

MASD 2024-2027 Comprehensive Plan

By: Dr. Sandra Mattocks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

A comprehensive plan provides a vision for the future along with the steps that are needed to make that vision a reality. Planning for the future is critical to leading school improvement efforts for a public school district. It involves analyzing the current situation using a critical lens, identifying desired outcomes or goals, and creating action steps to achieve them. Ensuring all students are learning at high levels is what drives the process.

Pennsylvania's cycle of improvement focuses on achievement for all students and is grounded in research and evidence-based approaches.

Our district's planning process began in August 2023 with a dedicated group of individuals comprised of teachers, administrators, parents, community members, and Board members. The group met every month, except for the month of December. The planning process included discussing our district's profile, what we are most proud of, and what areas we would like to improve. Together, we set goals and created action steps. Other state required reports, such as the Induction Plan, the Professional Development Plan, the Student Services Assurances, and the Gifted Education Assurances were also reviewed. The committee reviewed the draft of the comprehensive plan and additional reports at an additional meeting in late January. The plan has been placed on the district's website as well as in the Public Library of Union County in Lewisburg, the Herr Memorial Library in Mifflinburg, and the West End Library in Laurelton for a 28-day public review. Comments and questions can be directed to Dr. Sandra Mattocks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at smattocks@mifflinburg or by calling the district administrative office at 570-966-8200.



Intermediate School Students were happy to try out the variety of careers stations manned by the SUN Tech students.

5th Graders Experience SunTech Career Pathways

By: Philip Heggenstaller, Intermediate School Principal

On January 24th, students representing eight of SunTech's career programs visited the Intermediate School to showcase their programs. Intermediate School 5th graders spent the morning rotating to each of the eight programs to get a hands-on learning experience from the SunTech Seniors.

The programs represented were carpentry, cosmetology, dental health, electrical systems, health professionals, mechatronics, criminal justice, and wood/design & technology. Each of these programs brought tools or machines used in fields related to their programs. Our fifth-grade students had the opportunity to use these tools while visiting each station. Students used nail guns as well as a traditional hammer at the carpentry station. At the dental health station, some students learned the hard way of the hazards of dental health when water squirmed from the oversized mouth used to teach students dental health skills. At another station students were able to use technology to set up a machine that cut designs out of wood. At the cosmetology station students were able to braid hair on the mannequin heads used in the program.

Mrs. Lauren Purdy, school counselor at the Intermediate School, Erik Strawser, SunTech Career Counselor, and several other SunTech staff members were instrumental in making this career day a huge success. We are very fortunate to have SunTech in our district to provide opportunities like this to our students.

Intermediate School students begin learning about careers and career pathways

at a very early age. At the Intermediate School, Mrs. Purdy teaches about different careers during her monthly guidance lessons. Students also complete lessons in a program called SmartFutures to further investigate careers that might be a good fit for them based on skills and interests. The SunTech experience enhances both Mrs. Purdy's lessons and the Smart Futures lessons by providing a hands-on experience.

Here's what a few fifth graders had to say about their SunTech experience. "I really liked the criminal justice station. They showed us how to do CPR correctly. I also liked the dental station because they showed us what happens to your teeth if you don't brush them," stated Tre Genovese. Willow Nogle noted, "I loved the station where you could draw on the computer. I enjoyed it because you got to keep what you drew after the machine made it." Grant Gaines shared, "I loved doing the criminal justice station because it is something I might want to do in the future. The electrical station was fun too. All the stations were fun. I had a fun time." "I liked the nurses' station because they had slime that looked like blood," noted Elanna Hockenberry.

As you can tell by the feedback, our fifth-grade students enjoyed their SunTech experience. I would like to thank all the students and staff at SunTech along with Mrs. Lauren Purdy for offering this great experience to our students. We are hopeful this will become a yearly event for our fifth graders.

Farm to Table with Mifflinburg First Graders

By: Alexandra Martz, First Grade Teacher

Students in Mrs. Martz's first-grade class welcomed Laura Daubert, a local farmer, who taught students about work on the farm, cattle care, and the milking process. This goes hand in hand with our reading curriculum's weekly theme: "From Farm to Table". Mrs. Daubert asked a few students to help her mix "Cow Salad", which is a total ration mix for the dairy cattle on her farm. Mrs. Martz also exposed her students to "Farm to Table" processes by making their own butter and applesauce!



Mifflinburg Students Compete at 2024 Middle School TSA Regionals

By: Lucas Southerton, Middle School Technology Teacher

On Saturday February 4, 2024, fourteen Mifflinburg Middle School Students competed in the Region 7 TSA Conference held at Selinsgrove High School against several other middle schools. Competition was fierce this year as the region grew and has become stronger, but Mifflinburg still did very well. Here are the results.

