



CCTI OPEN HOUSE

By Amelia Roy

Vocational-technical schools are full of hard-working students with unique skill sets and promising futures—and what better way to see this than an Open House? On October 15, 2025, Carbon Career and Technical Institute hosted its annual Open House. From 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., the school's doors welcomed any visitor to learn more about the technical and academic programs offered.

An art show hosted by the Graphic Design class displayed the special talents of various students in their respective classrooms. Handmade paintings were displayed and sold. Each was created with a Halloween theme in mind. Ghosts, bats, pumpkins, and famous horror movies were common themes. Spooky art pieces aside, miscellaneous drawings were hung up. Each upperclassmen created a fictional brand, then designed various items (clothing articles, water bottles, bags, boxes, etc.) based on what their brand sells.

Both The Jukebox Cruisers Car Club and Auto Service & Technology class presented a car show.



Photo by Graphic Design students / Open House 2025

Numerous modified, vintage, and specialized cars were on display, courtesy of the club. School projects were also exhibited. A notable example included an old military car the ACR class has been working hard to restore.

Outside on the school's courtyard, the band Vodou played live music. Delightful classic rock filled the atmosphere. Rowan Schaeffer, daughter of the school nurse (Rebecca Schaeffer) and freshman at DeSales University, was the vocalist. Jed Cordes, a junior at the Lehighton High School, played the guitar. Zane Zimmerman, a graduate of CCTI, played the bass guitar. Aide Wowk, a junior at Lehighton High School, played the keyboards. Adam Gardiner, standing in for CCTI graduate Kian Bowman who is a freshman at East Stroudsburg, played drums.

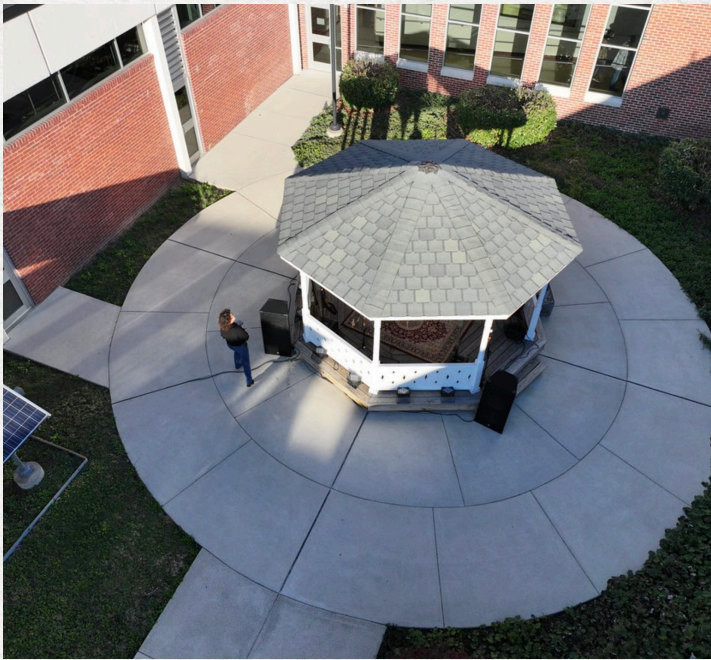


Photo by Nate Rinda / Open House 2025

Upon entering through the cafeteria, plenty of unique vendors were presented with the help of Mr. Reinbold and Pennsylvania State Representative, Doyle Heffley. Among these were organizations like Lehigh Valley Health Network, Jim Thorpe and State Police, and Care Net. Other local vendors sold fall decorations, baked goods, and 3D printed objects. Outside, two food trucks were available. Dante's Inferno, a group from Hazleton, sold a variety of Italian food, such as pizza, rolls, meatballs, lasagna, and stuffed shells. Couchpota.doh, a group from Bethlehem, offered specialty sandwiches and potato dishes.

