

Starting the Day Off Right

By: Mr. Jeremiah Allen, High School Principal

Last spring the High School started putting some ideas together as we worked on restarting our PBIS program. One of those ideas was to create a store for our PBIS rewards and combine that with an opportunity for students to purchase a coffee, hot chocolate, or tea in the morning. With a little grant money, we were able to get the supplies we needed to get started. As the new year approached, we were excited to get started. We chose the old attendance office above the cafeteria as the location for our new endeavor.

We had hoped to start off right at the beginning of the year, but we realized we had forgotten a very important part of our store...cups. Once we had cups, Mr. Allen and Mr. Dressler stepped behind the counter to get the show on the road. Thankfully, we have a number of students that are interested in being the baristas, so Mr. Dressler and Mr. Allen had to hang up their aprons and get back to being principals. It was a sad day, but the store has been flourishing with our students running the show. The top drink of choice has been hot chocolate, especially on cold mornings.

We are still working on a name, but some suggestions have been made and we will hopefully be deciding soon. The plan is to grow from here. If you have the opportunity, stop by between 7:15 - 8:05 for your morning pick-me-up.



Photo caption - Carly Lunger and Kaylee Hess are ready to serve up some delicious hot drinks.

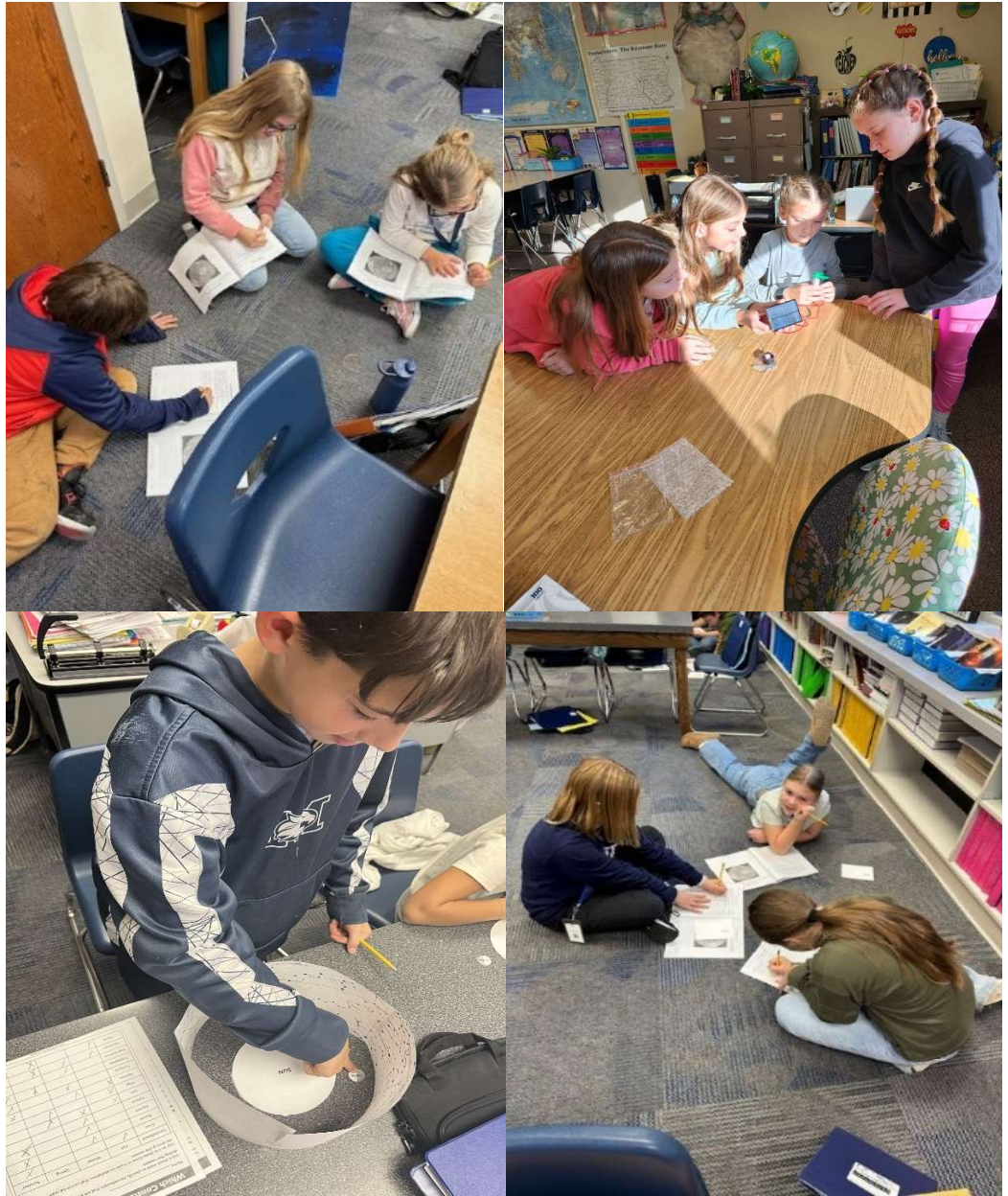


Photo caption - Intermediate School students enjoy working on science units in class.

Creating Scientists at the Intermediate School

By: Mr. Philip Heggenstaller, Intermediate School Principal

The start of the 24/25 school year brought a new science curriculum resource to Mifflinburg Area Intermediate School students. That resource is Amplify Science. The Amplify Science resource tackles the relatively new STEELS science standards which were approved at the State level to guide science instruction.

Each grade, 3-5, will work through four science units during the school year. Each unit has twenty-two lessons to explore the unit's topic. Some of the unit topics include Weather and Climate, Energy Conservation, Waves, Energy, and Information, Patterns of Earth and Sky, and Ecosystem Restoration.

Each unit focuses on a problem the students need to solve. The problem is shared in the form of a question. Throughout the unit, students gain information through inquiry and hands on learning to help them solve the problem posted at the beginning of the unit. Through this process, the students engage in Science and Engineering Practices which are linked to the

STEELS science standards. Students learn how to look for patterns, use cause and effect relationships, connect systems and models, and make connections across other science topics.

