Volume 3 | Issue 1
2025 - 2026 : Quarter 1 Edition

The Official Newsletter of CWCTC

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND
Career & Technology Center
New Stanton, PA

cwctc.org

PHOENIXQUARTERLY

3RD ANNUAL CWCTC TRUNK OR TREAT: SWEET SUCCESS!





Rainy weather couldn't stop the Halloween spirit at Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center's Trunk or Treat on October 29th. When the weather forced the event indoors, students and staff shined, transforming the industrial wing into a festive and candy-filled celebration for the community. Bright decorations, music, and creative displays filled the halls, creating a fun atmosphere for families and little ones to enjoy.

Each program showcased its creativity with themed setups such as The Sandlot, The Pink Ladies, Welcome to the Jungle, and The Little Shop of Horrors. Visitors strolled through the decorated spaces collecting treats and taking in the imaginative details that students and staff worked so hard to create. Guests were also treated to extras, including slushes from the HVAC program and custom art stickers from our Multimedia students, adding even more variety to the evening.

The event was filled with laughter, smiles, and a strong sense of school pride. Even with the change in plans, our students and staff truly shined, showing their dedication and enthusiasm for bringing joy to the community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this year's Trunk or Treat such a success. Your hard work, enthusiasm, and positive energy made it an event to remember for everyone who attended. We can't wait to see what next year's event brings! For more photos of Trunk or Treat please see page 10!

PQ PHOENIXQUARTERLY is a production of the CWCTC Multimedia Design Technology Program of Study. Instructor: Mrs. Alison Camut
News Article Contributors: CWCTC Student Ambassadors from each of our nineteen Programs of Study who also attend one of our ten sending School Districts.

STUDENTS BUILD STRONG FOUNDATIONS IN AUTO COLLISION



This semester, Auto Collision collaborated with the Multimedia and Restoration & Design programs to participate in the annual "Paint the Plow" contest. Afternoon students prepared and applied the base coat, ensuring a smooth surface for the design. Morning students focused on collision repair fundamentals through industry-recognized I-CAR certifications, practicing metal straightening, priming, and painting techniques. These hands-on experiences strengthen their technical foundation and prepare them for advanced skill development in the field.

AGRICULTURE & LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDENTS GROW SKILLS



CWCTC Agriculture students have had a productive and exciting first quarter! They've been busy maintaining and improving the campus garden beds, continuing enhancements at Phoenix Falls, and preparing for upcoming Fall Career Development Event (CDE) competitions against peers from Westmoreland and Indiana counties. These experiences build teamwork, leadership, and technical skills that reflect the pride of our program. The class has also set an ambitious goal—to see 25 blue jackets awarded at the PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention during the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. Sponsorship donations are still being accepted to support this effort. Keep an eye out for details on the Annual Fresh Pine Holiday Wreath Sale, an FFA fundraiser supporting future student opportunities. Follow Central Westmoreland CTC FFA on Facebook for updates!

LOOKING AHEAD at CWCTC

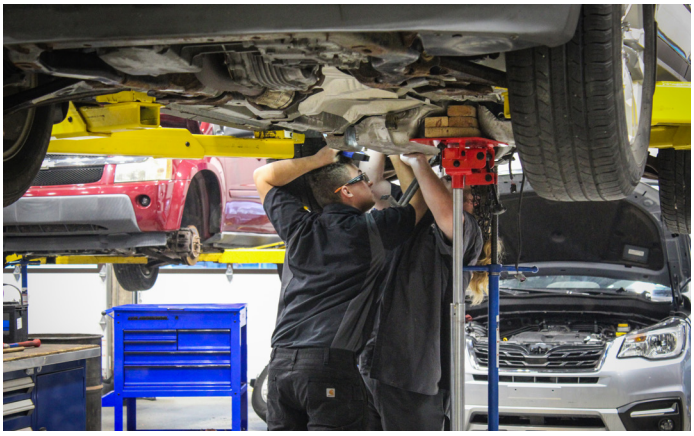
NOV 11 - VETERANS DAY (NO SCHOOL)
NOV 27-DEC 1 - FALL BREAK
DEC 13 - BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
DEC 24-JAN 2 - WINTER BREAK
JAN 9 - END OF SECOND QUARTER
JAN 19 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (NO STUDENTS)
FEB 11 - PROSPECTIVE STUDENT NIGHT
FEB 16 - PRESIDENTS DAY (NO SCHOOL)
FEB 25 - ELEMENTARY NIGHT

ASPIRING EDUCATORS: BUILDING SKILLS, EXPERIENCES, AND ENTHUSIASM FOR OUR FUTURE CLASSROOMS, ONE LESSON AT A TIME!



