



Parliamentary Procedures

October 2026

Parliamentary Procedure is a monthly newsletter for the Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology. It is designed to keep 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 one of the following:

- Main Office 717-248-3933
- Mr. A. Michael Durn, Director Ext. 5601 (amd05@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

- October 12= Act 80 Day (no school for students)
- October 21= O. A.C. meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- October 30= End of the First Marking Period

*Highlighted days are events specific to the Academy

From the Director's Office

From the Director's Desk:

It's hard to believe that another month has passed so quickly in the world of CTE and our great Academy! I want to take a moment to thank all of our wonderful staff, students, and stakeholders who attended our Community Day on Saturday, September 26, 2026. It was a rousing success, and I do mean rousing, thanks to the over 50 vehicles that we had here for our auto show! We look forward to continuing this tradition next year! As the calendar moves into October, we have student-led projects underway around our facility, namely a sidewalk project by our Construction Trades students and an outdoor lighting project by our Electrical Installation students. It is amazing to see the hard work and effort of these students and all of our students across the Academy.

On another note, we will be moving to Parent Square as our primary means of communication this month. You can expect to receive a text message and an email welcoming you to this communication. I have found it to be very user-friendly, and I hope you do as well. Our website will also be updated to our new site next month. We believe that both shifts will increase communication with our parents, students, and stakeholders about any information that needs to be shared. If you have any questions as we roll out these new communication channels, please feel free to contact our office.

Yours in Education,

A. Michael Durn
Administrative Director
MCAST



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From the Principal's Office

We are off to a wonderful start to the 26-27 school year. Students are settling into their programs very nicely, and we are looking forward to a great year. I would like to take this opportunity to share some information with you that concerns us all. In accordance with Academy Policy 227 Controlled Substances and Paraphernalia, look-alike drugs shall include any pill, capsule, tablet, powder, plant matter or other substance that is designed or intended to resemble a controlled substance prohibited by this policy or is used in a manner likely to induce others to believe the material is a controlled substance.

Parents and guardians, Academy students are strictly prohibited from possessing, distributing and using items that are not FDA regulated or fall under look-alike drugs and paraphernalia. Any substance ingested to produce a physical or psychological effect similar to drugs or controlled substances is strictly prohibited.

These items may include, but are not limited to, caffeine pouches, caffeine powder, caffeine gum, creatine, dietary supplements, vitamins, kratom, and 7-OH products.

I am bringing this to your attention so that we can be diligent on both ends (home and at school) to prevent our students from using any of these substances. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns about this or anything else here at the Academy. We count it a privilege to have your student enrolled here at the Academy.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Crosson
Principal





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From the Career Coach's Office

We have a lot of events happening at the Academy in October:

- October 2nd - Health Professions and Mechatronics Field Trip to South Hills School of Business and Technology
- October 9th - Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics will be here to present to interested students
- October 20th - Selected students will represent their program areas to 8th grade students at the Mifflin County Junior High School
- October 23rd - Selected students will represent their program areas to 9th grade students at East Juniata High School
- October 23rd - Deadline for enrollment into Penn College Dual Enrollment (Health Professions, Mechatronics, and Electrical Installation) - See Mrs. Dressler for enrollment
- October 26th - Selected students will represent their program areas to 9th grade students at Juniata High School
- October 27th - Construction Trades Field Trip to Penn College
- October 30th - Penn College will be here to present to interested students

Please see Mrs. Dressler with any academic, career, or social-emotional needs.

National Technical Honor Society News

We would like to congratulate our new 2026-2027 NTHS Officers:



Payton Weaver - President - 12th Grade - Health Professions



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Brody Basom - Vice-President - 11th Grade - Culinary Arts



Madilyn Clinger - Secretary - 11th Grade - Health Professions



Bryanna Swartz - Treasurer - 12th Grade - Early Childhood Education

- We will be selling Klingler's Produce starting October 16 through October 30. Each member is responsible for selling enough items to cover their national dues, pins, and Senior regalia (if applicable). Checks can be made out to "The Academy". Please support our students in their quest to complete serve projects to give back to the community.
- NTHS will be participating in the Halloween Parade (date to be announced). Each member is asked to donate 1 bag of candy for the parade. Let's make this another winning year for the Academy!
- Please watch for information about Toys For Tots. Our members will be collecting toys to be distributed before the holidays. This counts as required service hours towards each member's induction.



