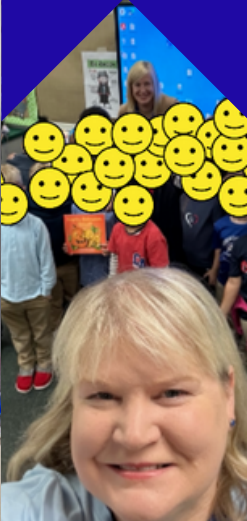




# #AlwaysACharger

Superintendent's  
Newsletter  
Fall 2024



Above: Superintendent Sayre visited Mrs. Amy Laguzzi's 1st grade classroom and read the book *Meet Biscuit* and *Happy Halloween, Biscuit*.

## The Science of Reading

Literacy is the foundation of all learning, and Carbondale Area School District is committed to providing our students with the skills they need to be successful readers. It is every school's moral responsibility to embrace *The Science of Reading* so our students not only perform better, but so our staff is also equipped to provide the explicit instruction required.

Carbondale Area School District has embraced *The Science of Reading* and has implemented Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) at the elementary school and Penn Literacy Network (PLN) at the secondary school since the 2022-2023 school year. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking strategies are incorporated throughout our buildings to improve student literacy and achievement.

Carbondale Area School District is dedicated to improving literacy. Our goal is to develop a fundamental literacy base for all students and to provide them with the skills they need for career readiness. Together, we will continue to prepare our students to be innovative thinkers and sharper communicators, to demonstrate their overall knowledge, and to become better readers and writers.

## Jr./Sr. High School Penn Literacy Network (PLN)

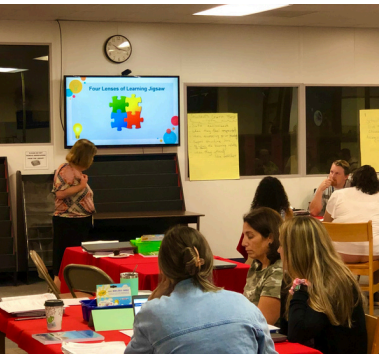
PLN professional development has been purchased for the secondary schools. PLN is a program directed by staff at the University of Pennsylvania. Teachers receive evidence-based literacy instruction and reflect on what it looks like in their teaching environment. The PLN framework is based on the Five Reading Writing Talking Processes and the Four Lenses of Learning. The theme of PLN is for students to be active learners.



## Elementary School

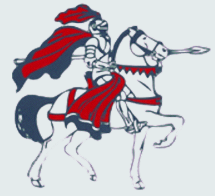
The 2024-2025 STEM program, led by Mrs. Leslie Staples, commenced with lessons on how to practice being a scientist. Scientists observe the world around them, prompting questions, investigations, and discoveries. Kindergarten through third grade learned about the five senses and applied that knowledge through hands-on activities. Students modeled being scientists when they felt hidden objects in a feely box, guessed the scent of Q-Tips, taste-tested apples, reacted to various sounds, and illustrated nature using a magnifying glass. They will continue to use their observational skills throughout the school year.

*Reading is one of the most effective ways to stay informed, inspired, and connected. Embrace the joy of reading, and watch how it enriches your life in countless ways!*



Above: Jr./Sr. High Teachers receive PLN training

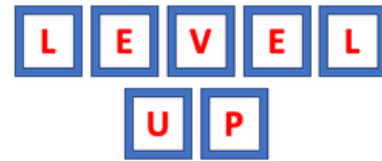
# CHARGING INTO THE FUTURE



## Level Up on Career Day 2024

Carbondale Area Jr./Sr. High School hosted its third annual Charging into the Future Career Day for all students in grades 7 through 12. The goal of this day was to provide a meaningful experience for all students in the Jr./Sr. High School to learn about potential careers and vocational pathways from industry leaders and experts. Students were provided the opportunity to meet with community leaders and receive in depth information related to the training or schooling necessary to excel in each field.

Over seventy employers and post-secondary educational institutions, as well as several branches of the U.S. Military, spent the day at Carbondale Area generously sharing their knowledge and experience with our students.



