school's first in-person pep rally since fall of 2019, and the new Homecoming King and Queen were crowned during a Husky victory at Mitchell Field.

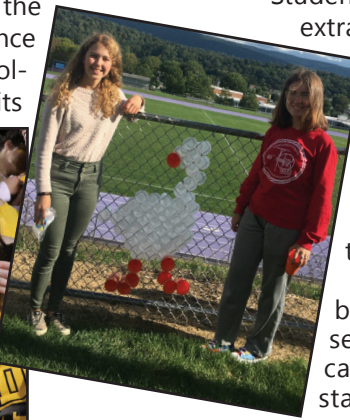
In the athletics department, the football team returned to district playoffs for the first time since 2018, and volleyball had its

most successful season yet. Field hockey, girls' soccer, and cross country joined the gridiron gang in post-season action. The student section has been phenomenal this season," stated athletic director Natisha Maclay. "They are showing up, involved in games, and cheering loudly and proudly for their MC Huskies."

In the classroom, students are enjoying their new elective offerings in science, English, art, and tech ed. The courses come after several years of curriculum rewriting throughout the building.

Students are also thriving in their extracurriculars. Key Club just wrapped up its annual canned food drive. Mini-THON has already had several successful Gold Outs, and Pawsitive Vibes' Be Kind tie-dye event was so successful they ran out of shirts!

The student body has never been more involved, and with senior dinner dance, the musical, and another sports season starting, the stage is set for an equally exciting winter.



Marching band named state champs!

From September to November, the Mifflin County marching band competed in the annual Tournament of the Bands. At the state competition in Altoona, the members, led by band director Art Belfiore, scored a record high for any Mifflin County school with a 95.01 pts. The band also won specialty awards for Color Guard, Drum Line, Music, and Visuals. Following their success at states, the band competed at the Atlantic Coast Championships in Hershey, PA. Their show, "Ritual," earned them a second place finish, scoring 94.74 pts, and they also received specialty awards for Color Guard and Drum Line. Senior Emily Conaway was awarded the "William Wildemore" scholarship. The \$5,000 award goes toward her continuing education.



New science classes allow students to pursue passions

Following the successful addition of English electives, MCHS has introduced four new science classes this year. The new courses are Survival Science, Microbiology, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Forensics.

These electives provide a wide range of options that cater to students' interests; they were picked based off of an interest survey conducted last school year.

An exciting aspect of the Survival Science class is the orienteering field trip. Students go to the woods to put the skills they've learned to the test as they navigate their way out.



Bringing these new classes to life has not been easy. "Survival science is a unique subject," explained Mr. Hartman. "I can not go directly to the internet and find an overwhelming collection of activities the way I can with biology, for example. I have to reach out to the few individuals lucky enough to get to teach this class."

One of the microbiology teachers, Mrs. Langs, explained that a 2-3 week unit on safety and lab reviews has turned into an eight week unit because of the class being a mix of sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

These electives have provided an opportunity for more collaboration and creativity for teachers, which has turned into success for students.

Sophomore Kara Rook explained,

"The labs are exciting; the work is fun. [It] makes you feel like it's professional."

Wildlife and Fisheries teacher, Mrs. Huerbin, said, "I loved getting to teach Ecology, and this class feels like Ecology 2.0. We get to do more projects and keep the conversation going about nature."

Much like the field trip for Survival Science, Wildlife and Fisheries has an exciting project coming up this year.

Mrs. Huerbin explained, "We get to raise baby eel in the classroom that we get to release in the river at the end of the year."

As the first marking period comes to an end, students and teachers alike are ready to continue facing and embracing the challenges and triumphs that these four courses present.

Spirit Club organizes Trunk-or-Treat



The MCHS Spirit Club started a new tradition for the this fall: Trunk or Treat. Participants decorated their designated space with activities and candy for young students to enjoy.

"The high school students wanted a way to dress up and participate in Halloween in ways they haven't been able to since they've 'grown up,'" said adviser, Mrs. Baker. The night was a great success and is already on the calendar for next year.