- Gabriel Woolsey

 - 1st Place - Problem Solving
 - 2nd Place - Video Challenge
 - 3rd Place - Leadership Strategies
 - 4th Place - Mass Production
 - 5th Place - Tech Bowl
- Kyron Erdley

 - 2nd Place - Video Challenge
 - 3rd Place - Leadership Strategies
 - 4th Place - Mass Production
 - 5th Place - Tech Bowl

- Wyatt Beaver

 - 2nd Place - Flight
 - 3rd Place - Materials Process
 - 4th Place - Mass Production
- Allura Reitenbach

 - 2nd Place - Challenging Tech.
- Issues

 - 3rd Place - Safety Illustration
 - 6th Place - Digital Photography
- CJ Ott

 - 1st Place - Flight
 - 4th Place - Video Game Design
 - 5th Place - Tech. Bowl
- Jaydon Girton

 - 4th Place - Video Game Design
 - 5th Place - Tech Bowl
- Liam Tressler

 - 4th Place - Electrical Apps
 - 5th Place - Digital Photography
- Aiden Shambach

 - 4th Place - Materials Process
 - 8th Place - Dragster
- Kahlani Arvelo

 - 5th Place - Tech Bowl
- Lillian Styers, Jake Mull, and Owen Rishel also participated in the competition.



Middle School Students Visit State Museum of Pennsylvania

By: Alyssa Coakley

The Middle School Life Skills and MDS classrooms went on a field trip Friday, January 26, 2024 to the State Museum of Pennsylvania. There, they enjoyed a show in the planetarium and were able to explore different exhibits. This field trip was part of the community-based instruction curriculum that allows the students to attend different places in the

community monthly. It was a great day! Pictured above in first row: Keely Shambach, Lupe Susan, Ricky Smith, Bentlee Stahl, Jayden Wolfe-Moyer, Brody Houdeshell, and Lee Martin Pictured above in second row: November Swartz, Brody Bottiger, Jaime Zettlemoyer, Zayden Keefer, Jack Zimmerman, Ryan Mayhue, Aiden Barsis, and Channing Scott

MS Students Selected for Susquehanna Valley Band

By: William Grose, Middle School Band Teacher

Twelve Mifflinburg Area Middle School students were selected and participated in the 2024 Susquehanna Valley Band Festival (SVB). The event was held at Mid-West High School on January 20th, 2024. The schools who comprise the SVB are Lewisburg, Mid-West, Mifflinburg, Milton, Selinsgrove, Shikellamy, and Warrior Run. In order to participate, band members from these schools audition, and based on their placement are chosen to represent their home school at this festival. The event itself consists of a rigorous two-day practice schedule during which a body of instrumentalists prepare for a concert. Many participants enjoy SVB because it provides challenging music, a chance to play with a group that is often much larger than what their home schools already have in place, and because it is an opportunity to make friends from other schools. This year, despite losing a practice-day to winter weather, the festival continued on a compressed schedule. In the end, everybody had a blast, and the concert was magnificent.

Congratulations to the following middle school students for participating in SVB this year: Emily A - Percussion; Taylor A - Trumpet; Carter B - Tuba; Iris G - Clarinet; Violet H - Clarinet; Jenner H - Tuba; Courtney H - Trombone; Cole H - Trumpet; Emma S - Percussion; Wyatt Z - French Horn; Breonna Z - Clarinet.



Above: Mrs. Hurst's ELA Class poses for a photo with their beautiful roses.

Middle Schooler
Makes an Impression
on Valentine's Day

By: Mrs. Katherine Hurst, 8th Grade ELA Teacher

In block one of ELA, we had a little Valentine's Day celebration. There are only 14 students in this class which includes 13 girls and 1 boy. This lone boy, Landon Tucker, has won an award in my book. Not only did he bring in something for each student in class, but that "something" was a rose! Yes, the only boy in class brought in a bouquet of roses to distribute to the class of ladies. Accidental? I think not. 😊

Healthy Bites,
Happy Dogs!

By: Alison Lorson, Non-Traditional Education Coordinator

A small group of Future Farmers of America (FFA) students decided to make dog treats for a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). While working through a SAE, students are encouraged to learn business etiquette, investigate different career possibilities, and develop project-related skills. To succeed as employees in their SAE, students must apply both the knowledge they have learned in the classroom and the leadership abilities they have developed in the FFA.

