



Parliamentary Procedure

Newsletter for the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology

December 2025

Parliamentary Procedure is a monthly newsletter for the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology. It is designed to keep the parents, guardians, patrons, past graduates and others informed about events and happenings at the Academy on a monthly basis. If you have any questions about events, etc. at the Academy, please call or email the following:

- Main Office 717-248-3933
- Mrs. Laura Hicks Director Ext. 5601 (ldh56@mcsdk12.org)
- Mr. Mark Crosson, Principal Ext. 5602 (mac12@mcsdk12.org)
- Mrs. Heather Haines, Director of PN Program Ext. 5611 (hhaines_pn@mcsdk12.org)

Upcoming Events/Dates to remember

Dates and Reminders

- December 1= No school
- December 18= Stakeholders Meeting 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- December 10= Mifflin County 9th Grade Tours
- December 16= Juniata High School 9th Grade Tours
- December 18= East Juniata High School 9th Grade Tours



From the Director's Office

From the Director's Desk – December Edition

Dear Parents and Students,

The holiday season is such a wonderful opportunity for reflection, gratitude, and giving back—values that truly shine here at MCAST! I am always filled with joy knowing that the Academy is about so much more than just skill-building; it's about nurturing character, compassion, and a strong sense of community.

Our students absolutely embody this spirit of giving! Through their active involvement in Career and Technical Student Organizations like SkillsUSA, HOSA, Construction Club, National Technical Honor Society, and FFA, they're taking their leadership beyond the classroom. Every CTSO, along with students in every program at MCAST, contributes to our local community with heartfelt service projects each year!

From organizing food drives to support local families to providing holiday gifts for senior citizens and even engaging in community projects, our students show us all how impactful their skills can be! These hands-on experiences teach invaluable lessons in empathy, teamwork, and civic responsibility, equipping our Owls to become not just successful professionals, but also compassionate citizens.

As we celebrate this joyful season, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our students, staff, families, and partners for the countless ways you give back. Your generosity embodies the spirit of MCAST and beautifully captures the true essence of this season!

Wishing you peace, joy, and continued success in the new year.

#GoMCASTOwls

From the Principal's Office

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to take this opportunity to say Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. One of the things I am thankful for this season is the opportunity to work with all of the wonderful students and staff at the Academy. It is truly a privilege to work here at such a wonderful place.

I also wanted to take a minute to explain to you that when your student is absent from school, you will need to send an excuse to the sending school as well as to the Academy. We must keep our own attendance records. Please note that you are welcome to email your excuses to the school if that is easier. You may email them to me at mac12@mcsdk12.org, and I will make sure they get to the attendance secretaries.

Again, thank you for entrusting your children to the administration and staff here at the Academy.

Mr. Crosson
Principal

From the Career Coach' Office

From the Career Coach's Office:

We continue to offer Career Exploration activities for students here at the Academy. Students from every program area represented their trade at presentations to 8th and 9th grade students in Mifflin and Juniata Counties. They did a fantastic job talking about their program area and the great things happening at the Academy.

We are busy prepping our Seniors for graduation by completing college applications, making employment connections, and building their career portfolios. For any students considering post-secondary education, the FAFSA application is now open at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

Upcoming events:

- 12/3/25 - Mid-Marking Period 2 Progress Reports sent home
- 12/3/25 - Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics Presentation at Academy
- 12/9/25 - Academy hosting Juniata High School 9th graders for a tour
- 12/10/25 - Academy hosting Mifflin County Junior High School 9th graders for a tour
- 12/11/25 - Academy hosting East Juniata High School 9th graders for a tour

TOY DRIVE: National Technical Honor Society is hosting a TOY DRIVE for Toys for Tots. Please bring an unwrapped toy by December 12th. This is a great way for our students to give back!



We are proud to announce our **2025 November Students of the Month**. Student of the Month criteria include grades, attendance, involvement in activities, behavior, and exhibition of the twelve traits of character. The faculty at the Academy recognizes the following students for excelling in each of these areas:

Torri Maclay - 10th Grade - Mifflin County High School - Agricultural Sciences Program - "Torri is always ready for class every day. She is kind and an all-around great student in Agricultural Sciences."

