

THE YOUTH CONNECTION



June 2021

EMBRACE CHANGE!

We all have a choice when it comes to change—we can dread it and live waiting for the next shoe to drop, or we can learn not to fear change but instead see it as an opportunity. One of the greatest skills we can teach our youth is to be flexible. Change may bring uncertainty and anxiety, but when embraced, with a positive outlook, we can realize that the changes in life, big and small, offer us the chance to grow and be prepared for all that life has to offer.

It is very human to miss the old ways that we did things, and as with any change it's easy to feel a sense of loss. Throw in a pandemic, along with changes to routines and plans for the weeks and months ahead, and it's more important than ever to acknowledge the challenges and difficulties that we face, and have faced, in light of COVID-19. We have been living in a situation that never happened before (at least in our lifetime), and it is impacting each and every one of us in a unique way. The best advice is to embrace change and be flexible. And, if you find it difficult to adjust to a "New Normal", it's never too early or too late to reach out for support.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Think about this... The High School Class of 2021, who were juniors last year, are now the first class in 100 years to have not one, but two years of disrupted learning, due to a global pandemic.

We'd like to recognize this class's achievement of making it to graduation. They had to go through schools shutting down, bouncing between online, in-class, and hybrid learning; dealt with ever-changing health protocols and the challenges of losing in-person social connections. This class had their the college application process disrupted, as many colleges were remote this past fall, and in-person tours were closed. If you're one of these graduates, at least there's a silver lining: All of those experiences make you one of the most unique graduating classes of all time. By forging ahead and earning your diplomas, you've come away with more skills than you may realize, including career and life skills AND →



1. You are remote-ready	5. You're resilient
2. You adapted to a crisis	6. You're self-reliant
3. You are a risk taker	7. You're a critical thinker
4. You're empathetic	8. You're mentally tough

Learn more about our SWTS, Inc. Class of 2021, and more, in this edition!

SOUTHWEST TRAINING SERVICES, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

Chair: **Dr. Dennis McCarthy** — *Executive Director, Western Area Career & Technology Center*

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**OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM****MATTHEW COOK — A Talented Electrician**

Matthew Cook began his journey with Southwest Training Services, Inc. in June of 2019. He had recently graduated from Fort Cherry High School and was interested in learning about the different post-secondary education paths available. After working with the youth case manager to research schools and programs, Matt decided he wanted to attend Pittsburgh Technical College's Electrician Technology Certification program. He completed several workshops about career education with Southwest before starting his program in October of 2019. Throughout his time at PTC, Matt received glowing reviews from his instructors and earned excellent grades.

He finished his program and graduated in April 2021 & was immediately hired on by his internship placement, Shanahan Electric, Inc., Burgettstown, PA as Electrical Apprentice. Matt has proven himself a hard worker, a diligent student, and a valuable employee. **Congratulations** to such a talented individual!

**ANDREW MCCARLEY — Motivated to Change and Excel**

Andrew McCarley began his journey with Southwest Training Services in June of 2020. Despite the threat of the pandemic, Andrew was determined to start a new chapter of his life after prison. He was able to utilize the Youth Re-Entry program funding and the WIOA Out-Of-School Youth program to secure an On-the-Job-Training opportunity. After earning his high school diploma while incarcerated, he knew he had the skills and drive to work towards a better future. The team at Southwest Training was able to help Andrew create a professional résumé and prepare for the demands of the workforce. He showed an interest in warehouse work and the team at Southwest Training was able to fund an On-The-Job Training (OJT) employment opportunity, as a Material Handler at Specified Systems, Inc., Canonsburg, PA.

Andrew proved his work ethic daily through his punctuality and ability to learn and adapt to the job requirements. We received frequent feedback from Specified Systems, highlighting Andrew's professionalism and dependability. While working, Andrew also had the joy of becoming a father when his daughter was born in August. Finding a work/life balance as a new father became another area where Andrew excelled. Andrew cites providing for his daughter and partner as his greatest motivation for his continued excellence on the job. While his OJT officially ended in November, Specified Systems, Inc. was delighted to continue his employment. He has shown he is a valuable employee, loyal coworker, and upstanding citizen. Southwest Training Services, Inc. is proud to have worked with such an inspiring individual who completely turned his life around!



Andrew McCarley and his family

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT: MRS. LAURA WALTERS–West Greene High School

“My name is Laura Walters. I am a graduate of West Virginia University (Bachelor of Education) and have obtained my Special Education Supervisor Certification through the University of Pittsburgh. I have been employed by the West Greene School District for the past 37 years and am currently the Special Education Supervisor. I have also held past positions as a special education and lead support teacher.

Serving my community has been a privilege; while living in Greene County, I have been involved in the following organizations (past/present board member): Greene County United Way, Greene Arc, Greene County Human Services Advisory Board, Greene County Children and Youth Advisory Board, and the Greene County Special Olympics. In addition, I have coached the West Greene Girls’ Basketball teams from 1990-1998.

Currently, I assist with the coordination of the Greene County Toys for Tots Program.

As a member of the Greene Valley Presbyterian Church, I serve as a deaconess, member of the Psalm 150 Bell Choir and I am a Sunday School teacher. My husband John and I reside in Carmichaels. In my spare time I enjoy walking, baking and especially spending time with my family!”

SWTS, INC. WIOA OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH GRADS

We are proud to announce the SWTS, Inc. **out-of-school youth Graduates!** These students worked very hard through the year (and pandemic) to successfully complete and graduate from their respective programs!

GRADUATE	POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL	MAJOR/PROGRAM OF STUDY
Jarrett Babeji	Pittsburgh Technical College	Computer Aided Drafting
Abbey Bauer	California University of PA	Master’s Degree in School Counseling
Gavin Beachy	Pittsburgh Technical College	Multimedia Technologies / Web Design
Matthew Cook	Pittsburgh Technical College	Electrician Technology Certification
Tyler Dobrinski	Rosedale Technical College	Automotive Technology
Emily Durila	Community College of Allegheny County	Nursing
Ryan Findley	Douglas Education Center	CDL-A Certification / License
De’Seana Flowers	Laurel Business Institute	Medical Assistant
James Harris	Douglas Education Center	CDL-A Certification / License
Taylor Kolovich	Penn Commercial	Electrician
Mikoda McKivitz	Western Area Career & Technology Center	Welding
Sidian McKivitz	Western Area Career & Technology Center	Automation & Robotics Engineering Technology
Draven Michael	Penn Commercial	Electrician
Sage Miller	Pittsburgh Technical College	Hospitality Management
Jacob Popielarczyk	Penn Commercial	Welding Technology
Madison Renner	Penn Commercial	CDL-A Certification / License
James Smith	Pittsburgh Technical College	Bakery & Pastry Chef

AMAZING ARTWORK! ALEXIS ROCKWELL- Waynesburg Central High School

Alexis Rockwell is a sophomore at Waynesburg Central High School and is a member of our Southwest Training In-school youth program. She is a very talented young artist and we wanted to feature some of her work. Below are two pieces of her artwork, and to the right is a photo of Alexis with some of her art behind her!