SENIOR CLASS OFFICER INTERVIEWS

By Xavier Philipovich

With the new school year in full swing, we have new class officers. For the seniors, Steven Lilly, Autumn Green, Calli Peiffer, and Kairi Stashefski won the vote. Each of these officers was interviewed to get their thoughts about the upcoming school year.



Steven Lilly - Class President - Drafting

What are your responsibilities as class president?

"I am in charge of organizing prom. There's a speech at graduation, and I think I will be in charge of setting up class reunions in the future. Also, I just represent the senior class as a whole."

Have you had any leadership positions in the past?

"Last year, I was both a class officer and a student council officer. I was treasurer for both."

Do you have any personal plans for what you want to do as class president?

"I don't have any real plans at the moment, but I will relay to Mrs. Connors any issues that should come up."

Why did you decide to run for class president?

"Last year when I was treasurer, people recommended that I should take charge in case my friend, Eddie [Mitchell] couldn't. Also, I feel as if I could be a good representative for our grade as a whole."

How confident are you that you will be able to fulfill your responsibilities?

"I am confident enough. I have heard that Mrs. Connors is really easy to work with, so with her as principal, I believe I can get done what I need to."



Autumn Green - Vice President - Carpentry

How does it feel to be elected senior Vice President?

"Feels good, a nice accomplishment for senior year."

What are you most excited about for this school year?

"Getting the opportunity to be a part of things and help plan school events."

How do you plan to make senior year fun and memorable for everyone?

"Take the chance to talk to everyone and be open minded to their opinions."

Are there any events or ideas you'd love to see happen this year?

"Senior sunset at the end of the year."

What makes the class of 2026 special in your opinion?

"Being able to see where everyone started and where they are going."



Calli Mae Peiffer - Secretary - Health Medical

How does it feel to be elected senior class secretary?

"It was kinda given to me, since no one else ran, but I am very happy I got secretary in my senior year."

What made you decide to run for class secretary?

"I love note taking, and I felt that I was a good candidate."

How do you plan to keep the class organized this year?

"I plan to attend every meeting and take good notes, not only for the

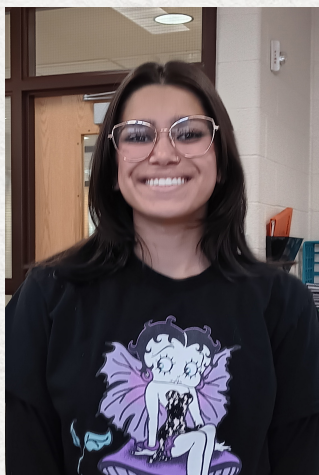
meetings, but for everyone in attendance. I also plan to provide every attendee with a copy of the last meeting's meeting minutes."

Are there any ideas you have for making meetings and events run smoothly?

"As secretary, just keeping my notes organized and clear about everything that was discussed."

What's one thing you hope everyone will remember about senior year?

"All the memories we made that led us up to senior year."



Kairi Stashefski - Treasurer - Culinary Arts

What is the first thing you will have to do as treasurer?

"Handle the money when a fundraiser is decided, and distribute it into the school's account."

How do you plan to keep track of funds?

"I can use a Google Doc or an Excel spreadsheet. I will reach out to the advisor, and then set up my own spreadsheet."

Have you had any past leadership experience?

"In my freshman and sophomore years, I was the class Vice President, and I am the current student council historian."

How do you decide what to spend funds on?

“As a group, we decide where the money goes. Even though I am handling the money, it is a group decision.”

What are you most excited about this year?

“Getting back into student government, setting up fundraisers, and the reactions we will get from participants.”

TEACHER TALK SHOW: MR. SABO

By Serenity Houston

As one of the first additions for Carbon County Technical Institute’s new Teacher Talkshow section, Newspaper Club is proud to announce one of the first interviewees, Mr. John Sabo! Mr. Sabo is one of the new science teachers introduced in the summer of the 2025-2026 school year, and was picked as one of the new teachers for the Teacher Talkshow questionnaire, so students can learn more about him.

Q: Where did you previously work?

