

# Sussex County Technical School

## Fall 2023 Newsletter

### SkillsUSA Update

In June, Sussex Tech's SkillsUSA Chapter traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to compete in the National SkillsUSA competitions. Advisors Mr. McCarthy and Mrs. Leek chaperoned 5 competitors and 1 delegate for a week of competitions, meetings, and of course the ceremony. Seniors Samantha Masih and Grace Revoredo took Gold in Commercial SUAS Drones. Seniors, Evan VanderGoot, Bruno Martinez and Max Masih took Silver in Automated Manufacturing.



During the month of November, SkillsUSA held their Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. With the help of SkillsUSA student members, faculty and staff, a total of 12 families will be receiving a complete Thanksgiving Dinner. Donations included 12 turkeys along with potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, applesauce, stuffing, pickles, juice and fresh produce and even popcorn. These dinner items were bagged up by SkillsUSA members and ready for the families to pick up. Several families will be receiving their turkeys cooked thanks to the help of the culinary department.



### Clubs and Activities

The Outdoor and Archery Club is off to another strong start in 2023! We have 65 members, including many incoming Freshman. This year to go along with our Competition and Intramural Archery we have added Fly Fishing and Fly Tying and it has taken off in popularity. The club members were delighted to kick off the Fall school wide Pep-Rally with a flaming arrow and balloon breaking shots. This Fall members have been up to the archery course for our Fall Clean-Up and first archery shoot. On Thursday November 16, 2023 we held our annual Game Dinner Fundraiser. It was another successful evening with club members, club advisors, culinary students, local businesses, and the county residents all coming together for this charitable event.



## Student Council

The 2023 Homecoming was a success. The students started Homecoming week with their themed spirit week. On Friday, students celebrated at the end of the day with their Fall Pep Rally. Students and staff took part in multiple events helping to celebrate the fall athletes. Students had an opportunity to take part in the class relay race. Staff members took part in a lively Go Kart Race around the track. The Homecoming court nominees competed in a fast-paced game of musical chairs. At the end of the Pep Rally, students and staff were invited to cheer on the Mustang football team at their Homecoming Game. On Saturday night, the student body was invited to their 2023 Enchanted Forest Homecoming. The Homecoming Dance took place outside under a tent of lights. Due to rain earlier in the day, chairs, tables, and yard games were moved into the lobby. Students enjoyed a festive night outside under a tent of lights. This year 420 students attended the event.

Student Council is once again supporting the Project Self Sufficiency Toy Drive. Each homeroom has been given a toy drive box and a letter for each student. The homeroom who collects the most toys, will win a hot chocolate and donut party. Items will be collected during the week of December 13th.

## Theatre Arts

The PM Theatre Arts shop worked hard on producing a production of "One Stoplight Town" a play by Tracy Wells. We have taken our curriculum and applied it to the practical application of a full production, which is acted and designed by all the students in the PM shop (juniors & seniors). The AM shop students (freshman and sophomores) were in charge of publicity and front of house management. It is a play that explores the lives of the people in a small town and focuses on the ideas that over time things can change, and change is okay. The show was held on Tuesday, November 21st. The show was a great success and we are looking forward to the Spring Musical scheduled for March 8th, 9th and 10th.

The Drama club and its members went on a field trip to see the Broadway Show, *Back to the Future*, on November 15th. The members enjoyed the show and learned more about what it takes to produce a musical.



## HOSA

HOSA students have started preparing for their upcoming competitions scheduled to begin in January. The competitions span several healthcare fields to include pathophysiology, medical terminology, medical math, CPR/First Aid, EMT, behavioral health, medical law/ethics, and medical assisting. Good luck to all the participants and we look forward to their success.

## National Honor Society

Thank you so much to all who participated in NHS's pop up pink pumpkin patch. Between this event and our special dress down days we raised \$150 to be donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer research fund. A huge thank you to local business Ideal Farms for the donation of their hay bales and corn stalks.

Tech saw some amazing and creative costumes this year for our Annual Costumes for Cancer Halloween event. NHS raised over \$1100 that will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

NHS's candle lit induction ceremony occurred on November 7th and the induction of over 30 new members. Congratulations to the new inductees.