"Metamorphosis"



"Button Eyes"



ALEXIS ROCKWELL
Waynesburg Central High School

Alexis has an **Instagram** Account for her Art Work.
It can be viewed at: [@till.death_we.do.art](https://www.instagram.com/till.death_we.do.art)

SANDRA CHIZLER - Avella Area High School

SAUNDRAH CHILZER
Avella High School



Saundrah Chizler is a junior at Avella High School. Here are a few of her amazing works of art!

Saundrah's future plans include attending post-secondary education and eventually becoming a cardio-thoracic surgeon. She is involved in softball, basketball and is also an honor student.



AGAIN we would like to **CONGRATULATE** the Seniors that are members of our Southwest Training Services, Inc. Youth Program! See the following pages for more information and pics on each of these remarkable individuals from the class of 2021!

SENIOR	HIGH SCHOOL / CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Arastasia Linton-Rush	Bentworth High School
Tyson Knox	Bentworth High School / Mon Valley Career & Technology Center
Joseph Beckinger	California Area High School
Jacob Morgan	Canon McMillan High School
Maddie Novic	Canon McMillan High School
Drew Peterson	Canon McMillan High School
Autumn Barnhart	Chartiers-Houston High School / Western Area Career & Technology Center
Jenna Miller	Charleroi Area High School
Bethany Levers	Chartiers-Houston High School
Marisa Sherman	Chartiers-Houston High School
Heather Smith	Chartiers-Houston High School
Ahlijah Vaden	Chartiers-Houston High School / Western Area Career & Technology Center
Madison Wisnoski	Chartiers-Houston High School / Western Area Career & Technology Center
Ayden Judy	Jefferson Morgan High School / Greene County Career & Technology Center
Theodore Rao	Jefferson Morgan High School / Greene County Career & Technology Center
Megan Carroll	McGuffey High School
Jacy Strohecker	McGuffey High School
Rachel Crossan	Peters Township High School
Jonathan Lawson	Peters Township High School
Charlene Andrews	Reach Cyber Charter School
Lisa Andrews	Reach Cyber Charter School
Savanna Williams	Ringgold High School
Peyton Celani	Trinity Area High School
Ameara Chandler	Trinity Area High School
Makalya Koger	Trinity Area High School
Dylan King	Trinity Area High School
Brendan McGurgan	Trinity Area High School
Jolee Main	Trinity Area High School / Western Area Career & Technology Center
Kody Michel	Trinity Area High School / Western Area Career & Technology Center
Jade Miller	Trinity Area High School
Jacob Paez	Trinity Area High School
Brett Wrubleski	Trinity Area High School
Alyssa Barnhart	Washington High School / Western Area Career & Technology Center
Zackary Doman	Washington High School
Mackenzie Lightfoot	Washington High School
Maleik Meredith	Washington High School
Amari Wade	Washington High School

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT—BRETT WRUBLESKI—Trinity Area High School

My name is **Brett Wrubleski**, and am a senior at Trinity High School. I grew up in the Washington area and have attended Trinity Area Schools since kindergarten. During my high school years, I was a member of the Debate Team, Academic League, German Club, Math League and Model UN, to name a few. My academic team placed first in school competitions. This year I received a 3rd place award in the 8th Annual PA High School Model UN, and was commended for my excellent tactical role play. During high school, I was pole vaulter and discus thrower on the track and field team. My senior year, I was also the coach of the pole vaulting team. When I was in 1st grade, I became a cub scout and stayed with scouting until I aged out. As a boy scout, I served as an assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and senior patrol leader. At the age of 15, I earned my Eagle Scout rank. For my Eagle Scout project, I planned, organized and managed the construction of landscaping steps for an emergency exit for a church. This summer will be my second year working at a Fort Steuben Scout Reservation. My first year working at camp, I was a camp counselor and the emcee for family night, which was a lot a lot of fun. This year I will be a camp director, and am looking forward to working with and leading younger scouts.

I am excited to be graduating and am on track to serve as Valedictorian of my class. This fall, I will be enrolled in the Accelerated Dual Degree Program at Rochester Institute of Technology, earning my master degree in five years in the Mechanical Engineering –Aerospace major. My dream is to become an aerospace engineer and to have a career with SpaceX or NASA.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT—BETHANY LEVERS—Chartiers-Houston High School



Bethany Levers is a senior at Chartiers-Houston High School. To say she has worked very hard during her school years is truly an understatement. Her hard work has paid off, as she has been awarded several honors and scholarships. Along with being a member of our Southwest Training Services, Inc. youth program, Bethany is also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and she placed 1st in the Region & 2nd in the State for Word Processing, as well as, 4th Place in the Region for Introduction to Business Communications. She also attended the National Leadership Conference Competition in San Antonio, Texas.

Bethany attended the Junior Athena Workshop with sponsoring employer, Range Resources, and was part of the Washington Co. Chamber of Commerce Power Women's Leadership Initiative. She has been awarded the Olivia Scott Foundation Scholarship, Most Valuable staff member of the Yearbook Club,

Leo Club MVP, Chartiers-Houston SHO representative in recognition of dedication and service to the Academy for Adolescent Health, Students Against Destructive Decisions Award, and the Connor Jardine Exemplary Performance in Service Award for accumulating 416 community service hours from freshman to senior year. She has also received the Tony Mara Scholarship; Pell and SEOG Grants; and the LeTourneau University Dean's Scholarship. Her future plans are to attend LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas and major in Biochemistry. Bethany has also been employed at Krispy Kreme for the past 2 years. She is one amazing individual—CONGRATULATIONS!