A: I used to work at Lighthouse Christian Academy.

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: Probably a cerulean blue or a burnt orange.

Q: What do you believe are some of the most important qualities you wish to see in your students?

A: I really hope to see some good peer role modeling, leadership, and responsible accountability towards an individual's own actions in my students. The action of projecting your good actions onto others is very important to me.

Q: What is something you want your students to know about you?

A: I come from a lower middle-class background, and I really believe in the concept of working hard to succeed. I want every one of my students to learn, not just the subject, but how to understand themselves and apply it to their lives.



Photo by Serenity Houston / Mr. Sabo

Q: If you could say something of encouragement to the students reading your article, what would it be?

A: Persevere, life is full of ups and downs, ride the emotional roller coaster, and have faith in something. Those points of knowledge are what has gotten me to this point, and I hope others follow in my footsteps to make something of themselves.



Photo by Xavier Philipovich / Mr. Barthel

In early 2025, Carbon Career and Technical Institute hired a Graphic Design instructor, Mark Barthel, as the previous teacher, Maritza Reinbold, retired.

Mr. Barthel graduated from New England Institute of Art with an Associate's degree in Photography & Interactive Media Design, and then went to Lebanon Valley College for his Bachelor of Science in Music Recording Technology & Digital Communications. Since then, he founded Vyn George Media, LLC, a consulting agency specializing in graphic art, web design, sound design, blogs, and e-commerce solutions.

"When the position 'Graphic Design Instructor' popped up on my phone, it piqued my interest. It's right in the vein of what I do," Mr. Barthel stated in an email interview. "I live in the area and have serious roots here. I love that this school is filled with tech teachers who know their craft and are immersed in it. The academic teachers are warm and inviting, and I think they see things differently than a traditional teacher might." He describes his teaching style as "inclusive, highly-technical, creatively idealist yet cynically realist", and that he

NEW TEACHER: MR. BARTHEL

By Amelia Roy

adjusts to every student's learning style to push them past expectations. When asked how he became interested in a teaching career, Mr. Barthel clarified that his mother climbed the ranks at his school and became the superintendent. "Being around that during my impressionable years somehow intrinsically transferred over. That said, I sort of just fell into it. I certainly didn't set out to become a teacher."

Mr. Barthel's choice of a graphic design career, however, aligns with his interests that he's had since a young age. He explains, "Ever since I was a kid, my primary expression was through the guitar. Over the years, I've formed and founded different projects where we put out records, played shows, and took the whole scene seriously. For one of those projects, we recorded our first EP in a basement, burned the CDs ourselves, designed the album art, etc. We did all that with minimal equipment - a computer I custom built and an ink-jet printer."

Although his interests began with technology and music, he soon discovered his love for the Internet and graphics. "I started noticing that the Web was where it was at. This is all back when a 56k dial-up modem was the only method to connect to the Internet," he explains, "I got really into this program by Adobe called Flash. It was a cool

platform where you could design rich media with programming for the web. If anyone remembers MySpace, we had a slew of banners that our fans copied the code and inserted onto their personal pages. That's how I originally got into Graphic.

"I later designed Lehigh School District's website and Lehigh Borough's site while still in high school. This led me to the National Youth Leadership Forum on technology in San Francisco, CA. (...) We got to meet Shawn Fanning, the creator of Napster, Guy Kawasaki, an Apple Fellow, and Helen Greiner, the creator of iRobot. That was really inspiring at the time. Fast forward, I kept producing graphic related content for all the projects with which I was involved."

These opportunities and interests led Mr. Barthel into multiple creative and teaching positions. He elaborates, "I taught guitar, bass, and music theory at Carbon County Music & More in Lehigh while I was in high school. Years later, I continued teaching music out of my home. As far as graphic design goes, I was a project manager for an advertising firm called Mosaic in Bethlehem, PA, and a web developer for PenTeleData."

