

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



SKILLS USA

Skills USA is a trade competition. It allows students to showcase all of their finest skills from the VoTech programs including Graphic Design, Cosmetology, Construction, Welding, Mechanics, etc. Students are judged off of a specific aspect of their field, specializing in an area where they can really demonstrate their abilities. This competition goes from regionals to states to nationals. Students who place first in their areas at regionals go on to states. States will be held in Hershey, PA on April 3-5. Our VoTech students represented Conemaugh Township successfully with many awards received.

- Lydia Boring- Building Construction- 1st Place (Will move on to states)
- Nathan Dail- Baking and Pastry- 3rd Place
- Haylee Thomas- Cosmetology- 6th Place
- Cassidy Johns- Cosmetology (Under 500 Hours)- 5th Place
- Nicholas Yoder- Culinary Arts- 7th Place
- Abigail Kinsey- Esthetics High School- 5th Place
- Brooke Szala- First Aid/CPR- 5th Place
- (Team Event) Kyara Gillan and Amy Shaffer- Health Knowledge Bowl- 2nd Place
- Gabriel Christian- Precision Machining- 2nd Place
- (Team Event) Charlie Maciorowski and Jaden Miller- Teamworks (Construction)- 2nd Place



DISSECTING SCIENCE



Zoe Leasock, the high school biology teacher, has been hard at work with giving her students kinesthetic learning opportunities through dissection. Her Biology II class started with dissecting crayfish, grasshoppers, and earthworms. They then moved onto more complex specimens which were clams, frogs, and fetal pigs. With dissection, students are able to have hands-on experiences in labs. Mrs. Leasock explains that online diagrams are often color coded, and don't show the natural anatomy of organisms. In-person dissections allow students to challenge themselves by identifying specific organs and body parts. This also gives students the opportunity to take control of their own learning, which can be helpful and, most importantly, fun! Mr. Adams also performed dissection on sheep eyeballs with his Anatomy class. Senior Alison Matera says, "It was a cool experience. It taught us the different layers of the eye."

CT Contenders in the Arts

TANNER HUNSBERGER

Tanner Hunsberger was selected through lengthy video auditions to be a part of the PMEA All-State Vocal Acapella Choir! There were six video submissions that she had to record with the help of Ms. Lingenfelter, and she was selected as one of the top six Altos in the state of Pennsylvania! She will go to the All-State Festival April 17-20 in Erie. When talking with Tanner Hunsberger, she said she is so excited to participate specifically because she just found out that the director they will be working with is an arranger for Pentatonix, Demi Lovato, Sara Bareilles, and Incubus. She also can't wait to work with other singers from across the state to create something amazing. Congratulations on such a huge achievement, Tanner!



PMEA DISTRICT VI CHORUS

We had a fantastic PMEA District 6 Chorus Festival weekend! Our 11 students represented CT so well and the host director was CT's David Saylor, and the guest director was CT's Dr. Corey Everly. At the concert Corey even stated that he had the best music education from Conemaugh Township! Regional Chorus will be the first week in March at Somerset.

From the auditions at that festival, we have four students advancing to Regional Chorus:

- Alto 2 – Tanner Hunsberger and Alexa Gardenhour
- Tenor 1 – Jonathan Fochtman
- Tenor 2 – Hayden Lingenfelter

*Tanner and Hayden both placed 2nd in their sections!
 *Julia Thomas and Chris Yoder got 1st alternates in their sections, so they may possibly go if a student in their sections cancels for any reason.

STAR SPEAKERS

Mrs. Leasock and Mrs. O'Brien have taken it upon themselves to coach Conemaugh Township's Speech team. In the Speech Team, students travel to meets to deliver speeches from different categories. These categories include poetic, dramatic, humorous, persuasive, and many more. They are then judged on different aspects such as eye contact and overall deliverance of their speech. So far, they have traveled to one speech meet where CT senior Mercedes Mull placed in second. Mrs. Leasock says, "Students should join because public speaking is a very important skill to have. It gives you an opportunity to find your voice."

