



Volume 2 | Issue 1
FALL 2024 Edition

The Official Newsletter of CWCTC

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND
Career & Technology Center
New Stanton, PA

cwctc.org

PHOENIXQUARTERLY

SpOOctacular Fun at Fall Community Engagement Events

The weather was frightfully perfect for our recent Trunk-or-Treat event, open to all 6TH grade and younger district students and their families. Alongside the evening festivities, attendees voted on their favorite decorated pumpkin from the Stanwood elementary classrooms. Winning pumpkins won a trip to the CWCTC Pumpkin Drop the next Friday. Powerline students hoisted each pumpkin up the 138 Thousand Volt Transmission Tower before dropping it 100 feet onto a target below, to the cheers of both the elementary and CWCTC students!

TRUNK OR TREAT



More photos on our Facebook page: [Central Westmoreland CTC.](https://www.facebook.com/CentralWestmorelandCTC)



PUMPKIN DROP

PQ PHOENIXQUARTERLY is a production of the CWCTC Multimedia Design Technology Program of Study

News Article Contributors: CWCTC Student Ambassadors from each of our nineteen Programs of Study who also attend one of our ten sending School Districts.

Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Lingsch



PROJECTS IN BLOOM IN AGRICULTURE & LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Presently, students are working on the following projects; Phoenix Falls waterfall and aquaponics garden, greenhouse propagations and year one patio/wall/firepit installations. As they move into the second quarter, students will be continuing hardscape projects before moving into Wreath Making, FFA initiatives and landscape design synthesis. Be on the lookout for a new bed installation at Fort Allen Elementary School!

Follow Us!  /Central Westmoreland CTC FFA



ASPIRING EDUCATORS LAUNCH YEAR WITH CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP ROLES



The Aspiring Educators program kicked off the school year strong. The school has its own chapter of Educators Rising, with its very own student officers! The social media secretaries are Sydney Valenta and Natalie Zello. The recording secretary is Avery Waszo, vice president is Ryleigh Carr, and president is Adi Gardner. Stay on the lookout for our social media page! The Aspiring Educators year one program allows students who hope to work with students one day get a hands-on glimpse into the world of education. Students are currently learning the most important elements of becoming an educator. They also get the opportunity to observe and interact in classrooms at Stanwood Elementary. As well as great interactive opportunities, this program also provides possible college credits and even tours of colleges! By the end of the year students will have the skill required to develop and present lesson plans to students, as well as so much more. The Aspiring Educators year two program started their practicums, and they are having fun doing everything from observing, planning lessons, doing small group work, instructing lessons, organizing, and more. Year two program is excited to be in the field applying our knowledge. As a whole, students are enjoying preparing for our futures in education!

AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION PARTNERS WITH RESTORATION & DESIGN –AND– MULTIMEDIA DESIGN IN PENNDOT ‘PAINT THE PLOW’ PROJECT



At the beginning of the year Mr. Tuccarello's class partnered with Restoration and Design to participate in PennDot's **paint the plow** competition. Students prepped the plow by sanding and priming in order to apply a base coat to the background. The class continued by helping Multimedia Design students apply stencils to the plow to add the schools name to the top. In addition, other classmates have been working on customer vehicles from the community.



AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS PREPS FOR NOCTI WITH ENGINE PERFORMANCE & CERTIFICATION TRAINING

In Mr. Pegg's P.M. class, students are currently discussing engine performance. This includes, yet is not limited to, the ignition system (including the electrical system), the four strokes of an engine, exhaust systems, and the internal engine components (including electrical systems), all while reviewing and using skills from the previous years to service vehicles. As Mr. Pegg is teaching his students in depth about the concepts and content above. He is also preparing his students to take the NOCTI, a knowledge and skill test that takes place at the end of the program. During the times the students do not have customer vehicles to service, they are focusing on their state inspection and emission handbook for another upcoming test. Students in Auto Mechanics Technology, informally known as "Auto Tech," have the opportunity and privilege to graduate with a multitude of licenses/certifications, which include state inspection, state emissions, Lift it Right, and Refrigerant.



