



The PawPrint

KEEPING TRACK OF THE
PACK IN MCSD

VOLUME II
ISSUE I



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Welcome to Volume II, Issue I of the PawPrint. As the superintendent of schools, I continue to receive positive comments about our district-wide publication. The PawPrint provides a means for students, parents, guardians, staff and community members to see some of the great things taking place in the MCSD. In this edition, the PawPrint will showcase the learning opportunities, unique trips, and projects happening throughout all of the schools within the district. Valuable community partnerships that are an integral part of the educational process are also highlighted.

On October 26, 2023, the Mifflin County School District Board of Directors voted to move forward with an \$18,477,642 multi-sports facilities project. The details of the endeavor will be highlighted in this edition of the PawPrint as well. This generational project will immensely benefit our students and our community. The tentative completion date of the multi-sports facilities project is October 2024. Please take time and read about some of the great things happening within the district with all Kindergarten through 12th grade students.

Vance S. Varner
Superintendent



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NBC Nightly Gives Students Behinds-the-Scenes Access

It's not often the national news makes its way to Mifflin County, but on Aug. 16th, the Big City came to our Small Town. Senior White House Correspondent Shannon Pettypiece stopped by MCSD to talk with administrators, students, and teachers about the national teacher shortage currently affecting education in the US. The segment aired on NBC Nightly News on Friday, Aug. 25. For the first time in its history, NBC allowed students on location for its filming. Four members of the high school newspaper, *The Tyrian*, had the opportunity to shadow the crew for the day to learn more about their careers in journalism. "I appreciated how willing the NBC crew was to teach us. They went out of their way to point things out for us," said MCHS 2023 graduate Rainie Miner.



MEET THE FALL SEMESTER STAFF

The PawPrint is written and designed by the Mifflin County High School Journalism III class through collaboration with all ten of MCSD’s k-12 schools. It is published by Kish Printing in Burnham, PA.

From left to right: senior Mina Phillips, senior Liv Suydam, adviser Miss Ashlie Crosson, senior Ellary Schreck, and junior Alexis Miller



MIFFLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Student Spotlights



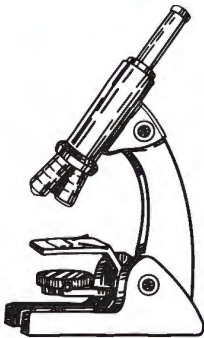
This fall, five Mifflin County students are expanding their education by completing ground school at Mifflin County airport in pursuit of their pilot's license.



Senior Tristan Leonard is spending his school year studying abroad in Germany. He will be oversees through August of 2024.



Senior Rachael Saldubehere was selected to participate in the Governor's School for Science, hosted at Carnegie Mellon University this past summer.



Dual Enrollment Offers New Opportunities

This year, Mifflin County has expanded its college-readiness opportunities by adding two new dual-enrollment classes to students' course offerings. Dual enrollment gives students the opportunity to earn credits for college while still being in high

school by partnering with an accredited university that will award students college credit for passing the course. Many students are taking advantage of these classes to check off courses that they would have to eventually take in order to graduate college. While still being a demanding course, they are different from the more common Advanced Placement classes (AP) that are also offered at MCHS in that they do not require students to pass a comprehensive exam; instead they must fulfill the requirements of the course throughout the year. Students pay a small fee for the class and any extra materials that they would need throughout the course.

The two dual enrollment classes that are being offered at MCHS this year are History 201 and Biology 101. Both of these courses are entry-level classes at the college level and are often a part of a student's gen-ed requirements for their degree. These faster-paced classes have allowed for students to learn more in a shorter amount of time. Junior Jacob Bauman said, "I feel that this class has taught me more in one marking period than many other science classes taught me in a whole year." The whole idea of these classes is to provide high schoolers with adequate learning opportunities for their abilities while reducing the amount of stress and financial challenges that many college students may face.



Goose Day Collab

This was the fourth year that MCHS STEM Interns and TSA partnered with the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce to create commemorative items to celebrate Goose Day, a local tradition honored on September 29th. Each year a new commemorative coin design is created and manufactured in the Technology Education lab. Coins are then placed in plastic eggs in preparation for hiding across both Mifflin and Juniata counties. Mrs. ConnerMiller, MCHS Technology Education Teacher, and Ms. Confer, MCJHS Art Teacher, hide 100 eggs in Mifflin County and Mrs. Imes hides 100 eggs in Juniata County. Goose eggs are also sent to elementary schools for PBIS rewards and Goose Egg scavenger hunts.