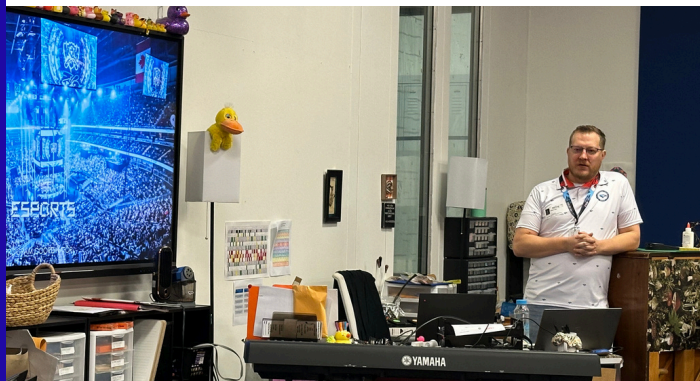
Above: Mayor Bannon (CAHS Class of 1987) pictured with Marisa Mataushek, Jaeden Arthur, Adrienne Titty, Olivia Montaperto, and Julian Fedorchak.

## 7th and 8th Grade

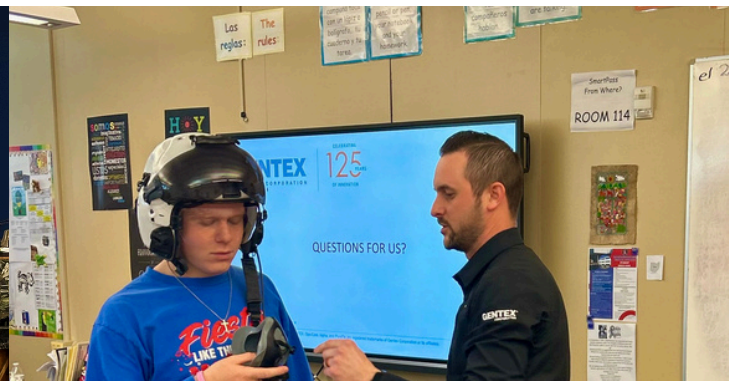
Our 7th and 8th grade students dedicated part of their day to community service activities both in the community and on campus. Groups of students helped clean up local parks, refreshed the historic Carbondale City Hall and Memorial Park, and maintained the Heritage Trail. Other students volunteered at the United Neighborhood Center's Fallbrook Community Center.

Students gained valuable lessons for use both in and out of the classroom and were able to take time and reflect on the importance of taking pride in their school, community, and themselves.

Above: Officer Williams and his K9 partner, Axel, were just one of the 70+ presenters at Career Exploration Day,



Above: Robert Dee, Lackawanna College, discussed careers in Esports.



Above: Nate Ulmer is engaging Bryton Farber (CAHS Class of 2010), Gentex, in conversation,



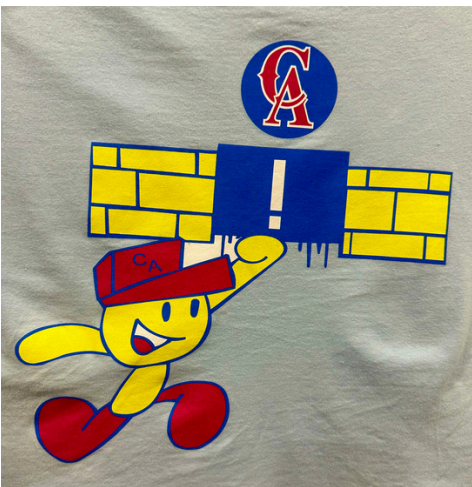
Above: Students prepare for the ASVAB

Below: Aaliyah LaRoche, Payton Plowden, Gabriella Novak, Victorial Cruz, Skye White, Alexander Propes, and Emyli Bradley pose for a picture during their CTC visit.



## Freshmen

Freshmen students started the day with a tour of the Career Technology Center (CTC) of Lackawanna County to learn about program options which are offered to Carbondale Area students beginning their sophomore year. Students were surprised to discover that there are 17 different career areas for them to choose from at the CTC.



## Sophomores

Our sophomore students were administered the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) during the morning session of Career Day. The ASVAB is a useful tool which measures students' abilities and interests to further help predict future occupational success. Students will eventually be given the opportunity to review those results with a representative of the Army National Guard, and this test can also be utilized as one of several pathways to graduation under new Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines. Students also took a course called "Adulting 101." This skill-building course focuses on essential skills for independent living, covering topics like laundry, managing stress and anxiety, understanding the things your parents do for you, and personal care, among others.

Sophomore students continued their day of exploration by hearing from local professionals who came to share not only information about their companies, but also their personal journeys that brought them to where they are today.



Above: Senior Eliana Connolly

## Juniors and Seniors

Juniors and seniors had a full day of presentations by representatives from businesses and post-secondary institutions. All career pathways were represented, and students gained a wealth of knowledge on options after graduation. Senior Eliana Connolly said, "Career Day was an inspiring experience that opened my eyes to the endless possibilities ahead. Meeting professionals from diverse fields ignited my passion and helped me envision my own path. It was a day filled with motivation and excitement for the future!"