COSMO STUDENTS SHARPEN SKILLS WITH SALON CLINICS & CERTIFICATION PREP

Kicking off the school year with a beautiful start, the AM Cosmetology students have been working on salon etiquette, braiding, hair styling, barbicide certifications, draping, shampooing, and scalp treatments. PM students have been conquering color! Students have covered all color services and techniques. Senior students have been preparing for state board exams. Fridays, students run clinic which is a student salon. Prices are inexpensive as clients pay only for the product used. Students practice on real world clients for experience. Stop down to see the student salon on Fridays during the clinic!



FREE ★ HAIRCUT

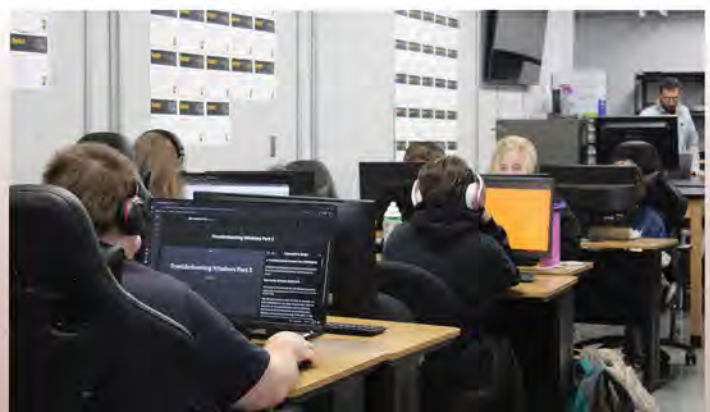
In Our Friday CWCTC Cosmetology Clinics

NOVEMBER 1 • 8 • 15 • 22

By Reservation Only CALL 724-925-3531 ext1391
to make an appointment

COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCE HELP DESK OPEN

The Help Desk is now open in Computer & Information Science "CIS", and students have been fixing laptops and other gadgets that come into the shop. In the meantime, students have been working towards getting their certifications. First year students are working on IT Fundamentals Pro, second year students are completing PC Pro and the third year students are working on Security Pro certifications. Dual enrollment started in October, with students taking First Year Seminar, with WCCC instructor Mrs. Ross.



FRAMING, ELECTRICAL, AND PLUMBING UNDERWAY IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES



PM Construction Trades students have been working on laying out and framing walls. That includes windows, doors, corners and studs. The every day tools we use in the shop are hammers, drills or impacts, a speed square, electrical saws, etc. When using electrical tools and ladders, you have to pass certifications to use the equipment. In Mr. Weinman's Electrical and Plumbing shop there are two groups within the PM class. There are rotating groups working in small booths on electrical, finishing, and plumbing –just as if working in a small bathroom. The all year kids are working on framing their house to get ready for rough-in-electrical, dry walling, and finishing. Within the house we are going to start adding appliances to complete a bathroom and a kitchen, basically working from the ground up.

CULINARY ARTS COOKS UP SAFETY, CERTIFICATIONS, AND FRESH RECIPES FIRST QUARTER

During the first nine weeks, students have been busy in the Culinary Arts program reevaluating all safety procedures and certifications with such organizations like ServSafe and OSHA. To kick off the year students started doing breakfast items. Culinary students made breakfast hash, omelets, crepes, fruit smoothies, pop tarts, cinnamon rolls, turnovers, stuffed french toast, and sausage gravy and biscuits. On fun-day Fridays, students get to wear favorite aprons. Recently, students have been making types of pastas such as fettuccine, ravioli, manicotti, and cappelletti. Students learn to work fast with it so that the dough does not get tough which is a big challenge. Overall, time in the kitchen has been great!



ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY: WIRING PROJECTS AND CERTIFICATIONS OPEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES



In the CWCTC Electrical program the possibilities are endless. Currently students are working on wiring electrical panels, on the jobsite that is a \$500+ job. To start the year students began working on self paced projects. The projects test skills that have been learned so far. Projects get more challenging as they progress. Students have also been working with the American Ladder Institute to get certified in Step, Mobile, Articulated, Single and Extension Ladders, along with scissor lift and OSHA. The opportunities are endless in the CWCTC Electrical Technology program!

