Parliamentary Procedure

Newsletter for the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology

June 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:

- Summer Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
- June 15- July 3= Cosmetology Summer Clinic 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

THE ACADEMY

From the Director's Office

From the desk of the Director,

As we close another successful school year at the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank our students, families, staff, sending schools, and community partners for the support and memories during my time at the Academy. It has truly been an honor to serve this school community and witness the incredible growth, talent, and dedication of our students each day. As I transition to a new professional opportunity, I leave with tremendous pride in all that has been accomplished and full confidence in the Academy's future. MCAST is filled with passionate educators, supportive stakeholders, and hardworking students who will guide the Academy to great success moving forward. I wish continued success to the Academy and to every student who walks through its doors in the years ahead. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the MCAST family.

Laura Hicks
Administrative Director
#GoMCASTOwls

From the Principal's Office

Dear Parents and Students,

We have completed the 25-26 school year and, in the process, have created many wonderful memories and opportunities for students. We are very proud of our 118 graduates, and we wish them the very best as they begin writing the next chapter of their lives. To the parents of those seniors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting your students to our care. We count it a privilege that you entrusted them to us. To all of the underclassmen, we want to encourage you to know that we will strive to make the 26-27 school year a great year as well.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Hicks for her dedication to the students and staff here at the Academy. She has been a blessing to all she has worked with. We wish her many blessings on her new endeavor.

Please note our office hours over the summer, listed above. Also, please note that I will not be issuing parking passes until the start of the school year. If you have any questions over the summer, please feel free to call my office at any time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark A. Crosson
Principal

Student of the Month for April

I am proud to announce the 2026 May Students of the Month for the Academy:

Tracy Fisher *- 10th Grade - Juniata High School - Automotive Technology Program - "Tracy maintains great attendance, as well as excellent grades in Automotive Technology. She is always willing to help her fellow classmates. Tracy showed courage, empathy, and strength during an extremely difficult situation this year."*

Austin Shearer *- 11th Grade - Juniata Christian School - Precision Machining Program - "Austin has good attendance and maintains a good grade in Precision Machining. He has an eye for detail, which makes him good at his craft in machining. Austin comes prepared and ready to work each day."*

Cole Linn *- 12th Grade - Mifflin County High School - Mechatronics Program - "Cole has done extremely well in Mechatronics by maintaining good attendance and good grades. He scored advanced on his written NOCTI test and earned a perfect score on his performance test, a very hard thing to do in Mechatronics. He had the only perfect score in the class. Cole is a kind student to his classmates and staff."*

others in class."

Tracy Fisher- grade 10

Austin Shearer-grade 11

Cole Linn- grade 12

National Technical Honor Society Members:

Congratulations to our current and newest members of the Academy's National Technical Honor Society:

- *Lily Barlett – 2nd Year*
- *Brody Basom*
- *Brayden Benfer – Treasurer*
- *Alaina Cline*
- *Madilyn Clinger*
- *Nola Demaree – 2nd Year - SENIOR*
- *Janiliz Galarza Rivera*
- *Jada Guthridge*
- *Katurah Haines*
- *Sophie Hartsock – 2nd Year*
- *Emma Herwig – 2nd Year*
- *Destiny Hoffman – Secretary - SENIOR*
- *Calleigh Keeler – 2nd Year*
- *Lacey Kessler – 2nd Year*
- *Kahlen McCracken – 2nd Year*
- *Beth McKnight – 3rd Year – SENIOR*
- *Rene Miller*
- *Ransom Nerhood*
- *Jaya Patkalitsky*
- *Jersey Poeta – 2nd Year*
- *Autumn Raffensberger - SENIOR*
- *Madison Reeder – Vice President - SENIOR*
- *Kenadi Royer – 2nd Year*
- *Lane Ruth*
- *Jasmin Schlegel – 2nd Year*
- *Layla Schlegel*
- *Kayleigh Shearer – 2nd Year*
- *Allison Sims*
- *Piper Specht – 2nd Year – SENIOR*
- *Lilly Stryker*
- *Claire Sunderland*
- *Bryanna Swartz – 2nd Year*
- *Alexis Treaster – President - SENIOR*
- *Payton Weaver – 2nd Year*
- *Kathleen Williams – 3rd Year - SENIOR*
- *Brooke Wray – 2nd Year*