Throughout the day, a level of spirit and excitement was evident from our students, staff, and community members. Our district's saying, "Once a Charger, Always a Charger," was evident as over half of the presenters in attendance were graduates of Carbondale Area! Seeing former graduates of Carbondale Area in their respective fields allowed our students to recognize the endless possibilities available to them upon graduation right here within their own community.

Above: Sophomore Javier Orta designed this year's Career Day tshirts.



Left: Members of the Future Teachers Club and Sansa (CAES Facility Dog).

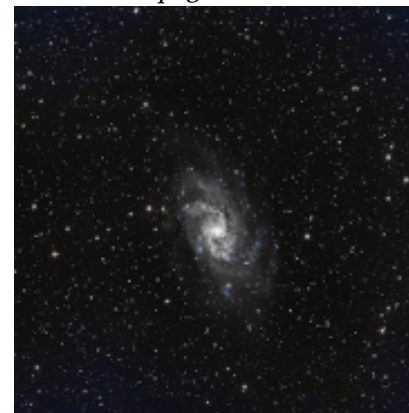
## Astronomy at the Jr./Sr. High School

Have you ever gazed up at the night sky and pondered countless questions? What lies beyond? How did we arrive here? Are we the only solar system with planets, moons, or comets? Astronomy is one of the most rapidly evolving fields in science, and humanity has long been captivated by the mysteries of the universe. Carbondale provides a unique opportunity for high school students to explore these questions through a STEM-focused approach.

Our astronomy classes embark on an exciting journey through the cosmos. Students begin by learning about ancient astronomers like Aristotle, Copernicus, Ptolemy, and Galileo, exploring their significant contributions to the field. When Galileo invented the telescope in 1610, he opened up new horizons in astronomy! As the year progresses, students will start with topics closer to home, such as the causes of Earth's seasons, moon phases, eclipses, and auroras. Then, they will venture further into our solar system, examining the physics behind stars' life cycles, galaxies, and the Big Bang Theory.

Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, students will have the chance to join the Astronomy Club. This inclusive club invites all those curious about the cosmos to come together and share their interests. Members will have opportunities to visit Keystone Observatory, explore local aeronautical museums, and participate in star parties!

*continued on next page*



Above: The Triangulum Galaxy - 2.73 million light years away (image taken and processed by Stephanie Dockemeyer 10-5-2024)

## Tomorrow's Teachers

Carbondale Area has partnered with Junior Achievement on a program called Tomorrow's Teachers. Eleventh and 12th grade members of the Future Teachers club will deliver a total of five lessons to students in the Second Grade at Carbondale Elementary. These lessons teach about community, as well as financial literacy. Tomorrow's Teachers includes the following students: Ella Casper, Aiden Mannis, Leila Maldonado, Adrienne Titley, Hong Tran, Elvira Marrero, Rylie Toolan, Leila Esgro, Madysen Usher, Angelica Prieto, Eliana Connolly, and Hannah McCaffrey.

Senior Rylie Toolan says, "Throughout my experience in Tomorrow's Teachers thus far, I have gained insight and knowledge as to what goes into managing a classroom, preparing lessons, and providing an engaging learning experience. Being a part of the Tomorrow's Teachers group has been incredibly rewarding. Within this group, my peers and I get a firsthand look at what it is like to be a teacher by working with second graders at the elementary school. We use preplanned lessons to guide our teaching which helps us focus on presenting material effectively and engagingly. It's amazing to see how well the kids respond to our lessons and how much they get involved. This experience has taught me a lot about the dedication and creativity required to be a teacher, and I look forward to the lessons each week".

## Student Internships

Yunique Hambke is completing her internship with Mr. Jason Terrery at Carbondale Area Elementary School. She has really enjoyed her experience, especially assisting students with math. Yunique stated, "I was nervous about what I was going to do after high school. This experience has cleared up all my doubt."

Juniors and Seniors- Interested learning more about this program? Contact Mrs. Pidgeon, Student Internship/Cooperative Education Teacher, [gabrielle.pidgeon@carbondalearea.org](mailto:gabrielle.pidgeon@carbondalearea.org) or 570-282-2507, ext. 1192.



Above: Yunique Hambke pictured with Mr. Jason Terrery.