HEALTH OCC STUDENTS EARN CERTIFICATIONS AND PREPARE FOR PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN EXAM



Health Occupations students in both the AM and PM classes kicked off the year by earning their OSHA 10-Hour General Industry certification for Healthcare and completing tests on aseptic hand washing techniques. The AM class has begun exploring the qualities and characteristics essential for effective healthcare providers, while the PM class is currently focused on mastering the proper donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Seniors in the PM class are preparing to take the Patient Care Technician exam, which will enable them to work alongside registered nurses in professional healthcare settings.

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN STUDENTS LAUNCH YEAR WITH CREATIVE PROJECTS AND PRODUCTION

Multimedia Design class gives students the opportunity to embrace their creativity and imagination allowing them to be who they plan to be in the future. The year started off by splitting into two groups. The groups switch every two weeks. One group works on production in the shop, while the other group works in the computer lab learning new skills. Group A started off with a C M Y K (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black) project, which is using the colors a printer would print in. Group B is working on full time production, they have finished one order and are starting on the next order for our Powerline program.



HVAC STUDENTS TACKLE DUCTWORK INSTALLATION FOR CLASSROOM CLIMATE CONTROL

This past month the PM class has been working on installing ductwork from a rooftop unit to climate control in the classroom. This has been a challenge, as the previous ductwork had been made incorrectly, causing the group to fix it and restart the project. Students are building a Broadway (a 90 degree ductwork elbow) to run across the ceiling to climate control the classroom. While building the ductwork, individuals must use sheet metal to create the Broadway. Students must be careful making sure the sheet metal does not cut them and that all aspects of the layout and drawings are correct. These are very important to insure that the elbow will fit correctly and provide proper airflow to the classroom.

EXCITING CLIMBING LESSONS AND HANDS-ON PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN POWERLINE

It's been an exciting start to the semester for our first year students! They were instructed by some of the second year students on learning to climb. While the first year students were learning how to climb for the very first time, the PM students were hard at work with many projects. The PM class has been working on properly putting up a crossarm, cutting trees down, building a three phase line, and tower work.



PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMPLETING FIRE FIGHTER 1 IN PREPARATION FOR LIVE BURN

In Protective Services, students are starting the first semester with completing Fire Fighter 1. As of last May, students completed Modules 1 and 2, and now students are completing Modules 3 and 4. Second year students are excited for this upcoming year because of the Live Burn, which is at PSTC in Smithton. The students will be working with Live Fire in the classroom during the school day. It is very exciting, due to the work that goes in to the first two months of the class and will continue into May where students will test for FireFighter 1. They will also continue with First Aid, and BVR (Basic Vehicle Rescue) as second years. While third year completes and tests for their EMT, and 1st year works on completing Rope Rescue 1 and 2, Firefighting 1 and 2, and their Police Officer Unit.



R & D STUDENTS MASTER COLOR THEORY WHILE ENHANCING SCHOOL SPACES

Restoration and Design students in both the AM and PM classes became ladder certified including Step, Articulated, Extension, and Mobile Ladder safety.

So far this year, AM learned the steps on how to properly prep a wall before it is painted; brushes; rollers; and experience spraying shipping containers. Students have gotten familiar with our Sherwin Williams tint machine. AM has also been taught how to paint and sand a one-color door using a brush. Did you know there are 16 steps? Some AM students are learning how to install and stain wood for a pallet wall.

The PM class is working really hard around the school finishing many offices and areas in the administration wing. Working on pallet walls, and spraying shipping containers outside are also a part of our career education. The class is currently doing color theory using and creating a color wheel. This month they are going to continue learning tints, tones, and shades, along with the three dimensions of color, color psychology and how to use color in design.