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From the Co-op Coordinators Office

Collision Repair Student Turns Summer Opportunity into Year-Round Career Experience:

Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology third-year Collision Repair student Morgan Varner is gaining valuable real-world experience while putting his classroom skills to work as a Collision Repair Technician at Brian's Auto Repair and Trailer Sales.

Morgan began working for Brian Pecht, owner of Brian's Auto Repair and Trailer Sales, over the summer. During that time, Morgan's strong work ethic, positive personality, willingness to learn, and development of technical skills made a lasting impression on Brian.

Impressed with Morgan's performance, Brian offered him the opportunity to continue working during the school year as a Collision Repair Technician. Morgan is now able to build on the skills he has developed at the Academy while gaining additional hands-on experience in a professional repair facility.

Opportunities like Morgan's allow students to experience the expectations and responsibilities of the automotive industry firsthand. Students learn not only the technical skills required for their chosen career, but also the importance of reliability, communication, teamwork, professionalism, and a strong work ethic.

Morgan's transition from a summer employee to a school-year Collision Repair Technician is an excellent example of how career and technical education, combined with cooperative education opportunities, can help students take the next step toward a successful career.

We are proud of Morgan's accomplishments and appreciate Brian Pecht and Brian's Auto Repair and Trailer Sales for investing in Morgan and providing him with the opportunity to continue developing his skills in the collision repair industry.





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From our School Nurse

Reminder, students are NOT permitted to carry any prescriptions or over the counter medications on their persons during school hours.

This includes cough drops, medicated creams, eye drops, and anything else used for medicinal purposes.

The only medications students may carry, with a physician's order are **Epi-pens, Diabetic supplies and Inhalers.**

Parents and guardians must deliver **ALL** medications to the school nurse in the original prescription bottles or packaging along with the school medication form completed by the prescribing physician. Parents and guardians are required to sign medications into the nurse's office at drop-off.

From our Ag Program:

Our annual rabies clinic is back for a third year in a row! This event will be held on Saturday, October 24 from 11 am to 1 pm. Please come to the back of the building and enter the agriculture shop through the gate.

This is a great learning opportunity that directly connects to our current animal/vet science topics we are learning about in class. Students will have the opportunity to interact with local veterinary professionals about their careers, fill syringes for the vet, complete rabies and vaccination certifications, and run a pet supply drive for Weaver's Pet Pantry. Students have been learning about veterinary terminology, abbreviations, anatomy, diseases, and basic clinical procedures.

We will also be handing out FREE dog and cat medical record booklets so you can keep track of all your pet's medical and emergency information in one place!

Tags and chances to win gift cards are only for individuals who bring items to donate to Weaver's Pet Pantry.

You DO NOT need to bring a pet to be vaccinated to get the chance to win and to receive a free pet ID tag! Just stop by and drop off donations to get your freebies.

We hope to see you there! Support Kish Vet, Weaver's Pet Pantry, and our students at this great event!



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From our Construction Trades Program

Construction Trades is wrapping up the sidewalk project near the back of the school. We tore out, prepped, and placed 7.5 yds of concrete. The students had a chance to work with a ready mix truck, basic tools, form work, patching parking lot and concrete, make relief cuts, and finally a topical sealer for protection. Excellent hands-on, real-world application of concrete.

From our Culinary Arts Program

Culinary Arts: Building Skills for a Busy Fall

The Culinary Arts students at the Mifflin County Academy of Science & Technology have been busy building the foundation of their professional culinary skills as we move into the heart of the fall semester.

We are currently working through our Stocks, Soups, and Sauces unit, with students focusing on the fundamentals of preparing both beef and chicken stock. While these may seem like simple ingredients, stocks are an important foundation of culinary production. Students are learning proper preparation techniques, roasting and developing flavor, simmering, skimming, straining, cooling, storage, and the importance of food safety throughout the process.

Our students have already had several opportunities this school year to put their skills to work outside of the classroom. Most recently, the Culinary Arts program participated in Goose/Community Day 2026, where students prepared and served our annual roasted goose dinners. The event was a tremendous success, and we were excited to see such great support from our school and local community.

Events like Goose/Community Day provide students with valuable experiences that cannot always be replicated in a traditional classroom. From preparation and production to packaging, service, sanitation, and customer interaction, students get to experience the many moving parts involved in executing a successful food service event.