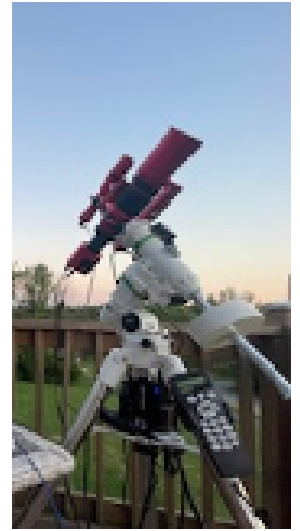
# Classroom Chronicals Continued...

During these star parties, students can observe celestial objects and gather astronomical data using two fantastic telescopes. They will have the chance to capture images with either the 12” Dobsonian reflector telescope or the deep space astrophotography telescope. Additionally, for those interested in combining astronomy with art, we’ll offer further data processing workshops for photo enhancement!

# Astronomy

CLUB

# JOIN



*Above: Mrs. Ann Vadella conducts a conference with an elementary student while Facility Dog Sansa watches.*

*Below: Mr. Larry Gabriel is meeting with 7th grader, Tucker Lyoob.*



## The Minute Meeting

This past summer, Mrs. Ann Vadella learned about minute meetings from a school counselor page she belongs to. Minute meetings are brief check-ins with every student in the building, involving a short set of questions that can be completed quickly. Theoretically, if a counselor is speaking with ALL students, perhaps there will be less of a stigma when speaking with a counselor.

At the elementary level, they decided to focus on a few key questions to gauge how students are doing so far. These questions include: What’s your favorite thing about school? What’s your least favorite thing? Do you have friends? Is there an adult in the school you can go to if you need help? How would you say the school year is going so far?

Mrs. Amanda Brennan is meeting with students in grades pre-K through 2, while Mrs. Vadella is meeting with grades 3 through 6. As a result of visiting the elementary building and observing the conferences, Mr. Gabriel decided to incorporate similar conferences with the 7th grade.

Although this initiative focuses on school counseling, Mr. Larry Gabriel recognized the importance of school administrators actively building relationships and connecting with students. Many students often perceive their interactions with administrators as occurring only during disciplinary situations, which can create a negative atmosphere. Mr. Gabriel firmly believes that positive relationships with all stakeholders, especially students, are essential for fostering a healthy school culture. To begin, he has chosen to meet with all 7th graders, as they are new to the school. The outcomes of these meetings will help him decide whether to extend the initiative to other grade levels.

These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to speak one-on-one with every student—not during a crisis or issue. Our hope is that students will recognize there is an advocate and a caring adult for them, helping them feel connected to their peers and the staff.





Left: Superintendent Sayre

## PTA Perspectives

The mission of the Carbondale Area Elementary PTA is to turn every child's potential into reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for children. This summer, the PTA was hard at work preparing for the new school year. They organized the PTA closet and fulfilled uniform requests from families. Recently, the CAES PTA supplied daily planners for grades 1-6 to help children stay organized and complete their assignments on time; these planners can also facilitate parent-teacher communication.

Kindergarten students received Kindergarten Journals to practice printing letters and numbers as well as counting from 1 to 100. Meanwhile, preschoolers were given a delightful book titled *The Night Before Preschool*.

Additionally, the PTA purchased new chairs to create a cozy reading area for grades 4-6, where a mystery student and a partner demonstrating Ready, Respectful, and Responsible behaviors can enjoy some reading time.

The PTA is always planning exciting initiatives, so they invite you to join us at our monthly meetings. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Elementary School. New ideas and volunteers are always welcome!



## Superintendent's Corner

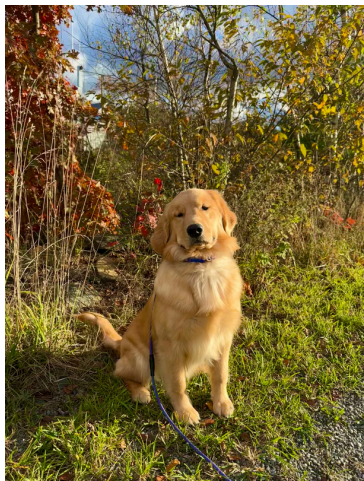
What does a superintendent do? In simple terms, she serves as the CEO of the school district. Superintendents provide leadership to ensure the best possible education for students and advise the Board of Education with recommendations on various matters.

You might know or have met Indy, but do you know your superintendent?

Superintendent Sayre grew up on a 500-acre dairy farm in the beautiful Juniata Valley of rural central Pennsylvania, known for its agriculture. During her teenage years, the farm transitioned to a beef operation. She was an active member of 4-H, where she earned Reserve Grand Champion Steer at the local county fair in her final 4-H year.

