



Parliamentary Procedure

Newsletter for the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology

January 2026

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

- **January 1-2= No school**
- **January 6= East Juniata High School Closer Looks Sign-ups**
- **January 7= Juniata High School Closer Looks Sign-ups**
- **January 8= Mifflin County Junior High School Closer Looks Sign-ups**
- **January 19= End of the Marking Period 2**
- **January 27= Juniata County Closer Look Tours**
- **January 28= Mifflin County Closer Look Tours**



— THE —
ACADEMY

From the Director's Office

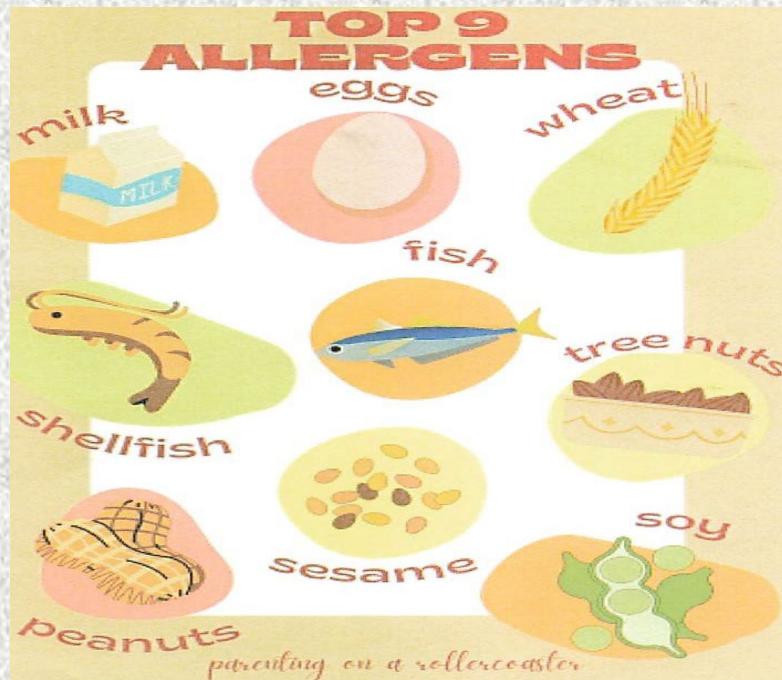
From the Director's Desk – January Edition

Parents; please be mindful of those with allergies before sending food into the Academy for special events and Birthday treats. While we appreciate your contribution and the commitment to sharing with peers, we have to consider those with allergies when making food choices, especially cakes and cupcakes with peanut butter icing. The school nurse will assess all foods brought from home and if they contain peanut butter, they will not be distributed and you will be asked to take them home.

Even if your child is not aware of anyone in their program with a food allergy, many programs cross over in collaboration with each other throughout the day and the risk of cross contamination is high. Our top priority is always safety while your children are with us.

Our staff is equally committed to the safety of their students in the classroom. Below are the things instructors will implement when special treats are offered.

- During meals or snacks, ensure students have adequate space to sit and eat.
- Wash hands before AND after eating and clean the surface areas where the food was consumed.
- Keep classrooms food-free, if possible. If eating in classrooms is necessary, designate separate space for eating and follow the hygiene rules listed above before returning to the learning area.
- Discourage food sharing.



From the Principal's Office

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very prosperous and blessed New Year. We are looking forward to continue to work with your students in 2026 as they seek the pathway to their future career.

I want to take an opportunity to share something with you that I am asking that you to help us enforce. We have a number of students that are not keeping their locks on their lockers. While this may sound like a situation that is easily remedied, I wanted to take this opportunity to explain why we are strictly enforcing this here at the Academy. School lockers are school property and are assigned to students so they can keep personal belongings in them when they change to go into their program area. This may include uniforms, shoes, boots, books, etc. It can also include tools for their trade. We don't want things stolen so we are insisting that they keep their lockers locked at all times. In addition, I am concerned that when they are left unlocked other students can place contraband in their locker which could result in the innocent party being accused of possessing something that actually doesn't belong to them. After the Christmas break, teachers will be addressing the need to keep lockers securely locked at all times and when they see that they are not, students will be addressed and told to comply with this rule. If after a warning they fail to comply, they will be sent to my office and I will deal with it as an act of insubordination. I am asking that you will remind students to keep their lockers locked at all times so we can protect personal property and prevent other potential disciplinary infractions involving any kind of contraband. Thank you for your assistance with this.