Quinn Parson - 11th Grade - Mifflin County High School - Collision Repair Technology Program - "Quinn is doing a great job as the President of Skills USA. He is dependable and respectful. Quinn is a good friend to all of his peers."

Alexis Treaster - 12th Grade - Mifflin County High School - Culinary Arts Program - "Alexis is the President of National Technical Honor Society and Vice-President of Skills USA and does an excellent job in her positions. She acts as a leader in Culinary Arts for her peers and represents the program in a respectable manner. Alexis works extremely hard outside of school and gives back to her community any chance that she can get."



Torri Maclay- grade 10



Quinn Parson- grade 11



Alexis Treaster- grade 12



ACADEMICS



Skills Officer Go to Fall Leadership Conference

SkillsUSA members Quinn Parson (11th grade, Collision Repair), Alexis Treaster (12th grade, Culinary Arts), and Claire Sunderland (10th grade, Cosmetology) had the opportunity to attend the PA Central Region Fall Leadership Conference in Camp Hill November 19-21, 2025. Quinn, Lexie, and Claire spent three days with approximately 240 other students across the central region, learning and refining leadership skills and completing team-building exercises. Students toured the PA state capitol building and learned a lot about our state! Thursday evening, Mrs. Hicks and Mr. Crosson joined us for the administrator's meal! As part of the SkillsUSA state initiative, all money donated through raffles and "front of the meal line" auctions are donated to Habitat for Humanity. Within three days, \$10,750 was raised for an excellent cause!!



From the Nurse's Office

Dear Families and Caregivers,

We love having your children at school all school year!

This is the time of year when winter weather takes a toll on school attendance. Snow and rain can make it hard to get your children to school.

So can illnesses such as colds, flu & fevers.

These absences, even if they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that contributes to students feeling connected and engaged in learning.

Please consider these steps to keep your children healthy and in school this winter:

1. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school. Check with family & friends who can give your children a ride if you can't take them.
2. If your children get sick or you are concerned about illnesses, talk to your child's medical provider for advice.
3. Stomach pain and headaches can be signs of anxiety. If you feel that anxiety or stress is playing a role, talk to your child's teacher, counselor, school nurse or your medical provider about how best to support your child.
4. Encourage them to wash their hands before and after eating and after using the restroom.
5. Avoid sharing cups and utensils with other individuals.
6. Ensure your child is dressed for cold weather.
7. Encourage healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking fluids and getting exercise.
8. If your children need to stay home for a prolonged period due to illness, talk to your child's teacher to find out about resources, including computer or internet access, that they can use at home to keep learning once they feel well enough.

Let us know how we can help you. If you're having trouble, need resources or advice, please call us at 717-248-3933 and ask to speak with the nurse.