When asked what they like about science class this year students at the Intermediate School shared the following. Tenley in 4th grade said, "I like the new app because we can build different things and see how they work. We get to do different experiments." 5th grader Emma shared, "It is easy to understand because our teacher explains it to us. The activities we do are fun." Camden is 3rd grade said, "I like when we get to make our own forces and share them with our classmates."

As you can tell from the students' reactions, our Intermediate School students are enjoying the Amplify Science resource. They are engaged in science at a higher level this year than prior school years. A huge thank you to our science teachers for the work they are doing while our students explore and learn about the wide range of science topics covered by Amplify Science.

Middle School Updates

By: Mr. Daryl Hunsberger, Middle School Principal and Mr. Richard Strausburg, Middle School Assistant Principal

As we approach November, we have several exciting events to share that highlight the incredible spirit and achievements of our students.

First, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming Principal Luncheon, scheduled for November 6th. This special event will honor our outstanding students who have demonstrated integrity, respect, and responsibility throughout the school year. Each teacher will select one boy and one girl from their classes to represent them at this luncheon, and these selected students will have the unique opportunity to invite one parent to join them for a delightful lunch in our gym.

The luncheon will be prepared with the help of our talented students who excel in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). We are grateful for their hard work and dedication in making this event memorable for everyone involved.

In addition to this celebration, we are proud of our students who have joined the Peer Buddy Club, a wonderful initiative

supporting our peers with special needs. Recently, we celebrated fall with an inclusion activity in our library, where students painted pumpkins for the season. It was a fantastic time, fostering friendships and inclusion, and our students are already looking forward to more engaging events throughout the year!

Looking ahead, we want to remind you of our Fall Conferences taking place on November 7th from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM and November 8th from 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM. To accommodate parents' needs, the schedule will feature a morning session on the 7th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, where families can meet with the entire team in 20-minute blocks. Starting at 2:00 PM, we will shift to individual conferences of your choice, offering 15-minute blocks with each teacher until 8:00 PM. Please note there will be a lunch break at 11:00 AM and a dinner break for staff at 4:00 PM. Parents can access the Sign-Up Genius app through the link sent in our weekly communication and on our Middle School Web page to schedule their conferences.