ROBOTICS ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING STUDENTS KICK OFF YEAR WITH SOLDERING, OSHA CERTIFICATION, AND CNC MACHINE TRAINING



Mr. Pelzer's side of REM, AM students learned how to solder, draft in AutoCAD, and got an OSHA 10 certification. To begin the year, students were assigned to get the required uniform shirt, safety glasses, and other required Personal Protective Equipment and went over shop rules. When finished, they began demonstrations on soldering, and soon after came soldering. The next job was CareerSafe OSHA lessons, allowing all to receive an OSHA Card. Finally students began to draft in AutoCAD.

Mr. Sedlack's side of REM, AM students started the year doing safety tests on the machines before using them. Soon after all students would take the OSHA 10 certification course. Then, they would run basic programs on the CNC mill, do basic cutting on the vertical and horizontal band saws, practice with the manual lathes, and do a small project on the manual mills consisting of cutting down an uneven aluminum bar to the specified measurements.

SERVICE OCCUPATIONS BEGINS LADDER SAFETY, PPE TRAINING, AND OSHA CERTIFICATIONS

In the first nine weeks, the Service Occupations class focused on ladder certifications, emphasizing safety and proper usage. Students learned about personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect themselves on the job. Additionally, PM students began OSHA 10 training for certifications. Generally, students performed daily custodial tasks, applying their knowledge of workplace safety to real-world maintenance duties.



SPORTS MEDICINE STUDENTS FOCUS ON TAPING TECHNIQUES, INFECTION CONTROL, & BMI LABS



In lab the PM Students are reviewing and practicing Ankle and Arch taping procedures as well as using the Feiss line to determine the presence of functional or congenital pes planus (flat feet). Students are also using skinfold calipers to estimate body fat percentage. Infection Control is new for all. For the second year students, Turf toe taping is new and is just a review for the third year students. The PM's next lesson will be knee anatomy and lower leg and taping techniques. AM students started ethical and legal considerations of Sports Medicine. Students are working in lab to measure height, weight and BMI (Body Mass Index). Students are also preparing to take the ankle taping practical exam.



WELDING & METAL FABRICATION: SAFETY TRAINING, NEW PROJECTS, AND CO-OP SUCCESS

In Mr. Sidun's Welding and Metal Fabrication class, the first three weeks of school included all the safety procedures, such as proper PPE, and what to do and not to do in the shop. Students took a safety test so they could enter the shop and start welding. They also did book work on how to weld. In the shop, they started to weld. Since the 24-25 school year has started students have been focusing on Shop safety. Students started new welding projects, bettering work

ethics and continued development of welding skills. Currently, there are two students out on co-op with more who aspire to go out on co-op. This year's senior class has been focusing on TIG welding, while the Junior class has been focusing more on MIG welding. This year's AM class has been focusing on learning how to weld Safely and Stick welding. While each class and student has their main priorities, all strive to better themselves and prepare for the real welding world along with its challenges.

For the first 9 weeks in Mr. Baur's Welding and Metal Fabrication shop, the AM and PM students have been hard at work starting the year off strong. AM students have finished their basic safety unit and all passed their safety test to be able to work in our shop. Their first welding unit is on shielded metal arc welding (SMAW), which consists of how stick welding works and the difference in weld currents. AM is currently starting their welding journeys with stick welding on flat plates and starting T-plates, to get their weekly grades and program of study started. PM students started the year off strong with knocking rust off their welding skills and getting back into the swing of it. PM's welding units started with a long three weeks of weld symbols and now starting on gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW). Four of the PM students are on their co-op journeys in the real welding world. Many students already completed certification tests for this year, to help finish up their program of study. In the second nine weeks our seniors will start prepping for their NOCTI test and finishing their program of studies while everyone else keeps up the great work.

CWCTC FFA Chapter /Agriculture & Landscape Design

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FRESH PINE WREATH SALE



Proceeds benefit CWCTC FFA Chapter

16" Wreath \$30 10" Wreath \$20

ORDER through an Agriculture
& Landscape Design Student or

f /Central Westmoreland CTC FFA



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CWCTC presents ...