Miss Shawver's Animal Science class has been working on various projects throughout the school year. With the assistance of Hunter Benfer and Jacob Saylor, Natalee Edison and Savannah Goodyear made the decision to make dog treats following Miss Shawver's SAE suggestions. Neighboring butcher shops donate leftover meat to the FFA students

to aid in their project. The students receive the meat, cut it into bite-sized pieces, and place it in a smoker and dehydrator that they brought from home. The dog treats don't contain any extra ingredients. The treats are then packaged and sold for \$4.00 per bag.

The students are also creating peanut butter, oat, and honey treats in addition to the meat dog treats. They cost \$3.00 per bag and are made in class.

My dogs absolutely LOVE these dog treats! If you're looking for a healthy treat for your furry friends, you can buy a bag or two from these students. Please do not hesitate to contact Miss Shawver should you be interested. Email: gshawver@mifflinburg.org



Pictured left: Children made their own versions of Mercy Watson. Pictured right: A group is happy to sample the butter that they made.

A Night of Literary Fun: Family Book
Club at Mifflinburg Elementary

By: Mrs. Lorraine Blough, ES/IS Librarian

On the evening of January 24, the halls of Mifflinburg Elementary School were abuzz with excitement as families gathered for a special event: Family Book Club Night. Inspired by the delightful book Mercy Watson Goes For a Ride by Kate DiCamillo, the evening promised literary adventures and interactive fun for all ages.

One mouthwatering station featured a snack of bread and homemade butter (Mercy loves toast & butter!). Children eagerly participated in a hands-on activity, shaking up heavy cream to the rhythm of a butter-making song. Laughter filled the air as they attempted to transform cream into delicious butter in a short 20 minutes. There was also a read-aloud, where our Middle/High School librarian, a talented storyteller, hooked students on another book in the Mercy Watson series.

At another station, young artists unleashed their creativity with a pig paper plate craft, paying homage to the beloved porcine

protagonist, Mercy Watson. When time allowed, a guessing game, Guess In 10, added an element of mystery and excitement, challenging participants to guess various animals.

At the third station, families engaged in lively book discussions, sharing their thoughts and insights into the story's themes and characters. Trivia games added an element of friendly competition, with prizes awarded to those who demonstrated their knowledge of Mercy Watson Goes For A Ride (which was everyone). One of the highlights of the evening was the opportunity for students to share their ideas for future Mercy Watson adventures. From daring escapades to heartwarming encounters, the creativity and enthusiasm of young readers shone brightly as they envisioned new chapters for their beloved Mercy.

Family Book Club Night had not only brought the pages of Mercy Watson Goes For a Ride to life but had also created cherished memories and strengthened the bonds of community through the power of storytelling.



Above: Members of the Mifflinburg Area High School's Youth in Philanthropy Club during one of their recent field trips.

Mifflinburg High School's New Youth in Philanthropy Club: Making a Difference Together!

By: Jeremiah Allen, High School Principal

With the help of the Community Giving Foundation, the new Youth in Philanthropy Club at Mifflinburg High School's goal is simple: help make Mifflinburg even better. Fifteen eager students have graciously agreed to put their school and community first, hoping to make changes that benefit the greater good. Sophomore Aubrey Fluman had this to say about her experience in Youth in Philanthropy, "So far, Philanthropy club has been a very eye opening and rewarding experience. Knowing that I can make a difference in my community through deciding where grant money is spent is an indescribable feeling. I have learned a lot of valuable information about working as a team, community service and the community in general, and the grant process. I look forward to choosing what organizations will receive the grant money and seeing how they will benefit the community."

With up to \$5,000 to donate to local charities, nonprofits and/or clubs, the students have been hard at work learning about the process of grant writing, application analysis, and will soon decide who is most deserving of the donation money.

Osborne said, "We went out of our way to connect with the younger students and try to grow a bond for what we can bring to the schools."

MAHS students have had the opportunities to attend two field trips so far to learn about this new endeavor. The first to Susquehanna University and the second to Campus Theatre, where they met with other local school districts and the Community Giving Foundation in order to collaborate on the goals of the community. This has been an incredibly meaningful and invaluable experience for the students and has allowed them to truly understand what it means to give back to their community. Sophomore Rubi Valle-Torres said, "I like that we can meet other schools and also discuss how they can better their community and share their experience with us."

Based on the results, the greatest needs of our community were identified as: food pantry (access to more food, resources, and location), mental health resources, and physical activities for the community. If your club would like to apply for a grant from the Youth in Philanthropy club to address one of these needs, please [follow this link](#).