Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. I hope you have had a wonderful start to the fall semester.

As we begin another school year at Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center, we look forward to you being a part of our WMCTC family and hope you become involved in our school. The WMCTC is known for its incredible staff with their commitment to excellence. To those new to our school, we are looking forward to your contributions to our students and team. We are so fortunate to have a school for which we can be proud of--with students, staff, families, industry leaders and the community coming together to support our mission to inspire excellence. This is the reason why WMCTC has consistently excelled on the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exam with an achievement level of 98.1% of students achieving Competent or Advanced making us one of the highest-ranking Career and Technology Centers in Pennsylvania!!

This year, as every year, we commit ourselves to providing the very best educational experience possible. Our focus is on continuous improvement and preparing your students to be career and college ready. We will update you often through our newsletters, website, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), out dials and email messages, as well as in school and community events. Please take a moment to visit our website and see what WMCTC is doing. I hope that you are able to join us for any one of our many events and even take advantage of our Student Run Enterprises (Salon, Restaurant, Flower Shop, Etc.). Have a meaningful and productive 2015-16 school year. I hope to see you in our school!

Sincerely,

Christopher Moritzen
Administrative Director
Attendance Office

Parent/guardian: In addition to calling the high school, please call WMCTC Attendance at 610-489-7272 extension 209 or email LBerrodin@westerncenter.org when your student is absent.

Within three days of his/her return to school, send a note to the high school and a note to WMCTC with the following information:

- Student’s first and last name
- Date of absence(s)
- Reason for absence
- Signed by parent/guardian

Excusable absences include: illness, medical appointment, religious holiday, death in family, and special circumstances. Inexcusable absences include: oversleeping, car trouble, missing the bus, unauthorized trip and notes received after 3 days of student’s return to school.

Tardiness to School Policy
A student will be considered late to school if he/she is not in their scheduled area immediately after the district bus drop off at WMCTC. Any student arriving after this time must report to the Attendance Office with a note regarding their lateness. The student will not be permitted into the classroom without an Absent-Tardy Admit Slip which the Attendance Office provides.

Refer to the Student Handbook (Pages 9—13) for more information pertaining to attendance.

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA just had a successful Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, October 22nd. This is an annual fundraiser to help with the cost of the student’s District, State competitions.

November 18, 19, and 20th, 17 students and 2 advisers will be going to Mt. Pocono for the CTSO Leadership Conference. The theme for this year’s conference is “Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow” as well as a motivational speaker, leadership training, and some team building activities.

The conference will run from 9:00 am on November 18, 2015 to our closing session at 11:00 am on November 20, 2015.

Automotive Technology

Mr. Bray & Mr. Nonnemacher

Visit the Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center website for upcoming LIVE Periscope presentations - www.westerncenter.org

Check out the Youtube Page for previous Periscope’s @ www.youtube.com/westerncenterorg
So far this year, the students in Mr. Batory’s Commercial Art class have completed some very successful projects. They have worked with traditional styles of art, such as drawing and painting, as well as digital art that has been successfully designed on the computer. One of the main topics that has been covered is illustration, and students have focused their attention towards fine detail, accurate lines, and color. Students are learning how to illustrate on paper and on the computer incorporating line, shape, color, and value into their designs. Illustration requires students to carefully plan out their design, utilizing research and sketching, before an illustration design is chosen. When illustrating on the computer with the program Adobe Illustrator, designs can become very tedious and a lot of patience is involved.

Last week, students took a step away from illustrating on the computer and used tabloid size paper to draw by hand. The assignment and challenge was to design and illustrate any type of person, place, object, character, or animal completely out of number two pencils. The pencils in the design were able to be abstract or irregular, but must follow the typical colors of a number two pencil. Students also had to problem-solve, and figure out how to highlight specific features of the design in pencils so the viewer would be able to see what the illustration was. The photo in this newsletter is an illustration of a fictional cartoon creature designed by Brianna Updegrove (Springford, junior). She successfully captured the features within the illustration, and was able to add her own twist to her drawing using uniquely designed number two pencils, and great use of value with shading and coloring.

The Commercial Art class will continue with other types of illustration throughout the year, and will soon start to learn about imagery, photography, and photo manipulation.
As part of National Manufacturing Day, on October 2nd, students from the Metal Technology program visited Bracalente Manufacturing Group in Trumbauersville, PA. Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing and is meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers.

In conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of Commerce, Bracalente Manufacturing Group opened its doors to several student groups from the area. The students began the day by hearing presentations from the management team at Bracalente. They learned about the history of the company, the many local and global companies they manufacture components for, and the numerous types of employment and careers Bracalente relies on. The students heard first-hand from the president of Bracalente about the demand for the very skills they are learning in Metal Technology at the Western Center. The event continued with a very detailed tour of the manufacturing facility. The students were able to see and hear presentations about each manufacturing process utilized in their facility. They were able to handle the parts being manufactured and gain a greater understanding of the methods used to produce them. They spoke to the employees about their roles in the company and what led them to their chosen career path. This was inspiring for all who attended as they saw first-hand how the skills they are learning in class are utilized and valued in the workplace.

Dental Occupations

Level 1 students are learning the process of disease causing pathogens and how critical it is for them to protect themselves and their patients. They learned the History of Dentistry and the difference between what’s considered “Legal” and what’s considered “Ethical”. These students have also been practicing various skills from hand washing, to PPE, to bagging instruments for sterilization.

Level 2 students have learning structures of the oral cavity and proper oral hygiene techniques. These students are creating an “Oral Hygiene Notebook” and then teaching follow students throughout the school, how to properly take care of their mouths.

Level 3 students have started learning Radiology. They are currently learning the history, physics, and biology behind radiation. They are working on taking vital signs (pulse, respiration, blood pressure and temperature) on patients.

A Special Recognition to Level 3 student, Emily Renninger for placing 4th in the Nation in Dental Science for HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) in Anaheim California this past June.
Environmental Design

Ms. Mueller

Environmental Design students learn to operate many pieces of equipment including this John Deere Backhoe. Upper Perkiomen student, Jack Whitney, is seen practicing using the backhoe before he begins digging for a walkway in the Environmental outdoor lab area.

Environmental Design students can create many beautiful floral designs for your next special occasion! Weddings, wedding or baby showers, funerals, proms or birthday parties. Contact the instructor Mrs. Barb Mueller at bmueller@westerncenter.org for details or check out the Perfect Petals page for more photos and details.

The Salon

Ms. Kalin & Ms. Reichert

The Salon is open every Thursday until 7:00 for extended salon.

Rachael Kelly, a Springford student, passed her written State Board Exam and should be finished with her 1250 hours and licensed by Thanksgiving.
Collision Repair

*Mr. Smith*

The Collision Repair crew has been busy working through SP2’s and I-CAR modules. The morning class has started picking, filing and slapping dents and the afternoon is been going full bore trying to get customers back on the road after returning from Chicago when they attended the I-CAR “Cars, Careers and Celebrities” expo at Chicagoland raceway.

Students are working hard to get the experience they need to enter industry. At the recent advisory meeting we had Olivia Cortez return to provide incite from her experience working at Mercer’s Collision Center. Dylan Mace, a current level 3 on COOP at Rowlands auto body, returned to share as well.

On the calendar is the upcoming ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) exam. Several level 3’s have already signed up to attempt the student ASE certification which will certify them until they can take the industry certification after they have been working in trade for a year.

Graphic Design

*Mr. Lamison*

We’re off to a running start with level 1 students learning about basic layout and design, proper use of type and organizing and saving files and folders as would be expected when working in the industry. For the level 2 students we are fortunate to have had a number of actual “live” projects to do continuing where they left off last year. Two projects we worked on for WMCTC were post cards for “Girls Night Out” and the Open House Invitation post cards. Using files supplied by Commercial Art our job was to format the post cards for printing. With both quantities in the thousands, print production is not done one at a time but multiple “up” on a larger sheet. Samples show the formatting, layout and precision needed to accomplish the production. “Live” projects are

Open House Invitation post cards, supplied by Commercial Art and formatted/printed by Graphic Design students - quantity in the thousands.
The Biomedical Science students oriented to the Phoenixville Hospital on October 26th and will be touring the facility in November prior to beginning their clinical rotations shadowing in the Emergency Room, Short Procedure Unit, Med/Surg Floor, Telemetry Floor, Intensive Care Unit, Pharmacology Department, Acute Rehabilitation Unit, Orthopedic Floor, Diagnostic Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the Cancer Center. The students continue to master various skills and procedures that will be utilized in the health care field. They also enjoyed an onsite visit at the Limerick Veterinary Hospital on October 21st focusing on careers in animal studies. A guest speaker will present on October 28th from Harcum College and discuss careers in the management of animal facilities. The students are scheduled for a clinical experience at Parkhouse Adult Day Care on November 2nd to communicate and interact with the clients along with assisting the ADC staff! They have been working diligently identifying the clues and documenting the evidence of the fictitious crime scene in the Principles of Biomedical Sciences curriculum! The Biomed students continue to apply the Biomedical Sciences experimental design process to experiments and have successfully implemented the process in extracting DNA from plant specimens! The next unit will focus on diabetes and the insulin glucose connection.