Saturday
**DEC
14th**
8AM-12PM
Last Breakfast
at 11:00AM

Breakfast with SANTA



NEW!! Parade of Trees
Buy chances to win trees & all decorations!
MORE INFO to come on Our Facebook Page



LOOKING AHEAD at CWCTC

NOVEMBER 11 NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day
NOV 28 - DEC 2 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
DECEMBER 14 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA EVENT

DEC 23 - JAN 1 NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break
JANUARY 10 QUARTER 2 ENDS
JANUARY 20 INSERVICE DAY - No Students

CAREER & TECHNICAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Spotlight

CWCTC FFA Chapter

CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND CAREER SKILLS IN AGRICULTURE



Future Farmers of America creates leadership opportunities for every individual to enhance their personal and respect and embrace different cultures and experiences. They welcome everyone's contribution to advance our communities and the industry of agriculture. They cultivate an environment that allows every individual to recognize and explore their differences.

FFA was created in 1928 and today over a half-million student members (13,000+ students are members of the

Pennsylvania FFA Association) are engaged in a wide range of agricultural education activities, leading to over 300 career opportunities in the agricultural science, food, fiber and natural resources industry. Student success remains the primary mission of FFA.

The CWCTC FFA Chapter is an intracurricular club whose members are enrolled in the Agriculture and Landscape Design program. Members work on service projects, prepare and participate in regional, state and national level leadership competitions and events within their class curriculum.

Follow Us! [f](#) /Central Westmoreland CTC FFA



PHOENIX ESPORTS CLUB RISING COMPETITORS IN LOCAL AND ONLINE GAMING TOURNAMENTS

The Phoenix Esports Club at CWCTC, launched in 2022, and has quickly become a dynamic force in both local and online gaming competitions. Since its inception, the program has provided students with the opportunity to develop their skills in a variety of popular esports titles, fostering teamwork, strategic thinking, and technical expertise. Competing in a mix of local tournaments and online leagues, the team has steadily gained recognition, showcasing their talents and building a strong reputation within the esports community. The CWCTC Esports program continues to grow, offering students a platform to excel in this rapidly evolving field.





ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Newsletter

Year One Students

Exciting Beginnings: First Year Aspiring Educators at Stanwood Elementary!

The first-year Aspiring Educators have officially kicked off their journey at Stanwood Elementary in the Hempfield Area School District, and it's been an amazing start! From day one, the students were filled with excitement, bonding over shared aspirations and quickly forming strong friendships.

Principal Lauren Bruener welcomed the students by taking them on a tour of Stanwood Elementary during their first week. This tour helped them get acquainted with the school and its welcoming community, setting the tone for the incredible experiences that followed.

The Aspiring Educators quickly got to work, tackling meaningful assignments. They wrote warm and engaging "Meet the Teacher" letters and practiced public speaking by creating elevator speeches, where they shared their passion for teaching. As part of the activity, they delivered candy and shared how they plan to support the students and staff at Stanwood Elementary throughout the school year.



September was a month filled with growth and learning, as the students explored key topics like professionalism in education, bias in the classroom, equity vs. equality, the Model Code of Ethics, and federal education policies. To provide a deeper understanding of the critical role of mandated reporting, the class welcomed John Paul Jones, an attorney from PSEA, who gave a valuable presentation on the legal responsibilities of educators in protecting students.

The hands-on experiences didn't stop there! The Aspiring Educators had the chance to read to Pre-K students and assist in kindergarten classrooms, fueling their excitement and enthusiasm even more.

The energy and dedication these future educators bring to the classroom is inspiring, and we can't wait to see how they continue to grow throughout the year. Stay tuned for more updates as they continue their journey at Stanwood Elementary!





ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Newsletter

Year Two Students

Embarking on the Next Chapter; Second Year Aspiring Educators at Mt. Pleasant Jr/Sr High School!

At Mt. Pleasant Jr./Sr. High School, second-year Aspiring Educators are transforming their passion for teaching into tangible skills and experiences. Kicking off the year with a collaborative effort, these educators-in-training have been busy decorating their classrooms, starting with imaginative bulletin board designs that reflect their educational philosophies and passions.

In addition to decorating, the aspiring teachers crafted engaging "Meet the Teacher" letters, allowing them to showcase their enthusiasm for education and connect with students and families. Through the EdRising curriculum, they've delved into essential topics such as professionalism, understanding bias and equity, designing effective classroom environments, FERPA regulations, and classroom culture—all vital components to prepare them for their upcoming practicum experiences.