Before moving into more advanced culinary production, students have also spent considerable time developing the skills and knowledge necessary to work safely and professionally in a commercial kitchen.

All of our students have successfully completed and passed their OSHA-10 Culinary certification. They have also completed instruction in general kitchen safety and sanitation and have successfully passed their knife skills assessment.

These accomplishments are important milestones for our students. Our goal is not simply to teach students how to cook, but to prepare them to work confidently, safely, and professionally in the food service industry.

October Brings More Real-World Opportunities

While Goose/Community Day was a great start to the fall, October is going to be an especially busy month for the Culinary Arts program. We will be hosting and providing culinary services for several events throughout the month, giving our students even more opportunities to put their classroom and lab skills into practice.



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These events allow students to experience the realities of professional food service, preparing large quantities of food, working as a team, managing time, maintaining sanitation standards, communicating with others, and delivering a quality product to our guests.

Working on these events also reinforces an important lesson we try to teach every day in Culinary Arts. Great food is only one part of a successful food service program. Communication, preparation, organization, professionalism, and teamwork are just as important.

As we move into a very busy October, I am excited to see our students continue to take the skills they have developed in the classroom and apply them to real-world situations. These experiences are an important part of preparing our students for their future careers and helping them understand what it truly means to be part of a professional culinary team.

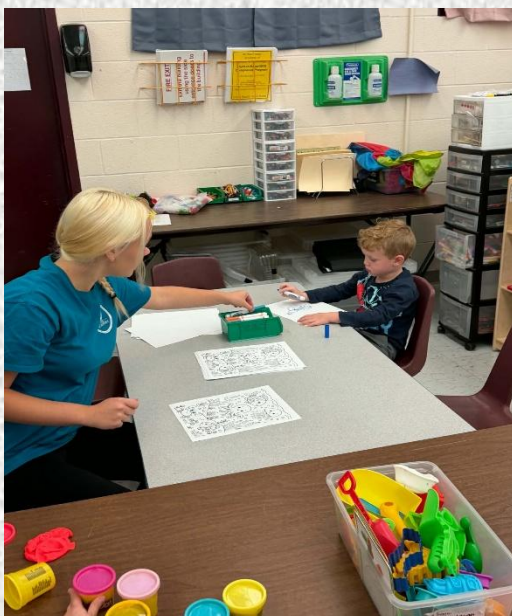
There is a lot happening in Culinary Arts this fall, and we are looking forward to another great month of learning, cooking, serving, and representing the Academy and our community.

From our Early Childhood Education Program

The Early Childhood Education class has had a great start to the year. We had our first free-play day with the Summit PreK Counts class last week. Students came into our classroom to explore, create, and of course - play! The ECE students enjoyed engaging and getting to know the little ones. It was a great kick-off to our year together!

Looking ahead, we already have four field trips planned for the fall. These field trips include aiding local elementary schools in PBIS events and a local daycare in a Thanksgiving Day feast.

Below are photos of Academy students with PreK students during free play.





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Early Childhood Education (continued)



From our Health Professions Classroom

Our Health Professions students are off to a great start this school year! All students have begun reviewing healthcare safety skills, including proper handwashing and donning and doffing personal protective equipment. All levels have also started reviewing medical terminology basics and will move into learning about body systems in the coming weeks.

Each level has also begun working toward its specific certifications. Level 1 students have started OSHA 10, Level 2 students have begun their Patient Care Technician coursework, and Level 3 students have started their EKG Technician training.

Eleven seniors are currently participating in co-op education placements throughout the Geisinger system. We are always glad to welcome them back every two weeks and hear about what they have been learning and experiencing on the job!

On another note, we had an outstanding student turnout for Community Day on Saturday, September 26! A large group of our students volunteered their time to welcome and interact with guests from our community. We are proud of their willingness to represent our program!



