

Mifflinburg Wrestlers Advance to Regionals



By: Jamiee Joiner, District Administrative Assistant

The Mifflinburg Wrestling Team had a great showing in this past weekend's District IV AA Tournament held at Williamsport Area High School. Six wrestlers will advance to the Regional Tournament. Ben Straub (133) not only earned first place in the tournament by 7-5 decision over Montoursville's Blaize Vogel, but he earned his 100th win during his quarterfinal match. Bradley Wagner (127) pinned Brayden Pequignot of North Penn-Liberty, and Lane Kenamond (139) won by 5-2 decision over Jarren McCloskey of Sugar Valley Rural Charter School, each taking third place in their respective weight classes. Landon Tucker (215) took fourth place. Jack Gramly (121) had a fifth-place finish, and Landon Moser (189) took the sixth-place spot.

Congratulations to each one of you, and we look forward to cheering you on at Regionals! Go Wildcats!

Mifflinburg Swimmers Soar at Districts

Congratulations to two of our Wildcat swimmers! Malachi Moyer is the District Champion in the 100-Butterfly and the 100-Freestyle events! Elliott Deluca took second place in the 100-Backstroke and third place in the 100-Butterfly event.



Photo captions - Fifth Grade Students enjoyed learning a little about each program and the career opportunities available in each one.

SUN Tech Highlights Program and Career Opportunities to Fifth Graders

By: Philip Heggenstaller, Intermediate School Principal

On January 23rd, the Intermediate School's LGI was buzzing with excitement. Students from Sun Tech, representing eight different programs, were set up at tables showcasing their programs and discussing career opportunities connected to the programs. This was part of the second annual SUN Tech Career Day for fifth grade students at the Intermediate School.

Fifth grade students rotated to each of the eight tables, spending 12 minutes at each table learning about the different programs and careers linked to them. Students were given a "hands on" experience at each table. They were able to explore skills and trades linked to each of the programs offered at SUN Tech. This provided the students with a short introduction to the trades and opportunities that could await them when they are older.

The eight programs represented were carpentry, cosmetology, dental health, electrical systems, health professionals,

mechatronics, precision metal working, and wood design & technology. Jovie B. shared, "I liked the cosmetology station. I like to do hair, and I learned how to do a fishtail braid at the station." Liam T. commented, "I liked the wood design station because I got to hammer nails into wood and work with other tools." When asked what she liked about the event, Avery J. said, "I liked every station." Cory H. commented, "I liked the wood design station because my sister is in that program, and I hope to be in the same program when I am a senior." Bently W. shared, "I liked how we could do stuff at each table. The construction table was my favorite because you got to work with tools." As you can tell by the comments, the experience had a lasting impression on the fifth grade students.

Thank you, Mrs. Purdy, SUN Tech staff, and SUN Tech students for making our second annual career day a huge success. This event has become a highlight of the fifth-grade year. We look forward to many more career days in future years.

Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading

By: Duane Snayberger, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

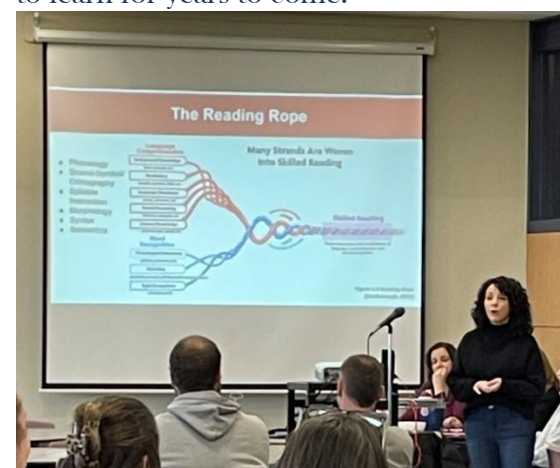
On Friday, February 14, 2025, teachers from all levels participated in a district-wide training on Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading. While this training is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to be a part of each district's professional development plan, the Mifflinburg Area School District did not use outside sources to conduct the training. Instead, we used our own in-house experts to plan, organize, and conduct the training.

With more than 120 combined teaching years in traditional classrooms and as intervention teachers, Lindsay Beck, Rachel Dagle, Susan Enders, and Mary Young have developed an arsenal of tools and techniques that they use every day. During this training they not only shared their experiences, but they also shared decades of research about how the brain works when reading and documented best practices for teaching reading.



Additionally, this training served as a reminder that no matter the grade or subject, literacy matters and the better we understand the complexities of learning to read, the better we can support those that may struggle to read. An emphasis on bridging silos between buildings was established and to help build those bridges, teachers from the high school and middle school also shared how they help support students. Sixth-grade ELA teacher, Colleen Isbitski shared how students new to the middle school, that have traditionally struggled in reading, are supported as they make the transition. Ninth-grade ELA, Laura Zimmerman, and Learning Support Teacher, Kara Tucker, shared techniques they are using for students transitioning into the high school and how they are adjusting texts to help students learn concepts that must be taught at the high school level but doing it with text that is more accessible for struggling readers.