"It seemed to be a unanimous 'yes' to doing this activity again," Baker said. "Seniors were disappointed that they only got to participate for one year, and younger classmen are forming ideas for next year's displays."

Mifflin County Junior High

MCJH students brew something new

Following in other schools' footsteps, this year MCJH introduced a new opportunity for their Life Skills students: a coffee cart. "I love making coffee," exclaimed student, Lily Powell. The students enjoy learning new skills, along with the opportunity to get out of the classroom.

"Students who work the coffee cart learn skills such as interacting with others in a professional manner, organizing and stocking the cart, following an order form to fill orders, following a schedule for deliveries, and appropriate work etiquette," explained club advisor, Mrs. Wagner.

Throughout the day, students make and deliver

coffee, cold brew, or iced tea for 32 staff members at the school. "I enjoy making people happy," exclaimed student, Kellsey Thiel. Not only do the life skills students benefit from learning skills and interacting with their peers, everyone in the school is impacted in

some way by the cart.

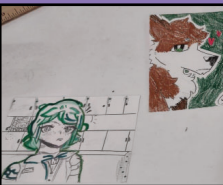
"Staff and other students learn how to interact with our students in an appropriate environment," said Mrs. Wagner.

All proceeds from the cart go directly into the life skills/autistic support programs at MCJH.

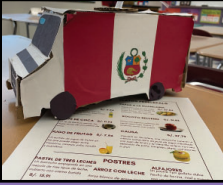


Classroom Spotlights

MCJH has many exciting activities going on within its classrooms, so it's only right to feature a few of our favorites. Students at MCJH are given many opportunities to learn in creative new ways.



MCJH Art Club created artist trading cards. Students then traded the cards so that each student ended up with a unique piece of art.



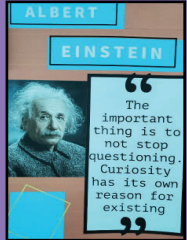
Students in Señorita Walser's Spanish II class chose a Spanish-speaking country and created a 3D model of a food truck, including a menu and a presentation.



Students in Mrs. Stine's science classes completed a lab using the steps of the scientific method to determine which brand of dishwashing detergent would produce the biggest bubble.



Ms. Freed's English classes learned about the definition of a hero. Using this information, they created posters of athletes, relatives, or historical figures who they see as heroes.



Mifflin County Middle School

Students benefit from check-ins

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions Support) is a huge part of Mifflin County Middle School; the program helps students showcase their positive actions and receive prizes for making good choices.

Students are recognized and rewarded for meeting the PACK expectations (be responsible, Act safely, have Character, make a difference) through an online app.

Another way the PBIS program is used is for SEL (social-emotional learning) check-ins. SEL check-ins are done through the PBIS program; this is a way to track

students' mental health and readiness to learn.

Each morning students are encouraged to check in through the app. Students can respond that they are: calm and ready to learn, sad, stressed, tired, sick, or angry.

The middle school's data team then goes through all the responses to identify students in need of help.

If a student has repeatedly put something in the same category, they are offered various quick lessons that provide ways for them to cope and practice mental wellness.



5 questions with Officer Ciccolini



Officer Ciccolini joined MCMS as their School Resource Officer. We asked him 5 questions to get to know him better.

Q. Why did you want to become an SRO?

A. I wanted to be an SRO for the kids; this is the age that you can make lifelong differences in kids.

Q. What's your professional background?

A. Before becoming a police officer I completed four years active duty in the US Marine Corps. I have three years in law enforcement and am currently in my first year as an SRO. I have attended numerous hours of training pertaining to school safety and continue my education pertaining to being an SRO.

Q. What are your job duties?

A. My job duties include a variety of responsibilities. First, I provide a visible law enforcement presence on campus to deter crime and take police action when needed. I also serve as an informal counselor to the students and a resource to the school staff. Lastly, I serve as a classroom resource that I can provide law-related education.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your job?

A. My favorite part of the job is being a mentor to the kids. As an SRO, you have a great opportunity to positively impact the lives you are there to protect and change the way law enforcement is seen.

Eight take the stage

Eight MCMS students are joining the drama department's cast of Shrek the Musical. The production will be performed at Mifflin County High School on February 10 and 11 at 6:30 p.m. and February 12 at 1 p.m.