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Level 2 Students reviewing anatomical terms on the Anatomy Table



Group photo from Community Day



Level One Students donning PPE

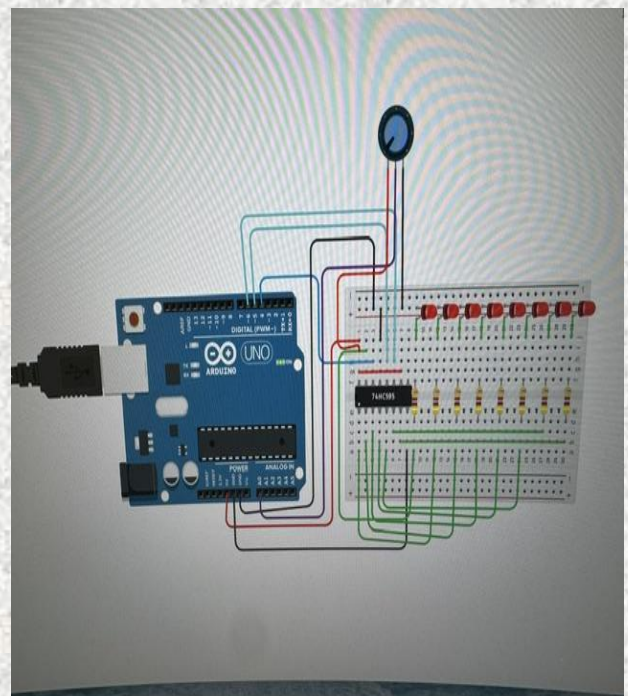
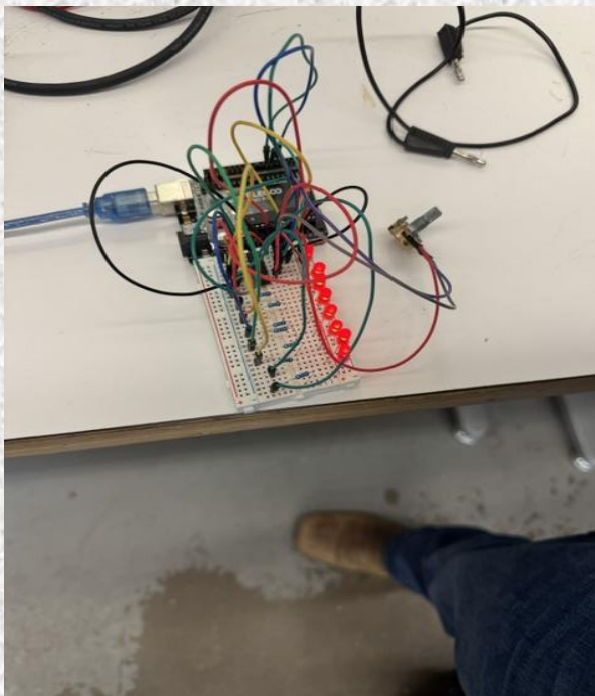
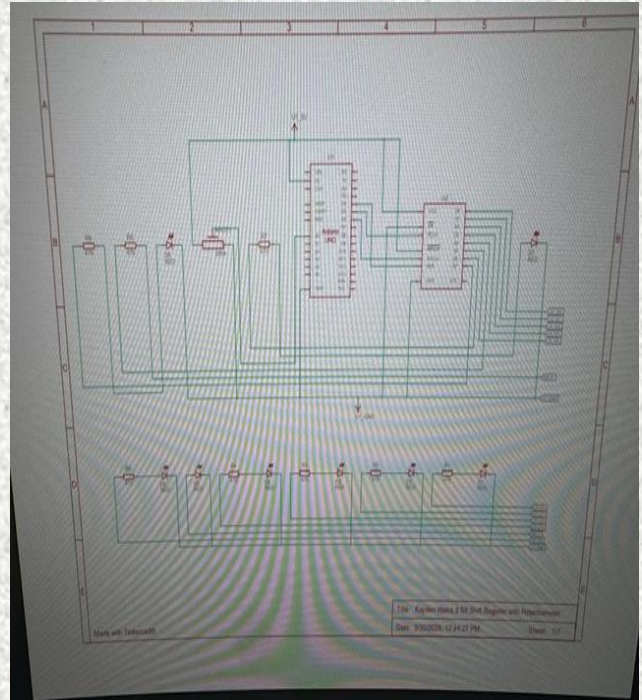


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From our Mechatronics Program

The first-year students have all completed OSHA 10 and have earned an industry credential. They have been virtually designing, coding, and building an 8 LED circuit utilizing an 8-bit shift register, an Arduino UNO smart board, and a 10k Ohm potentiometer. After successfully building the circuit virtually, they built it using physical hardware. Below are photos of the virtual design, circuit diagram, and the first successful live build by Kayden Walck.





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From the Practical Nursing Program:

Congratulations to Practical Nursing Class 129!