An avid sports fan, Superintendent Sayre played basketball and softball in college. Her passion for sports continues today as she roots for West Virginia University (thanks to her marriage), the New York Yankees, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates. She loves attending games for the Scranton Wilkes-Barre RailRiders and the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins.

Superintendent Sayre lives in Carbondale with her husband, Larry. This October 23, they will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary! In her free time, she enjoys dog training with Indy, her golden retriever, who just turned seven months old and often accompanies her around Carbondale.



Here's a little more about your superintendent...  
Favorite movie: Star Wars: A New Hope  
Favorite book series: Harry Potter  
Favorite time period in history: Civil War  
Favorite Starbucks drink: Carmel Machiatto  
Favorite Emoji: Smiling face with squinting eyes  
Favorite color: Cobalt Blue  
Favorite type of weather: Fall  
Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Chocolate  
Favorite Breed of Dog: You KNOW this one!  
Favorite video game: Pac-Man  
Favorite place to travel: Vermont

## Celebrations and Observances

### October 2024

October 20-26	Teen Driver Safety Day
October 21-25	School Bus Safety Week
October 22	Smart is Cool Day
October 23-31	Red Ribbons Week/Drug-Free America Week
October 25	International Artist Day

### November 2024

National Family Literacy Month  
Native American Heritage Month

November 10	Veteran's Day
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 18-22	American Education Week
November 21	National Parental Involvement Day
November 23	Thanksgiving Day



*Thank you to all veterans for your service and sacrifice. Your bravery and dedication are deeply appreciated!*



## Calendar Reminders

**October 31, 2024**, will be an Early Dismissal Day. Elementary students will be dismissed at 12:20 PM, while Jr./Sr. High School students will be dismissed at 12:40 PM. Please note that CTC students will follow the CTC calendar.

Parent Conferences are scheduled for the Jr./Sr. High School on **November 4, 2024**, starting at 6:00 PM. Conferences at the Elementary School will take place on **November 5, 2024**, starting at 6:00 PM.

There will be NO school on **November 11, 2024**, in observance of Veterans Day.

The Thanksgiving holiday will begin on **November 27, 2024**, with an Early Dismissal (Elementary dismissed at 12:20 PM and Jr./Sr. High School dismissed at 12:40 PM) and will continue **through December 2, 2024**. Please note that CTC students will follow the CTC calendar.

For additional calendar information, please visit [www.carbondalearea.org](http://www.carbondalearea.org).

## Produce Market

In coordination with Catholic Social Services, the Produce Market has been scheduled for the following dates:

- Friday, January 17, 2025
- Monday, February 10, 2025
- Friday, March 14, 2025
- Friday, May 9, 2025

The Produce Market is held in front of the Jr./Sr. High School and starts at 1:30 PM.

A SHOUT OUT to the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Mrs. Licia Berry.



Above: FBLA volunteers, Tekayla Sanderson and Talia Perri, at the Produce Market.

# CHIP

CHIP stands for Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program, designed to provide health insurance to uninsured children. There are many reasons why kids might lack coverage—such as a parent's job loss, the absence of employer-provided insurance, or the high cost of premiums. No matter the reason, CHIP could offer the assistance needed.

**I want my child to be strong.**  
**chip Strong**

**CHIP, short for the Children's Health Insurance Program, helps keep kids strong.**

**CHIP COVERS**

- Routine checkups
- Prescriptions
- Hospitalization
- Dental
- Eye care
- Even more!

**APPLY TODAY**

**CHIPcoversPAkids.com**  
**800-986-KIDS (5437)**

There is no limit on income. If your income is below CHIP guidelines, your child may be enrolled in Medical Assistance.



## Medicaid Renewal Reminder

We understand that many of our families rely on Medicaid, so we want to share important information about renewing your benefits, which must be done annually. To check your renewal date, visit [dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS](https://dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS) or download the free myCOMPASS PA mobile app. If you prefer to renew by phone, you can call 1-866-550-4355. For more details, please see the link below.  
<https://www.compass.dhs.pa.gov/home/#/>



CA CA CA CA CA CA

## New Safety and Security Webpage

Additional information has been added to the school district's Safety and Security webpage on the District's website.

Visit: <https://carbondalearea.org/health-safety/>



## Upcoming School Board Meetings

School Board meetings are held in the high school auditorium on the following upcoming dates and times:

- Monday, November 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6:30 PM- Reorganization Meeting