Top Row: Anna Miller, Gavin Stroup, Tristan Fultz, Mia Weaver. Bottom Row: Kennedy Shank, Cameron Demi, Relayna Dearment. Missing from the photo: Cora Rankin

Mia Weaver- "I play one of the three little pigs, and my favorite part about the role is how goofy I get to be."

Anna Miller- "I am most excited about performing with my friends and learning more about theater."

Gavin Stroup- "I play Little Shrek. I like that I get to walk around without dancing."

Tristan Fultz- "My favorite part is all the parts I'm in. I'm so glad and honored that I'm in this play."

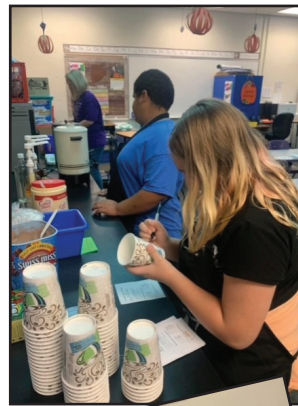
Lewistown Intermediate

Activity Night gives students an evening of fun



Lewistown Intermediate School held its first activity night of the year in early November! Activity nights are designed for the students to enjoy a safe evening interacting with their friends and enjoying a variety of activities. Students were able to enjoy a variety of gym activities, dancing, a photo booth, a concession stand, and a goodie store as well as socializing with their friends and classmates! Activity night is a PBIS-run activity. The money raised on activity night goes directly back to the students through LIS' PBIS program. The money raised goes toward various activities which include but are not limited to: weekly prizes, monthly prizes, classroom celebrations, school wide celebrations, pizza parties, ice cream treats, and many other things throughout the school year! Activity nights help LIS raise the money to recognize students for being Respectful, Responsible, Ready and Safe everyday!

All aboard the Coffee Express!



Handling money. Filling orders. Practicing good customer service. These are valuable skills for students to learn, and all are priorities for the workers of the LIS Coffee Cart.

Introduced during the 2018-2019 school year, Ms. Erb's students provide regular coffee, flavored coffee, hot tea, and hot chocolate for faculty to order on Fridays. Staff can order creamer and various flavorings in their drinks. Snack cakes and other varieties of snacks are also offered out each week.

How might the students be learning through this? "They are using their math skills to help calculate totals, the money, and the change," Ms. Erb explained, "They use bookkeeping skills by recording data in a book from each order, while also keeping track of the amount collected as well as job skills through filling and delivering the orders."

While it may seem simply a teacher's perk to have hand-delivered coffee, students enjoy their opportunity to interact and improve their skills.

"I like it because you get to help people out and take orders," said Cayden, an LIS student. Another student, Alex, also said "I like it because you can give teachers coffee and a treat."

For a teacher to place an order they must fill out an order form and return it to the designated place on Thursday. That way, come Friday morning the students can deliver their orders.

Not only do the students seem to be enjoying this, but the staff also find it nice to receive goods from their students.

Red Ribbon Spirit Week

LIS celebrated Red Ribbon Week by participating in spirit days. Red Ribbon week is prevention awareness for drugs and other abused substances.



Lewistown Elementary

Students earn School Wide celebration

Lewistown Elementary School held a school wide celebration on October 20th for the students.

To earn this celebration a class has to earn 500 Paw tickets. After earning 500 tickets, they get to put a Paw on the wall; the whole school must have one Paw on the wall to get a celebration.

Students earn Paw tickets by being respectful, responsible, ready, and safe. So far this year, the kids have earned 21,000 Paw tickets!



At the celebration there were multiple stations set up throughout the school for kids to participate in, as well as classroom based activities. The theme was outer space, so the activities were geared towards that theme.

Some students from the Academy along with STEM interns were there to assist with games and activities such as making and testing paper airplanes, outer space crafts, and space murals. This celebration included the big inflatable Husky that kids got to walk through.

Throughout the year Lewistown Elementary plans four celebrations. Each celebration has a different theme, which is a surprise for the kids. The Paws on the wall will be able to tell the students when their celebration is. The more Paws they have on the wall, the closer they are to another fun filled day!