Outside the Tribe

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

While the legend of a swimming pool on CT's roof has long since been proven to be an urban legend, the success of our CT swimmers is proving to be far from that. Three of our CT students, Colton Lehman, Katelyn Turley, and Aidan Burnworth have all successfully qualified to compete at districts on February 23 and 24. This event will take place at Penn State University's pool, the McCoy Natatorium and White Building. Colton will be swimming in the 200 freestyle, Katelyn will be swimming the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle, and Aidan will be competing in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Our swimmers currently compete through Richland's swim team, though our swimmers still represent Conemaugh Township while competing. In discussing this exciting experience, Colton Lehman stated that he is most excited to compete at districts because this year he has a spot in the fastest heat in the 200 freestyle. Good luck to our competitors!



CT BULL RIDER

Devin Dietz, a 7th grader at Conemaugh Township, participates in the sport of Bull Riding. Devin has been riding for a year now, following in his dad's, a former bull rider's, footsteps. Devin found his love for bull riding while watching others partake in this challenging sport. So far, he has traveled to Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, North and South Carolina, New York, and Tennessee where he competes against other young riders. At each competition, riders are scored on how long they can stay on the bull. After 8 seconds, they are given a certain amount of points. Depending on the final score, competitors are able to win a bronze, silver, or gold belt buckle. Devin, so far in his career, has won three first places, two second places, and one third place buckles. Each competition, Devin says he is usually nervous, but it always ends with excitement. He plans on becoming a professional bull rider, and says, "Always ride to your wonders."

LET'S TALK ABOUT TOWNSHIP

ACADEMIC ACE

Kendall Kramer, an 11th grade student, recently achieved the Dean's List academic honor as a student in the Associates Degree Program. She was eligible for Dean's List upon completion of a 12-credit milestone and a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or better. The program allows students to graduate with their Associates Degree to get a headstart in their college careers while still being high school students. She decided to go this route because she believed that it would be cheaper and it would jumpstart her college experience. They let her know ahead of time what most of her courses have to be, though she has a little freedom where she can select a few of her own courses based on her personal interests. Kendall began this experience in 9th grade, and she has progressed in the program throughout her high school career. Some courses are available solely online while others can be taken here, in-person, at CT. Most assignments have extended due dates, which gives the students a little more freedom for assignment completion, though it also requires that the students have a strong time management approach to their work. They must self-pace and make sure that they are responsible enough to get work done in a timely manner, much like the expectations set in a standard college program. Kendall most likely plans to eventually continue her education at IUP in Forensic Science. She recommends this program to other students who are self-driven and who are looking to save money in the long-term.



NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ETHAN PHILLIPPI

My name is Ethan Phillippi. I am 18 years old and currently a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. I recently graduated from Conemaugh Township this past school year. I was still a senior in high school when I decided to run for the school board. From my knowledge, I am now also the youngest elected official in Pennsylvania. One of the main reasons I decided to run was that I thought I could see myself having a future in running for public office. I viewed the opportunity to run for the School Board as a way to test the waters and determine if this is what I wanted to pursue in the future. I hope to bring something new to the Conemaugh Township School Board. We have a board filled with amazing, talented, and caring Directors, so I aspire to learn as much as possible from them. My first priority is always to ensure students have a safe and engaging learning experience. I will consistently strive to prioritize the needs of the students and staff. Conemaugh Township owes its success to its incredible students, staff, teachers, and community members. Over the next four years on the Board, I aim to provide a voice and a vote for the younger members of the community, working towards making the board's perspective as well-rounded as possible.

NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JEREMY SOTOSKY

I'm a Davidsville native and a graduate of the class of 2013 at Conemaugh Township. I have been a practicing Physician Assistant in the Johnstown area since 2018. I continue to reside in Davidsville and am extremely grateful to have been elected to the school board at Conemaugh Township, giving me an opportunity to serve the community I grew up in. My primary goal for my new role on the board is to maintain the established standard of excellence that is present, which dates back to when I attended and even further. Fortunately, we have consistently had a great and effective board for as long as I can remember, including currently, making this goal quite attainable. I am looking forward to learning from the current veteran members of the board and offering my own opinions and perspective to make an impact when warranted. I look forward to working with staff as well in order to maintain the educational climate that provided me with so much.

Outstanding Indians

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



"Kyla is ALWAYS helping other students and teachers."

"Cora is always helpful, friendly, and polite."



"Lyla is kind, polite, and a hard worker."

SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



"Anna has an outstanding work ethic and is a sweet student."

