

**CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2025 – Cecil Intermediate School**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented for approval.

3. Principal and School Updates

A. Mac Pack Program

Presenter: Mrs. Courtney Laskowski (*Handout Provided*)

- The district transitioned from Blessing Backpacks to the Mac Pack Program.
- Mac Packs consist of bags of food sent home with students who may need additional weekend support.
- Each bag typically contains approximately 15 food items.

Program Growth & Need

- The program is currently distributing approximately 150 bags per week.
- A significant increase in participation occurred following recent changes to SNAP benefits.

Funding & Partnerships

- The program is funded through donations.
- Range Resources contributed \$5,000, packed bags, and provided supplies.
- The Canonsburg Food Pantry expressed interest in partnering with the program.
- Elementary School PTAs continue to provide support.

Care Closets

- Care Closets were introduced district-wide during the previous school year.
- Located in each nurse's office across the district.
- Provide clothing and hygiene items for students in need.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Families and community members may volunteer to support Mac Pack efforts.
- Volunteer activities may take place after school hours.

4. Guest Speaker & District Updates

A. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Initiatives

Presenters: Dr. Abbondanza & Dr. Crowley

AI Task Force

- The district established an **AI Task Force** to guide responsible and safe AI usage.
- Teachers received training on effective and appropriate AI integration.

Instructional Philosophy

- AI instruction is primarily focused **on Grades 5–12.**
- **The district emphasized preserving foundational critical thinking skills for younger students.**
- AI is framed as a tool to assist learning rather than replace core skill development.

Elementary & Intermediate Programs

- AI concepts are introduced through hands-on STEM instruction.
- Instruction emphasizes understanding AI fundamentals rather than passive use.
- The initiative led to the implementation of UBTECH Robotics.

UBTECH Robotics Program

- Students use kits to build and code various **robots.**
- **Each kit includes components for approximately 13–16 robot builds.**
- **Activities are aligned with science standards and curriculum objectives.**
- **Kits have a projected 10-year life expectancy and include warranties.**

Schedule Adjustments

To enhance STEM programming effectiveness:

- Previous Model: Art (2 days/week), STEM (2 days/week)
- Revised Model: Art (4 days/week), STEM (4 days/week)

B. Middle School AI Integration

- Professional development sessions were conducted for teachers.
- Training focused on AI classroom integration, prompt engineering, and AI detection strategies.
- The student handbook was updated with AI-related academic integrity guidelines.

New Middle School Course

- A **6-week AI Design rotation course** was introduced.
- All students participate.
- Focuses on AI literacy and creative application.
- Emphasizes students as producers rather than consumers.

Technology Platform

- Instruction delivered through code.org.
- Utilizes a closed GPT system to protect student data and privacy.

C. High School AI Programs

- AI Foundations 1 scheduled for launch in January.
- AI Foundations 2 currently in development.

Academic Pathways Under Development

- AI Pathway
- Coding Pathway
- Standalone Computer Science Electives

D. Future AI Guidance

- Development of a comprehensive AI handbook is underway.
- A “red light / green light” framework is being created to clarify acceptable AI use cases.

District Updates – Dr. Scott Chambers

Impact Report

- The Canon-McMillan Impact Report was released on November 21, 2025.
- The report highlights district achievements in academics, athletics, and extracurricular programs.
- Includes updates on capital improvements and financial information.
- Distributed to families, policymakers, colleges, and business partners.
- A digital link was shared with families via email.

5. Old Business

No old business.

6. New Business

No new business.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.