MCHS Welcomes Student Teachers

For the first time since 2012, MCHS has welcomed student teachers into its core classes. The 10 college students, all enrolled at Penn State, have been paired with faculty in the English, math, science, and social studies departments.

Mr. Minnier, who is paired with Mrs. Sechler, said, "Everyone I met has been supportive and helpful."

This year is an opportunity for MCHS to be proud of its staff and students while student teachers practice their craft in the classroom.

Mrs. Sechler explained, "I feel that I have enough experience to be willing to give back to the next generation of teachers by opening my classroom to their student teaching experience."

While they are here, student teachers will be implementing lessons, building rapport with students, learning new instructional approaches, and gaining as much insight as they can from observing and co-teaching with veteran educators.

"I have observed multiple classrooms in the past, but I have never had any curriculum instruction and professional experiences teaching classes. I am hoping to learn more about different teaching strategies and how to challenge students academically," noted Ms. Grohe, who is partnered with Mr. Fuller.

This decision could have long-term positive impacts on the high school and the district as a whole.

"With the decline of new teachers entering the profession, I felt that this was an obligation to open the doors to student teachers for the purpose of giving them a great experience at Mifflin County," MCHS principal, Mr. Campagna said.



MC JUNIOR HIGH

MCMS

Mifflin County Middle School



Junior High Introduces Mrs. Grenoble

It is with great excitement that I join the Husky community as one of the Assistant Principals at the Junior High School. I come to MCJH after serving as the Assistant Principal at Mifflinburg Area Middle School for the past four years. Prior to being an administrator, I had eight years of experience as both a middle school and high school Family and Consumer Science Teacher. I look forward to working with many of you this school year and wish everyone a great year!



Speedy Delivery Teaches Grocery Store Navigation

October 2 was MCJH students' first Speedy Delivery experience. This service is provided by the Life Skills classroom at the Junior High building once a month. Students are given a list of items needed along with cash by teachers and staff in the building. The students are split up into small groups with their list and away they go! The students have the opportunity to experience navigating the store, reading lists, finding items, using the checkout stations, bagging groceries, and paying with cash. When they return, students delivery the items directly to the classroom!



Welcome To MCMS

Mrs. Macknair

My name is Jennifer Macknair and I am honored to be serving as the principal at Mifflin County Middle School. I am excited for this opportunity having served in public education for more than 30 years as an English teacher, an assistant principal, and now principal. I look forward to working with the students, parents and guardians, staff and community members who help make MCMS a place where students act safely, are responsible, have character, and make a difference every day.



Mr. Strawser

My name is Luke Strawser, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new assistant principal at Mifflin County Middle School. I'm so excited to join the PACK at MCMS and to serve the incredible students, dedicated staff, and supportive families of our school. Having spent my entire career working with middle school students as both a teacher and administrator, I love the unique joys and challenges that come with this pivotal stage of education. Here's to a fantastic school year filled with growth, learning, and memorable moments!



Band & Drama Spotlight

The Mifflin County High School Drama Club is excited to have several MCMS students participating in their 2024 production of The Wizard of Oz! All MCMS cast members will be featured as Munchkins in the well-known 'Munchkinland' scene, which occurs just after the tornado causes the farmhouse to drop on the Wicked Witch of the East. Their performance will help Dorothy begin her journey down The Yellow Brick Road!

Mifflin County Middle School is well-represented in the MCSD Marching Band this school year. Each year, sixth graders are observed for potential success in marching band as seventh graders. Students are selected based on their ability to play or grow into the music, rehearse with maturity, and ability to follow directions. Seven seventh graders accepted invitations this past spring to continue the band's legacy as members of the ensemble.



NEW CLUBS OFFERED AT MCHS



The Gaming Guild is a new club at MCJH this year. This club is run by Mrs. Hostetler and Mr. Glover, and it was formed from student interest in Dungeons and Dragons, chess, and other games. The club meets regularly for D&D games and will meet periodically for chess matches and board games. We are excited to offer this club to students this year!



