

FALL 2023
NEWSLETTER

OACTEP

OCTORARA AREA CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Welcome to OACTEP



The Octorara Area Career and Technical Education Programs (OACTEP) are off to a great 2023-2024 school year. OACTEP services students in grade 10 - 12. OACTEP is committed to helping all students prepare for bright futures after high school. Students no longer need to choose between the academic courses needed for college and a vocational or technical training program. The Career Technical Education (CTE) courses offered by OACTEP allow students to combine both college preparation and real world workforce skills development into one customized education program. OACTEP courses encourage students to explore and prepare for careers in business, woodworking, engineering, childhood education, graphic design & illustration, culinary, law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical services, computer technology, animal and plant science, agriculture, engine repair, welding, and much more. For more information CHECK OUT [THE OACTEP VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE](#)



On September 15, 2023 International Paper celebrated the opening of its newest state-of-the-art corrugated packaging facility in Atglen, PA. The new facility is providing more than 100 manufacturing jobs to Atglen and the surrounding communities. The new facility will produce corrugated packaging for produce, processed food, beverage, shipping, distribution and e-commerce customers.

International Paper is a proud sponsor of OACTEP and our community. In support of OACTEP and our school community International Paper awarded a \$4,000 grant. The funding will support the sound system that provides OABEST Expo with the ability to broadcast music and announcements throughout the Octorara High School Campus.



Pennsylvania FFA State Officers Visit Octorara

On October 13th, Octorara FFA was visited by PA State FFA President Crystal Bomgardner and State FFA Reporter Maggie Mcateer. The state officers worked with student members in both the Animal & Plant Science and Ag Mechanics CTE programs. Octorara FFA members participated in various activities to help develop team leadership, trust, responsibility, and communication skills.

OACTEP Students Excel

Graphic Design & Illustration: In a heartwarming community initiative, several talented art and design students from Octorara Area Junior Senior High School joined forces for a special project in Parkesburg, PA. Their mission? To transform the storefronts along Main Street into a magical "winter wonderland" just in time for the festive season. The charming designs set the stage for the upcoming Community Tree Trimming and Christmas on Main events, creating a joyful atmosphere for everyone involved. It's inspiring to see the creative spirit of these students contributing to the holiday spirit in our community!



OHSPSA: Students in the fire portion of the Octorara Homeland Security & Protective Services Academy just completed the National Hazardous Materials Operations test. All students passed the skills portion and await the written test results.



Cooperative Education: Coop has new partnering businesses! We are excited to partner with AR Joy Farms, Hostetter Grain, and O'Rourke & Sons. Dutchland continues to be a worksite for a student apprenticeship within our Mechanical Systems CTE and congratulations to Mason Woodall began working as a Public Works Laborer through Atglen Borough.

Engineering: A Helping Hand: Carson Schempp's Prosthetic Engineering

Carson Schempp, a standout member of the Engineering class, has been studying the field of mechanical and prosthetic engineering. He is on the cusp of finalizing his prototype—a 3D printed hand. The hand features the remarkable ability to close into a fist and gracefully reopen, demonstrating the precision and intricacy of his work. His next challenge is to enhance the design further, focusing on enabling the hand to grasp objects with ease. Additionally, he aims to streamline the activation of the grasp, ensuring that the user experience is as smooth as possible. His dedication to learning how to potentially improve the lives of those in need is both inspiring and promising.

Robotic Ingenuity: Brady Zimmerman's AI Robot Project

Brady Zimmerman and his team are embarking on an exciting adventure in the realm of robotics and artificial intelligence. They are working diligently on an AI robot that possesses the remarkable ability to follow a person autonomously, all the while recognizing obstacles and avoiding collisions without any user input. To make this vision a reality, Brady has 3D modeled the robot, allowing him and his partners to create custom components that will unlock new functionalities for the AI robot. The project showcases not only their technological prowess but also their dedication to making the world a safer and more accessible place.