SWTS, Inc. CLASS Of 2021



ARASTASIA LINTON-RUSH

Bentworth High School

Future Plans: Community College of Allegheny County

Major: Emergency Medical Technician
She was a member of the Leo Club, Yearbook Club, and Marching Band

THEODORE RAO

Jefferson Morgan High School & Greene County Career & Technology Center Electrical Occupations Program

Future Plans: Employment—Kiger's Electrical Service as an Electrician



TYSON KNOX

Bentworth High School & Mon Valley Career & Technology Center Computer Engineering Program

Future Plans: Employment utilizing his technical skills



MARISA SHERMAN

Chartiers-Houston High School

Future Plans: Slippery Rock University

Major: Communications with Digital Media Production

Marisa has been an honor student for 4 years and received a scholarship from the VFW. She is currently employed at Alterio's Catering.



CHARLENE ANDREWS

Reach Cyber Charter School

Future Plans: Employment

Charlene was a member of the Environmental and Art Clubs and also volunteers her time at the local food banks.



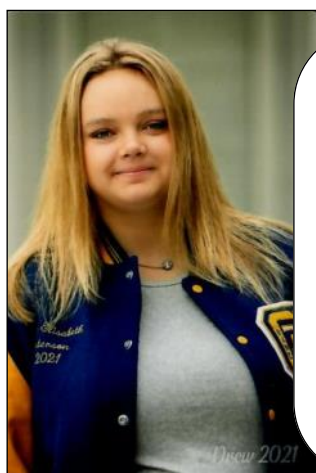
DREW PETERSON

Canon McMillan High School & Western Area Career & Technology Center Health Assistant program

Future Plans: Penn Commercial

Major: Practical Nursing program.

She has received the Heartsaver AED & CPR; Personal Care Home Direct Care Staff & Bloodborne Pathogen Certifications
1st Place SkillsUSA District 9 Competition
3rd Place – 2020 District 9 Competition
2nd Place – 2019 District 9 Competition She passed NOCTI with a score of 90.21; Honor Roll student grades 9-12



JONATHAN LAWSON

Peter's Township High School

Future Plans: University of Pittsburgh

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Jonathan was a high honor roll student and he is currently employed at Vocelli Pizza and the Nike Store.

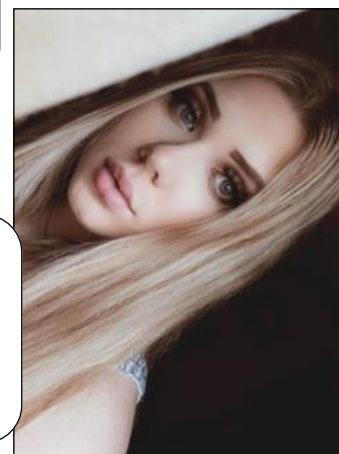
AUTUMN BARNHART

Chartiers-Houston High School & Western Area Career & Technology Center Health Occupations Program

Future Plans: California University of PA

Major: Nursing

Madison has received a \$4,000 scholarship





AYDEN JUDY

Jefferson Morgan High School &
Greene County Career & Technology Center
Electrical Occupations

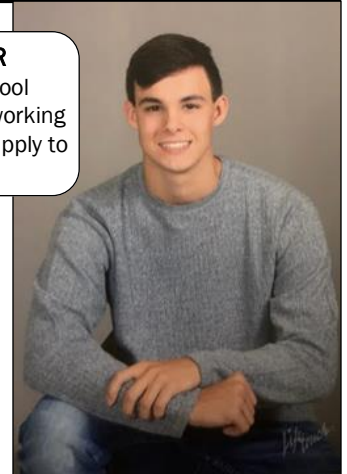
Future Plans: Westmoreland County
Community College

Major: Electrical Utility Technology Program

JOSEPH BECKINGER

California Area High School

Future Plans: To continue working
at his current job and then apply to
the Laborer's Union.



AMARI WADE

Washington High School

Future Plans: employment

She currently working at McDonald's
and is in a management position.



MADISON WISNOSKI

Chartiers-Houston High School &
Western Area Career & Technology Center
Personal Care Technician program

Future Plans: attend Community College of
Allegheny County **Major:** Nursing

Madison received Blood-borne Pathogen &
CPR, and Personal Care Technician
Certifications & passed her NOCTI exam

HEATHER SMITH

Chartiers-Houston High School

Future Plans: Community College of
Allegheny County

Major: Special Education
Heather has also been employed at
Shop N' Save, in Canonsburg, for
2 years as a cashier



JENNA MILLER

Charleroi Area High School

Future Plans: Westmoreland
County Community College

Major: Nursing
Jenna was a Charleroi Majorette
and is in the Choir

RACHEL CROSSAN

Peters Township High School

Future Plans: Community College of
Allegheny County

Major: Information Technology
Once completed she will transfer credits
to get a Bachelor's Degree.
She was a member of the school's choir,
the track & field, soccer & tennis teams.



PEYTON CELANI

Trinity High School

Future Plans: attend College

Major: Social Work/Psychology
She has maintained high honor
roll status for 4 years and will
receive the AP scholar award
for passing at least 3 AP tests.



JACOB PAEZ

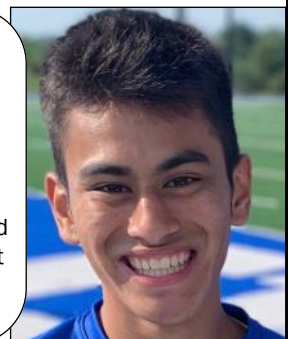
Trinity High School

Future Plans: Tabor College

(He has received both an academic & soccer
scholarship)

Major: Biology/Biomedical Sciences

He was a member of the National Society and
was Soccer Team Captain. He is employed at
the Brownson House & the Washington Co.
District Attorney's office.



SWTS, Inc. CLASS OF 2021



BRENDON MCGURGAN
Trinity Area High School

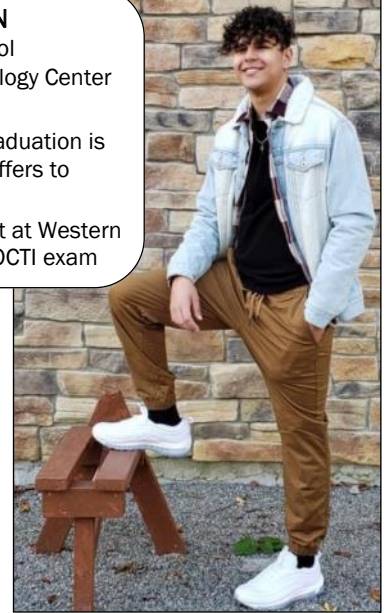
Future Plans: Indiana University of PA
Major: Psychology/Clinical Psychology
Brendon was a member of the Jr. ROTC program and held the office of First Sergeant.
He has also maintained high honor roll status during his 4 years of high school.