We look forward to recognizing our deserving students, fostering a spirit of appreciation within our school community, and engaging with all of you during conferences. Thank you for your continued support!



Pictured above: Students in the Middle School's Peer Buddy Club enjoyed some pumpkin painting at their last meeting.



Mifflinburg Wildcat Stadium Project

By: Danielle Dressler, Director of Student Services and Athletics

The Mifflinburg Area School District community is seeking financial support to help build our District Stadium. Community support will play a pivotal role in making this vision a reality. With thousands of visitors, athletes, and fans attending events year-round, the stadium will become a hub of activity, and the stadium will be a central part of the community, providing opportunities for future generations of student athletes.

Phase I of the stadium project will include a synthetic track accompanied by jumping and throwing areas, a turf athletic field, a ticket booth area and fencing, infrastructure for future additions, and a new scoreboard.

Phase II of the stadium project will include a press box, lighting, restrooms for the public, locker rooms for athletic teams, and a concession stand.

We invite you to help build the future of Mifflinburg Athletics and be a part of our stadium's legacy! Sponsorships are fully tax-deductible as we are partnering with the Alumni & Friends of Mifflinburg Area School District Foundation DBA Mifflinburg Wildcat Fund, a recognized 501(c)(3) organization, committed to supporting our community and educational programs. By contributing, you not only play a crucial role in bringing this project to life but would also enjoy the tax benefits associated with charitable giving. Check out the District website for additional information on the project.

Mifflinburg Elementary School Held Chicken BBQ Fundraiser for Izzy Kissinger



The Mifflinburg community came together to raise funds and support first-grade teacher Izzy Kissinger, who is facing a challenging battle with a brain tumor. On June 26, 2024, Miss Kissinger underwent brain surgery to remove a Grade 2 – Diffuse Astrocytoma tumor.

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Elementary School Staff together with the HSA hosted a chicken barbeque and bake sale. All proceeds from the event went directly to Miss Kissinger and her family to help cover medical expenses and other related costs while she continues treatment at John's Hopkins Hospital. The generous support of the community was evident by the \$8,672.00 which was raised at the fundraiser. Thank you to everyone for their support of Miss Kissinger!

Mifflinburg Middle Schooler – A Vocal Prodigy



Photo caption - The advertisement of the show Rowan White recently performed in as part of the Uptown Music Collective.

By: Mrs. Jamiee Joiner, District Administrative Assistant

When thirteen-year-old Rowan White walked through the doors of Debra Rapson’s classroom, she did not know where her singing would take her, but she is loving every minute of zeroing in her talent and being in thrust into center stage with the pure sound of her beautiful voice.

Debbie Rapson said of her talented student, “She is by far, just spectacular, and has a singing talent that is really just a gift.”

Rapson explained that shortly after hearing Rowan sing, she met with her parents to discuss goals and objectives for Rowan. She wanted to empower her and allow her to do things that make her feel confident.

Rowan also joined the Uptown Music Collective – a singing-focused group in the area which has helped her to become a

locally known talent. The Collective provides music education as well as high-impact musical experiences which helps to create a community committed to connecting people with music. Rapson stated that “Being a part of the Collective will help Rowan get noticed in the industry.”

Since getting set up with a vocal coach outside of school, Rowan feels that she is finding true happiness there. Her vocal coach, who is an instructor within the Collective, works with her on specific styles which allows her to experiment with her voice.

Rapson has had Rowan as a member of the Middle School’s Choir for the last two years, and she was previously in the Intermediate School’s Choir.

White explained that she was, “hoping to take it (her experience with the Collective) and turn it into a career.”

She further stated that she would like to be the type of artist that you hear on the radio or be the lead singer of a band, and while sometimes singing and acting go together at this age, Rowan is laser-focused on singing.

Rowan was recently selected to perform in the Uptown Collective’s *Floyd Nation – Experience Pink Floyd* at the Community Arts Theater in Williamsport. Ten students earned the opportunity to be a part of Floyd Nation’s performance of Another Brick in the Wall which gave them the opportunity to meet the whole band and experience the diverse ways that they produce sound. Rowan joined the Collective just this past January, but already feels that this opportunity has been extremely

educational for her as well as enjoyable. She said that, for her, singing, “is enjoyable like an escape. I also think that some of my closest bonds are with some of the other kids in the Collective.