Carpentry and Cabinetmaking: Students in the Carpentry and Cabinetmaking and SkillsUSA members volunteered to make signs for the OASD. The students used the CNC router to design and create 40 Junior High teacher name plaques for classrooms. Woodworking students branched out from their normal material of choice and used HPDE (high density poly ethylene). Poly ethylene is a common plastic used to create everyday items like bags or bottles. The colored plastic signs were a much brighter, more legible, and easier to clean option compared to wood. After creating the name plaques, students found we had a leftover piece big enough to replace a deteriorating exterior sign for the Agriculture barn. The new plastic sign will not rot or weather and will recognize the barn renovation contributors long into the future.

Agriculture area renovations were made possible through the generous contributions of:

Jeff Young Construction & Renovation
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Whole Kids Foundation
AgConnect
Delaware Valley University
Parme and Sons Construction, LLC
The Carly Imbierowicz Foundation
Citadel

Business Marketing and Entrepreneurship: Students in the Entrepreneurial Program attended the Future Business Leaders of America's annual State Leadership Workshop at Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center. The workshops included many sessions to build leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Members had the opportunity to take a behind the scene tour of the operations of the facility, raise funds to support Special Olympics, and network with hundreds of fellow Pennsylvania FBLA members.





OACTEP CTSO

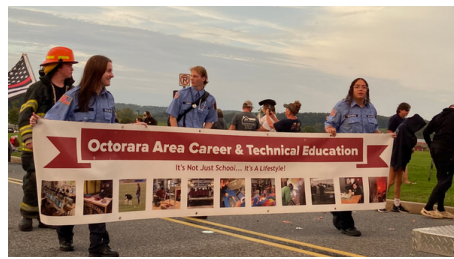


All OACTEP students belong to a Career and technical student organization (CTSO). These organizations are regarded as an integral part of career and technical education. CTSOs play an important part in preparing young people to become productive citizens and to assume roles of leadership in their communities. These organizations provide a unique program of career and leadership development, motivation, and recognition for secondary and post-secondary students enrolled, or previously enrolled, in career and technical education programs.

Octorara FFA & Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy Career & Technology Student Organizations Participates in Homecoming Parade

FFA was founded in 1928 and is the largest student-led organization in America. Octorara's Chapter is one of the oldest in the state of Pennsylvania and currently consists of 64 members from both the Ag Mechanics and Animal and Plant Science CTE Programs, and is led by a 7 person student officer team. This year FFA Members chose to participate in the homecoming parade, which had a theme of "decades". FFA members chose to have their float represent the 1930's in America. They chose this decade because it was a time of the resurgence of America, and how we can overcome hard times when we work together. The show piece of the float was the image of the American Gothic Painting which was released in 1930. The painting is of a farmer and his daughter, depicting the American pioneer spirit and the strength of rural communities during times of great economic upset.

Homeland Security & Protective Academy students who participate in SkillsUSA, joined in on the fun to support the 2023 Homecoming Parade and showed their support to First Responders!



96th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana

Chapter President Billy Miller, Chapter Vice President Daniel Rowe, Chapter Reporter Merle Reyburn, and Chapter sentinel Mason Woodall attended the FFA National Conventions. The objective of the trip was to expose officers to what is beyond the chapter level. They were able to reach out to colleges outside of our state level and ask about future careers. Officers attend workshops on leadership, took tours, and met and talked to other students from all over the country about their agriculture programs. The convention itself had over 70,000 FFA members attending.

On November 14th students participated in the FFA Career Development Events (CDE's). 11th grade student Austin Kurtz placed first in the Pennsylvania FFA Eastern Region for the Employment Skills contest. He had to complete a resume, cover letter, and employment application, go through a preliminary interview process, participate in a networking activity, and write a follow-up letter. We are hoping he will compete at the state level in June. Congratulations Austin!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Octorara Area School District Food Drive this fall. FFA students were able to donate 1,395 pounds of non-perishable goods to the Parkesburg Food Cupboard. These items will help many families in our community this holiday season.



Welcome Mocha and Frenchie

The Animal and Plant Science CTE welcomes two new additions to the program. These two adorable goats, named Mocha and Frenchie, are a Nigerian Dwarf and Boer Goat Breed Cross. They will provide students with hands-on learning with animal husbandry and ruminant nutrition, and provide further opportunity to better understand the physical anatomy and reproductive systems. These two goats are females, and are expected to kid (give birth) late January 2024.