AHLIJAH VADEN

Chartiers-Houston High School
Western Area Career & Technology Center
Electrical Program

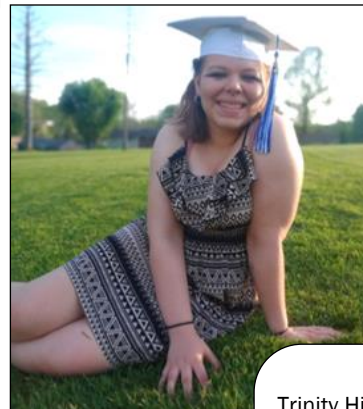
Future Plans: His plan upon graduation is employment and has several offers to choose from.

Ahlijah was a 3rd year student at Western Area CTC and passed his NOCTI exam



SAVANNA WILLIAMS
Ringgold High School

Future Plans: Employment
Savanna was a member of the Art Club and Yearbook Club



JOLEE MAIN

Trinity High School & Western Area Career & Technology Center - Health Assistant program

Future Plans: Her goal upon graduation is to obtain employment before she attends post-secondary education in 2022.

Certifications: Heartsaver AED & CPR, & Bloodborne Pathogens Certifications



AMEARA CHANDLER

Trinity High School

Future Plans: California University of PA
Major: Business Management and Entrepreneurial Studies
She is currently employed at Goodwill Industries & H&M clothing store.

MALEIK MEREDITH

Washington High School

Future Plans: Apprenticeship Readiness Program
Major: Building Trades



ZACKARY DOMAN

Washington High School

Future Plans: Apprenticeship Readiness Program to prepare him for the Building Trades

He has been a member of the football team for 4 years. During his football career, his team won the WPIAL championship. He has lettered for 3 years.



MADDIE NOVIC

Canon McMillan High School

Future Plans: California University of PA
Major: Special Education

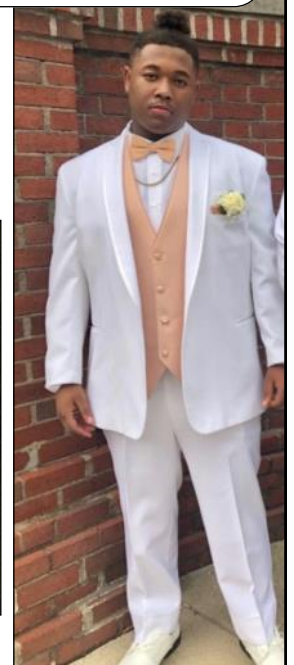
She was inducted into the Latin Honor Society & received a Vulcan Merit Scholarship from California University of PA

LISA ANDREWS

Reach Cyber Charter School

Future Plans: Employment

Lisa volunteers at the local food banks & Oktoberfest & was a member of the Environmental Club.



SWTS, Inc. CLASS OF 2021

**JADE MILLER**

Trinity High School

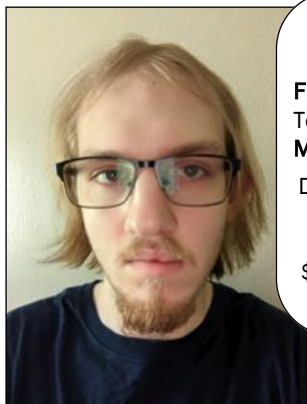
Future Plans: Wheeling University **Major:** Biology**Scholarships:** academic scholarship to Wheeling University for maintaining a 4.2 GPA while in high school.

She was also granted a Swim scholarship after being selected to be on the University's team.

Honors: - Setting two swim team school records;
- Being selected to the National Honor Society

Jade was also a member of several clubs including:

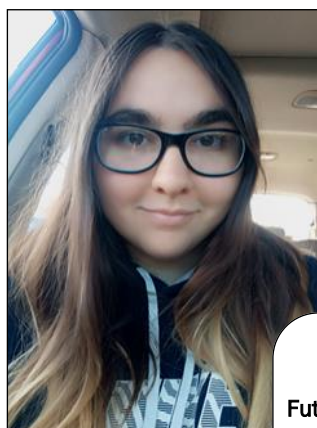
- vice-president of the HOSA Future Health Professionals
- president of the Environmental Club
- Trinity High School Swim team & the USA Swim team

**KODY MICHEL**Trinity Area High School &
Western Area Career & Technology Center
Carpentry Program**Future Plans:** employment— Waste Management**DYLAN KING**

Trinity Area High School

Future Plans: Rochester Institute of Technology**Major:** Microelectronics Engineering.

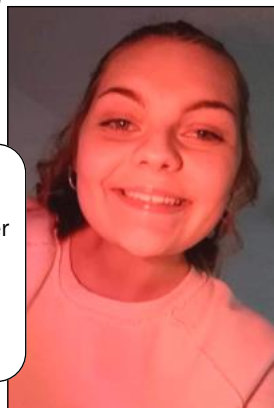
Dylan was a member of the National Honor Society; he has received the Timothy Edward Hitchon Award for \$1,000. He is currently employed at Happy Pappy's

**MAKALYA KOGER**

Trinity Area High School

Future Plans: Tennessee State University**Major:** Criminal Justice

Makalya was a member of the Future Farmers Association. In addition, she helped paint the school mural and worked in the school coffee café.

ALYSSA BARNHARTWashington High School &
Western Area Career & Technology Center
Cosmetology Program**Future Plans:** Employment working with children; she also has plans to enroll into post-secondary education.**MACKENZIE LIGHTFOOT**

Washington High School

Future Plans: California University of PA
Major: Criminal Justice

While in high school, Mackenzie was a consistent high honor roll student.

MEGAN CARROLL

McGuffey High School

Future Plans: Community College of Allegheny County— then California University of PA**Major:** Physical Therapy Assistant

Megan was a consistent high honor roll student. She was on the soccer, basketball, and rifle teams

In addition, she was a member of the 4H and National Honor Society.



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200 Greene Plaza, Waynesburg, PA 15370

phone: 724-852-2900

Email: paclgreene@washingtongreene.org

PA CareerLink® Mon Valley

570 Galiffa Drive, Donora, PA 15033

phone: 724-379-4750

Email: paclmv@washingtongreene.org

PA CareerLink® Washington County

90 West Chestnut Street, Suite 150 LL, Washington, PA 15301

phone: 724-223-4500

Email: paclwash@washingtongreene.org



SUPPORT FROM SOUTHWEST...

