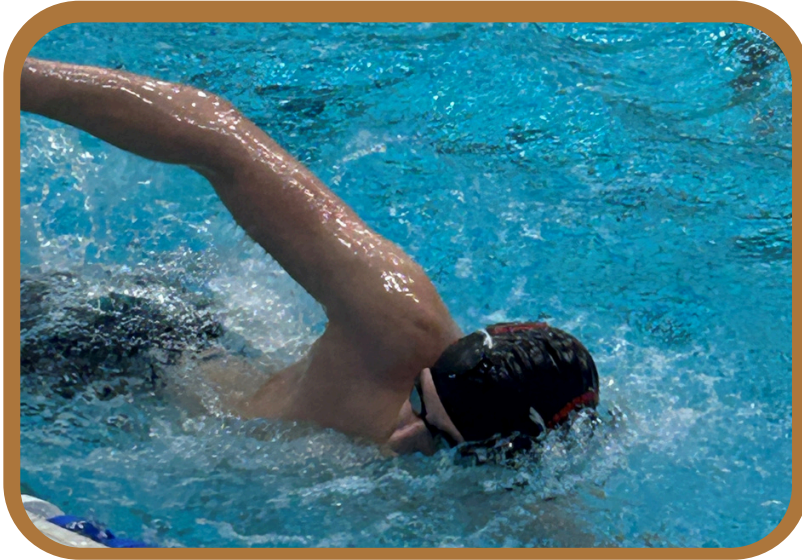


# January NEWSLETTER



## Swimming into the New Year



Conemaugh Township junior Aidan Burnworth is an independent swimmer who competes against other local swimming teams. He has been practicing with the team since November but is constantly practicing throughout the rest of the year as well. The first swim meet of the season was held on December 9th at UPJ. During this match, Aidan set two district qualifying times, which means he will be attending districts. Coming into the new year, Aidan will have two more matches left. Aidan stated, “Last year I was sick for most of the year so this year I have to focus on keeping healthy. Along with keeping healthy, I just need to stick to my training and hopefully, my times will drop as the year progresses.”

## Speech Team

The first speech meeting for our Conemaugh Township team will be on January 7th at Somerset High School. The team consists of Karly Brenchak, Ella Mankamyer, Isaac Marsh, Gracy Bittner, and Ali Waterhouse. Ali's topic is “Resolved: The United States Ought to Become a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and/or the Roman Statute of the International Criminal Court.” Karly and Ella's topic is “Resolved: The African Union Should Grant Diplomatic Recognition to the Republic of Somaliland as an Independent State.” Gracy and Isaac won't know their topic until they get there. Mrs. Leasock said, “We have a talented group of students who are passionate about speech, so I have no doubt they will succeed at our upcoming meet.”



# What's Happening in the Tribe?

## Rotary



## NHS

The National Honor Society is an esteemed organization that recognizes students for their commitment to scholarship, leadership, service, and character. President Ava Byer, alongside Vice President Ashlyn Fetterman, Secretary Briar Berkey, and Treasurer Carson Harbart, lead the group of seniors this year. Ava shared, "It's a great honor. It feels very fulfilling to be a part of this society." NHS members work on two group service projects together each year, as well as complete individual service hours. The specific projects are decided by vote within the group. Other NHS seniors include Jordyn Snyder, Julia Thomas, Ellie Hunsberger, Grant Dombrosky, Johnny Bihun, Kendall Kramer, Heath Moser, Kieran Kane, Jaylynn Moyer, Hayden Henry, and Hannah Gregorich, all of whom contribute to the organization's mission of giving back to the community.



## High School Musical



This year's musical cast was posted on November 27th. Our main leads, Troy Bolten and Gabriella Montez, are portrayed by seniors Heath Moser and Jaylynn Moyer. Sharpay and Ryan Evans are played by sophomore Charlotte Worst and junior Daniel Turley. Caven Miller and Julia Thomas will play Chad Danforth and Taylor Mckessie. . The musical department will also feature Chrissy Troxell as Ms. Darbus and Tony Malvoisin as Coach Bolten. The drama department has been hard at work preparing for what will surely be a fantastic show!

# FALL VARSITY SPORTS ACCOLADES

## VOLLEYBALL

Daily American Finest 14 - **Ava Byer and Sarah Swank**  
Indiana County All-Star Match Competitors - **Ava Byer and Brianna Shetler**  
Somerset County 1st team - **Ava Byer and Sarah Swank**  
Somerset County Honorable Mention - **Laikyn Reynolds, Brianna Shetler, and Madee Roman**  
All District 1st Team - **Ava Byer**  
Heritage Conference All-Star - **Sarah Swank**  
District 5A Runner-Up

## BOYS SOCCER

Daily American Fantastic Fifteen - **Dillon Defibaugh, Rocco Hagan, Caven Miller, and Jackson Sotosky**  
Heritage Conference All-Stars - **Johnny Bihun and Jackson Sotosky**  
Santa Fund - **Johnny Bihun and Jackson Sotosky**  
Santa Fund MVP - **Jackson Sotosky**  
Daily American Player of the Year - **Jackson Sotosky**  
Heritage Conference Champions  
District 5A Runner-Up  
**\*Somerset County Male MVPs and All-Stars were not released yet as of January 6. This information will be included in the February newsletter.**

