

APRIL NEWSLETTER



FORENSICS TALKS NATIONALS

The Conemaugh Township forensics team led by Ms. Leasock has had a successful year so far. CT sophomores Karly Brenchak and Ella Mankamyer have been hard at work competing at meets using the pfd, or public debate forum. Public debate forum is a popular debate format where students take a stance on an issue and defend it. They are then judged on how well they support their positions. So far they have taken stances on the issues, "Should the United States government ban single use plastics?" and "Should student athletes be considered employees of the university they play for?" On February 16th, the pair traveled to Richland High School where they won the District forensics meet. They then went onto Regionals, which was hosted by Saint Francis University, where they finished in first place. Because of their successes, Karly and Ella, along with Ms. Leasock, will be traveling all the way to Chicago for Nationals. This competition will take place May 24th-26th. Good luck to the Conemaugh Township forensics team!



A MATH TEAM WE CAN COUNT ON

Not only was the mathematical holiday of Pi Day (3.14) the perfect day for a math competition, but it was also an opportunity for CT students to compete and return home math champions. Mercedes Mull, Maxwell Malicki, Katelyn Turley, Brennan Lohr, and Ashlyn Fetterman represented Conemaugh Township well at the Heritage Conference Math Competition on March 14th at Marion Center High School, earning first place in the event!

The competition was for students in grades 9 through 12, with five talented math students representing each school in the Heritage conference. Events consisted of a written test and five team rounds, featuring challenges in algebra, statistics, geometry, logic puzzles, math vocabulary, and even some calculus.

The same five students represented Conemaugh Township last year as well, taking home 2nd place in 2023. After a pizza lunch, the schools were named in place-order, starting with 12th and working upwards. Our CT mathletes listened with eager anticipation to 12th through 2nd place be called, not to hear Conemaugh Township be named until the judges called 1st place this year.



Conemaugh Township finished with 181 points, followed by Cambria Heights in second with 169, West Shamokin in third with 163, and Portage in fourth with 150.

Normally with the Heritage Academic Competitions, each school gets to name one MVP. However, the school placing first in a competition gets to name two MVPs. Conemaugh Township's MVPs for the math competition were seniors Mercedes Mull and Maxwell Malicki.

Math Team Coach Jakeb Rising said, "I'm very proud of these students, not only to see their dedication to academics shine in events like this, but to see their growth in ability and confidence in the past year."

CT PRESENTS

SADD CLUB MOCK CRASH: THE BRUTAL REALITY

On April 26, CT's SADD club will host an event that brings a very scary scenario to life: the reality of what can happen when people drink before getting behind the wheel of a car. The club has been working for months now to organize a presentation and mock crash scenario that will be shown to students in grades 10, 11, and 12 a couple weeks before prom night. The club, led by Mrs. Buckham and Mrs. Feathers, has been working with first responders from the local EMS, fire, and police departments, the Somerset County Coroner, Conemaugh Medvac, CT's guidance department and administration, and REACH to make this presentation happen. These groups will work together to enact a mock crash scenario that demonstrates all of their roles in a real life crash caused by drunk driving. SADD club officers and selected members of the senior class will play the parts of those involved in the accident. Additionally, the family of Trooper Iwaniec will be speaking with the students to share their own story of loss due to drinking and driving. All of the students will be given an opt-out option, and the club is working closely with REACH and our guidance department to ensure that our students are supported during this event.

BATTLE OF THE BOTS

The Robo Wars contest will be held at United School District on Friday, April 6. The people participating are Noah Getson, Rylan Hillegass, Donovan Dadura, and Preston Thomas. There are usually 7-8 schools that compete and they use a double elimination bracket. The robots can only weigh 10 lbs, which is 2 lbs more than last year. There are referees dressed in the official referee's black and white stripes uniform. The battle structure is enclosed in plexiglass and the students control the battle for two minutes. Points are gathered by pushing into the walls or strikes to the other contestants' bots. The bracket works so that eventually the last two teams faceoff. The loser bracket needs to win two times to be the champion. The very last battle is all machines placed in the arena and they wage war against each other, and the last bot standing is king!

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



Our junior high student council will be hosting the semi-formal dance at the school on April 26 from 6:30- 8:30 PM. Each year, these students work hard to make this event a success, putting an immense amount of time into planning, decorating, and advertising. This year, they chose the theme of "A Night at the Movies." Students will be provided with a fun-filled night of dancing along with lots of great snacks to purchase. Mrs. Sanderson, the junior high student council advisor, shared her excitement for the event: "I love that semi-formal brings students together for a night of traditional middle/high school fun, where they can dress up and just enjoy each other's company. Student council works for months planning and fundraising this event, and we're excited for everyone to enjoy the night." Freshman Vayda Korenoski recommends that any eligible students attend. She noted that it's "a very fun experience to be yourself and have so much fun with all of your friends. I would recommend everyone to go while you can because you wouldn't want to miss it." We can't wait for our junior high students to enjoy their big night!