Meet the OACTEP Student Advisors

It is an honor to introduce the 2023-2024 OACTEP Student Advisors! These outstanding student leaders were selected to represent OACTEP in their OACTEP program of study and in our community. Student Advisors demonstrate leadership, achievement in their technical skill, and are peer models. OACTEP Student Advisors work with administrators, are committed to creating awareness about OACTEP, and are excited about sharing their experiences with others.



Back row: William Miller, Mechanical Systems Technology; Colton Decker, Carpentry and Cabinetmaking; Gavin Boyer, Engineering; Brady Zimmerman, Engineering **Middle row:** Nicole Budzick, Animal and Plant Science; Daniel Rowe, Animal and Plant Science; Isaac Allison, Computer Technology; Johan Torres-Estrada, Carpentry and Cabinetmaking; Alex Hernandez-Mendez, Culinary and Baking/Pastry Arts **Front row:** Camila Gonzalez-Duenas, Child Care Education; Kaydence Santiago, Computer Technology; Liz Bicking, Graphic Design and Illustration; Lydia Ridderhoff, Graphic Design and Illustration.

- Missing from picture: Salem Budzik, Culinary and Baking/Pastry Arts; Molly Gray, Child Care Education; Brenden Hart and Matthew Maillie from Business Marketing and Entrepreneurship



Once Again We Need Your Help! OACTEP TOYS FOR TOTS EVENT DRIVE



The OACTEP Student Career and Technical Education Student Organizations are working together to bring joy to children in need throughout Chester County this holiday season and we **NEED YOUR HELP!** Our goal is to get **100 toys donated!**

It's easy, just go to the QR code shown or use this link: yougivegoods.com/octorara-toys2023 to purchase a toy or two for a child in need. You will be emailed a tax receipt at the time of purchase. All toys ordered online will be shipped directly to Chester County PA Toys for Tots after the drive ends on November 30, 2023.

OACTEP students and staff thank you! Your contributions will strengthen our community by helping children in need this holiday season.



Career Corner 4th Grade Students Visit OACTEP



Fourth grade students participated in tours and demonstrations to show them the various OACTEP courses and career paths offered at the Junior Senior High School.



CONGRATULATIONS to OACTEP Students of the Quarter!



The Octorara Area Career & Technical Education Programs (OACTEP) Student of the Quarter award goes to students who lead by example and are role models for others in the class for their leadership skills, attitude, technical skills, and knowledge of occupational concepts. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as the Octorara Area Career & Technical Education Student of the Quarter.

FIRST QUARTER



Homeland Security and Protective Services Academy

AM Law: Layla Edwards - Octorara

AM Fire: Eric McMillan - Owen J. Roberts

AM EMS: Seraphina Payonk-Combes - Owen J. Roberts

PM EMS: Charlotte Ackerman - Henderson

PM Fire: Luis Lopez - Oxford

PM Law: Ava Keller - Downingtown East



Gavin Cross



Grant Umble



Adriano Pillitteri



Mason Smoker



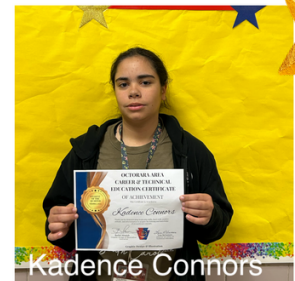
Dominick Sutton



Brendan Hart



Colton Decker



Kadence Connors



Camila Duenas-Gonzalez



Ava Laird

Gavin Cross - Culinary & Baking/Pastry Arts

Grant Umble - PM Mechanical Systems Technology

Adriano Pillitteri - Computer Science

Mason Smoker - AM Mechanical Systems Technology

Dominick Sutton - Engineering

Colton Decker - Carpentry & Cabinetmaking

Kadence Connors - Graphic Design & Illustration

Camila Duenas-Gonzalez - Child Care Education

Ava Laird - Animal & Plant Science