Farm field trip



local beekeepers who talked about how bees help pollinate and produce fruit. There was a local pest management company; they talked about the four warning words on everyday

This fall, LES took a field trip to the Yoder farm. The students interacted with various animals, learned about waste and pest management, and talked with area farmers about dairy farming. They also listened to a veterinarian talk about what it takes to become a vet and the different ways they treat animals on the farm. The students explored the layout of barns, participated in a corn maze, took a tractor ride around farm fields, and tasted delicious milkshakes!

There were many stations for the students to visit. One of the stations had

chemicals to help prevent poisoning, and some local gardeners shared information about various plants, herbs, and produce and how these items can be used for food and medicinal or herbal purposes.

"Students enjoyed every activity that was hands-on, for some this was their first ever interaction with a farmer. Students particularly enjoyed learning about the animals. Of course, they also enjoyed sampling milkshakes and learning about how milk is processed and used to make many of the foods we enjoy daily," teacher Ms. Byler stated.

Annual Halloween Parade



Indian Valley Elementary Center

New school store at IVEC

Indian Valley Elementary Center has a new way for the students to get excited about doing good deeds. They now have a new school store that stocks various prizes and items for students to buy with the points they have saved from PBIS.

"My favorite part of the new school store is that I will not have to hope that I am going to win something. I now have the ability to buy what I want," said student Lynch Byler.

The items are delivered by the 5th grade students at the end of the school day. Some of the items in the store do not require many points to buy, while others cost more points.

"As they earn points, they have the opportunity to view items in the school store and decide what they would like to purchase. This gives students the ability to either buy items right away or save up points to buy bigger items in the store," said teacher, Mr. Fink.

The school store is beneficial to the students to help them practice good behavior while learning real-life skills of working toward and saving for things they want.

IVEC welcomes new leaders



Mr. Portzline

My name is David Portzline, and I am the new principal at Indian Valley Elementary Center. I am extremely honored to be given the opportunity to lead such a fantastic building with awesome people.

I have been in the educational world for over 20 years ranging from teaching Kindergarten Physical Education all the way to Junior High reading. My past two school years were spent in the Harrisburg School District as an assistant principal and as a principal.

I am so excited to bring my knowledge of the diverse culture of different school districts and utilize my experiences to provide the optimal learning environment for the students here at Indian Valley Elementary Center.

Mrs. Michaels

My name is Becky Michaels; I am the new assistant principal at Indian Valley Elementary Center. I am very excited to be back at the elementary level with such a great group of students, staff, and families.

All of my teaching experience is at the elementary level, having taught kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades. My administrative experience has been at the secondary level - both middle and high school.

Having experiences at all three levels has truly given me an appreciation for how everyone contributes to a child's educational experience and a great perspective into how students progress through their academic and social journey.



Outdoor School is an annual favorite for 5th grade

The 5th graders visited Shaver's Creek in Huntington County, Pennsylvania for their annual Outdoor School field trip this fall.

According to the teachers at IVEC, this field trip is an important part of their school year; students get to attend this camp for three nights and are able to explore the outdoors and nature in a new and exciting way. Although some students struggle being away from home, the camp counselors are there to ensure that the students have as much fun as possible exploring the outdoors and learning

away from home.

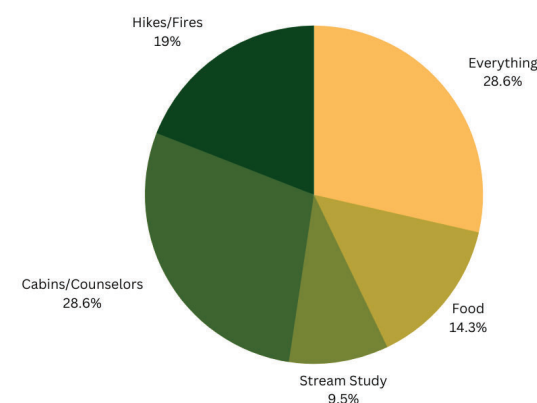
"For some of these kids, they have never stayed away from home or their family," said Ms. Walker.