Community Service Club is a new club at the junior high run by Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Holland. The club welcomes any and all students who are interested in making their school and community a better place for everyone. Students have a voice in creating activities, as well as participating in activities set up by the advisors. By doing so, students are able to see the impact of their work and gain valuable insights on life all while having fun & making Mifflin County a better place to live.

Clubs offered at MCMS!

Engineering club

Science club

Computer club

Chess club

Drama club

For more information on clubs, scan here!

Book club

Ski club

Student Council

Music club

PBIS Ambassadors

“The Pack” joins the Dawg Pound

On Friday, September 22, the Mifflin County Middle School Student Section, “The Pack,” debuted at Mitchell Field. The MCMS Student Section is located at the goalposts beside The Dawg Pound Student Section. Students at MCMS submitted student section names and then voted on the top six names with “The Pack” receiving the most votes.



Special thanks to Athletic Director Tish Maclay and the athletic department for supporting the creation of the MCMS Student Section

LIS

Lewistown Intermediate School

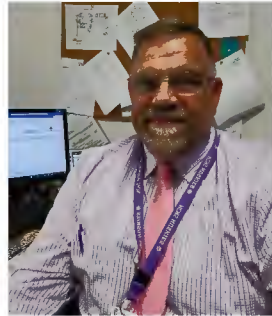
A welcome note from Mr. Reeder

Greetings MCSD! My name is Rob Reeder, and I am the new Principal at East Derry Elementary and Lewistown Intermediate Schools. This is an exciting move for me in getting back to my elementary school roots.

I began working in MCSD 28 years ago as a 4th Grade teacher at Buchanan Elementary, and football coach at LAHS. From there, I moved into administration, serving as an assistant principal and

principal at Lewistown Middle School, and then principal at Mifflin County Middle School. I have been blessed to have worked with some awesome people and great kids over the course of many years.

I would like to thank the students and staff at LIS and EDES for welcoming me into their families as I look forward to this next chapter in my career. Go Huskies!



Goose Day Hunt



Mrs. Yoder's and Mrs. Stimely's classes, aka Hall 200, "flocked" to Downtown Lewistown on Sep. 29 for a Goose Day Scavenger Hunt. Students practiced reading a map to locate almost 20 different geese and answer questions about the murals painted on them. When they returned to school, each student designed their own goose and had some "Goose Cake" to celebrate the day. Everyone had a great time, and they plan to make it a yearly trip.



PBIS Celebrations

Our School Store in the PBIS Rewards Program has been up and running for several weeks now! Students have been able to shop for prizes using the points they received for Respectful, Responsible, Ready, and Safe behavior! So far, 1,494 prizes have been sold!

Last month, LIS hosted an October PBIS Celebration. The morning included a public Halloween parade where students dressed up in costumes and the teachers dressed up as dalmatians while Mrs. Matthey dressed up as Cruella de Vil and Mr. Reeder dressed up as the dog catcher. Throughout the day, individual classes hosted parties and did fun activities. The day ended with a radio-broadcast style trivia game. Over the announcements, trivia questions were read, and classes called in with the answer. The lucky caller got to answer, and the winning classes won donut holes.



The One & Only Ivan

Mr. Clark's fifth grade class read the book, The One and Only Ivan and did several projects including decorating pumpkins to fit in with the book, creating Wanted posters, and a creative story that tied all of it together. Finally, students did a STEM project. In groups, students built a structure designed to hold the most animal weight - books took the place of the animals. They were given a budget to purchase supplies and had three days to meet their deadline. Two attempts were given at testing their structure. The winning structure was able to hold 200 books and 3 pumpkins!



LES

Lewistown Elementary School



NED teaches Positive Mindset

The students at LES had a visit from the NED show in October. It is a Mindset Mission Assembly, and the students take a journey to find their positive mindset. The students loved the show as it was filled with storytelling, illusions, and amazing yo-yo tricks where they learned the hidden message behind NED's name:

- Never give up- understand the power of YET
- Encourage Others- spark courage in other people
- Do your best- always be learning and growing.

The assembly is funded through the Pay It Forward program, and students at LES had the opportunity to purchase NED-themed yo-yos the following week to give back to the program so other schools can have the same experience.