"Gracie demonstrates kindness well beyond her years."



"Kendall is a courteous student with an impressive work ethic."



"Jenna always has a smile on her face and is kind to both students and teachers."



Teacher Spotlight: Samuel Zambanini



MR. SAMUEL ZAMBANINI IS A LOCAL LEGEND IN THE CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY. HE GREW UP IN JEROME, PA, ATTENDING CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT. AFTER GRADUATION, HE WENT ON TO PLAY COLLEGE BASEBALL AT ALLEGHENY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (NOW ALLEGHENY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND) BEFORE MOVING ON TO INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. HE HOLDS DEGREES IN RECREATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION. MR. Z STARTED WORKING AT CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP FULL-TIME IN 1997. IN ALL OF HIS YEARS AT CT, MR. ZAMBANINI HAS SERVED AS A HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, WEIGHT-LIFTING EDUCATOR, A COACH, AND THE UNOFFICIAL SECOND MASCOT FOR OUR DISTRICT!

ANYONE WHO KNOWS SAM ZAMBANINI KNOWS WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT HIS FAMILY IS HIS BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT AND WHAT REALLY MAKES HIM A WINNER. WHILE HIS WIFE VALERIE MAY HAVE BEEN HIS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART, SHE HAS BECOME OUR COMMUNITY'S SWEETHEART THROUGH HER GENEROUS AND PERSISTENT INVOLVEMENT IN ST. FRANCIS CARING AND SHARING AND, MOST RECENTLY, THROUGH HER CREATION OF THE CT BOUTIQUE. TOGETHER THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN: AREK, A 2003 CT GRADUATE, AND KAYLA, A 2005 CT GRADUATE. HE ALSO HAS TWO GRANDCHILDREN.

COACHING HAS BEEN A KEY FACTOR IN MR. ZAMBANINI'S VAST IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY. HE WAS A FOOTBALL COACH FOR 38 YEARS, HAS COACHED BASEBALL SINCE 1992, AND HAS SECURED HIS PLACE IN LOCAL HISTORY AS THE MOST WINNING BASEBALL COACH IN SOMERSET COUNTY. AS A PART OF HIS COACHING REPERTOIRE, HE CAN BOAST THAT HE HAS COACHED MANY PLAYERS WHO WENT ON TO PLAY COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL OR BASEBALL, AND HE HAS EVEN HAD THREE BASEBALL PLAYERS WHO WENT ON TO PLAY IN THE MLB.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS FAVORITE PART OF TEACHING AT CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP FOR ALL OF THESE YEARS, MR. Z RECOUNTS, "I LOVE OUR STUDENTS AND INTERACTING WITH THEM. HOPEFULLY I HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE STUDENTS. I SAY THIS A LOT, BUT WE HAVE THE BEST STUDENTS IN THE AREA. THAT IS WHAT MAKES IT FUN TO COME HERE." OUR GYM CLASS HERO, THE REAL MR. CT HIMSELF, MR. ZAMBANINI, HAS CLEARLY MADE A REAL IMPACT ON THIS COMMUNITY ON THE FIELD, IN THE CLASSROOM, AND IN THE GYMNASIUM.

"Sam is one of the most loyal, caring, and genuine people I know. He cares for our students immensely and supports them in and outside of the gym. If you know Sam, you know he will put 100% into whatever it is he is doing - whether that is teaching, coaching, officiating, or spending time with family and friends, he is fully emerged in that moment. His love and dedication for Conemaugh Township is simply unmatched."

-Mrs. Gena Buckham



"Coach Z has been the best coach, teacher, and person that a student athlete could ask for. His countless teachings through FCA and baseball have turned me into a better man, and I can't thank him enough for that."

-Larry Weaver

"I enjoy that Mr. Z creates an even playing field for everyone- he treats everyone with respect regardless of your background and prior experiences with him."

-Noah Getson



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2 | Act 80 Early Dismissal for Students
12:00 Middle/High School
12:45 Elementary

February 7 | Public Open House
@ GJCTC

February 14 | Valentine's Day

February 19 | Act 80 - No School for Students

February 22 | PMEA Region III Band
@ Bald Eagle

February 22-24 | FASFA Completion Night
@ 6 pm