White gets to do four larger performances per year through the Collective, but they perform a lot in between. She will be a part of one showcase per year, and Rowan enjoys that the kids get to pick different songs and have the opportunity to sing both leads and backups. She plans to continue performing with the Collective and stated about her experience, “It’s a great Collective. The music is great, and you can learn a lot from them.”

Rowan meets daily in school with Mrs. Rapson just to sing. She also works on her talents at home and with her vocal coach, but Rapson explained that “people in this industry sing for hours each day, and I wanted Rowan to get used to training daily.”

My visit to the Middle School to see Rowan’s talents for myself resulted in her performing one of my favorite Fleetwood Mac songs, Dreams, which she knocked out of the park! She was truly amazing, so humble, and sounded impeccable. When a singer makes you feel the music, that is how you know they are good. I asked her what her favorite song to sing was, and Rowan replied, “Rhiannon by Fleetwood Mac.”

Rowan’s relaxed demeanor paired with her true talent can only take her up from here. Congratulations on your recent performance, Rowan! We cannot wait to see what you do next.

Students Enjoy the Return of Cats Café and Exciting Community Based Instruction Outings



By: Mrs. Jane Spickler, Director of Special Education

Cats Café is back again in 2024-25! On October 4th, Mrs. Pliska and Miss Bastain launched the production of yummy coffee goodness for all of those who were willing to donate to the cause! The Cats Cafe is a student run, staff supported opportunity for students with special needs to practice their listening and speaking skills, mathematical money skills as well as patience and following directions! The two photos on the left above show our dedicated students at work.

Another exciting opportunity that is a part of some student

Individualized Education Plans (IEP) is Community Based Instruction (CBI). Recently, Mrs. Engleman’s Life Skills Support Class, pictured above, had the opportunity to go to the Bloomsburg Fair to participate in community activities, see farm animals and exhibits, practice their understanding of money and of course, eat funnel cake!

Does anyone recognize a long-time Mifflinburg teacher in this photo on the right? While visiting the Bloomsburg Fair for CBI, Jack Zimmerman was able to visit with family including great-grandma Jean Zimmerman as he enjoyed some Mapes Milk which is produced by the family farm.



Photo caption – Mr. Duane Snayberger, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mrs. Lori Fridline, Administrative Assistant of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

New Faces in Our Curriculum Department!

By: Mr. Duane Snayberger, Curriculum and Instruction Director and Mrs. Lori Fridline, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction

There are some new faces at the administration building in our curriculum department. However, these new faces to the building are not new to the district. In July, both Duane Snayberger and Lori Fridline moved from their offices in the high school to their new home in the administrative building.

Mr. Snayberger has been associated with the district since 1997. In that year, he began coaching football for the Mifflinburg Area School District. He conducted his student teaching in the elementary school and became a full-time kindergarten teacher in 2004. His career path then took him to Laurelton Elementary where he served as the Lead Teacher/Building Coordinator and third-grade teacher until the building closed. He returned to Mifflinburg Elementary to teach second grade until he was asked to move to the middle school to teach sixth-grade math. He took his first administrator position in 2023 as the High School Assistant Principal and now is serving as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the district.

Mr. Snayberger is excited to begin this new chapter in his career at Mifflinburg. He has been honored to have worked with so many great students, families, and teachers over the years. His experience working at a variety of grade levels give him a very

unique perspective of how the district operates and the educational needs of our students.

Lori Fridline started working for the Mifflinburg Area School District in 2016 when she was hired to be the administrative assistant at the high school. While working at the high school, she learned a lot about how a high school operates and made some great friends over those years. Those friendships made leaving her position at the high school a difficult decision. However, knowing that a visit to the high school would be just a short walk away made the transition easier. Everyone at the administration building was very welcoming and made her feel right at home - they even helped her set up her new office space. There are a lot of new things for Lori to learn in her position in the Curriculum and Instruction department, but she enjoys the challenge of learning new things.

Lori enjoys being a Mimi and spoiling her grandchildren as much as possible. She has one grandson who is 18 months old and lives close by and another grandson who is 3 months old and lives in Virginia. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, family, friends, traveling, warm weather, and making craft items for the numerous craft shows that she attends throughout the year.