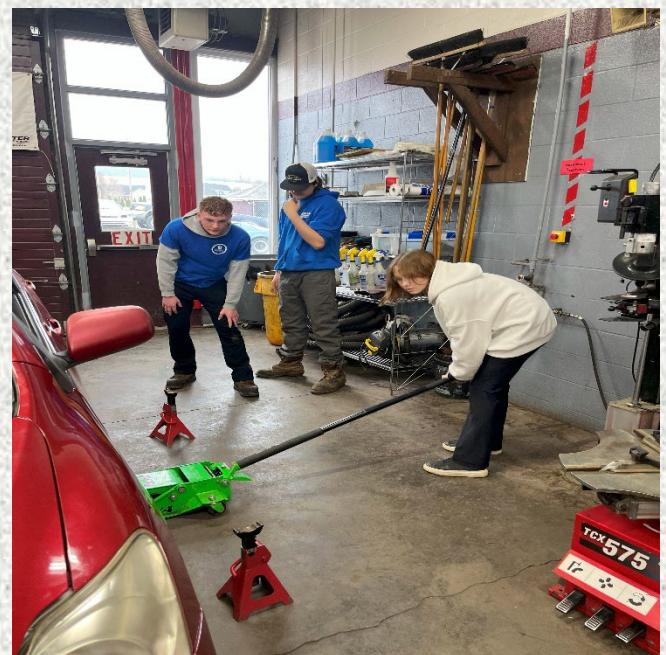
Again, thank you for entrusting your children to the administration and staff here at the Academy.

Mr. Crosson
Principal

From the Career Coach' Office

- We hosted 9th graders from Mifflin County Junior High School, Juniata High School, East Juniata High School, and home school students from both Mifflin and Juniata Counties for tours in anticipation of our new student applications opening in February. Our current students did a great job talking about their program areas and showing the 9th graders what a day in the life of an Academy student is like. (3 pictures attached)
- Students participated in a presentation from the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics to learn about the opportunities available on their campuses. Our students asked valuable questions and learned about careers in the world of aeronautics.
- In January we will be hosting Closer Look tours for 9th graders who are interested in learning more about specific program areas. This is a great day for our current students to show the 9th graders all of the great things they have been learning at the Academy.
- After the holiday break, Mrs. Dressler will start meeting with Seniors to discuss post-secondary plans in anticipation of our Signing Day event in May.

Ninth Grade Student in Program Areas



National Technical Honor Society:

- The Academy's National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) teamed up with our other Career and Technical Student Organizations to organize a toy drive for Toys for Tots. We were able to deliver 4 full boxes of toys for toddlers through teenagers. Pictured are NTHS Officers (left to right) President Alexis Treaster, Treasurer Brayden Benfer, Vice-President Madison Reeder, and Secretary Destiny Hoffman. (picture attached)



We are proud to announce our 2025 December 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:

Valeria Santiago - 10th Grade - Juniata High School - Early Childhood Education Program - "Valeria is always actively engaged in Early Childhood Education material. During PreK activities, she works hard to prepare and engage the students in developmentally appropriate material. Valeria does a wonderful job, great work V!"

Jude Zook - 11th Grade - Mifflin County High School - Electrical Installation Technology Program - "Jude consistently demonstrates advanced skills, knowledge, and professionalism as a second-year Electrical Installation student. He approaches all hands-on projects with precision, follows safety regulations, and shows a strong understanding of code applications. Jude actively supports his peers, demonstrates leadership in the lab, and takes initiative in troubleshooting and problem-solving. He shows dedication, work ethic, and commitment to excellence."

Johnny Welsh - 12th Grade - Mifflin County High School - Mechatronics Program - "Johnny has demonstrated exceptional skill at thinking outside the box and creating unique solutions to complex problems. He was instrumental in developing and integrating three unique modules into a cohesive mini manufacturing line in Mechatronics. Johnny's knowledge of Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) makes him the go-to for his peers to get questions answered."



Valeria Santiago- Grade 10



Jude Zook- Grade 11



Johnny Welsh- Grade 12



From the Co-op Coordinator's Office

Co-Op Program Spotlight: Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our school's Cooperative (Co-Op) Education Program continues to provide students with valuable real-world learning experiences by connecting classroom instruction with hands-on work opportunities in the community.

Through the co-op program, students gain practical job skills, develop professional habits, and explore potential career paths while earning academic credit. Students are placed with local employers who serve as mentors, helping them build confidence, a sense of responsibility, and a strong work ethic. These experiences allow students to see how what they learn in school applies directly to the workplace.

In addition to technical skills specific to each job site, students strengthen essential employability skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving. Many students also learn the importance of balancing school responsibilities with work expectations—an invaluable lesson as they prepare for life after graduation.

We are grateful for the continued support of our local business partners who make this program possible. Their willingness to invest time and guidance in our students plays a vital role in their success.

The co-op program is a win-win for our students, our schools, and the community. It helps students prepare for future employment or post-secondary education while strengthening partnerships between our school and local employers. We are proud of the dedication our co-op students show each day and look forward to continuing to expand these opportunities.

For more information about the co-op program or how local businesses can get involved, please contact the school.

Co-op Business Partners (2025-2026)

4 Seasons Energy Solutions

David M Maines & Associates

Edmiston Construction

Fike Bros Carpet One

FoxPro

Geisinger Care Works

Geisinger Lewistown Hospital)

Greenwood Village

Hide-N-Seek Christian Day Care

Hostetler Truck Bodies and Trailers

J&N Electric

Lepley Electric

Maines Roofing

Metzler Forest Products

Mid-State Electric

Pre-K Counts

Quality Machining

Regester Chevrolet Body Shop

Stroup's Garage

Summit Early Learning

Sunderland Electric

Trego Electric

X-Pert Communication

From the Agriculture Program

Food Science Section

Our food science section of the program came to a close this week. For their final, they had to find a recipe to make using the chickens we raised during our Animal Science section at the beginning of the year. Students created dishes like chicken alfredo pizza, cowboy pasta, chicken tacos, chicken bacon ranch wraps, and more. This project incorporated all the skills and knowledge they have gained throughout the 7-week section of food science, including proper personal protective equipment, safe food handling, knife safety, proper measurement, and more.

