



# The PawPrint

Vol. 4 Issue. 2



# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Welcome to another edition of the PawPrint!  
In this issue, we are proud to showcase the many accomplishments of our students throughout the year. From the classroom to extracurricular activities, our students continue to excel in a wide variety of areas. Highlights include exciting STEAM Fair projects, memorable performances at music festivals, the creation of a new junior high baseball club, and so much more. You'll also find a feature article celebrating our students' incredible performance of The Addams Family.

Year after year, the MCHS Drama Club continues to impress with its talent, creativity, and dedication, and this production was no exception. We invite you to take some time to explore and read about the outstanding achievements and experiences of our Kindergarten through 12th grade students. There are so many great things happening across the district, and we are proud to share them with you!



# INSIDE THE ISSUE



STEAM Powered



Musicmania



Curtains Up



Leading in Reading



Stepping to the Plate

PawPrint Staff from left to right:  
Aaden Stevens, Maya Burke, Jenna Knepp, Lizzy Massie, and Ellie Hartzler



# MUSIC FESTIVALS

By Hallie Marcello

Each year talented singers and musicians compete in the district, regional, and state festivals hosted by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association for band, choir and jazz ensembles. From Mifflin County High School, students Kyler Baker, Alia Diehl, Bailey Horner, Hannah Jones, Caleb Noerr and Aaron Zylstra, attended the regional band festival on March 20 with Diehl and Noerr qualifying for states. For regional choir, Lia Barahona, Breanna Carmany, Sierra Fultz, Annie Hartzler, Cora Hartzler, Ava Kelly, Emma Miller, Max Persing, Teagan Pisko, Kayden Rodriguez and Jacob Traxler performed on February 20 with C. Hartzler, Kelly and Persing advancing to states.

These festivals are prestigious competitions that bring together dedicated high school musicians to compete and perform in the spirit of their community. For Mifflin County, participation in districts starts with auditions. Students put in their best effort to impress their directors before preparing for the judges at the events. Brandon Kahley and Vicki Fensterbush, band and choir directors at the Mifflin County High School, expressed dedication to helping their students prepare for the competitions. The festival auditions are very competitive with only the top students going on to regionals. For music students, these festivals are great opportunities for not only building their musical skills but to also build new relationships with other musically inclined students.



# HONORS BAND

By Lizzy Massie

The future of the Mifflin County music program is sound. The performances of the Honors Band festival and the Husky Choral Festival displayed the abundance of talent in our young musicians.

Students at the Honors Band festival showcased their skills before an audience made up of Mifflin and Juniata County community members. This music is meant to be more difficult and provide challenge and growth opportunities for students selected. The event had roughly eighty students on stage the night of the festival. Of those eighty musicians, forty were from the Mifflin County School District. "The fact that our three concert bands filled half the band showcases the talent we have here in Mifflin County," Mrs. Gates stated.

This program serves as a bridge between 6th Grade Band Fest and District Festivals. "It helps students to hone their skills so that they have a better chance for success in District Band when they are sophomores," Mrs. Gates stated.

Choral students spanning 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade share the stage during the Husky Choral Festival. This multi-grade event allows younger musicians to rehearse with the high school students they admire to prepare for a large public concert hosted by the Mifflin County High School.

Events like these are crucial for the continued growth and development of our middle grade musicians. Most of the musicians chosen for events like Honors Band are selected because they've mastered their concert band music. The event allows for differentiation, continued development and the ability to practice working together with new people for a common goal, which was in this case, the concert.

Music in our middle grades is vital. Without strong programs in the middle grades with added opportunities, the programs at the secondary level will suffer. These events, and others like them, are ways to keep young musicians interested and learning.



# THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL



By  
Antonia Kunde, Lizzy Massie and Quinley Ranck

After months of rehearsals, memorizing lines, and sound checks, The Addams Family Musical at Mifflin County High School came to life on stage. The performance was the result of dedication from students and advisors, both on and behind the stage.