He describes his favorite part of teaching at CCTI as relating to what makes him tick. "Right under the flag in the graphic design room is the motto, 'Create. Inspire. Repeat.' To me, there is nothing greater in life than inspiring people. No money, item, or whatever can replace that." One of the obstacles he has discovered in this career is what he describes as "being agile". "Every one of my students is often on their own track technically and creatively. Being able to quickly take two steps to the left and three to the right within a moment is what I'm learning to do here at CCTI. That challenge is what keeps it all interesting."

As a final note, Mr. Barthel has a request. "To any CCTI student who is reading this that is interested in learning either guitar, bass, or plays drums, sings, etc., see me. I would like to start up a club here at CCTI involving music."

SPIRIT WEEK AND PUMPKIN CONTEST

By: Xavier Philipovich

The week of Halloween marks Carbon Career and Technical Institute's first spirit week of the school year. The Student Council selected five dress-down prompts for the entire week from October 27-31.

On Monday, the 27th, students were encouraged to wear pink, to raise awareness for breast cancer. As an activity on this day, there was a Pink Out color run.

On Tuesday, the 28th, students were to wear camouflage. This one was originally named "Out Huntin'" day according to Ms. Currier, the Student Council Advisor.



Photo by Yearbook Students / Callie Peiffer, Adam Gardiner, and Brook Tanasijczuk show school spirit.

On Thursday, the 30th, teachers got involved, and “swapped” outfits with students. The students dressed as the teachers and staff, and vice versa.

And lastly, on the 31st, Friday, CCTI celebrated Halloween, and students wore costumes.

After the categories for Spirit Week were selected by the Student Council, a brief interview was conducted with Ms. Currier, who stated, “I like to leave most of the decision making up to the students. I had my students submit ideas, got them approved, and then let them vote on their favorites. However, the Pink Out was predetermined.”

Another piece of holiday fun was CCTI’s Pumpkin Contest. The tech areas each received two pumpkins to decorate, one for each group. After that, votes were collected to see who won in different categories. In an interview with Mrs. Rinda, the Deca Advisor stated that the contest became tradition “4 years ago for the DECA Chapter. The DECA organization gave chapter activities ideas and Mrs. Rinda came up with offering the contest to the whole school. This event supports our chapter with meeting certain chapter goals for the school year!”



Photo by Yearbook students / B Day Marketing Pumpkin

Winners are decided through staff votes, but a new category was added: People’s Choice, where the individuals who attended the CCTI 2025 Open House were able to vote on their favorites.

This year's winners were:

Most Creative: B Day students in HVAC (Standing metal pumpkin guy)

Scariest: B Day Students in Digital Marketing (Hello Kitty in the woods)

Best Painted: B Day Drafting students - (Black light painted theme)

People's Choice: B Day Marketing (Hello Kitty in the woods) & runner-up (A-Day Health Medical students - medical pumpkin theme on the table top)



Photo by Yearbook students / B Day HVAC Pumpkin

WHY MARCH ALONE WHEN WE COULD MARCH TOGETHER?

By: Emily Dorward

The Palmerton Area High School Marching Band performs at various events including football games, holiday parades, pep rallies, and other school events. Football games are every Friday and some Saturdays, from August to October at 7:00 pm. There is a pep rally for Homecoming in September, parades for Halloween in October, Veterans Day in November, and Memorial Day in May. The band performs to support the Palmerton Area High School and to give students the chance to learn music.

The marching band teaches students valuable lessons and life skills. It is a fun club to be a part of and brings students together. It is a place where students could play an instrument or twirl a flag and other equipment. Being in the band challenges your brain and helps you get better grades. It helps you take on the requirements and assignments in your classes. The Palmerton Area High School Marching Band Director Matthew Blanchard states, "The way it kinda rewires your brain, gives you structure, and challenges your brain".

Being in the band also gives you a social group and helps you get through school. Having an already established friend group helps students get through their first day(s) of school. Having a group of friends gives kids the confidence and support they need in the band and anywhere else. It gives them a sense of belonging and safety. It also gives them memories they will cherish for the rest of their lives.