Sincerely,
Nurse Harvey

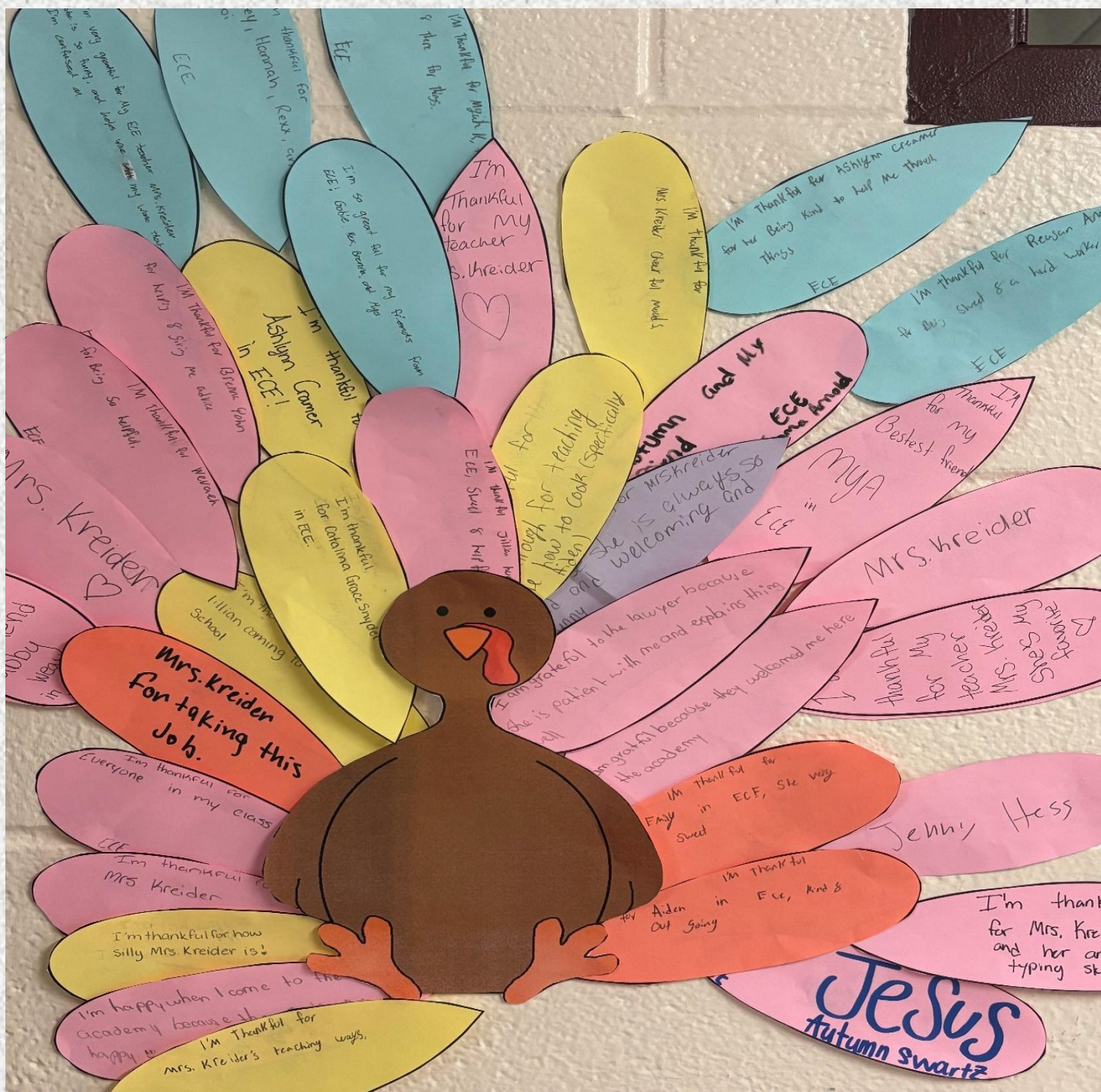


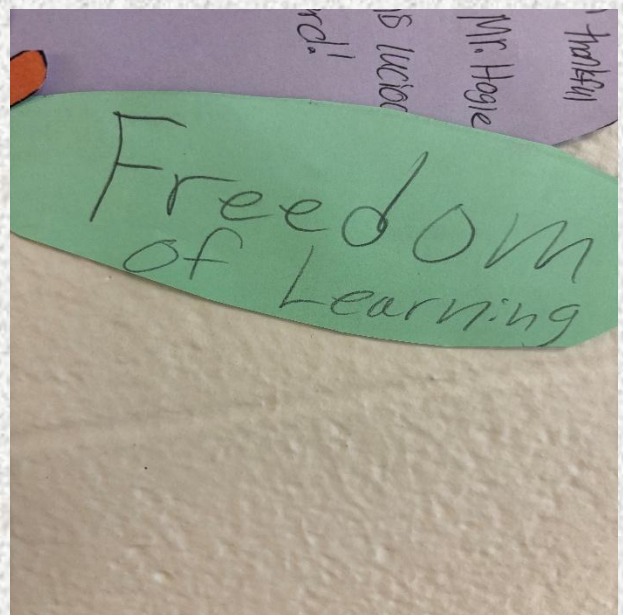