This year has been off to an exciting start! Year One jumped right into the basics of teaching with classroom observations at Stanwood Elementary and lessons on professionalism, ethics, and education policy. We worked together to create a huge Kindergarten hallway bulletin board and a fun "Pumpkin Drop" activity. College visits to St. Vincent and Pitt-Greensburg helped us dream big, and our Educators Rising fundraisers "Sip to Support" and "Nothing But Bundt" are in full swing. Meanwhile, Year Two began practicum, finally stepping into classrooms and learning from amazing mentors!

GAINING ENGINE EXPERTISE: STUDENTS MASTER FUEL AND IGNITION SYSTEMS



Mr. Pegg's class is currently focused on fuel systems. Students have learned proper procedures for safely removing fuel tanks and fuel pumps, building on safety and lifting certifications completed at the start of the year. The class has also explored the basics of ignition systems, including removing ignition coils, replacing and cleaning spark plugs, and preventing misfires. Additionally, students were introduced to the OBD2 (On-Board Diagnostics) system, learning how to retrieve and interpret diagnostic codes. Later in the year, they will study these systems in greater depth to understand how fuel and ignition components work together for optimal engine performance.

STYLING THE FUTURE: PHOENIX SALON & SPA NOW OPEN!



We are excited to announce that Phoenix Salon and Spa is open for business! The salon clinic is a great opportunity for students to learn and prepare for real world work experience. Level one students are learning hairstyling and updos. Level two students are working on haircolor, this includes permanent color, highlighting and balayage. They have also been working on clipper cuts. Along with perfecting hands-on skills, level 3 seniors are working on theory work to prepare for the State Boards Exams. Hope to see you at Trunk or Treat! We will be disguised as "The Pink Ladies."

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE STUDENTS LEVEL UP: NEW LABS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND COLLEGE CREDITS



Computer and Information Science have built new lab equipment such as chairs, desks, and new gaming computers. While the Second year students are working towards completing their PC Pro certifications which involves computer technician training, the third year students are working towards their Networking Pro and Security Pro certifications. The class is also participating in dual enrollment through WCCC, students are enrolled in the Intro to Cloud Computing course, earning three college credits. The first year students are working towards the IT Fundamentals Pro certification, and testing will start at the beginning of November.

CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS SERVE UP REAL-WORLD SKILLS

In Culinary Arts, students continue learning how a professional restaurant operates, gaining experience in both front-of-house and back-of-house roles. They practice essential skills such as cleanliness, proper sanitization, maintaining consistency in food preparation, and effective communication. Students apply these skills in real-world settings, including hosting and catering school meetings and events. These hands-on experiences help students build confidence, teamwork, and practical knowledge, preparing them for success in the culinary industry and giving them a deeper understanding of what it takes to work in a professional kitchen.



HANDS-ON LEARNING SPARKS SUCCESS IN ELECTRICAL TECH

Electrical Technology students are actively engaged in both hands-on and theoretical learning. The AM class is focusing on basic electrical theory, building a strong foundation in concepts such as voltage, current, and resistance. Meanwhile, the PM class is applying their knowledge through practical projects, including building booths in the back of the classroom and creating a demo kitchen. Students also complete basic electrical projects, gaining real-world experience with wiring, circuit flow, and the installation of various materials, preparing them for future careers in the electrical field.



CONSTRUCTION TRADES: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, ONE SKILL AT A TIME



The Construction Trades program provides students with hands-on training across multiple disciplines, including Masonry, Carpentry, Electrical, and Plumbing. Masonry students learn the fundamentals of laying brick and block, mastering the techniques needed to create durable and professional-quality structures. In the Carpentry portion of the program, students work on building a tiny house from the sill plate up, gaining valuable experience in framing, measurement, and tool use while understanding how each stage of construction fits together. Electrical & Plumbing students gain hands-on experience in soldering pipes, working with PEX tubing, and learning the basics of residential wiring. These essential skills prepare them for both on-site work and future certification opportunities.

CWCTC POWERLINE PROGRAM POWERS UP FOR THE YEAR



The Powerline program is off to a strong start this year, with students accomplishing significant milestones in both hands-on and technical skills. The AM class is focused on climbing techniques, learning to belt up and down, rotate safely around poles, and lean out with confidence. Students are working diligently to perfect these essential skills, building both strength and precision. Meanwhile, the PM class has successfully built a complete three-phase line, including grounds and a tap-off line, while gaining practical experience operating bucket and digger trucks. Both classes have benefited from field visits by Duquesne Light professionals, providing real-world insights, and are actively working toward earning their OSHA certifications, equipping them with the safety knowledge and skills required for careers in the powerline industry.