It doesn't take long though for students to fall in love with their Outdoor School experience.

"It's definitely sad to see the students get so upset when leaving their counselors. There are a lot of tears shed on that final day, especially on the bus ride home!"



IVEC's favorite part of Outdoor School



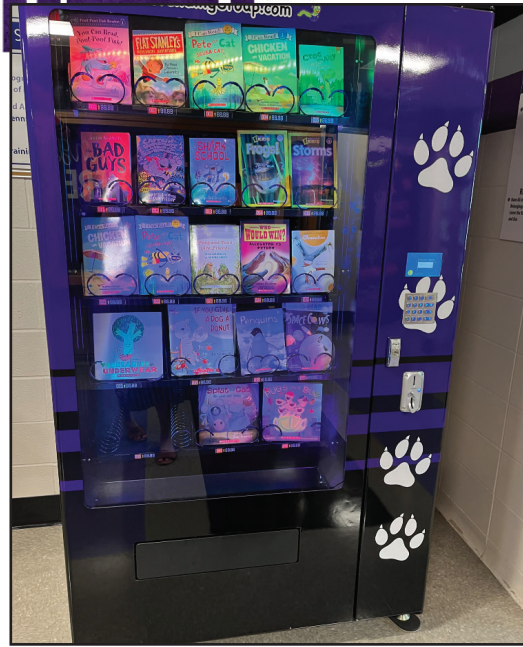
an experience for the students. From leaving their families for three nights (some of them for the first time), to spending most of the days out in nature and learning new things hands-on. I believe that not having electronics and phones is another great experience. They are outside, learning, playing, and just being a kid for four days! It's so great to see!"

Although there are some challenges along the way, it is always a memorable experience for students.

Ms. Walker explained, "The entire trip is such

Strodes Mills Elementary

Earn coins, get books!



The staff at Strodes Mills is feeding the reading, and the love for books can only go up from here!

In order to reward the students at SMES for modeling Ready, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe, as well as educate them, the school invested in a book vending machine customized with purple, black, and white colors, Husky paws, and the PBIS core expectations.

Every teacher in the building is given three "golden coins" per month; these coins are to be handed out to students for demonstrating the four key expectations. Each teacher has a Golden PAW nominee that also receives a coin. These

coins are then cashed in for a book of their choice out of the vending machine.

The books are being stocked through Mrs. Powell, a teacher at SMES, and in the future they plan to also rely on Title I Parental Engagement funds to continue this process.

"It's kind of like their paycheck for doing their job at school," said Principal Miller, another faculty member responsible for the book vending machine.

The vending machine promotes the love of books, feeding one brain at a time.

Field trip fun

The Strodes Mills Elementry School was given multiple chances to go on field trips this fall. The 1st grade and kindergarten class went on a field trip together to At the Barnyard. There they were able to go on a hayride as seen directly below. The 3rd grade class was also given an opportunity to go on a field trip; they went to a farm where they are seen sitting on hay bales while learning about dairy cows, see bottom picture.



Starting off positive



This year's PBIS kickoff assembly had a simple theme: "train your brain." PBIS helps students focus on the positive behaviors they need to demonstrate to succeed in school, and the purpose of the assembly was to have fun while explaining the importance of the mind.

This year's goal is to focus on a growth mindset and embracing the positives, especially post-pandemic.

During the assembly, Principal Miller read Bubble Gum Brain to the entire school as a means of describing the flexibility of the mind.

"Our hope is that our students can be motivated by our school rules and train their brains to be an upstanding students in our learning community," explained teacher, Mrs. Ahearn.

East Derry Elementary

First responders visit, educate for Fire Safety Week

On October 14, firemen and firewomen made a trip to East Derry Elementary for a special presentation during Fire Safety Week.

Home Fire Safety plans and procedures were reviewed with the students in one lesson. They watched as a fireman put on his gear. The purpose of each piece was explained. They listened to the fireman's voice once his breathing apparatus was on, which sounded a lot like Darth Vader. This was so they know what to watch for and listen for if a fireman comes to their house and is calling out to them and to not be afraid.