Future trainings on Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading will be built into professional development plans for upcoming years. But more importantly, what will be built into professional development plans will be more sharing of information across grade levels. When we understand better what is happening in all the buildings in our district, we can better understand the why behind what is happening in our buildings and our classrooms. Knowing what students have learned, how they learned it, and the challenges of teaching young learners, will better help teachers in higher grades apply that knowledge to more complex topics. Conversely, the teachers in lower grades will have a better understanding of what will be expected by the teachers at the higher levels and assist them in preparing students to learn for years to come.



What Structured Literacy IS:

- the application of knowledge from the Science of Reading (research)
- an instructional approach that focuses on the 6 foundational components of literacy:
 - Phonology
 - Sound-symbol Association
 - Syllables
 - Morphology
 - Syntax
 - Semantics
- Explicit
- Systematic and cumulative
- Diagnostic

GRAB & GO Breakfast FREE!

Must take 3 items, but you may take up to 4.

| MUST TAKE 1, SELECT UP TO 2 | SELECT UP TO 2 | SELECT 1 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FRUITS AND VEGETABLES | GRAINS AND PROTEIN | MILK |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APPLE BANANA MANDARIN ORANGE GRAISINS CARROTS AND CELERY STICKS 100% FRUIT JUICE (ONLY 1 JUICE PER PERSON) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUFFIN CEREAL BAR CHEESE STICK 4OZ YOGURT BAGEL PEANUT BUTTER SUNFLOWER SEEDS GRANOLA HARD-BOILED EGG PLUS ASSORTED CEREAL AND SNACKS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAT FREE MILK 1% MILK 1% CHOCOLATE MILK |

Select 3-4 items, choosing at least one fruit or vegetable, to make a complete breakfast to start your day!

AVAILABLE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL LOBBY AREA BEGINNING MARCH 3RD!

Grab and Go Breakfast – Coming Soon to the High School!

By: Kristi Long, Food Service Director

National School Breakfast week is March 3rd-March 7th. At Mifflinburg High School, we will be kicking off the week by rolling out our new Grab and Go breakfast program!

Starting on Monday, March 3rd, our High School Wildcats will be fueling up faster than ever at our new Grab and Go Breakfast cart, located in the high school lobby area. The breakfast cart will be stocked with all of your favorite menu items to get your day started right so you

can toss them in a bag and head to class—even if you hit the snooze button one too many times!

As always, a hot breakfast will be available in the Wildcat Cafe from 7:15-7:45 every morning for those of you with a little more time on your hands!

Breakfast, whether in the cafe or at the breakfast cart, is FREE for ALL students!!! Don't pass up the chance to fuel up for FREE!

We look forward to seeing you at the breakfast cart!!

Student opportunities

The Mifflinburg High School's Travel Club is setting up a meeting about a possible future trip to Spain and Portugal in summer 2027! This trip promises unforgettable experiences and cultural immersion.

- Trip Details**
Learn about the itinerary, activities, and destinations we will experience during our Spanish and Portuguese adventure. This trip is for any student that would be 16 by the summer of 2027
- Travel Benefits**
Discover how this trip can benefit your student academically, personally, and culturally.
- Trip Costs**
Get informed about the cost of the trip, including payment options, scholarship opportunities, and potential financial aid.
- Safety & Security**
Understand the safety measures and protocols in place to ensure your student's well-being during the trip.
- Enrollment Info**
Learn about the enrollment process, deadlines, and risk-free enrollment period for this exciting opportunity.

Spain & Portugal Trip

This info session will provide details about a possible Spain & Portugal trip for Mifflinburg High School students, including the itinerary, benefits, costs, safety, and enrollment process. Sign up for the meeting by going to this website: <https://bit.ly/3CZK8v> or contact Mrs. Creasy at vcreasy@mifflinburg.org

Early College: An Interview with Two Mifflinburg High School Seniors



Recently, I interviewed two current seniors to find out what their experience has been like this year. I hope you enjoy hearing from Evan Stimmel and Kyra Zechman. They each have the same in-person courses which allow them to carpool to Bloomsburg University.

What is the best part of going to Bloomsburg for senior year:

Kyra stated, it is good to get an idea of what college is like and still get help from teachers at Mifflinburg. Evan said he likes freedom and class times start later and get out earlier. He also likes being able to still access the high school for a class such as chorus.

What do you plan on majoring in as an undergraduate student and will the Early College Courses transfer?

Kyra will attend Elizabethtown and major in Occupational Therapy. The advisor at Bloomsburg was able to get her general education courses that will all be

transferable towards her major. Evan will attend Penn State and major in Acting. He stated that he has taken courses at Bloomsburg that will all transfer to Penn State.

What is challenging academically?

Evan said the midterms and finals are challenging. You have study guides, but you must spend a lot of time studying. Kyra admitted that she has gotten better at taking notes. She summarizes the PowerPoints so they make sense to her.