Cianna Acevedo, Marissa Bouma, Dylan Castelluccio, Jake Chromcik, John Cubberly, David Cunha, Elijah Dalelio, Bria DeGroat, Owen Demeter, Samuel Gatto, George Hauck, Charles Hudson, Iba Khan, Ryan King, Mina Lin, Kara Loewrigkeit, Tiziana Maldonado, Danielle Martin-Conyers, Liam McPeek, Tamar McPherson, BellaMaria Minichiello, Gabriella Moen, Aidan O'Neil, Ryan Palmasano, John Porada, Cassandra Puco, Genna Runnalls, Skylar Sandage, Baylee Smith, Kalle Young, Jacob Oras



## Tabletop Gaming Club

For the first time this year, SCTSs' Tabletop Gaming Club joins the host of other school activities available at the school for all students. The mission of this club is to act as a forum for students to come together at the school to play some of their favorite games, including traditional board games, video games, trading cards games, and RPGs. This club is advised and operated by two of our teachers, Mr. Tyler Hunt and Ms. Pauline Ward, who both see to it that this club runs throughout the duration of the school year on most Tuesdays after school from 2:30pm-5:00pm. More information regarding the operation of the club may be found on our school website.



## Key Club

Fall Key club events:

Maui Strong shirt day – the Key Club was able to raise \$185.00 to support the victims of the devastating fire in Maui earlier this year.

The Key Club once again supported the Stuff the Doghouse fundraiser to help local animal shelters.

In support of the “Smile Project” – Key Club members made bracelets that were donated to several area hospitals for their pediatric patients.

During the Fall athletic season Key Club members raised money to support “Students 4 Students”. This group is for students who are at home and not attending school due to surgeries and major health issues.



## Rain Garden Project

A rain garden has been constructed on the school campus outside of Senior Cosmetology. Mrs. Schlereth partnered with representatives from the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group and The Nature Conservancy. They secured grant money and got Rutgers on board. Rutgers' representatives designed the site based on the anticipated precipitation amounts. Over the past summer, a representative from U.S. Fish and Wildlife joined the project as well.

The garden is not only beautiful but great for the environment! Rain gardens capture water before it is able to run across the land and prevent pollutants from entering the waterways and contaminating habitats and our drinking water. *The rain garden on our campus is projected to capture 130,000 gallons of water each year!* Bonus - it will attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Students from Mrs. Schlereth's Environmental Science and Biology classes, along with Mr. LaCorte's biology students and Ms. Pinhas' Natural Resources students were all involved in the construction.



## Mr. Mackey's Auto Shop Tractor Restoration Project

The shop project was a combination of multiple shop programs including Welding, Diesel, Engineering, and the Automotive shop working together. Multiple skill levels and many aspects of both modern and antique technology were also required. Students were tasked with saving two different pieces of equipment, a tractor that is 52 years old, and an antique railway service car engine that is 86 years old, both headed for scrap. The tractor had a blown engine and the owner was about to junk the tractor, but it was recognized quickly by Mr. Mackey as a rare S32 Speedex Tractor (only 295 ever built). The engine was a "barn find" 1937 Fairmont Speeder engine used in the 1930's and 40's to power a small service car on railroads. It was located in Vermont and was also headed to scrap as the engine did not spin. The idea to combine the two items to make one unique machine is not completely original, but the combination of these two particular models makes it the only one in the world.



Students split into groups and began working on each component. The tractor needed to be completely stripped and sanded, wheels repaired/welded/powder coated, tires and tubes replaced, steering gearbox rebuilt, and sheet metal repaired. The engine needed to be completely disassembled and rebuilt with new internal components as well as the fuel system completely rebuilt. The students worked for several weeks restoring the engine, running into challenges of an 80-year-old piece of equipment. Locating parts, repairing items that can't be replaced, and then painting and having a local company powder coat the completed parts for reassembly was difficult but rewarding.



Once the engine was complete, the focus became building the tractor to support the larger engine and fabricate a drive belt system. Students worked with different belts, pulleys and tensioners to make a proper drive system, and welded the components in place. Welding shop fabricated the two large "C" channel mounts for the engine, supporting and securing the powerplant to the tractor frame. The students then utilized a plasma cutter to fit the original tractor hood to the larger engine. Lastly, with the help of maintenance employee Chris Shuhnicki, the students were able to fabricate an exhaust system fitting for this project.

The tractor was a great display at the Sussex County Fair this past August, receiving a ribbon for the display, as well as attracting many crowds throughout the week of curious onlookers. The tractor will be displayed in local tractor parades, antique equipment shows, as well as the Sussex County Fair each August.