FROM ANATOMY TO PHARMACY: HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR HEALTHCARE CAREERS



Health Occupations students have had a busy and exciting start to the year, from planning Trunk or Treat to diving into hands-on learning. The AM class is studying medical terminology, beginning their Anatomy in Clay unit by modeling organs and muscles, and working toward OSHA certification. PM Patient Care Technician students are focused on infection control tasks, including PPE, disinfection, and sterilization. Seniors in the new Pharmacy Technician program are training with updated materials and equipment, and have already attended two field trips—including observing an open-heart surgery. It's shaping up to be a great year!

PM HVAC STUDENTS TURN UP THE HEAT ON LEARNING

PM HVAC students have been busy this semester building complete HVAC systems from the ground up. After learning the fundamentals of electrical and gas components, students constructed furnace setups inside wood-framed cubbies to simulate real-world conditions. They then advanced to running electrical lines, installing gas piping, and building custom ductwork. These projects help students apply classroom knowledge through hands-on experience. Many have now completed the gas heating portion of the curriculum and are moving into air conditioning systems, expanding their skills in HVAC technology and system integration.



MULTIMEDIA DESIGN: FROM PIXELS TO HANDS-ON PROJECTS

Multimedia Design has been exploring creativity through digital and hands-on projects. Students learned Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and Lightroom by creating personal logos and digital landscapes to understand each program's tools. They photographed other school programs, contributed to the annual "paint the plow" contest, and used our new printers. The main focus remains on Illustrator, Photoshop, and Lightroom, with plans to expand Lightroom and photography lessons. Physical projects include printing and cutting vinyl, banner printing, student photography, and painting.



RESTORATION AND DESIGN: MASTERING TECHNIQUES ONE PROJECT AT A TIME



This semester, AM students have mastered paintbrush parts and proper use, as well as door painting techniques for professional-quality finishes. All students completed Ladder Safety Tests, earning Certificates of Completion with four ladders to demonstrate safe practices. PM students recently tackled a hands-on wallpaper project, matching sheets and testing their patience. In addition, students worked on side projects like dressers, nightstands, and furniture refinishing. Most importantly, they applied their skills at Father's Heart in Penn Pa., painting the social hall with airless sprayers, brushes, and rollers.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES MASTER FIRE & RESCUE



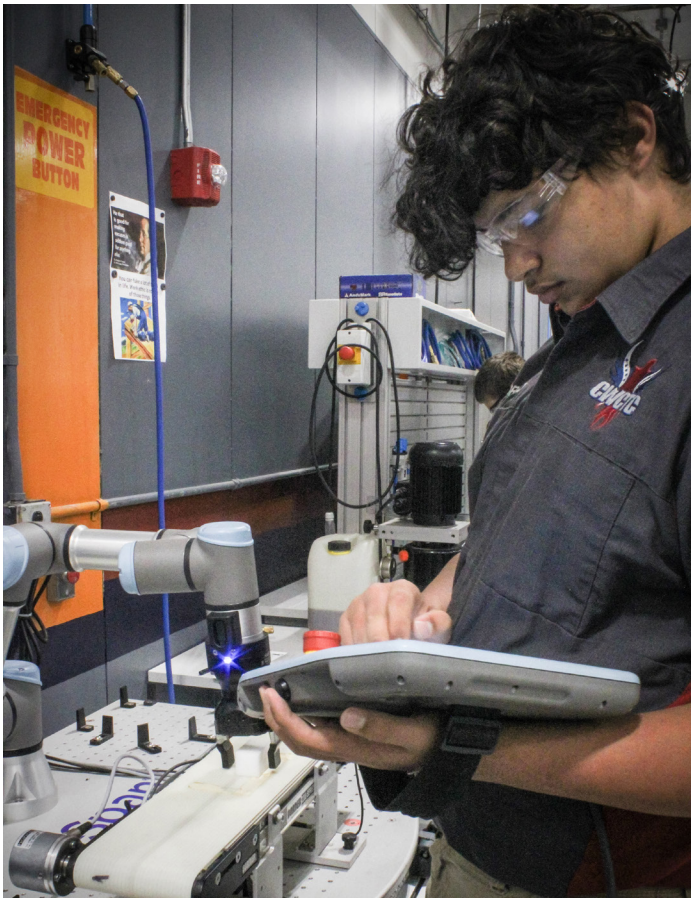
First year students are finishing up PA Fire Academy Rope I/II as well as Introduction to the Fire Service and Fireground Support. All the material that AM is working on will earn them their PA Fire Academy Rope I, Rope II, Introduction to the Fire Service and Fire Ground Support. PM 2nd year students are completing the last Vehicle Rescue Unit prior to taking their Pro-Board Vehicle Rescue hands on test in November at the Public Safety Training Center. Third year seniors are continuing to work on National Registry EMT skills including patient assessment, obtaining a baseline set of vital signs and how to place a 12 lead monitor onto a medical patient. Third year seniors will be moving onto patient contacts once medical assessments are completed.