3rd Grade Field Trip

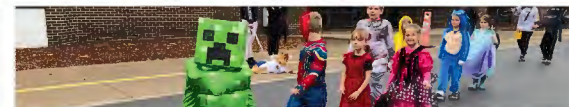


Every Fall, 3rd graders from all across Mifflin County are invited to participate in the annual Farm Field Trip. A local farm hosts all of the students, and students participate in a number of stations and activities throughout the day to learn about farming and its importance to our lives. Students meet and talk with a real-life veterinarian about how to care for animals, and they also meet with people who work on and own their own farms to learn about how to make sure that cows have proper feed, ventilation to keep them healthy, and even proper ways to take care of pests on the farm.

The students see live cows, learn about ways to take care of equine, or horses, and also get to experience daily life on a farm by viewing baby calves and this year, lots of barn cats! We even got to view the inside of a real cow stomach! The Farm Field Trip is a fall favorite for our 3rd grade students in the District!

Happy Halloween at LES!

On Friday, October 27, students of LES dressed up in their best costumes and walked down the road between LES and the middle school by classroom. Families were encouraged to attend and experience the parade.



Second Grade Pumpkin Decorating

Each year before Open House, students are asked to decorate and design a pumpkin that can be displayed when families come to visit their child's classroom. Each second-grade class at LES participates and all of the pumpkins are displayed outside the student's classroom. This year, we had some very well thought out pumpkins from food to favorite characters, like Stitch! Even though students decorate their pumpkins at home, it allows them to show their creative abilities and allows the teachers to see more of the students' interests and favorites.



INDIAN VALLEY

SMES

Strodes Mills Elementary School

Study Buddies Lends Some Helping Hands

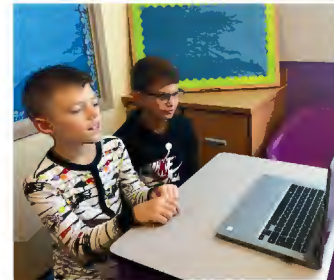


The 5th graders at IVEC are taking on many helpful roles. Some 5th graders volunteer their time in the morning to be study buddies to younger students. The job of a Study Buddy is offering additional practice time learning math facts, sight words, or any area where the student might need support.



Coming to you live from IVEC!

Each 5th grade class has an opportunity to help with the video morning announcements. Some students choose to design the Google slides for the video background. The slides include things like the lunch menu, the weather, a joke of the day, special announcements, staff birthdays



the national anthem and pledge of allegiance. Some students like to be on screen, and they choose to be the news reporters. A few students have enjoyed doing both jobs- designing and reporting. The picture of the two boys in front of the computer shows them recording the video morning announcements, and below are some of the featured fifth graders.



Subaru Loves Learning



In October, Blaise Alexander Subaru of Lewistown visited Strodes Mills to donate a sum of money to allow teachers to buy new, updated supplies and resources for their classrooms. The company donated \$5,000, which was divided into \$500 increments and given to Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade along with specials teachers and the school counselor. Amber Elsesser, an art teacher at SMES said, "We really appreciate all of the wonderful items we were able to purchase for our art room on behalf of Subaru." With this thoughtful donation, many students were able to receive better learning opportunities by having access to new materials. All teachers and staff are very grateful for this opportunity to transform classrooms into better learning environments for their students.



An Apple A Day...



Students in Ms. Laughlin's class were able to practice first, next, then, and last sequencing steps with the help of making applesauce. The students followed a recipe, and each had a chance to use an apple corer/peeler before they added their apple to the crockpot. Each student took a turn stirring the apples, and by the end of the day they had the chance to enjoy their cooking efforts.

Mrs. Drake's kindergarten class celebrated John Chapman's (aka Johnny Appleseed) birthday on September 26. Students learned about the life of Johnny Appleseed through read alouds, emergent mini readers, and videos, including how he loved nature and animals. He started apple tree nurseries wherever he went (including Pennsylvania). As a fun culminating activity, students created a special pot headband to wear, even though they learned that it was probably a myth that Johnny Appleseed actually wore an upside-down pot on his head!