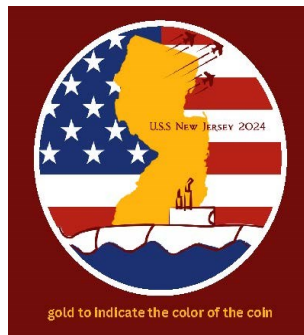


## Commercial Art and Graphic Communication Ms. Hoppe and Mr. Spotts

To celebrate the spring 2024 commissioning of the USS NEW JERSEY, the newest nuclear submarine in the US Navy, students from New Jersey were invited to participate in a “challenge coin” design contest. The contest was open to all high school and middle school students who are residents of New Jersey. The coin design was to reflect the theme of New Jersey's military history, and honor the legacy of the USS NEW JERSEY and the other IOWA Class Battleships.

The NEW JERSEY Commissioning Committee will select the overall state winner from the list of each county winner in January 2024. The state winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to attend the commissioning ceremony in April 2024.

This was a tremendous opportunity for our students to showcase their skills!  
Coins designed by Casie Puco, Emily Beltrani and Charles Hudson.



## Engineering, Carpentry and Welding Mr. Land, Mr. Drake and Mr. Conklin

Students from the Sussex Tech Engineering, Carpentry and Welding Shops once again participated in the annual Picatinny Arsenal Pumpkin Chuckin' contest. With a newly designed trebuchet the Sussex Tech team beat 8 other schools with a pumpkin sling of 370 meters, which set a new record for the contest. Great Job Sussex Tech.



## College and Career Fair

In November, Sussex Tech held our Annual College and Career Fair. This event is held during the day allowing all students the opportunity to attend. Students were able to visit forty different colleges, trade schools, and local employers' booths, learning about various opportunities available to them once they graduate.

## Sussex Tech Engineering Wins Big at 17th International Human Powered Submarine Races

From July 26 to July 30 Sussex County Technical School's Engineering Program competed in the 17th International Human Powered Submarine Races (ISR) that were held at the Carderock Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The ISR is a premier engineering design/build competition that requires each team to fully design, document, manufacture and finally operate a fully functioning human powered submarine at a depth of 20 feet under water. Each of the teams operates their submarines at the David Taylor Model Basin which is a deep water basin measuring ½ mile long by 51 feet wide by 22 feet deep housed in a building. Virtually all US Navy ships and submarines are modeled and tested extensively in this facility prior to being authorized for construction.

During the week each team attempts to complete the 100 meter straight line course at the fastest speed possible. Each submarine is human powered by a pilot inside the submarine. By rule, all submarines must free flood, therefore requiring the pilot to breath from standard scuba equipment. During this past school year, 7 Sussex Tech Engineering students acquired their Open Water SCUBA certifications to support the project. This was in addition to designing and fabricating the submarine, named UmptySquatch X. Sussex Tech has been competing in the International Submarine Races for the past 20 years. All Sussex Tech submarines have been named UmptySquatch with this year's entry being the 10th iteration.

When the awards ceremony had concluded on Friday afternoon, Sussex County Technical School won the following awards:

***Absolute Speed Award***

***The Patrona Corporation Best Use of Technology Award***

***Fastest Speed by Category***

Sussex Tech by far was the best team in the competition surpassing 17 other teams, which included Virginia Tech, University of Washington, Texas A&M, and the University of Michigan.



## Fall Sports

### Cross Country:

The Cross-Country Teams had a fantastic season. Runners started their training in the first week of July, learning how to work as a team early on. The team gained new runners, helping to fill a few gaps in the varsity team and build the JV teams. The boys won the Freedom Division with a record of 9-1. The Boys' Varsity team worked together to sweep many of their races, taking spots 1, 2, and three. The top three runners on the boy's team earned a spot in the 1st Team All-Conference.

The Girl's team had a strong season, with a record of 5-5. The girls did not score in some races because they did not have enough runners to qualify. One female runner earned the title of 1st Team All-Conference, and one female runner earned the title of 2nd Team All-Conference. Sophomore, Micah took 6th place at Sectionals, earning a spot at Groups. Micah took 23rd in Groups. The Girl's Team tied for the 2023 Sportsmanship Award within their Division.