From the Co-op Coordinator's Office

Academy Students Gain Valuable Real-World Experience Through Co-op and Job Shadowing Programs

The Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology continued to provide students with outstanding real-world learning opportunities during the 2025–2026 school year through its Cooperative Education and Job Shadowing Programs.

This year, 46 students participated in cooperative education placements throughout Mifflin, Juniata, Centre, Snyder, and Huntingdon Counties. Students worked alongside industry professionals in a variety of career fields, gaining hands-on experience while building valuable technical, communication, and employability skills that will help prepare them for success after graduation.

The Academy proudly partnered with 32 local businesses and organizations this year to provide students with meaningful workplace experiences. Several businesses joined the co-op program for the first time, expanding opportunities for students across multiple career pathways. New partners included David Maines and Associates, Dumor, Inc., Dunamis Power and Light, E. Avenue Hair Studio, Edmiston Construction, Fike Bros Carpet One Floor and Home, FoxPro, Lewistown Dental Care, Lewistown Manufacturing, M.A.D. Agility Equipment, New Hue, Phoenix Physical Therapy, Poorman Welding and Fabrication, Regester Chevrolet Body Shop, Spicer Welding and Fabrication, Inc., Stone Valley Container, Inc., Strodes Mills Elementary, and T-Lane Industries.

In addition to co-op placements, students also participated in 75 job shadowing experiences at 28 different businesses and organizations. These job shadows allowed students to explore careers firsthand, observe daily workplace operations, and make important connections between classroom instruction and industry expectations.

The success of the Academy's work-based learning programs was reflected in the accomplishments of its graduating students. Thirty-eight students who participated in co-op placements secured full-time employment following graduation, while 12 students chose to continue their education in postsecondary programs related to their career interests and training.

The Academy extends its sincere appreciation to all business and industry partners who supported students throughout the school year. Their dedication to mentoring students and providing authentic workplace experiences continues to make a lasting impact on the future workforce and the local community.

As the school year comes to a close, the Academy celebrates the success of its students and looks forward to continuing to grow partnerships and opportunities that help students discover, prepare for, and achieve their career goals.

From the Ag Program

Ag Science Students and Families,
Thank you for a wonderful school year! As we move into summer, I encourage all students in the ag sciences program to stay active in FFA and continue building their agricultural experiences outside of the classroom.
Reminders:

- All SAEs completed over the summer should be recorded in AET. Students should regularly log hours worked, financial records, projects completed, volunteer experiences, and any agricultural employment or activities. If you need assistance or forgot your login information, please send me an email.
- **All members showing at the Mifflin County Youth Fair must have a minimum of two entries per month for each animal they are showing.**

Important Dates:

- **June FFA Meeting:** June 3, 2026, in Ag Sciences Classroom
- **PA FFA State Convention:** June 9-11, 2026, in State College
- **July FFA Meeting:** July 1, 2026, in Ag Sciences Classroom
- **Mifflin County Youth Fair:** August 3-8, 2026, in Reedsville at the Youth Park

Contact Information:

- I still check my email multiple times a week throughout the summer. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns! Email: nmc04@mcsdk12.org

From the Construction Trades Program

Construction trades is wrapping up for the year. As we begin to prep the shop and warehouse for summer break and the fall, we were able to squeeze in one last concrete project. Attached is a photo of Zeke running the compactor over a fresh subbase, prior to the rebar grid installation. Students completed the entire concrete task list with this project. When we return in the fall, we will finish the rest of the sidewalk.

From the Cosmetology Program

The Cosmetology program closed out the year with the Pre-k Kiddo's and Early Childcare program coming in for Spa Manicures.