PBIS Brings the Carnival to Strodes

Students at Strodes Mills collectively earned enough Paw Tickets, which are earned by being respectful, responsible, ready, and safe, to have a carnival-themed PBIS party. At the party, there were many stations for the students to visit such as games, face paintings, crafts, and a clown who made special balloon animals for each student. They were also able to try out some circus activities that included ribbon dancing, spinning plates, juggling scarves, and stilts. To end the day, students and staff got the chance to watch a magic show by magician Richard Benninghoff.



Milroy and Reedsville Fire Companies Visit

October was fire prevention month., and on Friday, October 6, IVEC students had a visit from the Milroy and Reedsville fire stations. The firefighters talked to the students about the parts of their truck, equipment and gear. They also taught the students about fire safety and prevention. This was a great learning experience for the students and an exciting day for them to see all the different parts of a fire truck and fire gear!



EAST DERRY

ALPHA/MCO



Agriculture Education Science Lab

Earlier this fall, the Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab arrived back at East Derry for its yearly visit. This 40-foot science-lab-on-wheels is a program developed by the PA Farm Bureau and sponsored by many PA state ag businesses and commodities. It is equipped with over 30 STEM-based science experiments and lessons, a certified teacher, and all the supplies needed for a hands-on learning experience to learn Pennsylvania's agriculture commodities, the environment, biotechnology, food and fiber. While in the lab, students work cooperatively to solve a problem as they form a hypothesis, collect data and draw conclusions while focusing on the scientific method. Each EDES class visited the lab for two hands on lessons such as Thirsty Stems, No Soil Now What, Crawly Critters and The Little Red Hen taught by Tina Goss, the instructor who happens to be a retired teacher from MCSD. A BIG thanks goes out to the East Derry Home and School Organization which has supported and funded this unique opportunity for the students each year for the past 20 years.

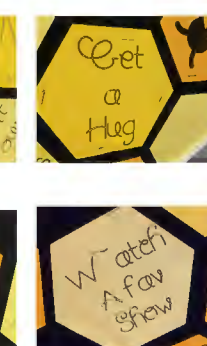
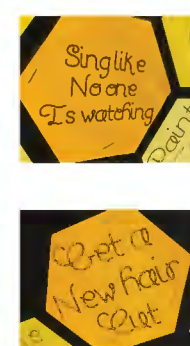
Mifflin County Hosts Symposium

On November 2, Mifflin County hosted an inaugural meeting of visitors from the following districts and intermediate unit: Huntington Area, Juniata County, Southern Huntington Area, Central Fulton, and Mount Union Area. Mifflin County School District has the biggest and most developed online program in all of the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit (TIU) districts, which resulted in it being the "spotlight tour." At the symposium Alpha staff provided opportunities for participants to discuss key topics, exchanged valuable resources, took in-person tours of the Alpha classrooms, and heard from experts in the field of online learning programs. To further the engagement between Alpha teachers and students with the visitors, each visitor was given a bingo card to fill out throughout their stay. For example, visitors could look for an instance of student collaboration, observe the use of peer tutoring or student monitoring, or list the name of a student using a digital tool. As virtual learning becomes a standard part of public education in Pennsylvania, the TIU districts plan to meet every other month to collaborate, learn, and advance opportunities for online and blended learning.



Alpha Engages Students with New Decor

Over the summer, Alpha administration decided that they would be holding a competition among the program's eight teachers. The teachers paired up to develop a theme for their bulletin board. The four themes were "Bee Kind to Yourself," "Let Your Light Shine," "Husky Highlights," and "Hacking your Brain." At the start of the school year, all Alpha students were given a Google form to determine the winning bulletin board. The winner this year was "Bee Kind to Yourself" designed by Ms. McCoy, who teaches language arts and Mrs. Beeler, who teaches math. The purpose of this clever project was to find a creative way to engage the students as well as to emphasize the importance of self-kindness and remind students that they need to give themselves some grace.



Welcome to Alpha, Mrs. Roe



In 2009, Mrs. Roe joined MCSD as a paraprofessional while raising her young children. Now that her kids are older, Roe decided to go back to school as an adult to earn her bachelor's degree in education. This year, she joined Alpha as a science teacher.