Afterwards, the students went outside to see the trucks and equipment the firefighters use for various emergencies. The firemen had the trucks opened up and different tools pulled out for the students to see up close.

The students learned that firefighters have other emergencies besides just fires and that different tools are used for each.

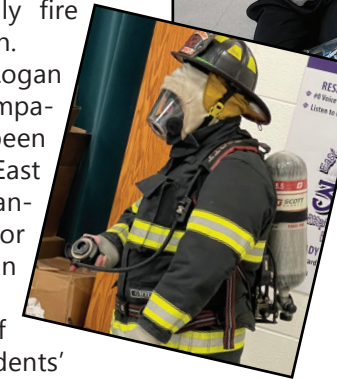
Students had the opportunity to climb up into the firetruck to see

through a fireman's perspective.

At the end, the students were given hats, activity books, and crayons to take home and share their experience with family members and review their own family fire safety plan.

Chief Logan Fire Company has been visiting East Derry annually for more than 12 years.

Some of the students' parents are members of this company. East Derry appreciates the time and support these firefighters take to help make the learning experience more personal and easier to understand to keep our families safe.



Life on the farm



"I got a golden ticket!"



All the K-3rd grade students who won a Golden Paw Ticket this marking period ate lunch with the Asst. Principal, Mrs. Matthey, in November. Golden tickets are part of the school's PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) program which celebrates students' good behavior through prizes and special events.

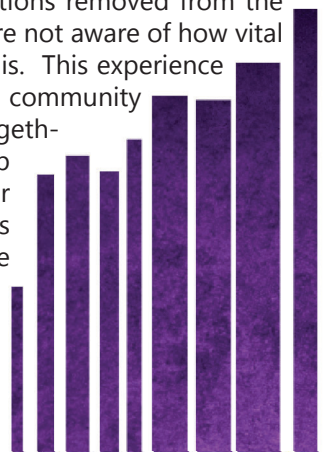
EDES welcomes new principals

East Derry welcomed two new administrators this school year. In an administrative realignment, Clint Aurand and Vicki Matthey, principal and assistant principal at Lewistown Intermediate School, assumed the same roles at East Derry Elementary School. Mr. Aurand is a 22-year veteran of Mifflin County School District with 18 years spent as a



high school math teacher and 4 as both assistant principal and later principal of LIS. Vicki Matthey, a former teacher at East Derry, joined Aurand at Lewistown Intermediate School for the 2021-2022 school year. She now returns to East Derry in an administrative role. Both Aurand and Matthey look forward to working with the students, staff, and families of East Derry.

EDES third graders participated in the annual Ag education tour sponsored by the Mifflin County Farm Bureau. The day was spent on Michael Yoder's family dairy farm in Belleville. MCFB members and many agribusinesses took the day from their regular duties to run the stations. Today less than 2% of our population are farmers, but yet they each provide enough food to feed 166 people each year. Our students live in a rural community, but most are 3-4 generations removed from the farm and are not aware of how vital agriculture is. This experience was a true community coming together to help educate our students and future leaders.



The Academy of Science & Technology

Academy welcomes Senator Casey and local leaders

The Mifflin County Academy of Science & Technology welcomed Senator Bob Casey, as well as Mifflin County Commissioners Kevin Kodish and Rob Postal, in October for a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet with faculty, staff, and students in several programs.

Guests got to hear firsthand from students on the positive impact of career and technical education.

Also, the tour highlighted the critical importance of federal Perkins funds in ensuring programs have industry standard equipment and classrooms. Senator Casey was instrumental in helping The Academy secure a \$3 million federal Economic Development Administration grant for the school's expansion project, which will include the creation of a facility for the new adult Diesel Technician and Heavy Equipment Operation programs.



Two programs add pre-apprenticeship opportunities

Two trades offered at The Academy now include pre-apprenticeship programs which will give students a jump start into their careers.

Academy students in the Construction and Electrical program will be enrolled in the Association of Builders and Contractors Pre-apprenticeship program.