The little students enjoyed the manicures with polish, and the Cosmetology students enjoyed them. It is good for clients of all ages to get services.

From the Health Professions Program

It's hard to believe we have arrived at the end of another school year! We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our seniors on a job well done as they complete the program and move forward into employment and/or post-secondary education. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and excited to see what the future holds for them. To finish out the year, Level 1 students continued their study of first aid and triage. Their culminating project involved participating in a simulated bus accident scene where multiple victims required assessment and emergency care. Students demonstrated teamwork, critical thinking, and hands-on skills throughout the activity. Level 2 and 3 students continued strengthening their patient care skills, including bed baths, hand and foot care, and other essential healthcare procedures. All three levels learned the fundamentals of range of motion, mechanical lifts, specimen collection, and visual acuity testing, helping to build a strong foundation for future healthcare careers.
A special congratulations goes out to our 9 Level 2 students who successfully passed the Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT) exam! We are so proud of your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Your success is a tremendous accomplishment and a reflection of the effort you have put into the program this year. It has been a wonderful year and we look forward to next year! Below, students are offering staff a snack cart sponsored by our class club for teacher appreciation! Thank you to all teachers and staff who make The Academy an incredible place!

From the Mechatronics Program

When most students spend their summer relaxing, senior Chase Bowen is in an engineering lab at FoxPro, turning a year-old idea into a working animatronic rabbit decoy — from scratch.

Bowen, a 12th grade student (recent graduate) and three-year student in the Mechatronics Robotics academy, landed an internship at FoxPro through the skills he developed in the program. There, an engineer handed him a challenge that had been shelved for years: build a decoy that not only looks like a rabbit but moves like one, too. Simple in concept, difficult in execution — and exactly the kind of problem Bowen was looking for. "The project idea was simple to think of, yet hard to accomplish," Bowen explained. "Make a decoy that looks and acts like a rabbit."

Starting With a Blank Page

The early weeks of his internship were spent generating ideas. Bowen filled pages with sketches and concepts, weighing each one against two key criteria: functionality and cost. This wasn't just about engineering — it was about building something that could realistically be manufactured and sold to consumers. After working through the possibilities, he settled on a design worth pursuing and began gathering the parts needed to bring it to life.

Learning on the Fly

With a direction locked in, Bowen dove into three distinct branches of engineering simultaneously: electronics, programming, and mechanical design. His background in the academy proved invaluable — three years of exposure to technical terminology and schematics meant he could pick up new tools and software faster than starting cold.

One of the most critical components was the PCB (printed circuit board), the electronic heart of the device. Bowen designed the first revision, RevA, in just four days — including time spent learning the design software from scratch. He also taught himself to create custom component schematics, a skill that typically takes far longer to develop.

With the board designed, he turned to the code. The firmware controlling the board required about 4 pages of programming that he had to study, understand, and modify to address the decoy's specific needs — a process that took roughly 2 days of focused work.

After testing RevA, Bowen designed a second, improved version of the board — RevB — which is now the functional version powering the prototype.

The Prototype Takes Shape

The images of Bowen's workbench tell the story of a project coming together piece by piece. A 3D-printed rabbit head with upright ears sits atop a motorized mount, wired into the electronics below. Servo motors, colorful wiring, and a machined enclosure are all visible — each component hand-selected and integrated by Bowen himself.

He also began learning SolidWorks, a professional-grade 3D modeling program, to design and refine the mechanical parts of the decoy. The software has helped reduce the number of test prints needed, allowing him to assemble and test components virtually before committing to a physical build.

What Comes Next

As of now, Bowen is closing in on a fully testable prototype. His goal is to finish the product by the end of the school year, with hopes of moving toward production the following year. Future improvements are planned for the decoy's aesthetics and cost efficiency.

Next fall, Bowen will head to Penn State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering — a path that this project has only reinforced. Whether or not the animatronic rabbit ever sits on a store shelf; the work behind it already represents something remarkable: a student who took an untested idea, learned what he needed to learn, and built it himself.

Mechatronics (continued)