Photo by Emily Dorward / Palmerton Band Practice 2025

The band gives kids the chance to learn together and have fun, whether it be with the bus rides to and from games or with fun games. Band is a place where everyone can come together and have fun. To be in the band requires no skill because the band will teach you all the skills you need. You will learn marching technique, marching fundamentals, instrumental fundamentals, to play as an ensemble, to play as an individual, how to multi-task, and so much more.

You will also learn to be more confident in yourself, to be a leader whether just your section or of the whole band. It also lets students be social with others and learn a lot.

Being in the marching band gives you so many opportunities including traveling to places to perform. Traveling to football games and the competitions at amusement parks in the spring.

Band also gives students the opportunity to be a leader. There are Drum Majors, section leaders, and officer positions. These roles give kids the chance to help others especially the younger kids. The Palmerton Area High Schools Marching Band Drum Major Eniessa Groller states, "The most important things about band are teamwork, dedication, and discipline". The bonds we share within the band show our teamwork. We try our hardest in rehearsals and performances and we are really dedicated.

In conclusion, students should join a band to join the wonderful community we have built. The band is welcome to anyone to learn music. Music is a safe place for students to learn, unwind, and show their skills.

AI MUSIC MESS

By Serenity Houston

Through the early 2000s and continuing to today, music playlists have been the pinnacle of listening to an individual's favorite music taste. Music, and the playlists that are made from them, have always been a very interpersonal and universal thing made by humans and for humans. If you were to ask any individual on the street, they probably have some type of music they enjoy and listen to throughout their day, and playlists are one of the most common ways to do so. The question that is starting to concern others is: What if the people making that music were completely taken out of this process with generative AI?

Rising in popularity from 2021 to the current day, there has been a large surge of artificial intelligence, and there has been a larger occurrence of generative AI. This generative AI takes curated music, already made by living beings that have put time, effort, and creativity into their work, and mashes it with other songs to make a new one that sounds similar in style. Artificial intelligence has been growing more and more by the day, and has now been influencing topics like music.

There has been a large quantity of people curating playlists on platforms like YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, and other music apps posting AI-generated content for the sake of capitalizing on the work that other artists have made, for the sake of capitalization of ad revenue or viewer count. Madison "GetMadz" Allan is one of those people who dislikes the concept of AI users capitalizing on these YouTube playlists that are normally created by people from gaming communities, study sessions, or everyday work. He says, "None of it is really made by someone. None of it has that passion or like yearn for that preservation for these songs that you can't get elsewhere. It's sort of just capitalizing on the Lo-fi aspect of things." He also further mentions this throughout his video,

"You've Been Listening to AI Music and Didn't Even Know It."

Madz further vents this frustration with these playlists not crediting their original source and without evidence of their AI origin. "Maybe there are a few comments about the album cover art or something, very little, very little of a proportion of the people watching, clicking, and listening to this realize that none of it was done by a human, and that's just gross," says Madz. The concept of these AI music playlists have seemed to heavily concern individuals with his video, which has 542,000 views. In the video's comment section, there is a growing concern with AI being used in this monetary way, without the original artwork being credited for its creation.

Today, the potential illegality of this music is still undetermined, with various courts and copyright offices either siding with the people who created the original pieces or AI-music users. There is no telling where or how far these AI-curated playlists will extend to next.