Once completed, Academy students will enter the ABC Keystone employer portal and will have their resumes distributed to over 600



employers who are in urgent need of construction talent. Students will be linked to employment opportunities

in all phases of the construction industry: HVAC, pipefitter, carpentry, heavy construction laborer, sheet metal, and heavy equipment operator.

Academy students participating in the Precision Machining Program will be enrolled in the Manufacturer's Association Pre-apprenticeship in advanced manufacturing. The



Manufacturing Pre-apprenticeship will allow students to enter the workforce in a full-time apprenticeship.



A note from new director, Mr. King

I am very proud to be a part of the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology community.

Our students and community are very fortunate to have excellent faculty and programs that help our students be college and career ready.

Our faculty is passionate about providing the tools to our students to be successful after high school. The dedication from our Operating Committee and commitment from business & industry make The Academy an exceptional opportunity for our students.



Alpha & Mifflin County Online

Digital education makes an impact for MCSD students

Alpha gives students best of both worlds



At the start of the 2013-2014 school year the Mifflin County School District launched the Alpha Program, an online digital education program utilizing curriculum purchased through various vendors and facilitated by three MCSD staff members with 43 students enrolled. The catalyst for the addition of online coursework to the MCSD curriculum was the concern of the increasing number of students leaving the district to enroll in cyber charter schools. We wanted to offer families the ability to customize their educational experience, and we believed that we could do a better job than the cyber charter alternatives.

Now in its 10th year, the Alpha Program (for students in grades 7-12) currently enrolls almost 400 students with a projected enrollment of nearly 500 students by the end of this school year. More than just another cyber opportunity for students, we have designed today's Alpha to meet more students' needs, right here in the Mifflin County

School District. Unlike Cyber Charter schools MCSD students wishing to take online courses have the option of either a full-time online schedule or a part-time online schedule. Part-time online students have a hybrid schedule combining online courses and traditional building classes. This hybrid schedule gives our

MCSD students the added advantages of access to classrooms staffed by Mifflin County teachers who are trained to facilitate students with their online course work. These in-person engagements between teacher and student are rare in most cyber charter schools. Additionally, our students can participate in clubs, activities, sports, and field trips, as well as the ability to take classes at the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology.

Students can schedule time in our classrooms with access to 10 highly qualified staff members. We provide additional support for students with our "Extended Hours" on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until 6 pm and our "Morning Tutoring" each day of the week beginning at 7:30 am. These added times help provide students with the opportunity to receive more one-to-one help and also gives parents the opportunity to meet with staff at a more convenient time for them.



MCO provides blended ed

Mifflin County Online (MCO) was introduced for elementary age (K-6) students as a program similar to Alpha. In the initial 2014-2015 school year, six students were enrolled in MCO using curriculum purchased through an online provider and facilitated by one MCSD staff member. Currently MCO

Students capitalize on language opportunities

Our World of Learning program provides MCSD students the opportunity to learn a world language in an engaging, online format. Students have live sessions with a highly qualified teacher 2 or 3 times per week. The online classroom typically has students from other school districts throughout Pennsylvania, adding to the enrichment of these courses. MCSD teachers are also in the MCHS classroom to help facilitate our students taking any of the 6 or more world languages that are offered.



OnTrack gives students a second chance

Introduced in 2015, Mifflin County School District's OnTrack program offers students who have had discipline issues the opportunity to continue their education, mainly from home, with online coursework for a probationary period of time.

Offering these students the opportunity to stay enrolled in the MCSD has helped many students continue on a path toward graduation.

has 31 students enrolled with a projected enrollment of 50 by the end of the school year.

A comprehensive system of support that includes parent involvement as Learning Coaches helps ensure the success of our MCO students. Similar to Alpha, MCO classrooms are staffed by highly qualified teachers to help facilitate students' success.

MCSD welcomes...

MCSD students couldn't succeed without their dedicated teachers and staff members. This year, there are many new faces in every building. Welcome aboard!



MIFFLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



MIFFLIN COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH



MIFFLIN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL



LEWISTOWN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



INDIAN VALLEY ELEMENTARY CENTER



LEWISTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



STRODES MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THE ACADEMY
OF SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY