



# September NEWSLETTER



## Renovations in Our School

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Over the summer, the Conemaugh Township building has been busy with renovations both inside and outside of the school. These renovations began in the summer of 2024 and have continued into the present. The goal of these updates is to help our facilities meet modern standards and needs, aligning with our academic programs, modern classroom technology, dual enrollment options, special program offerings, and career preparedness at the GJCTC. Mr. James Foster stated, “A number of significant renovations were completed at the school, focusing on functionality, structural integrity, and efficiency upgrades. The recent renovations at the school are essential for ensuring long-term functionality and viability.”

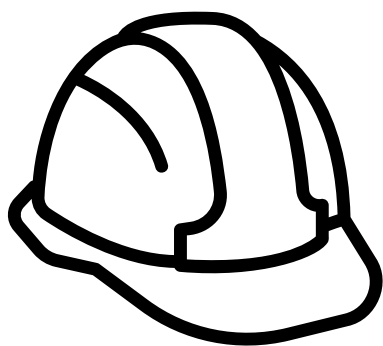
The school now has a new boiler and roof, as the previous ones had reached the end of their lifespans and needed new warranties. These updates are expected to last for the next 20-25 years. They were crucial for maintaining reliable heating and hot water, which are essential for cleaning purposes and to enhance the school's operational capacity. Additionally, due to humidity issues in the weight room/fieldhouse and library, air conditioning units were added, and plans are in place to begin repairs on the auditorium's AC units. These upgrades serve the dual purpose of preserving materials and providing comfort in these facilities. Windows in the breezeway will be replaced to improve their thermal performance. The stadium has a new turf playing surface, with plans to finish the track shortly afterward. The javelin and discus throwing areas have been relocated to the field behind the home bleachers, where the topsoil from the previous field has been laid. The school will also be installing new flagpoles next to the scoreboard. Finally, work has begun on replacing the sewage ejection system.

The new turf playing surface will eliminate previous limitations on usage by teams and the marching band, which were necessary to protect the former natural surface. This upgrade will allow for increased activity with fewer concerns about wear and tear. Additionally, it will result in long-term cost savings related to water usage, maintenance, and painting. The outdated track surface, which was experiencing structural issues, made its replacement a priority. The new artificial surface necessitated relocating the throwing areas to behind the stadium. Meanwhile, replacing the windows in the gymnasium, locker rooms, and breezeway will improve the insulation value for those using these spaces.

Overall, these enhancements are designed to create a more functional and efficient environment for the school community,” stated Mr. James Foster. Although some of the renovations may go unnoticed by students, those that are visible—such as the new turf—are greatly appreciated, and students can’t wait to see the track finished. The community at the first home football game truly showed excitement and boosted school spirit. Mr. Foster emphasized, “The stadium upgrades represent a lasting improvement that everyone can take pride in, creating a stronger sense of community and school spirit. With recent upgrades to our facilities, our Board of Directors has truly focused on providing the students at Conemaugh Township with the very best. Conemaugh Township offers our students top-notch opportunities in academics, the arts, and athletics. It is a very exciting time to be an Indian!”



# Renovation Pictures





# Fall Competitions



## Football

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“The team can’t wait to begin what looks to be a very promising season. We have ten seniors with lots of varsity experience and a great group of younger guys who will be able to fill roles and step in without missing a beat. We’re also very excited to debut the turf field and our new blackout jerseys. We’re combining venerated traditions with fresh new styles, and we believe we’ve found a recipe for success.” - Kaden Valentine

## Marching Band

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“We have a lot of newer and younger faces this year, which makes it so exciting for this marching band season. We have put in a lot of work and time over the summer and after school so far, and it really shows. On September 20<sup>th</sup> at noon we have a home competition of our show *Jazz Speaks*, so come out and support us while listening to amazing tunes!” - Alonna Bracken

## Cheer

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“We have a huge and great group of girls this year, with a lot of younger girls who are showing up and showing out. With the season still being young, I’m so, so proud of everyone and how far we have come already, always giving it our all each Friday night, cheering on our boys to victory!” - Lindsay Knieriem

## Volleyball

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“We are very excited to start our 2025 volleyball season. We have a small team, but we are very mighty. Our team is young, but we have a lot of experience playing in high tension games and I’m very excited to see where we go this season. Hopefully we get a chance at the Heritage Conference and District V title again!! I’m proud of all the hard work the girls have put into the team and themselves!!” - Madee Roman

## Girls Soccer

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“Our team is so excited to see how the season is going to turn out. We have worked really hard during the summer and are ready to show off this hard work. We have a great group of athletes who are motivated and hard working. The team wants to make our run at D5 and succeed to get the win. We have a long season ahead of us and we are ready to put our best out on the field.” - Addie Miller