## FOOTBALL

2024 All-Conference Offensive Team - **Brennan Lohr**  
2024 All-Conference Defensive Team - **Sam Shaffer**  
2024 All-County - **Sam Shaffer**  
2024 Southern Allegheny Football Coaches Association - **Josh Baker (Offense) and Dawson Statler (Defense)**

## GOLF

District V Individual Women's Champion - Four Time Champion - **Alex Boring**  
District V Individual Men's Champion - **Ben Steinbeck**  
All Heritage Conference Golf Team - **Hayden Miller and Ben Steinbeck**  
Heritage Conference Champion - **Alex Boring**  
Both **Ben Steinbeck and Alex Boring** Placed at States in Top 30  
Heritage Conference Team Runner-up by 3 Strokes: 215 - 218  
District V Team Runner-Up

## GIRLS SOCCER

Daily American Super 16 All-Stars - **Briar Berkey, Ashlyn Fetterman, Jordyn Snyder, Izzy Slezak, and Kaitlyn Wiley**  
Heritage Conference All-Stars - **Ashlyn Fetterman and Izzy Slezak**  
Santa Fund - **Ashlyn Fetterman, Izzy Slezak, and Jordyn Snyder**  
Daily American Player of the Year - **Izzy Slezak**  
Somerset County MVP - **Ashlyn Fetterman (Senior MVP), Izzy Slezak (Forward MVP), and Katie Wiley (Defensive MVP)**  
Somerset County 1st Team - **Briar Berkey (Midfielder)**  
Somerset County 2nd Team - **Ellie Hunsberger (Midfielder), Taylor Jarvis (Defender), Jordyn Snyder (Goalie)**  
Somerset County Honorable Mention - **Andie Hunsberger and Olivia Mauzy**  
New School Record 89 Assists - **Ashlyn Fetterman**  
100 Career Goals Accomplishment - **Ashlyn Fetterman**  
New School Record 135 Goals - **Izzy Slezak**  
Heritage Conference Champions  
District 5A Runner-Up

## CROSS COUNTRY

District 5A Champion - **Hudson Lease**

# CT SPORTS



## Rifle

In December, the Conemaugh Township rifle team had five matches. They fell short a few points in their first match. The team put in some more work at practice and started to see growth and progress. They are heading into the New Year with a record of 1-5. During these matches, and practices the team has been able to improve more on their skills and continue to challenge themselves with teammates and opposing teams. The team has been holding qualifying practices once every other week to determine the top 10 varsity shooters who will be venturing to the next matches. Going into January these shooters will be Micah Lehman, Brooke Szala, Maya Denault, Roy Oswalt, and Maddie Costigan. The rifle team's first match of 2025 will be on January 2nd, held at Forest Hills range.

## Wrestling

The wrestling team started their season off in late November heading into December. The team had their first meet in December and came out with a win of 37-27. The team will have nine meets in January. The first meet will be on January 7th at Cambria Heights. Senior Dylan Hovanec said, "We are a young team, so it is going to be interesting to see how the next couple of years go for the Conemaugh Township wrestling team. Now we just have to wait and see what happens."

## Basketball

The varsity boys basketball team has an overall record of 7-2. In December they attended the Mountaincat tournament at UPJ and the Ron Davidson Roundball Classic tournament at Central Cambria. As of the end of December, Ethan Matera was averaging 17 points a game, Eric McClemens is averaging 10 rebounds a game, and Stephan Stango is averaging three steals a game. Junior Jacob Bartis stated, "The team is playing great together and they complement each other very well. It feels like a brotherhood."



The varsity girls team has a current record of 6-4. At the end of December Ava Byer was averaging 10 points a game, Danika Black was averaging 7 rebounds a game, and Mayce Kordell was averaging three steals a game. Senior Ashlyn Fetterman stated, "So far our team is looking good. I'm so proud of how hard we have been working hard every practice. I'm very excited to see where this team goes this year!"

# CLUBS

## ART

Conemaugh Township's very own art club has been hard at work in the month of December. Mrs. Spengler and her students have been responsible for window paintings throughout the community. So far they have painted the Morning Grind and the Johnstown Galleria. Along with their paintings, the Art Club also had the opportunity to teach an art lesson at St. Davids. Every Wednesday this group meets to take part in extracurricular activities that are not always available during class. It gives students a chance to freely express themselves through art and also teaches them important skills such as community service. Aside from this, the art club also offers students multiple field trips. This year they will be traveling to the Carnegie Art Museum. Senior Art Club member Katie Wiley says, "I really enjoy doing projects in our community that might brighten up other peoples' days when seeing them."



## SADD

On December 4, 2024 a group of SADD members traveled to Conemaugh Township Elementary School to help with the annual Santa Shop. Each year, the elementary students are given the opportunity to buy their family members Christmas gifts. This helps them with their independence and money skills. The highschool students attended the elementary school from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. While they were there, the group of students aided younger students in shopping for their family members and wrapping gifts. Later in the day, they were able to join the students in various activities such as lunch and gym class. Senior SADD member Dillon Defibaugh says, "We got to mentor the kids and help them out with a lot of things."