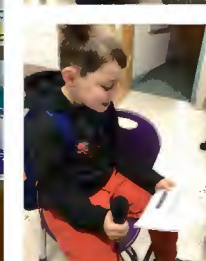
"I believe education is the most powerful tool an individual can obtain. Therefore, I wanted to offer students the knowledge I have gained for them to be the most powerful and successful person they can be," said Roe. Roe is most excited to see the progression her students make throughout the year.

Kindergarten to the Corn Maze!

60 Kindergarten students from East Derry Elementary went to "At the Barnyard" in Ferguson Valley for a field trip in October. They got to take a hayride to fields where they were able to dig for potatoes and pick corn. There was an old machine that showed the students how to take corn off the cob and allow students to try this as well. They also got to pick their own pumpkin after a short lesson. There was a station to eat popcorn and ice cream while learning about the process of corn becoming popcorn and milk becoming ice cream. The main attraction was the corn maze. "At the Barnyard" also has 2 play areas for the kids to enjoy. This is the first time since COVID that the kindergartners were able to go on the trip. Prior to that, they had gone on the field trip for several years.



Students enjoy new PBIS rewards

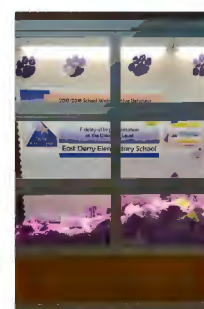
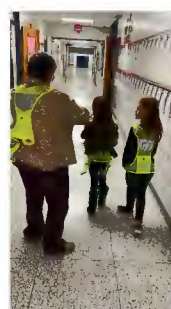


Students have continued earning rewards by putting the Paw Tickets they earn into prize buckets they choose. Here are some of students' favorite rewards this fall.

Prize Patrol - Kids chosen for prize patrol get a small prize and get to wear a light up vest to go into classrooms and deliver prizes to students who won.

Digging with Dolin - Kids get to dig outside and plant seeds or bulbs. They also pulled a few weeds.

Morning Announcements -The announcers usually help with morning announcements for two weeks. They take turns saying the date, cycle day, lunch menu, Paw of Fame winner, and the character trait that the school is focusing on.

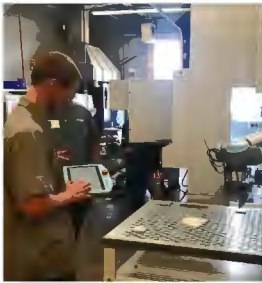


THE ACADEMY

ATHLETICS FOR ALL

The Academy Welcomes New Principal

Hello, my name is Gary Heverly Jr., the new principal at the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology. I feel right at home in Mifflin County thanks to the students, staff, school board, and administration who have been welcoming and accommodating. I have been in public service careers for more than three decades, which includes various roles in education for the past twenty, and this as my first year in administration. I am driven to help people become who they desire to be personally, academically, and professionally and am appreciative of the great opportunity the Academy has afforded me to work with the of students, families, and workforce of Mifflin and Juniata counties. Today, the possibilities for students who choose career and technical education are endless, especially those who pursue academic excellence. It is rewarding to see students who are able to enter the workforce with great earning potential and who are also prepared for postsecondary educational success. The demand for Academy students as highly-trained, highly-skilled students is at a historical high and continues to trend upward. I look forward to what the future has in store for the Academy and for our students. Please visit to see what we have to offer in our twelve program areas, meet our excellent team of staff members, and explore the prospects of becoming part of the Academy family. Best wishes to everyone on a positive and successful school year.



Robot Arrives at Academy

"We are very excited to bring the Universal Robot (UR10) to our Precision Machine program and The Academy," said administrator, Mr. Ben Detwiler. The UR10 is a programmable robotic arm utilized in local businesses like Philips Healthcare, First Quality, Overhead Doors, and Nittany Paper to increase productivity and cut costs. This state-of-the-art technology keeps our program on the cutting-edge of industry standards and allows our students to work with the latest innovations used in the advanced manufacturing industry. During production, the UR10 robot moves materials into our parts-forming machines and removes finished products upon completion, without the need to do so manually. Becoming skilled in its programming, use, maintenance, and robotics integration associated with Computer Numerical Control (CNC) operations enables our students to keep pace with automation demands and enhances their ability to enter the workforce successfully.