As October approaches, excitement is building as students prepare to embark on their practicum journeys. Each aspiring educator has selected a grade level and educational setting that aligns with their teaching aspirations, and they are collaborating closely with mentor teachers to bring their visions to life in real classrooms.

During their practicums, these dedicated students will be fully immersed in the classroom environment. They will not only observe experienced teachers in action but also engage directly with students through small group work, enrichment activities, warm-ups, and assessments. Their involvement will extend beyond instruction to include non-instructional duties, such as designing bulletin boards, preparing classroom materials, and researching future lesson plans.

This hands-on experience will be invaluable, providing the Aspiring Educators with a solid foundation as they move forward in their educational journeys. They are thrilled to be part of this transformative experience, gaining insights that will give them a significant advantage as they transition to post-secondary education.

For the CWCTC Aspiring Educators Program, the future of education is bright, thanks to the creativity, dedication, and enthusiasm of its Aspiring Educator students!





ASPIRING EDUCATORS

Newsletter

Program Updates

Partnership Announcement

In an exciting development for future educators, the Aspiring Educators program has officially partnered with **Seton Hill University**, securing an agreement to offer students 18 transcripted credits toward their education degrees. As part of this partnership, students will take the following courses:

- **SED 110: Foundations of Education & School Law**
- **SED 205: Introduction to Special Education**
- **SED 206: Typical & Atypical Growth and Development**
- **SED 235: Art, Music, and Movement**
- **SED 240: Parent and Family Conferencing**
- **SPY 225: Infancy, Childhood, & Adolescence**



This collaboration offers a tremendous opportunity for Aspiring Educators to earn college credits while gaining essential knowledge in key areas of education. This partnership is a major step forward in preparing our students for their future careers in education!

Leadership Elected

On September 13th, the Central Westmoreland Vocational Area Educators Rising Chapter held its first meeting at the Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center (CWCTC). During this session, students officially adopted chapter bylaws and brainstormed ideas for upcoming teacher leadership competitions. The following meeting chapter officers were voted on. The officers include:

- **President: Adi Gardner**
- **Vice President: Ryleigh Carr**
- **Recording Secretary: Avery Waszo**
- **Social Media Secretaries: Sydney Valenta and Natalie Zello**

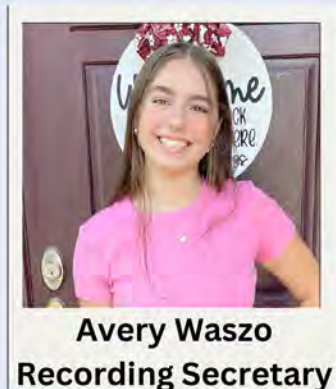
The chapter is excited to move forward with various initiatives and community service projects.



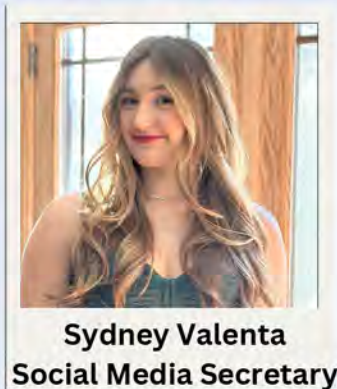
Adi Gardner
President



Riley Carr
Vice President



Avery Waszo
Recording Secretary



Sydney Valenta
Social Media Secretary



Natalie Zello
Social Media Secretary



Community Engagement Initiatives

As part of their commitment to community engagement, the chapter is planning to participate in a Trunk or Treat event at CWCTC on October 23. Additionally, they are launching a monthly service project initiative, with the first project scheduled for October—a costume drive to benefit children in need.

Fundraising Efforts

To support their participation in the upcoming Educators Rising Conference at Penn State University, members have kicked off a fundraising campaign by selling Nothing Bundt Cakes. All funds raised will help Aspiring Educators participate in competitions at the conference, giving them the opportunity to showcase their skills and leadership.