The Level I HST successfully completed CPR/First Aid certification this week! The students have been mastering the art of communication with each other through various activities that will enhance their ability to communicate in a health care setting! They have been introduced to Health Care past, present and future and are excited to move forward with skills/text material. The students have started their long term Research/Health project investigating a disease process in which they will become a subject matter expert culminating in a school wide health and wellness fair in January. This will be open to the community. Level 1 will be attending orientation to Parkhouse anticipating an exciting year of clinical rotations in the Adult Day Care Unit!

The Level III HST started the year with an introduction to Medical Assisting. They were very excited to create a patient outline with a mystery illness and drug profile. This launched the chapters of Pharmacology and Medication administration into the classroom, but made real world connections to their future professions. Practicing giving medications on the mannequins was a highlight that coincided with the research project assigned to be completed in December. A guest speaker will present on October 28th from Harcum College and discuss careers in the management of animal facilities. Level III will be attending Pakrhouse and Frederick Living with clinical rotations being shared between the two facilities. Level III will head up and host the Annual Keystone-Miller Blood Drive that will take place in December as part of HST/Biomed/DO community outreach.

HST/Biomed is busy with the community at large! We participate on the Advisory Board at MCCC in the Medical Assisting division and will present at the Project Lead the Way Pennsylvania State Conference in November. Additionally, we will be attending the Strategies: Educational Excellence for Health Care Providers at Penn State November 5th and 6th.

A quest speaker from The Montgomery County Women’s Center is scheduled for November 18, 2016 for all levels of our area.

HST/Biomed/DO completed their first fundraiser, Yankee Candle, which was a huge success! Our HOSA club has a record number of students who want to compete at the State Leadership Conference in March 2016!
WMCTC Interview

Principal Weneck

Interview with Upper Perkiomen junior, Savannah Burkart

Former Student of the Quarter winner, Savannah Burkart, sat down with Principal Weneck to talk about her decision to enroll in the Heating, Venting, and Air Conditioning (a non-traditional program for female students) at WMCTC.

WMCTC: What sending district do you attend?
  I am a junior at Upper Perk.

WMCTC: Are you involved with any extra curricular activities?
  Not right now. I used to practice and train karate. I also played softball, and some soccer, while in middle school.

WMCTC: Do you have a job? If yes, please tell us about it.
  No, but I used to work with my father on his construction jobs, occasionally. I tended to help him with the many odd jobs found on a construction site.

WMCTC: Why did you elect to attend HVAC, a non-traditional program for female students?
  Originally, I thought about going into the carpentry because my dad is a carpenter. I enjoyed going to my dad's job sites and helping him. My dad told me if I got certified in HVAC then we could be on the same worksite doing different jobs. Other members of my family encouraged me to go into a building trade. My uncles are electricians, landscapers, contractors, pool installers, etc.

WMCTC: What are some of the HVAC lessons you enjoy?
  Electrical, wiring thermostats, and transformers. I enjoy making circuits work.

WMCTC: What tasks do you find difficult?
  Sometimes there is heavy lifting involved.

WMCTC: What are your plans when you graduate?
  I want to attend a technical college. I'm still in the planning phase.

WMCTC: What would you tell other students considering enrolling in a non-traditional program but are apprehensive?
  It is different to some degree (working with all male students). But if you expect to be treated like a girl then it will not be for you. I didn't care about stereotypical expectations. Most guys expect me to be able to do all the tasks and treat me fairly.

WMCTC: Any problems with the guys?
  One guy said “Shouldn’t you be in Cos,” when I first arrived. I said, “No, why should I be. Shouldn’t you be in Cos?” And that was the end of the conversation.

WMCTC: Any additional comments?
  I feel like it is a normal classroom situation. I don't feel that I am doing anything special.