Conemaugh Township Travels

SPANISH CLASS IN THE 'BURGH

Spanish III and IV classes will be traveling to Pittsburgh on April 8th (solar eclipse day)! They are excited to be stopping at SoLuna Café where they specialize in Honduran cuisine. The students will put their Spanish skills to the test by ordering breakfast in the target language. After breakfast, the students will travel to the Pittsburgh National Aviary, where they will interact with over 500 different species of birds, interact with sloths, and even have a penguin encounter! Spanish IV students have the privilege of going behind the scenes and playing with the penguins! After, students will stop at Ross Park Mall for lunch and a little shopping. They are hoping to see the eclipse and make a pit stop on the way home. Senior Emily Corella states, "I'm most looking forward to the visit to SoLuna Café to try dishes from a new cultural." Senior Jenna Brenneman recounted the educational gains that comes along with the excitement of the trip when she noted, "Last year we had a great time on our Spanish trip, and we're really looking forward to getting to go again this year. Being able to incorporate what we've learned from all four years of Spanish class out in the real world is a great learning experience, and it's especially nice to take a break from the classroom." The students in Spanish III and IV are lucky to be given an opportunity to get a "taste" of the Honduran culture with a few extra perks.



MAINHART RULES THE COURT

Mr. Mainhart, a high school civics teacher here at Conemaugh Township, will be chaperoning the courthouse tour on April 16th, 18th, and 25th. The ninth grade class will be given the opportunity to visit the courthouse, the new county jail, and the previous county jail. They will meet with county judges and other officials to see the county judicial branch at work. This will be the first time since 2019 that this field trip was offered. Schools all across Somerset County will be attending this educational trip. Touring the courthouse will help students better understand the inner workings of the local government, and show how there are consequences for their decisions and actions.

ART IN THE COMMUNITY

Mrs. Spengler, Conemaugh Township's Art teacher, will be taking a group of students on two different trips in the month of April. Their first destination will be St. David's Learning Center. The students attending will be giving an art lesson to the young kids in the daycare. "We're going to be having a few stations with three art students at each one. We're going to be doing different crafts and helping the kids put them together," says Ryleigh Letosky, a student in Art II. Bennie Lambing, also in Art II, says, "I'm mainly excited to make sure that the kids have fun while making their crafts. Seeing a smile on their faces reassures us that what we're doing is worth the while." Their second trip will be to The Mattress Factory. The Mattress Factory is a contemporary art museum located in Pittsburgh. Mrs. Spengler is taking her students to this museum to expose them to installation art. This is an artform that is interactive for the viewers. Art pieces may take up entire rooms and allow the students to experience different ways such as smell, touch, sounds, and of course sight. "It's important to expose them to contemporary artists, and show them the careers they can pursue if they do choose to follow an art degree," Mrs. Spengler says when asked about the importance of this trip.

Winter Varsity Sports Accolades

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CHESTNUT RIDGE TOURNAMENT ALL
TOURNAMENT PLAYER - **AVA BYER**
BERLIN TOURNAMENT PLAYER OF THE GAME -
AVA BYER
500TH REBOUND (565 CAREER REBOUNDS) -
JENNA BRENNEMAN
SOMERSET COUNTY ALL-STAR - **JENNA
BRENNEMAN**
ALL CONFERENCE HERITAGE TEAM - **JENNA
BRENNEMAN**

BOYS BASKETBALL

RON DAVIDSON ROUND BALL CLASSIC -
JONATHAN UPDYKE
BERLIN MOUNTAINEER CHRISTMAS
TOURNAMENT - **COLIN DINYAR & JON UPDYKE**
500TH REBOUND - **JONATHAN UPDYKE**
1000 CAREER POINTS - **JONATHAN UPDYKE**
ALL CONFERENCE HERITAGE TEAM - **COLIN
DINYAR & JONATHAN UPDYKE**
SOMERSET COUNTY ALL-STAR 1ST TEAM - **COLIN
DINYAR & JONATHAN UPDYKE**
SOMERSET COUNTY ALL-STAR 2ND TEAM -
ETHAN MATERA
DISTRICT V CHAMPIONS



RIFLE

TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT ATHELETE OF THE WEEK -
NOAH LEHMAN
AMRC WEST CHAMPIONS

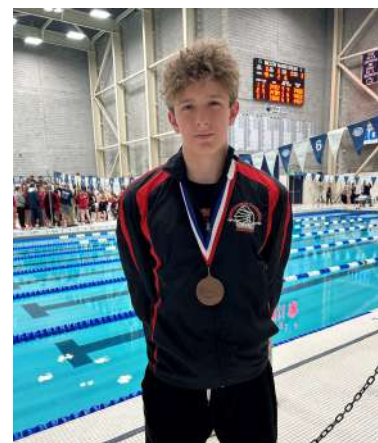
WRESTLING

NWCA SCHOLAR ALL AMERICAN - **TRISTEN
HAWKINS, COLTEN HUFFMAN, & DYLAN HOVANEC**
PWCA SCHOLAR ALL STATE- **TRISTEN HAWKINS,
COLTEN HUFFMAN, DYLAN HOVANEC, & RYDELL
WALYLKO**
SOMERSET COUNTY - **TRISTEN HAWKINS, COLTEN
HUFFMAN, DYLAN HOVANEC, & RYDELL WALYLKO**
ALL CONFERENCE HERITAGE TEAM - **COLTEN
HUFFMAN**
DISTRICT V INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION - **COLTEN
HUFFMAN**
100 WIN CLUB - **TRISTEN HAWKINS (100-31)**