SERVICE OCCUPATIONS KEEP CAMPUS RUNNING



During the first quarter, our Service Occupations class achieved a wide range of hands-on accomplishments. Students earned their American Ladder Safety certifications and maintained the school by raking leaves, cleaning windows, mopping floors, washing dishes, and recycling cans. We managed inventory for the snack shack, chocolate bars, and storage closet, while also handling cash and card transactions at the register. Our class practiced production baking, built furniture, perfected iced coffee recipes, and expanded laundry services to support three additional programs.

REM PROGRAM DEVELOPS FUTURE INNOVATORS



As we kicked off the school year in the Robotics, Engineering, and Manufacturing (REM) program, students have engaged in a wide range of hands-on learning experiences and technical projects. Students have been working with both CNC milling and manual milling, as well as turning aluminum and high-speed steel, gaining experience with precision machining and real-world manufacturing techniques used in industry. In addition to machining, students have completed a variety of engineering and robotics assignments, developing problem-solving skills and an understanding of applied technology. Highlights include programming a robotic arm to perform automated movements, experimenting with green energy concepts to explore sustainable technologies, and collaborating on design challenges that simulate workplace scenarios. These activities not only strengthen technical proficiency but also encourage teamwork, critical thinking, and innovation.

WELDING FOCUSES ON SAFETY AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT



All welding students began the year with a focus on safety education and assessments to ensure proper lab practices and awareness of potential hazards before moving into hands-on work. Second-year students are currently working with the GMAW process. Their weekly assignments include fabricating both flat plates and T-plates, which they complete in all four standard welding positions: flat, horizontal, vertical, and overhead. This approach helps students build confidence and consistency in a variety of welding situations, preparing them for more complex fabrication work. Third-year students have started learning the GTAW process, which demands precision and control. Their weekly projects also focus on flat plates and T-plates, currently completed in the flat position as they develop mastery of this advanced technique.

SPORTS MEDICINE STUDENTS MASTER KNEE ANATOMY



This semester in Sports Medicine, our focus has been on the anatomy of the lower leg and special tests used to assess strength, flexibility, and endurance. Students partner with a classmate to identify anatomical landmarks and structures, practicing palpation of key components of the knee, including bones, ligaments, tendons, and muscles. In addition to learning names and locations, students also explore the function of each structure and how it contributes to movement and stability. This hands-on approach not only reinforces understanding of lower leg anatomy but also helps students develop the clinical skills necessary for injury assessment, diagnosis, and effective treatment planning.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT CWCTC





Celebrate the season at CWCTC's Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 13th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (last breakfast served at 11 a.m.)! Enjoy a delicious breakfast, take photos with Santa, and let the little ones have fun with holiday crafts, games, and activities hosted by different CWCTC shops.

Be sure to visit our Parade of Trees, where you can buy chances to win a fully decorated tree, complete with ornaments and festive décor! The CWCTC FFA will also be offering fresh pine wreaths for sale, featuring customizable ribbon options to match your holiday style. For more details, see an FFA member or stop by the Agriculture and Landscape Design program.

Join us for a cheerful morning of fun, food, and holiday spirit at CWCTC!

TRUNK OR TREAT













PERFECT ATTENDANCE

CELEBRATING OUR QUARTER 1 PERFECT ATTENDANCE STUDENTS

We are proud to celebrate our students for achieving perfect attendance during the Quarter 1 marking period! Their commitment to being present every day reflects their dedication to learning and helps create a positive and dependable classroom environment.

Our RISE Program — Responsible, Inclusive, Safe, and Employable — emphasizes essential employability skills such as dependability and consistent attendance. Earning perfect attendance is more than just being in school each day; it demonstrates each student's discipline, perseverance, and sense of responsibility.

Congratulations to these outstanding students! We look forward to recognizing more students for their dedication and commitment each quarter as the school year continues. Their efforts set a strong example for our entire school community.











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