**1st Team Boys:** David Cunha, Sam Gatto

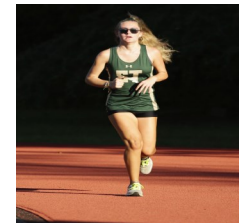
**2nd Team Boys:** Vaughn Holderith, Douglas DeMarco

**Honorable Mention:** Brian Rauchbach

**1st Team Girls:** Micah Dalelio

**2nd Team Girls:** Emily Ursin

**Honorable Mention:** Maya McQueen



### Girls Soccer:

The Mustang Girls Soccer Team concluded their season with 3 wins, 11 losses, and 3 ties, but their journey and accomplishments are not marked solely by numbers. Throughout the season, these athletes showed unwavering dedication, resilience, and remarkable commitment to improvement.

The team demonstrated strong sportsmanship, the ability to implement feedback, coatability, and willingness to learn and grow. Despite challenges and feedback, the team's relentless work ethic was evident each and every game. Every player contributed to the collective effort to the team's performance. The commitment from the girls allowed for improvement, cohesion, and stronger overall game play. The girls demonstrated that success is measured by progress and growth, not only through victories.

At the end of the season, we had 5 girls have the opportunity to be recognized through the NJAC conference. Recognized as **First Team All Conference**, Sophia Gomes and Echo Leo - **Second Team All Conference**, Ashley Seeley and Courtney Lowery, and Baylee Smith was NJAC **Honorable Mention**.





### **Boys Soccer:**

The boys Soccer team finished the season with 5 wins and 10 loses. The boys advanced to the quarterfinals of the NJTAC tournament where they lost a close game 3-2 to Morris Tech in double overtime. The boys were led by senior Captains Ryan King, Eli Dalelio, Jack Edward Schmick and Tim Kopf. Tim Kopf led the team in goals with 14 and Nick Bragg led the way in net with 5 wins, 2 shutouts, 89 saves and 1 assist. The boys will be bringing back 6 starters next year and many underclassmen that gained valuable varsity experience this season. The boys are eager to contend for a division championship and a NJTAC title next season.

**1st Team:** Tim Kopf

**2nd Team:** Nick Bragg

**Honorable Mention:** Ryan King



### **Girls Tennis:**

The girl's tennis team was excited to welcome back Coach Gasiorek to the courts for the 2023 tennis season. This season did not produce the number of wins that the team or the coach had hoped for but was a success in terms of building the team back up to a competitive level. Anchored by Captain Teagan Lowrie the team performed well as a group and had incredible team spirit and sportsmanship. There were enough players to field a JV team again, which will help to strengthen the Varsity level as they move forward into next season. Coach Rapuano did a wonderful job preparing the future Varsity players to compete as they move into the Varsity level. The Varsity team finished with a final record of 4 wins and 7 losses and looks to improve upon that as they move into the 2024 season.

**1st Team:** Kara Loewrigkeit - 2nd Singles, Mina Lin and Quinones Lyah - 2nd Doubles

**2nd Team:** Teagan Lowrie - 1st Singles

**Honorable Mention:** Danielle Martin-Conyers - 3rd Singles



## **Football:**

The 2023 Sussex Tech Mustangs put forth their most successful season in school history, finishing with a 7-4 record. Led by two 1,000-yard rushers, Andrew Baker and Brian Gruber, the offense averaged almost 25 points per game. Defensively, Cole Phillips and Shawn Garrison led the way, combining for 143 tackles and holding opponents to 20 points per game. The Mustangs also earned wins against county opponents Kittatinny (21-0) and Lenape Valley (21-14) for the first time in school history. The history books continued to be written, as Tech also won their first playoff game 28-14 over Mahwah. Along with many All-Division individual honors for the players, Head Coach Brian Stellingwerf was selected as the Coach of the Year for the American Blue Division. It was a great season to be a 'Stang!

**1st Team Offense:** Andrew Baker, Brian Gruber

**1st Team Defense:** Shawn Garrison, Cole Phillips

**2nd Team Offense:** Aaron Smolinski, Shawn deHagara

**2nd Team Defense:** Gavin Mericle, Sam Fara, Andrew Stoffels

**Honorable Mention:** Marco Castro



Fall Cheerleading, also known as Field cheer, is the most popular season of Cheerleading at Sussex Tech. The athletes attend every football game to support the players, engage the crowd, and keep spirit and morale up at all times.

This year, the Fall Cheerleading program had the largest team in Sussex Tech history with 42 athletes. This allowed for both Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. Both teams worked hard perfecting sideline cheers, learning new stunts, increasing their difficulty and learning new tumbling passes. It was a very successful season for the Lady Mustangs and we are excited to continue to grow the program in the years to come.