SWIMMING

DISTRICT VI QUALIFIERS - **AIDAN BURNWORTH,
COLTON LEHMAN, & KATELYN TURLEY**
DISTRICT VI MEN'S 50 FREESTYLE CHAMPION -
AIDAN BURNWORTH
STATE QUALIFIER (TOP 30 SWIMMERS IN THE STATE
IN 50 FREESTYLE) - **AIDAN BURNWORTH**



Outstanding Indians

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



"Jasmine David works REALLY hard and is the SWEETEST!! She is new this year and has made lots of friends."

"AvaLee Bosnick is kind and helpful to everyone! She is a sweet, loving student who really looks out for others."



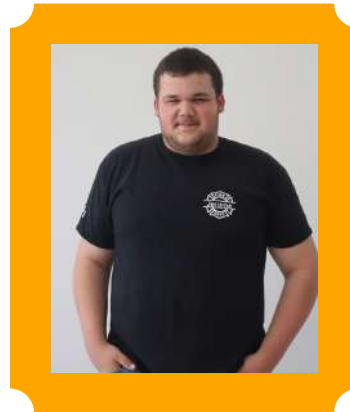
"Justin Armstrong is a hard worker who is polite and friendly to everyone. He always has a smile on his face!"

SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



"Lilly Oakes is one of the most motivated students. She is always positive and is so reliable!"

"Brennan Lohr is respectful, kind, hardworking, intelligent, helpful-- an all around great kid."



"Noah Getson is an absolute go-getter in all facets. He is a perfect example of what it means to care about your community."

"Addy Gindlesperger is one of the most reliable and determined students I have ever taught. Her work ethic is phenomenal."



Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Mari Grace Lingenfelter



"Ms. Mari Grace Lingenfelter teaches and mentors with such class and grace. Each situation, she offers great compassion and professionalism. She has been an incredible mentor and friend to me as I started my career. She has a special gift to see ways to call us all up to be better musicians and people. She finds ways for students and colleagues to be featured and to grow in skills and understanding of music, the world, and genuine human connection. Mari Grace has a heart of great service and we all have learned a lot by just being around her about what community means! So grateful to share a life in the music department with her, and it is a joy to watch how she inspires excellence!"

-Miss Kasun



"I believe that Ms. Lingenfelter is a great teacher because she makes sure that everything runs smoothly and as perfectly as possible. She also rewards hard work with high praise. That is why I think she is great." -Jonathan Fochtman

Ms. Mari Grace Lingenfelter has been a member of the Conemaugh Township faculty for an impressive 29 years. She grew up in Centre County, specifically in Phillipsburg. After graduating from Phillipsburg-Osceola High School, she went on to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she first obtained a bachelor's degree in music education and later obtained a master's degree in music. Ms. L's family currently consists of her son Hayden, who is a senior at CT, and her daughter Kadiya, a St. Francis University nursing student. However, her family will soon be growing as she marries her fiancé on May 14 and gains three stepdaughters. She is also very close with her mother who still resides in Phillipsburg. In her spare time, Ms. Lingenfelter loves staying active and scuba diving. She has actually been a certified scuba diver since 1999 and, together with her daughter, helped set a world record in 2019 for the world's longest chain of female divers.

As a faculty member, Ms. Lingenfelter has established herself as a savant of all that Conemaugh Township has to offer in the musical industry. She has been an instructor of music, choir, and chorus, has directed a grand total of 29 successful musicals (think how many sold out shows and standing ovations this means!), and also serves as advisor of National Honor Society and as an assistant advisor for Rotary Interact Club. When asked about her favorite parts of working at Conemaugh Township, she stated that she loves that while doing the musical and concerts, she often has the opportunity to "improve students' performances to a level they didn't even know they could reach." Mari Grace Lingenfelter is an irreplaceable member of our school community, bringing the talents of our students to the center stage. She pushes our students to reach their full potential while using the beauty of music to bring their own stories to life. It's no wonder that in the eyes of our Conemaugh Township community, she's "practically perfect in every way."

"She is a great teacher and director because she is always positive and encouraging when working with us. She always pushes us to do better and she always believes in us no matter what. She has a lot of experience with music, so she is always able to share with us what she has learned in her journey." -Sophia Stango



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1 - 2 | Easter Vacation

April 3 - 5 | Skills USA States Competition

April 5 | PMEA District VI 6th grade Bandfest

April 17 | Cents for SADD Fundraiser

April 17 - 20 | PMEA All-State Festivals

April 19 | Act 80 Early Dismissal for Students
12:00 Middle/High School
12:45 Elementary

April 26 | 11:20 - 2:25 | SADD Club Mock Crash Event

April 26 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM | Junior High Semi-Formal