Lisa L. Neil, President – lnail@swtraining.org

Cynthia A. Derrico, Vice President – cderrico@swtraining.org

CONTACT US!



For more information or to get involved, contact our Youth Staff:

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ebarnes@swtraining.org 724-229-1350 x 241

Maresa Hunyady, Youth Case Manager (Greene Co.)

mhunyadi@swtraining.org 724-852-2900 x 246

Marta Zimmerman, Youth Case Manager (Mon Valley)

mzimmerman@swtraining.org 724-379-4750 x 125

Joyce Leyda, Records & Retention Specialist

jleyda@swtraining.org 724-229-1350 x 231

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT—MADISON CARDER



MADISON CARDER

Madison Carder is a Junior at Waynesburg Central High School and is a member of Southwest Training's in-school youth program.

This year, Madison was accepted into the National Honor Society! She is also a member of FFA (Future Farmers of America), the HOSA (HOSA—Future Health Professionals) Competition Team, and she is taking the Emergency Protective Services classes at the Greene County

Career & Technology Center. We are very proud of her being so involved in school activities and maintaining great grades!



Eligible youth between the ages of 14 to 24 (in-school and out-of-school) can enroll with Southwest Training and work with our staff on the following:

- ⇒ Work one-on-one with a Youth Case Manager
- ⇒ Gain Skills To Get A Job
- ⇒ Achieve a Credential
- ⇒ Get help with Job Searching
- ⇒ Learn Effective Interview Techniques
- ⇒ Academic and Occupational Skills Testing
- ⇒ Supportive Services
- ⇒ Career Awareness Activities
- ⇒ Post-Secondary Training Opportunities
- ⇒ Paid Work Experiences
- ⇒ Job Shadowing Experiences
- ⇒ Post-Secondary School Visits
- ⇒ Employer/Industry Tours
- ⇒ Career, College and Job Fairs
- ⇒ On-The-Job Training
- ⇒ Mentoring

... AND MUCH MORE!

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT: Rebecca Booher - Trinity High School

Rebecca Rea Booher has been teaching forever. And ever. Just ask her. A graduate of Washington and Jefferson College, Mrs. Booher began her interest in a teaching career, by assisting Dr. Charles Ream, with choosing elementary reading programs for a school he developed, in the Philippines, for Westinghouse employees' children who were working there.

Mrs. Booher then completed her student teaching practicum with the Washington School District, taught at McGuffey School District, Penn Commercial, and Trinity Area School District. Mrs. Booher has been with Trinity for 35 years.

In August of 2017, with the help of Mr. Thomas Samosky (*former High School Principal*), Mrs. Booher took on a partnership with Ester Barnes and Southwest Training Services, Inc. After spending a two week internship at their Washington office and the PA CareerLink® Washington County, learning the center's services and visiting the Greene County facility, Mrs. Booher took her information to her 12th grade college preparatory English classes. In addition to providing state mandated instruction for English, Mrs. Booher added resume & cover letter writing, dressing for success, interviewing skills, & workplace etiquette to the curriculum. She has invited many people from the community into the high school where small group sessions were provided for students who were interested in specific occupations from nursing, to accounting to engineering, to cosmetology and beyond. Operating one's own company or business, as well as,

the importance of the trades was also addressed.

In December of 2019, Mrs. Booher was invited to Harrisburg to speak at the SAS (Standards Aligned System) convention to discuss her project with interested educators from across PA. She provided information for other districts so that they could develop similar programs in their schools.



Mrs. Booher's 35 year tenure has been a rich and rewarding experience. She has been a nominee for the Disney Teacher of the Year Award and the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Award. She has been placed in the Who's Who of American High School Teachers and was given the Distinguished Teacher of the Year: High School.

Mrs. Booher is married to Donald W. Booher, Jr. of Washington. She is the mother of Billy (Christina) Booher of Belle Vernon and Brian (Megen) Booher of Bentleyville, and grandmother of Lyla Joy and Billy IV of Belle Vernon.

SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS Webinar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021—Presenters from Questbridge

This webinar focuses on the types of available scholarships, free resources for finding scholarships, and tips for applying for scholarships. In addition, high school seniors will learn how they can apply for the National College Match and also qualify for full four-year scholarships.

To register visit: www.pheaa.org/virtual

FINANCIAL AID WEBINARS—Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

The month of June begins a new series of PHEAA one-hour webinars, and PHEAA is partnering with Kelly Davis of PA529. The webinars will be conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays at NOON, in a "Lunch and Learn" format. These are free, interactive webinars where questions are welcome. Please share this information with anyone you think may benefit.

"PHEAA and PA529 Discuss How To Cover The Gap": Join financial aid experts Linda Pacewicz and Dan Wray of the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and PA 529 expert Kelly Davis of the PA Treasury, for this informative webinar. Learn about the best ways to prepare for an affordable higher education experience. Best practices including filing the FAFSA, seeking grants and scholarships first, and extensively covers how to save will be presented. Education loans are included in the discussion, as well. Lots of terrific info! **To register—visit: <https://www.pheaa.org/virtual>**

SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHT: DR. KEVIN MONAGHAN - Central Greene School District

After graduating from California University of PA with a B.S. in Biology and a secondary teaching certification, Dr. Kevin M. Monaghan began his career in the South Fayette School District where he taught diverse science courses ranging from middle school life and physical sciences to high school biology and advanced placement biology. He also attained his Master of Education Degree and secondary principal certification from the University of Pittsburgh.

After receiving his secondary principal certification, he was hired by the Fort Cherry School District as the Assistant Junior-Senior High School Principal. While working at Fort Cherry, he began the pursuit of a Letter of Eligibility through the California University of PA. A year later, Dr. Monaghan was hired by the South Park School District as an administrator at the middle school. In 2010, he completed the Letter of Eligibility program, and received his doctorate in the summer of 2020 from California University of PA.



For fifteen years, Dr. Monaghan served as the middle school assistant principal and principal, Curriculum Coordinator and Federal Programs Coordinator in the South Park School District. Over those fifteen years, he was involved in every aspect of the middle school and central office, such as curriculum development, policy writing, professional development and the implementation of and maintenance of the district's one-to-one technology program. Dr. Monaghan also worked alongside his faculty to effectively implement South Park's nationally recognized S.T.E.M. program.