## Boys Soccer

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“The guys have been working all offseason and are fired up to get out there. This group has put in the work, stayed disciplined, and is ready to compete and win. The team is ready for D5, and we believe we have what it takes to get the job done. It’s going to be a challenging, but we’re confident in our preparation and excited to leave everything on the field.” - Isaac Marsh

## Golf

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“We have a good, hardworking team this year, bringing us to have a great season so far. I think the team had really put in the work at practices while also having a good time. I am so excited to see how the rest of our season will turn out.” - Micah Lehman



# Somerset County Fair

Several of our students proudly raised and cared for their own livestock at home before showcasing them at the 2025 Somerset County Fair. These dedicated students were hands-on every step of the way-feeding their animals daily, providing fresh water, cleaning their living quarters, grooming and monitoring their health and growth. Their commitment teaches responsibility, patience and the rewards of hard work. At the fair, they presented their animals with pride, competing against many other students from multiple school districts within Somerset County. Showing animals offers countless benefits-it builds confidence, teaches valuable life skills, fosters respect for agriculture, and creates lasting memories with friends, family and the community.



Jacob Hostetler



Laray Duffy



Beau Maurer



Anna Hunsberger



Jennabel Pursley



Anna Hostetler

Beau Maurer showed his pig and placed 3rd in his class.  
Bristol Maurer showed her lamb, Reese, placing second in her class and 4th in her overall division.

Anna Hostetler showed a Market Eve Lamb, winning the heavy weight division and earning Reserve Grand Champion. She also showed a Summer Yearling Holstein Calf placing 6th. She showed two market hogs as well.

Jakob Hostetler showed a Summer Yearling Holstein Calf placing 5th and showed two market hogs.

Laray Duffy showed her pig placing 5th in her class.

Kirsten Duffy placed 5th in class 12 with her pig.

Colbi Hunsberger placed 2nd in class 13 with her pig.

Andie Hunsberger placed 3rd in class 4 and 2nd in class 12 with her two pigs.

Molly Hunsberger placed 6th in class 6 and 8th.

Anna Hunsberger showed two pigs, placing fifth in class 2 and 6th in class 14.

Lance Duffy placed fourth in his class with his pig.

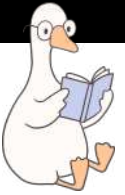
Jennabel Pursley showcased her two pigs placing 3rd in one class and 6th in the other.



Bristol Maurer



## Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Jodi Forgas



"Mrs. Forgas makes learning fun by adding humor into her lessons. She also encourages all of her students to not be afraid to try and make mistakes because that show we get better."

– Mackenzie Miller



"I have rewritten this 1000 times trying to fit in everything I love about Mrs. Forgas, but I don't think the newsletter is that large. In short, Mrs. Forgas has the ability to hook even the most apprehensive student, she makes a home for everyone that comes through her door, she is comfortingly relatable, she is endlessly supportive, effortlessly funny, relatably weird, and deeply insightful. I am grateful to not only work alongside her, but to be her friend."

Leasock

For the past 13 years, Mrs. Jodi Forgas has been a dedicated member of the CT community. Her classroom is a place where students can feel comfortable stepping out of their comfort zones and challenging themselves.

Mrs. Forgas has strong roots in Johnstown, where she grew up with a big family and lots of fond memories. She graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School in 2004. She then pursued her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from UPJ before going on to earn her Master of Arts in English/English Education from IUP. During her time in high school and college, Mrs. Forgas worked at her family's welding and metal fabrication business, Delweld Industries, based in Boswell.

Mrs. Forgas stated, "I student-taught here when I was in graduate school in 2010. I loved my experience and always thought of getting a job here at CT as my dream job. Little did I know that a few years later, I would end up here in a great community with truly the best kids!"

In addition to teaching English, Mrs. Forgas stays busy with her family at home. She and her husband, Ray Forgas, have a daughter named Josephine—though they call her "Joey" for short—who will be turning three in October. In her free time, she loves spending time with her family, reading, watching movies and TV shows, listening to podcasts, and exploring her passion for true crime. With her huge heart, fun energy, great sense of humor, and passion for making everyone feel welcome, she creates a safe haven for so many of our students.

Thanks for being wonderful, Mrs. Forgas!

"It is a pleasure to be able to work alongside such an intelligent, funny, and naturally gifted educator. Mrs. Forgas is the type of teacher who is able to foster a connection with anyone of her students. The impression she leaves on her students lasts forever, and I am honored to be her friend!"

– Mrs. Spengler





## UPCOMING EVENTS

9-1 | LABOR DAY BREAK

9-6 | MUSIC DEPARTMENT

GOODWILL DRIVE

9-19 | HALF DAY