Big Valley FFA

On Monday, Dec 8 FFA members went shopping for gifts for two Children and Youth kids to clear their Christmas wish list. They shopped for a 16-year-old girl and a 3-month-old boy. We were able to get them everything they needed and asked for. On Wednesday, Dec 10 members met after school to wrap all of the gifts. They also bought toys to contribute to National Technical Honor Society's Toys for Tots toy drive.

The Agricultural Sciences program and Big Valley FFA chapter hopes that everyone has a great holiday season and a happy new year!



FFA Christmas Shopping for Children



From the Cosmetology Program

We had a wonderful time with Santa's beauty shop with all the Cosmetology levels (grades 10-12) participating. Thanks to the community for supporting our students.



From the Construction Trades Program

Construction trades has been moving through various projects. We have recently started to construct a 10x20 pavilion for a charitable car show for springtime. The collision repair classroom has received two coats of paint and some of the finished electrical work. The drop ceiling for the room is to be installed over the break.

The bathroom demonstration project we are working on in the shop is soon approaching the point of tying in live plumbing. We are aiming to have actual water supplies, drain lines and fixtures circulating through the project, all spec'd to current building code.

Furthermore, upon returning from Christmas break we will begin NOCTI preparation. We are making a NOCTI review and practice station containing all the hands-on portions of the exam.

Construction club is planning on an evening fellowship event upon return from break. The club will rent the bowling alley for evening.

From the Culinary Arts Program

The Culinary Arts program recently concluded its semi-annual sausage sale, with **record-breaking success**. Students produced and sold three popular varieties of sausage—salt and pepper, brown sugar and black pepper, and Italian sausage. Combined sales reached an impressive **1,905 pounds**, setting a new program record. This achievement highlights students' growing skills in large-scale food production, teamwork, and quality control, as well as strong community support.

Students also showcased their creativity and culinary skills during the first **Chopped-style competition** of the school year. In the AM competition, first place was earned by **Lane Ruth, Remie Foster, Szander Heikes, and Alissa Lauver**, who impressed judges with their execution and teamwork. The PM competition was won by **Jack Weaver, Aiden Hatos, and Katurah Haines**, whose dishes stood out for flavor and presentation.

In addition, the **Culinary Competition Team** has been selected for the upcoming year. Team members **Holly Guyer, Alexis Treaster, Jamarcus Russell, Brody Basom, and Jack Weaver** will spend the coming months developing and refining their competition menu in preparation for the **2026 Pennsylvania ProStart Invitational**, which will be held on **February 24, 2026**, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Preparation will focus on advanced techniques, timing, presentation, and professional standards. These accomplishments reflect the continued growth, dedication, and excellence of the Culinary Arts program and its students.



From the Early Childhood Program

Spreading Holiday Cheer in Early Childhood Education

Our Early Childhood Education students have been bringing the Christmas spirit to life in the classroom! Throughout the month, students prepared, planned, and taught three engaging activities for the PreK class, gaining hands-on experience while creating meaningful learning moments. Holiday fun filled the room as students celebrated with festive ornaments and special treats.

In addition, we held our monthly birthday celebration, during which students designed and led activities targeting a variety of developmental areas. These experiences allowed our students to practice instructional skills while supporting the growth and joy of our PreK learners.



ECE Academy student Lillian Beers from MCHS reads "Sneezy the Snowman" to the PreK students to conclude the holiday treat day.

From the Health Professions Program

This month in Health Professions, students stayed busy building both knowledge and hands-on skills. We continued learning medical terminology related to the nervous system and special senses, while also focusing on essential patient care topics used in real healthcare settings.

Students learned about patient restraints, including when they are appropriate, how to safely tie quick-release knots, and important alternatives to restraints. We also emphasized the importance of hourly patient rounding and practiced professional communication using SBAR.

To apply these skills, students participated in an interactive patient care simulation. During the simulation, they performed hourly rounding, obtained vital signs, assessed circulation for patients with restraints, and practiced giving an SBAR handoff.

Outside the classroom, our HOSA members demonstrated leadership and generosity by participating in the NTHS toy drive. HOSA officers visited Five Below to purchase toys, and many students also brought in toys on their own to support the drive.

Level 1 students continued strengthening their foundation by reviewing medical terminology, vital signs, and body systems using the Anatomage table, while Level 2 and Level 3 students continued working toward their Patient Care Technician certifications.

Finally, students practiced taking professional phone calls in preparation for a collaborative simulation that is scheduled for January with students from MCHS.

We look forward to the upcoming collaborative simulation and what other learning opportunities January will bring!



From the Practical Nursing Program

"Congratulations to Class 127 on their 100% NCLEX Licensure pass rate!"