Hamer Foundation Awards Grant

On Wednesday, November 1st, the Academy received a grant for \$114,995 from the Hamer Foundation. Approximately \$60,000 of the grant will be put towards starting a Habitat for Humanity Project at the Academy. Habitat for Humanity is a global, nonprofit organization that works in local communities across all 50 states; they build homes for those in need with the goal of "a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

Students involved in the project will be working on building a 1536 square foot modular home. Jeff Bell, a representative from Habitat for Humanity will be assisting with getting the project started.



Academy Brings In New Staff Members



Left to Right: Bridget Fausey – Welding Instructor, Larry Winn – Construction Trades Instructor, Nicolette Cusate – Agriculture Science Instructor, Levi Clark – Precision Machine Instructional Aid, Ashley Malago – Cosmetology Instructional Aide, Travis McCullough – Culinary Arts Instructor, Jillian Wright – Health Professions Instructor, Tyler Sweigart – Electrical Installation Instructional Aide, Kris Sunday – Early Childhood Education Instructor, and Cheyanne Johnson – Automotive Technology Instructional Aide.

School Board Gives Its Official Approval

After two years of exploration and discussion, last month the Mifflin County School board voted in favor of its long-awaited athletic complex renovation project. The facility upgrades, spearheaded by community members John Panizzo and Joel Diamond, will address the district's concerns related to the conditions and safety of Mifflin County's athletic fields. Prior to the vote, the Board provided their remarks on the proposal and heard comments from residents, students, and sporting officials in attendance. Senior soccer and lacrosse player Evan Krohn said, "I know that it would mean the world to our team to be able to play a big game under the lights for our community. Nothing is more important than being able to bring our families, friends, and spectators together to support the Husky cause." Senior soccer player Brynn Knepp also advocated for a renovation project that includes stadium lights on the secondary field. She said, "Our games start at 4 o'clock, and our peers and even some of our parents are unable to watch us play. I've had teammates score their first high school goals and their parents didn't get to see it. We, as do all outdoor sports, deserve to have a crowd at our games." Cross County coach Neil Breneman further encouraged the board. He said, "The decision you will make tonight will impact the future of tens of thousands of students. Please choose to make the investment now which has many ramifications not only for our students but also the vitality of our community. Please vote 'yes' on the entire proposal to update and upgrade our athletic facilities." At the start of the meeting, Superintendent Mr. Vance Varner provided his endorsement of Option 1, the most expensive and comprehensive plan the board was considering. He noted previous instances in which the district's current fields created complications and challenges for student competition. District chief financial officer also Melinda Knepp endorsed the proposal. She said, "There's no better time than now... With the fundraising effort, the \$3 million we have from the grant, the fantastic interest rate that we got, it just seems like if we don't do it now, we're just never going to get this opportunity again." At the conclusion of the vote, the Mifflin County Board of Directors approved Option 1 of the athletic complex renovation project, 6-3. Project leader John Pannizzo said, "To Mr. Nickel, I thank you for your leadership... You gave us every opportunity to come in front of this board... You did not dissuade us. I thank you for that... I ask you as president of the school board... to wrap your hands around this community as one and to take this project home." The athletic complex will improve playing surfaces throughout the district. Athletic Director Ms. Tish Maclay, stated, "Mifflin County is one of the few school districts in the entire state not to have turf fields. This [will] level the playing field while also providing greater opportunities for MCSD to host events that will benefit the whole community." The plans, projected to cost \$18.4 million, will be paid for through a mix of district support, fundraising efforts, grants, and savings. It is not anticipated that the project will increase taxes. Varner said, "The multi-sports facilities project will benefit our athletic, band and extracurricular programs, as well as the community at large. With these upgrades and our current successful educational programs within the Mifflin County School District, prospective families will know that our district has a lot to offer." Breaking ground on the new facilities could happen as soon as January 2024.



WHATS INCLUDED

- two field houses,
- two turf fields
- an 8-lane track
- a plaza area for spectators
- infield turf for baseball and softball
- special seating sections for students, band, and cheerleaders

WHO WILL BENEFIT

- field hockey
- boys and girls soccer
- football
- cheerleading
- boys and girls lacrosse
- baseball
- softball
- track and field
- MCHS marching band
- youth sports
- community organizations