Practices began in September, “We rehearsed for about six months. Outside of school, I practice my music and some of the dances,” explained sophomore Anna Miller, who played the role of Morticia Addams. Mifflin County students had many different roles in this year’s production, such as building the set, working on sound production, organizing costumes, designing makeup, and providing the cast with what they needed for the show. Advisors Gina Moore and Denise Lane are proud of the positive impact the production has on students. Lane said, “Watching each student gain confidence, make new friends and develop better self-esteem is my favorite part of working behind the scenes.”



Moore added, “I enjoy helping to create what becomes an awesome final product.” Director Chris Ruble noted that the musical delights the cast and crew as much as the the audience. “I love seeing the satisfaction of the cast and audience realizing the cast did it.” “Going to see the school musical supports the students who put so much effort into the production,” said junior Sierra Scyoc. Arranging the musical comes with challenges. Many students described crunch season as especially stressful. Junior Carter Bratton explained, “Being able to keep my mental health good while having a job, choir practice, rehearsals, homework and on top of that memorizing lines, dance, and music are the biggest obstacles to overcome.” The performers and the crew described the musical as far more than just a performance. It was months of teamwork, stress and laughter wrapped into one unforgettable weekend.

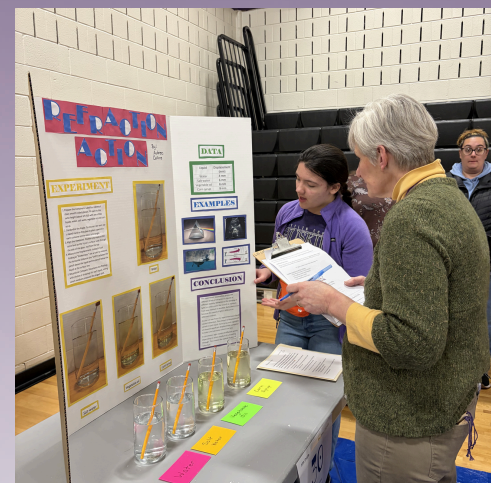


# STEAM FAIR

By Ellie Hartzler

On March 12, 2026, the students at Lewistown Intermediate School opened the facility to the public to present projects demonstrating the elements of STEAM at the annual LIS STEAM Fair. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Many of the projects included multiple elements. All 22 classrooms displayed a project, while 54 individual students also completed a project at home to share with their peers and community. Students explained their projects to the evaluators and answered any questions. Each participant received a wooden ribbon created by Mrs. ConnerMiller and her high school technology students, as well as a paper evaluation form.

There were also several community businesses and organizations on site to demonstrate STEAM elements in the world and in their workforce. Presenting at the LIS STEAM Fair were First Energy, PA Rural Water, Mifflin County Library, Mifflin County 4-H, The Academy's Early Childhood, Lewistown Police Department, Lincoln Caverns and Discovery Space.



# SIGNING

By Kendall Cavanaugh

Seniors Carter Smith, Reese Cubbison and Madden Weaver officially signed to Division I schools to continue their sports careers in college.

Coach Alex Monroe helped guide Smith through the collegiate recruitment process. "I was able to meet Coach Smith from Oklahoma State, and hear his vision for Carter's running career," said Monroe.

Reese Cubbison will attend Duquesne University next year. "I was looking at colleges in the summer and talking with the coaches, I started taking visits during the fall," explained Cubbison. I believe this is now the standard for distance running in Mifflin County, and so we will continue to use both of their high school campaigns as inspiration for the future," added Coach Alex Monroe.

Madden Weaver's dedication to baseball will take him to Mercyhurst University. "Madden has worked as hard as anyone, and this signing is a product of the work and effort he has put into baseball since he was 8 years old," Coach Hoppel stated.

"I feel like I've gotten better every year since freshman year and continued to put work in everyday to perfect the little things," added Weaver.

These athletes will continue to make Mifflin County proud as they continue their careers at the collegiate level.