Over the past thirty years, his experiences as an administrator, teacher, coach and student have provided him with the necessary tools to be an advocate for all children who strive for excellence in all capacities. His favorite quote is from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. which states, *"The time is always right to do what is right."*

Currently, Dr. Monaghan is in his first year as the Superintendent of the Central Greene School District. His vision for the school district is to increase transparency and communication between the school district and the stakeholders in the community. He hopes to build trust between the community and the school district, which will lead to greater opportunities for our children and our community as a whole. His ultimate goal is to make the Central Greene School District one of the premier school districts in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

"I feel really blessed to be a part of the Central Greene School District and to become a part of their family," said Dr. Monaghan. "I'm grateful for everything that everyone has done to make me feel welcome, and I'm so thankful to the school board, the staff, the faculty, the community, and everyone who welcomed me the way they did."

Dr. Monaghan is a firm believer in the importance of learning opportunities, personal and professional development, and connections with other peers and leaders in the community. He sees the importance of integrating community resources in the school to provide students with ample opportunities for growth and development. It is because of this that he believes partnerships like those that occur with Southwest Training Services, Inc. are necessary partnerships for preparing students to compete in a global economy through providing resources that allow our children to leave high school with the personal and professional skills to be career or training ready. *"Our partnership with Southwest Training Services, Inc. is something that I look forward to during my time with the Central Greene School District. I have seen the positive impact they have on our students and in our community. I am optimistic that more good is to come".*



Beaver County • Greene County • Washington County

Youth Services are sponsored by the
Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board and
the Commissioners of Greene, Washington and Beaver Counties

Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board's website: www.southwestcornerwdb.com

PA CareerLink® Mon Valley has a NEW Site Administrator – RACHEL ROTOLO

Southwest Training is proud to introduce our new Site Administrator at the PA CareerLink® Mon Valley, Rachel Rotolo. Over the past two years, Rachel has worked for Southwest Training as a Job Developer and is excited to continue working at the PA CareerLink® Mon Valley in this new leadership role.

Rachel grew up in the small town of New Sewickley Township, located in Beaver County, with her parents and five siblings. She is a 2009 graduate of Freedom Area High School and received her B.A., in Psychology, from Penn State University in 2013. She then decided to further her education and obtained her M.A. in Counseling from Geneva College in 2015. She, and her husband, Lee, now reside in the Mon Valley Area with their three children, two girls and a boy.

CONGRATULATIONS Rachel we know you will be a true asset in your new position!

FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING at Ambulance & Chair EMS, Inc.

Southwest Training recently worked with the Ambulance & Chair EMS, Inc., to support the tuition costs for five out-of-school youth interested in pursuing Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training/certification.

The EMT program is 188 hours of classroom, online and hands on instruction. When these students complete the program successfully they are then eligible to sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians testing. They will take a cognitive and psychomotor exam. If they pass both tests, they will be certified as EMTs, in Pennsylvania, by the Department of Health, as well as, receive the National Registry certification. Once they are certified, they can pursue a career path as an EMT or further their education beyond this.

For more information on this training, and/or to find out about future classes please contact:



Soon To Be—EMTs (left to right) Kristina Luko; Zachary Brodnick; Samantha Kubasiak; Arthur Batson; Taylor Staub

Gina Sicchitano at:

gina@ambulanceandchair.com

or call 724-350-9600

We would like to thank:

Larry Pollock, Executive Director &

Gina Sicchitano, Coordinator of Human Resources & Administrative Programs

for working with our agency and providing this valuable training for a rewarding career as a first responder!.



FIRST RESPONDERS
MILITARY • POLICE • FIRE • EMERGENCY MEDICAL
WE THANK YOU

THE MENTORING PARTNERSHIP of SWPA — A NEW CONNECTION

Effective communication is a critical component to SWTS, Inc. youth programming. Recently, Southwest Training youth staff completed Mentorship training through The Mentoring Partnership. **The Mentoring Partnership (TMP)** has been advancing mentoring in our region for more than 25 years. Every day, TMP works to increase the quality and quantity of mentoring by delivering resources and support that local mentoring programs and volunteers need to succeed. TMP consults and provides professional development for program leaders and delivers trainings for volunteers.

Last year alone, **The Mentoring Partnership:**

- ⇒ Worked with 150+ local programs to serve 20,000+ youth
- ⇒ Trained 756 mentors and 155 mentees
- ⇒ Provided 971 hours of free technical assistance and training to 33 different programs.



In their unique role as an intermediary organization, they provide the critical link between national efforts and the local programs and organizations that foster quality mentoring relationships. **TMP delivers services that:**

- ⇒ Increases the number of young people with mentors.
- ⇒ Expands mentoring programming and opportunities tailored to the needs and circumstances of young people.
- ⇒ Promotes quality standards for mentoring programs.
- ⇒ Increases resources dedicated to mentoring.

There are a variety of ways you can help to champion mentoring in our community and beyond!

Visit MentoringPittsburgh.org to learn more about **volunteering** to be a mentor, **finding** a mentor for a young person in your life and **donating** to support mentoring connections for kids!

PRINCIPAL SPOTLIGHT: MR. BRIAN FADDEN—Burgettstown Middle/High School

Brian Fadden was born and raised in New Castle, Pennsylvania where he attended Mohawk Area School District. Upon graduating from Mohawk, he attended Westminster College where he studied Mathematics and Secondary Education.

Mr. Fadden's professional career began at the Union Area School District where he taught high school mathematics. In addition to teaching, he served as the Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach and the Junior Varsity Baseball Coach. While working at Union, he completed his Master's Degree in Administration at Westminster College.



MR. BRIAN FADDEN

*Behind Every
GREAT SCHOOL
Is An Amazing
PRINCIPAL*

Mr. Fadden began his career at Burgettstown in 2013 as the Middle/High School Assistant Principal. He has been the Middle/High School Principal since 2015. Currently, Mr. Fadden, his wife, and their children reside in Center Township.

REMEMBERING COLBY...



Colby Simkovic, a 2020 Jefferson-Morgan High School graduate, and one of our in-school youth participants, passed away March 7, 2021, following a decade-long battle with cancer. While in high school, Colby was a member of the WPIAL Championship Rifle Team and was a member of the All County and All State Rifle Team & 4 time section

champions. He also was a member of Student Council, PAC, the GCCTC Honor Society and was the Lions' Club Student of the month in October 2019. While at GCCTC he studied Building Construction and also was enrolled in the CDL-A program (*a pilot program funded by an EQT Foundation grant that Southwest Training had received*). He obtained numerous certifications including HAZMAT, OSHA 10 & 30 and his CDL-A License. Colby worked in our summer work experience program. His bright smile & positivity is greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.



Colby also created "Colby's Stars Foundation".