Why should a junior choose Early College?

Kyra stated that if you are going to college you should participate in Early College. It gives you a kickstart and 75% off tuition. While Evan stated that students should go even if they are on the fence about college. Go to see if you like the college experience.

By: Chris Long, Non-Traditional Education Principal

Early College, formerly known as the ACE Program, is an opportunity for high school seniors to get a head-start on their college career. Students may take up to 12 credits per semester and they may take up to 6 credits for the summer and winter sessions. Commonwealth University offers courses on campus or online as dual enrollment courses. These credits then transfer to most post-secondary institutions saving the Early College students time and money as undergraduate students.

Elementary School Hosts WOW Awards



By: Brett Hoffmaster, Elementary School Principal

On January 24, 2025, we had another celebration which is a structured way to recognize outstanding student behavior through our Wildcat WOW Awards. Each marking period, we shine a light on one specific pillar of our ROAR expectations, and for this marking period, the focus was on the letter "O" for organization. Our staff actively looked for students who displayed exceptional organizational skills or made significant progress in this area.

Leading up to the Wildcat WOW Awards, teachers took the time to nominate students based on their observations throughout the marking period. This collaborative effort ensured that deserving students were recognized for their achievements. Additionally, we encouraged family members of the award recipients to join us for the assembly, allowing them to share in the pride and joy of their child's accomplishments.

We hosted the Wildcat WOW Awards for each grade level. We kicked off the assembly by revisiting our ROAR expectations and highlighting the specific focus of the marking period. Each nominated student was celebrated for their unique contributions and achievements, with award winners receiving certificates to proudly display at home. The assembly concluded with a special moment for families to commemorate their child's success, reinforcing the strong partnership between school and home.

Events like our Wildcat WOW Awards continue to remind us of the power of positive reinforcement. It truly brings us joy to recognize our students' efforts throughout the school year. We always strive to create an environment where they feel valued and motivated to continue their pursuit of excellence, and it is a wonderful reminder that when students are supported and celebrated, they thrive both academically and socially.



Photo captions - Our students and staff enjoying the presentations from our various Career Day guest speakers!

Middle School Host Its Inaugural Career Day!

By: Jena Bogovich, School Counselor

On Friday, February 21st, Mifflinburg Middle School held their first ever Career Day, an event that sparked excitement, engagement, and interactive learning amongst students. The event, designed to expose students to a variety of career pathways and support PA Career Readiness standards, was a major success and left students feeling inspired and intrigued to explore future possibilities!

Students started their day learning about career theory and completing a career inventory assessment to identify their Holland Code, which relates students' interests to potential careers. Students then spent the day rotating through a series of ten stations where volunteers from our community shared their experiences and personal career journeys, provided demonstrations, and answered students' career questions.

The Career Day featured a diverse group of professionals from the following organizations: Our Best Friend's Bakery, Mifflinburg Hose Company, McNeal Excavation and Concrete, Union County Sheriff's Office, West Pharmaceutical Services, Union County Public Defender's Office, WellSpan Health and Evangelical Hospital, Northumberland County Probation and Parole, Mapes Farm Fresh, Kades-Margolis Corporation, Keuka College, Kirsten Leigh Hair Studio, Mifflinburg Bank and Trust, Dragonfly Health, Berger Trucking and Allstate Insurance. Careers represented included: Baker, Firefighter, Excavator, Deputy Sheriff and K9 Handler, Senior Grant Administrator and HR Business Partner, Lawyer, Registered Nurse, Physical Therapist, DUI Coordinator, Dairy Farmer, Financial Advisor, AVP for Campus Compliance and Conduct/Dean of

Students/Title IX Coordinator, Cosmetologist, Banker, Pharmacist, and Insurance Agent. Several of our volunteers also discussed the realities of entrepreneurship, highlighting the rewards and challenges of business ownership.

Sixth grade ELA teacher, Colleen Isbitski, shared "I had high expectations for the event, and it exceeded them." Volunteers, including those from Mifflinburg Hose Company, were already talking about attending the event again next year, even planning to bring additional gear and discussing how to further engage students. The event's success was also reflected in feedback from students, with one sharing, "Thank you for all you did, today was the best day of school, it was cool." I think it's safe to say, a great day was had by all!

The event was organized by a dedicated committee which included Jena Bogovich (School Counselor), Jennifer Buraczski (Secondary Librarian), Gretchen Powell (7th Grade Learning Support Teacher), and Maggie Creveling (8th Grade Learning Support Teacher). The committee extends a heartfelt thank you to all its Wildcat colleagues for their tremendous support in ensuring the day ran smoothly, as well as to the community volunteers who graciously shared their time and knowledge with our students. The committee would also like to extend its deepest gratitude's to Mr. Rennie Rodarmel, Jr., our volunteer from All State Insurance & Berger Trucking, who graciously sponsored lunch for the event.

With all the positive feedback, the committee looks forward to growing and making this an annual event!