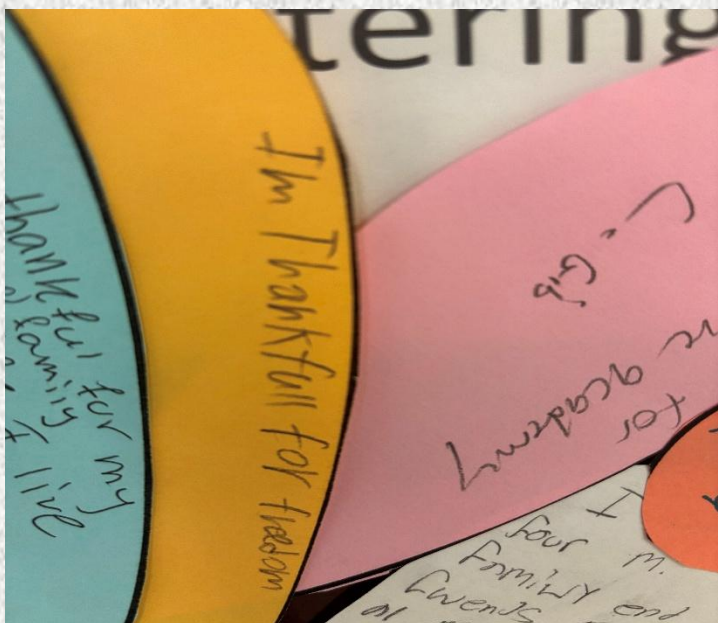
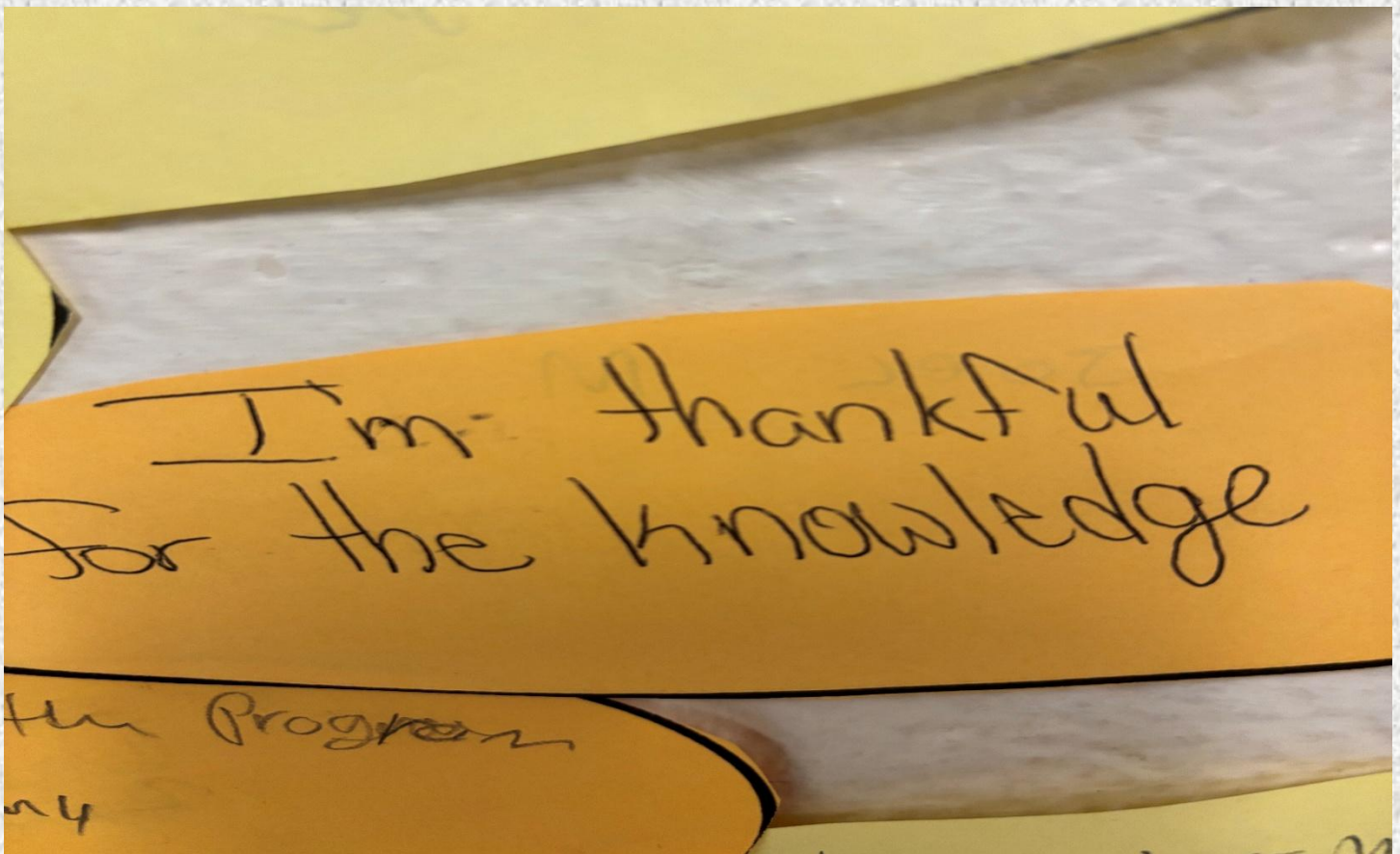
Thankfulness at the Academy