# 7TH AND 8TH CLUB BASEBALL

By Aaden Stevens

For the first time, Mifflin County fielded a Junior High Baseball club team rostering 7th and 8th graders. These young athletes have the opportunity to play a spring sport while building up the future of the Huskies baseball team. Head Coach John Pannizzo set the goals for the Junior High Huskies to have fun while developing their skills for the future. Assistant coach Keith Baker added, "I think the general plan for the students is to introduce them to the next level of baseball and what a school baseball program is all about while keeping it fun." Assistant coach Bryson Dobson also stated, "Our goals are to develop each player into the best version of a baseball player they can, as well as the best version of themselves."

"It allows players of a younger age to play together and develop skills while representing their school. It helps strengthen the JV and Varsity programs as well as provide more opportunities to participate for our student-athletes," said Maclay. The sport of baseball is growing among the youth of Mifflin County, and the future for this club sport is limitless.



# STUDENT FORUM

By Ellie Hartzler

Mrs. ConnerMiller hosted the annual Student Forum in her technology education classroom at MCHS. The panel of recent graduates who were home during their winter break from college volunteered their time for the event that was open to all current MCHS students who plan to study any of the majors represented by the guest speakers.

The forum lasted two class periods and focused on college life, best practices, and college and career readiness. The discussion was based upon questions submitted by the MCHS students who were in attendance.



# TIU READING COMPETITION

By Jenna Knepp

On February 4, outstanding students from Lewistown Intermediate School and Mifflin County Middle School represented Mifflin County School District at the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit's reading competition.

Fourth and fifth grade teams led by teachers Julie Aungst and Nikki Bailey and middle school teams led by Jessy Espigh showcased their enthusiasm for reading in this event.

While the competition was completed during one day of hard work, the student representatives met for months to prepare. The students were assigned 12 books. "They read for months while also attending meetings and after school book clubs so they could collaborate together," said Aungst. "To help them prepare, I compiled questions for each book and facilitated practice rounds for the students," added Espigh.

The day consisted of many different activities and events for the reading challenge. There were relay races, buzzer based games, and trivia. However, our students excelled in more than the competitive portion of the challenge. "What stood out most was their positive attitude, cooperation, and respectful behavior," explained Aungst.

Aungst added, "These students demonstrated outstanding dedication, teamwork, and a true love of reading as they challenged themselves in a fast-paced academic setting."

The months that students prepared for this challenge paid off, as they supported each other, took on the many challenges, and showed their dedication as learners.

Our Mifflin County Middle School returned from the TIU11 victorious. The team of Mia Clark, Adalyn Lutz, and Lennin Ruble placed first in the entire competition!

We are proud of all of the Mifflin County representatives in the TIU reading competition and their willingness to push themselves and each other academically!



# THE ACADEMY

By Jenna Knepp

The Mifflin County School District is full of skilled individuals who are more than willing to support others through their talents. When a member of our Mifflin County community needed support, our students were there to help. The Mifflin County Academy Construction Trades program partnered with Mr. Bell from Habitat for Humanity to provide high school student Logan Mitchell with a wheelchair ramp.

"The ramp benefited Logan post-surgery to help ease transition to and from the house," said Construction Trade instructor Matt Kreider who oversaw the students working on this project. Students Angel Cabrera, Christian Gibson, Colton Leister, Nate Lindley, R.J. Link, Collen Miller, and Chase Stahl worked together to build and install the ramp.

High School teacher Rachael Davis helped to organize the project. "I contacted Habitat for Humanity and was connected with Mr. John Bell, who expressed willingness to help oversee the project. Mr. Bell recommended collaborating with Mr. Kreider at the Academy to involve students in the construction process," said Davis.

To secure funding for the project, a GoFundMe was created and eventually our local Lowe's reached out and donated all the materials needed to complete the project!

This experience provided the students with real world experience in building a functional ramp.

The ramp was built not just by the hard work of the Academy students but an effort of community collaboration working together to help meet the needs of one of our own community members!