Colby's Stars Foundation is a non-profit organization assisting others in their battle against cancer since 2010.

For more information about the Colby's Stars Foundation visit: www.colbystarsfoundation.org, OR email: colbysstarsfoundation@windstream.net



APPRENTICESHIP READINESS

Are you interested in working with your hands or gaining some experience to enter into a Building Trades career? This program could be the perfect experience/opportunity for you! Through these programs, pre-apprentices are provided with the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized credential while having access to support services and career counseling while connecting to an Apprenticeship program! Currently this program is running at the Beaver County Career & Technology Center and we are please to be able to bring it to Washington County in August. For more information contact **724-288-2080** or email: info4bcct@bcctc.org - This program includes:

Construction Industry Orientation	Tools and Materials	Construction Health and Safety
Blueprint Reading	Basic Math for Construction	Heritage of the American Worker
Diversity in the Construction Industry	Green Construction	Financial Literacy

APPRENTICESHIP READINESS PROGRAM (ARP)

EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT YOU!

Learn how YOU can forge a career in the Building Trades!

WHERE: The Lemoyne Center

200 N Forrest Ave, Washington, PA 15301

WHEN: COMING SOON IN AUGUST 2021

ENROLLING NOW! - LIMITED SPACE - SIGN UP TODAY!

8:00am to 4:30pm

COST: *FREE

CONTACT: 724-288-2080 Email: info4bcct@bcctc.org



North American Building Trades Union (NABTU) Curriculum

Program Requirements

Valid Driver's License * Reliable transportation or access to personal transportation * High School Diploma or GED
Ability to pass drug test * Able to perform physical work * At least 18 years of age * Consent to criminal background check

DON'T WAIT. YOUR FUTURE IS NOW.



* Economically Disadvantaged - Dislocated Workers - Out-of-School Youth
Returning Citizens - Minorities - Females - Individuals with a Disability - Veterans

* Panel Interview Exposure
* Nationally recognized curriculum
* Tours and site visits
* Exposure to 16 trades
* Improve opportunity for acceptance into trade unions

SUPERINTENDENT SPOTLIGHT: DR. ED ZELICH Charleroi Area School District

Dr. Ed Zelich has served as **Superintendent in the Charleroi Area School District** for the last seven years. Charleroi Area School District serves more than 1500 students Pre-K-12 and is noted for having a strong academic reputation, a community that values the importance of education, a wide range of educational programs, and first-rate facilities.

Dr. Zelich's guiding principle, as Superintendent, is based on the belief that every child can and will attain the education and skills necessary to achieve their dreams of college or career readiness. The teachers, counselors, administration, and staff at the Charleroi Area School District have created a culture that places students first.

Prior to joining Charleroi, Dr. Zelich served in a variety of teaching and administrative roles in the public-school system from 1988 through 2014. Most recently, he was the Assistant Superintendent at Chartiers-Houston School District.

Other administrative roles that Dr. Zelich held included: Principal at Hatfield Elementary in the Laurel Highlands School District for 7 years, Assistant Principal at Laurel Highlands High School for 3 years, Assistant principal and Athletic Director in the Central Greene School District for 2 years. He also has 12 years of K-12 teaching experience in the public school system. Additionally, Dr. Zelich coached basketball and football for 25 years.

Dr. Zelich earned his Bachelor's Degree in Education (Health & Physical education) from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He then completed his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from California University of PA. With this degree, he gained certification as a Secondary and Elementary Principal. He then completed the Superintendent Letter of Eligibility Program, through Edinboro University of PA, in 2 years. In the Fall of 2016, he received his Doctorate of Education Degree in Administration and Leadership Studies at Indiana University of PA. Recently the Charleroi Area School Board Directors unanimously approved a 5 year Superintendent Contract for Dr. Zelich which runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023. He also received a Commission from the PA Department of Education through June 30, 2023.



Great leaders don't set out to be a **leader...**
they set out to make a **difference.**
It's never about the **role**
– always about the **goal.**

He and his wife Brenda have been married for 30 years. Brenda is a high school teacher in the Laurel Highlands School District. His two sons Zeke and Luke have recently completed their bachelors and masters educational degrees at the California University of PA. Zeke currently teaches Science at Connellsville Area High School and Luke teaches Elementary Special Education in the Albert Gallatin School District.

MRS. ASHLEE BABKO – Guidance Counselor – Bethlehem Center High School

Mrs. Ashlee Babko is the High School Counselor at Bethlehem Center High School. Mrs. Babko graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Education, and a Certification in School Counseling for K-12 in 2008. When asked about some of her favorite moments of her career, Mrs. Babko replied, *"I thoroughly enjoy interacting with students and helping them figure out their future goals. One of the best feelings is when students share with me that they got accepted to a college, received a scholarship, or was offered employment. I love working at Beth Center because the community is very supportive of the needs of our students".* Southwest Training is proud to work with such a hard-working and dedicated community member!

MR. TREG CAMPBELL — Washington High School — English Teacher

Treg Campbell has been employed, as an English Instructor, by the Washington School District, since 2010. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Campbell has lent his unique voice to creating a culture of distinguished and diverse learners. As coordinator of the Inaugural Teacher Induction program and longstanding member of the Calendar Committee, Comprehensive Plan Committee, Curriculum Council, Representative Council, Social Emotional Learning Committee, Student Behavior Committee, Technology Steering Committee, and Washington Education Association Negotiations Team, Mr. Campbell has lent his talents and time to bettering the community of his hometown.

In addition to the committees on which he serves, Mr. Campbell acts as the advisor to the Freshmen Class and functions as the Assistant Director of the Prexie Musical Theater. He is grateful for having been offered the opportunity to return to Washington High to preside over the next generation of Little Presidents.

After graduating with the Class of 2005, Mr. Campbell completed his postsecondary studies at the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Writing. Graduating cum laude with a concentration in

education and English, he became one of three students to obtain a certificate in Children's Literature in its inaugural year.

Mr. Campbell continued his education, at the University of Pittsburgh, in 2012, garnering a Master of Arts Degree in English Education.

A challenge near & dear, to him, is raising the presence and profile of minorities within schools.



Nationally, African Americans comprise roughly seven percent of public school teachers while black males account for just 1.6 percent of said total. Mr. Campbell is acutely aware of the importance of seeing one's self reflected in society, and wishes to see trends shift upward. In the interim, he cherishes the connections he has forged with past and present students, and strives to reach new rungs of personal and professional satisfaction.