Our Academy Owls spent the last week expressing gratitude on feathers that were placed on a turkey outside of all the program doors.

Here is a peek at a few that were the office's favorites:







The Academy office wishes our administration, staff, students and their families a Happy Thanksgiving!

From the Cosmetology Program

Cosmetology students have been busy this month. Sophomores are learning about scalp care and started working on each other for the first time. Juniors are learning how color works, and the Seniors have been working on haircoloring techniques. The Seniors have learned a color melt, demi gloss, demi permanent and fun colors on their male mannequin. They get to choose their own color and mix and apply on their own. Juniors will be starting on the clinic (salon) starting in January.



From the Construction Trades Program

Construction Trades has almost all the drywall complete on the classroom we are building. Rough in inspections were all passed. We are building a pavilion for Mr. Armstrong's charity car show. We have Fike brothers doing a demonstration tomorrow.



From the Early Childhood Program

Our Early Childhood Education students have had a busy and exciting season of learning, leadership, and hands-on experience!

In November, students attended two meaningful field trips. At East Derry Elementary School, they supported PBIS activities, helping guide younger learners through various activities they prepared. Later in the month, they visited Hide-N-Seek Daycare, where they assisted with the center's Thanksgiving Feast—an opportunity to practice real-world caregiving, communication, and classroom support.

Back in our own room, we welcomed the Pre-K class for a variety of experiences, including free play, a special birthday celebration, and a collaborative activity with the Agricultural Science program. These activities allowed our students to practice planning, facilitation, and interaction with young children.

Looking ahead to December, the Pre-K class will join us again for their monthly birthday celebration. Students in Early Childhood Education will also take the lead in organizing ornament-making activities and winter treats, where they will research, plan, prepare, and create alongside the children. These experiences continue to strengthen their skills in curriculum planning, child engagement, teamwork, and professional practice.

We are proud of our students' growth and the positive impact they are making in early learning environments!



From the Health Professions Program

It has been a busy month, full of learning, growth, and hands-on experiences for our Health Professions students! Level 1 students learned how to take blood pressure, while Level 2 and 3 students continued to refine and strengthen their blood pressure skills. We also kept moving through medical terminology, focusing on the skin, skeletal, and muscular systems.

Level 2 and 3 students began their Patient Care Technician certification work. All levels completed a patient safety simulation, where they practiced important skills and obtained full sets of vital signs on two assigned patients. Students were also introduced to glucometers and practiced checking blood glucose levels.

We also enjoyed field trips to Penn College and South Hills, giving students the chance to explore programs in nursing, x-ray, sonography, dental, respiratory therapy, and physical therapy.

On top of all that, a group of students spent a Saturday morning volunteering at Kish Park, helping with light setup as part of a community service event for HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America).

It's been a full and exciting month!



Health Professions (continued)



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ACADEMY

From the Practical Nursing Program

Practical nursing students participated in a 'Friendsgiving' while preparing for finals and clinical skills competencies. Our students find ways to work as a team during stressful situations. They are all striving for one goal, graduating next year to sit for their licensure.