## Math Counts

MathCounts is a club here at Conemaugh Township designed for middle school students in grades 6-8. This competition helps students use their problem-solving skills while working on their teamwork and individual achievement. Led and taught by Mr. Rising, students such as Landon Oaks, Elijah Marsh, Devin Lohr, and Kelson Kramer have been competing for all three years. The competition consists of two rounds. The first round is the "sprint round." In this round, participants face 30 questions in just 40 minutes, without the use of a calculator. The second round is the "target round." In the "target round," students are given eight questions, with a calculator allowed. Each January, schools host their local MathCounts competition, where students compete individually and as part of a team. The winners advance to the Chapter Competition at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Past teams have done exceptionally well, with some students advancing to the state level.

# OUTSTANDING INDIANS

## Middle School Students of the Month

6



**"Lexie Byer is kindhearted and always sweet to her classmates and her teachers. She is always positive and respectful."**

**"Evelyn Mock is a voracious reader and is involved in so much, from soccer to basketball to student council to the gifted program. She's outgoing and kind."**



7

8



**"Peyton Lasure is an intelligent and hard working student. She is a very active member of this school community, and she uses her time to make it a better place."**

## Senior High Students of the Month

**"Hudson Lease is a disciplined and dedicated student and athlete. His hard work and pleasant demeanor make him a likeable and trusted student."**

9



10



**"Danika Black is always positive and looks for the good in any situation. She is respectful and drops everything to help others when needed."**

11



**"Csenge Szabo is a selfless and thoughtful student. She is kind to everyone and is always willing to give her help and support to others."**

12



**"Ellie Hunsberger is a considerate and caring student. She is passionate and reliable, always exceeding expectations set for her and doing so with grace and kindness."**

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MR. WAYNE ADAMS



Mr. Adams is a dedicated educator and coach who has spent nearly three decades helping with the growth and development of students in his community. As a lifelong resident of Conemaugh Township, he has deep roots in the area. Born and raised in Jerome, Mr. Adams attended Conemaugh Township High School, where he developed his interest in science and education. He later pursued higher education at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ), where he earned two degrees: one in Biology with a focus in Pre-Med and another in Secondary Education with a focus in Science. Mr. Adams has been an important member of the educational community for over 26 years, with seven of those years first spent teaching at Claysburg. He has taught a wide range of science subjects, including Biology, Earth and Space Science, Geo Astronomy, Environmental Science, Environmental Ecology, and Anatomy and Physiology. In addition to his work in the classroom, Mr. Adams has been a dedicated coach for over 17 years, primarily in football and baseball. Mr. Adams has a close-knit family, which includes his wife, Barbara, a fellow alumna of Conemaugh Township who was in the same class as him. Together, they have a son, Connor Adams, born in 2002. The family also shares their home with a dog named Bama. Mr. Adams is well-respected by both colleagues and students. One of his closest professional relationships is with Mr. Berzonski, a fellow teacher who returned to Conemaugh Township later in his own career. The two of them bonded over their passion for coaching, which deepened their friendship. For Mr. Adams, the most rewarding part of teaching is witnessing the academic growth of his students. He enjoys seeing them not only succeed in the classroom but also grow into responsible, capable young adults. Mr. Adams stated, "I enjoy moving kids forward in their educational process. I love when they understand how hard work and commitment can pay off."

"What would a good friend and colleague have to say about Wayne Adams? I mean this with all due respect to him and absolutely no disrespect to any other member of our staff... but, inside of a classroom, he's the best that we have. Every day when he steps to the front of his classroom his students know that they are going to get an instructor who is at his best... for THEM, every single day. He's not a person who is going to delve into your personal lives or let you behind the curtain into what makes him tick, but deep down he loves this job and these kids more than he will ever admit. He's as honest a human being that you'll find and he pulls absolutely zero punches... you want the truth?!?! You better be ready for it, because he has no issue with telling anyone how it is or should be. In my mind, he is a fella that epitomizes what a Conemaugh Twp. Indian is: he comes from a humble background on Coal Avenue in Jerome and Earl and Carolyn instilled so many great attributes and among them are hard work and integrity. He challenges kids to become better students and athletes. He has helped so many young adults leave CT and be much more prepared for college and life. Quite frankly, he's done so much for me as a student/colleague/fellow coach and for my two kids. Thanks for what you do Mr. Adams. Grateful for you." -Mr. Berzonski



"Mr. Adams always makes the students around him feel welcomed and comfortable when passing through the halls. He truly makes the most out of everything."  
- Laikyn Reynolds

"Mr. Adams and I have always been close, especially on the football field. He is one of the only coaches that made me look forward to practices. He knows how to lighten someone's mood when they're having a bad day. Mr. Adams has helped me grow up to become a responsible and well-mannered young man."  
- Brennan Lohr



## Upcoming January Events

1st - 6th | Winter Vacation

17th | Act 80 Dismissal

20th | M.L. King Day Vacation

21st | End of Nine Weeks