SPRINGING INTO ACTION

On April 24, 2021, a group of youth and teens from the Donora area dedicated their time and energy to the United Future Foundation's 5th Annual Spring Clean-Up.

Spearheaded by hard-working community advocate, Chantal Bey, the organization successfully aided in the clean-up of local shared community outdoor areas. With 22 participants, including youth, teens, and Washington County Probation Officer, Frank Morris,

Chantal and her team collected over 50 bags of trash from around Donora. In regard to the help from the volunteers, Chantal said, *"They did amazing work, and I'm incredibly proud of them!"* The United Future Foundation,

also known as 'Strive For a Better Tomorrow', has been an amazing resource in the Donora area that focuses on helping youth and teens prepare for the future while learning about the importance of contributing to their community. Southwest Training is honored to partner with Chantal and her incredible team!



WELCOMING OUR NEW SUMMER WORKSITE!



Southwest Training is happy to work with the Greene County United Way this year as they serve as a Youth Internship worksite!

The United Way is a non-profit that was formed in 1979 to organize and coordinate community resources to address human service needs. This organization changes lives throughout Greene County by identifying community needs, supporting the services that meet those needs and providing results to county residents. The United Way works to advance the common good by focusing on three priority areas: Education, Income and Health.

In 2020, more than 16,500 people received services from Greene County United Way funded programs. This year, the United Way is sponsoring their 19th Annual Stuff the Bus event on August 11, 2021

To learn more about the Greene County United Way visit their website at: www.Greenecountyunitedway.org

Or contact:

MaChal Forbes, Exec. Director

Phone: 724-852-1009

Email: mforbes@greenecountyunitedway.org

We thank you for all of the great work you do to support youth in Greene County!



19th Annual Stuff the Bus



*Donations collected through July
Event date: August 11, 2021 at Lion's Club Park*

This year, more than ever before, families are in need of assistance to get their children ready for the school year - whether they are attending virtually or in-person. You can help by donating school supplies including: **Backpacks - Binders - Crayons - Glue Sticks, Highlighters - Markers - Notebooks - Pencils - Pens - Pocket Folders - Rulers**

Or visit Greene County United Way's Amazon Wishlist
www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/12D1SVGMCBRG2?ref=wl_share

Items or monetary donations can be dropped off through July
at Greene County United Way
748 E. High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

For more info, Contact MaChal Forbes at 724-852-1009!

MR. BOB CHUEY - Canon McMillan School District

"I have been with the **Canon-McMillan School District** for the past 20 years, first as a school psychologist from 2001 until 2009, at which time, I assumed the responsibility of Special Education Coordinator for the district. I work under the supervision of the Director of Special Education, Mrs. Becky Lieb, and am responsible for administrative duties within the district, as well as, functioning as a liaison for community & educational resources outside of our district.

Prior to my employment in Canon-McMillan, I served as a school psychologist at PACE Approved Private School, in Pittsburgh from 1997 to 2001. Prior to PACE, I worked as a high school emotional support special education teacher in the McGuffey School District in rural western Pennsylvania from 1990-1996, and, previous to McGuffey, as a middle school emotional support teacher with Lincoln IU 12 in Central PA from

1988 to 1990. I have experience in providing residential services for adults with mental health challenges, and continue to volunteer on several local boards.

I earned my Bachelor's degree & special education teaching certification from Indiana University of PA and my Master's degree/school psychologist certification from California University of PA. I also attended the University of Pittsburgh's Reading Specialist certification program. My true education, however, has been raising my three daughters! I look forward to being a full time 'husband', as Kimberly, my wife of 33 years, is also retiring."

Mr. Chuey it has been an honor to work with you!



For teens, pandemic restrictions may have meant months of virtual school, less time with friends and canceling activities like sports, band concerts, and movies, etc. When asking some of our SWTS youth about their thoughts regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, and how it has changed them, here were some of the responses we received:

"An upside to the months in quarantine is being able to see my usually busy family more, especially my father. I've had more talks and laughs with my family, which helped lighten such a stressful time in my opinion." A.S.

"It's hard to talk to people with masks on. I just want it to go back to normal. I hope we go back to "normal" at the start of the next school year." M.V.

"I feel that I'm a very different person than I was a year ago. I also feel that I'm nicer and more compassionate. And some lessons I have learned through all that time are to not judge people based off what I know, because I really don't know what they're going through." C.R.

"This whole experience has been hard on all of us. Very lonely sometimes, but we are making it through. I can't wait for it to be all over." J. M.

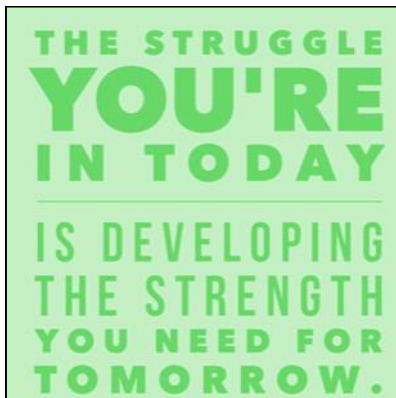
The "corona-cation" has given me a lot of time to reflect, and while I hadn't seen my friends in-person for awhile, I felt closer to them than ever. We Facetimed almost every day!" C.T.

"The pandemic has definitely had an effect on my school experience. When we were home in December, it was very difficult for me. I had anxiety from school. I absolutely hated timed tests. They created more anxiety for me. I get anxious and I start to think that I have to rush through my assignments. But in a way, I am thankful for this experience." N.F.

"The pandemic changed me because I haven't been able to really see my friends, but I feel like my education improved." D. C.

"It was actually nice being at home working on the Chromebook. I will be back next school year but I do look at things differently now." I.F.

"The past year has meant some sadness and frustration, but also thankfulness for my family and recognizing my strengths." H.S.



GOT SKILLS?

Imagine two people are interviewing for a job. On paper, both candidates are very qualified. They both have degrees, high GPAs, and a few years of relevant work experience. Going into the interview, both are well-prepared. They've practiced all of the common interview questions, they are dressed for success, and are very impressive.

After speaking to both of them, however, the interviewer's decision wasn't even a hard one. One of the candidates clearly outshone the other – hiring them was a no-brainer. **How can this be? Simple.** One of the candidates used the interview to demonstrate their soft skills. The other had never even heard that term.



Many students think that getting a job is all about qualifications and technical skills. Those don't hurt (*they are absolutely essential!*), but things like how well you work in a team, how well you communicate, and how well you can problem solve are just as important.

Always remember to showcase both hard and soft skills in interviews and on the job! **Both count!**