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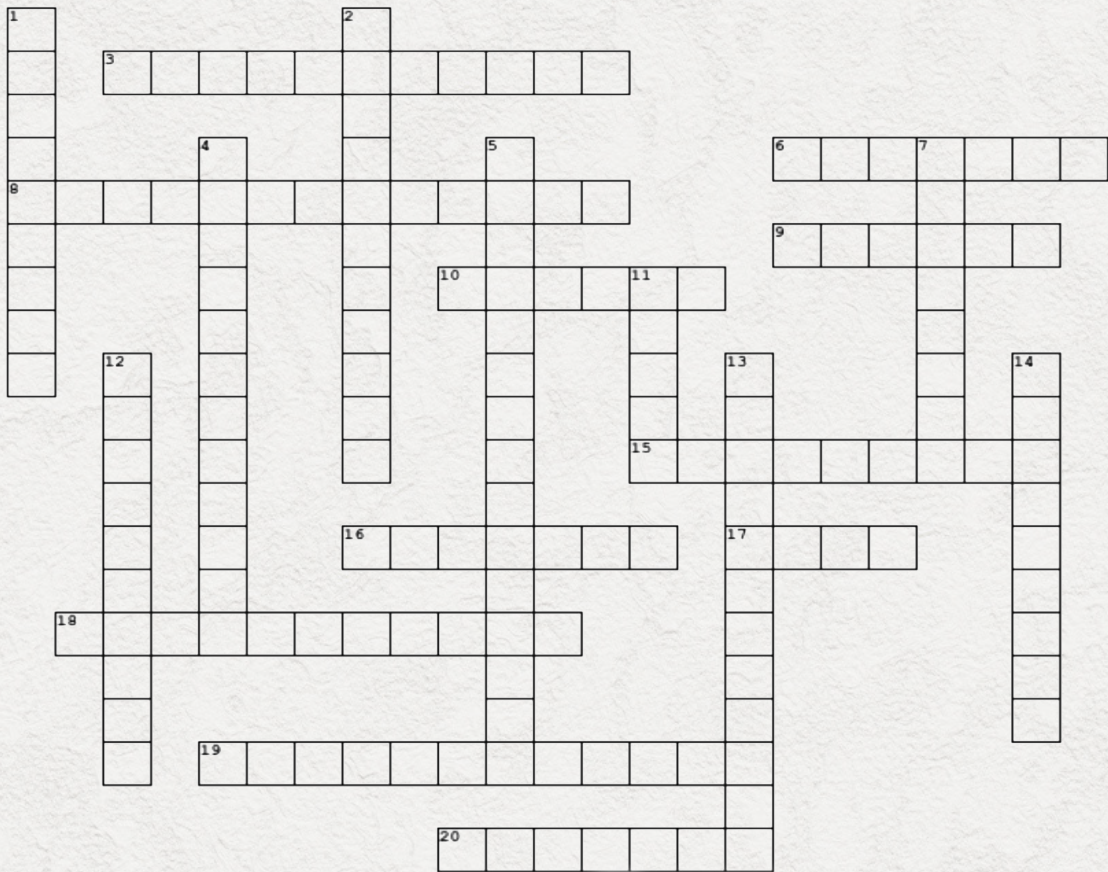
2025	2026
Mondays: 9am-12pm	Mondays: 9am-12pm
Wednesdays: 9am-12pm	Tuesdays: 5pm-7pm
Thursdays: 5pm-7pm	Wednesdays: 9am-12pm
Fridays: 9am-12pm	Fridays: 9am-12pm

THE PUZZLER

By: Xavier Philipovich / Photo by Mrs. Connors



Spot the 5 Differences between the photos of students working on a lab in Mrs. Sablich's room!



Across

- 3. Graveyard Smash
- 6. Rolling in their Graves
- 8. The Raven Author
- 9. _____ Family
- 10. Red, Yellow, Brown and _____
- 15. Nightmare Director
- 16. All _____ Eve
- 17. Coveted Candy Size
- 18. Terrifying Circus Performer
- 19. At every coffee shop
- 20. Seeked in Salem

Down

- 1. Stuffed with Hay
- 2. The Juice is Loose
- 4. Door to Door
- 5. Classic Costume Shop
- 7. Bad Luck Animal
- 11. Transparent fellow
- 12. Faceless
- 13. Best when baked
- 14. Controversial Candy

Spot The Difference Answers: The boy's bracelets are gone. The hole in the table is gone. The sticky note in the back is gone. The boy on the far left no longer has a logo on his shirt. The blue dot on the poster in the background is now yellow.)