

McMinn CTE News

McMinn Career Technical
Center

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Christmas Comes Early for McMinn Career Technical Center

The advanced manufacturing class has been in need of some upgrades for many years. Funds were recently made available through the State Incentive for Manufacturing Education for several pieces of state of the art machinery: Haas TM-2P 3 Axis CNC Milling Machine; Sharp 9" x 42" Manual Vertical Mill; Sharp 13" x 40" Manual Lathe. All is loaded with the latest electronic and mechanical equipment to ensure students can experience using the latest in industrial technology. This is the same equipment that is currently being used by manufacturers, which can also help close the gap between school to work opportunities. Having equipment, the manufacturers use, should motivate students to take the trade of machining and manufacturing more seriously. Machining student Kaleb Moser says, "The new machines will really advance the minds of students pursuing a career in American manufacturing. Personally, I have worked with the CNC machines at my current job and I have also worked with the manual machines. These machines will inform the students greatly on what they need to know." The average age of a machinist is around sixty years of age. So, if the younger generation doesn't pick up and carry on, there is and will be a major shortage of machinists. Forty percent of the job opportunities in our area are in manufacturing. It is very exciting what the future holds for McMinn Career Technical Center manufacturing students.

Many thanks go out to the people who made this possible: Jonathan Pierce, former Career Technical Education Director; Elizabeth Pierce Oswald, Current Career Technical Education Director; Kevin Edwards, McMinn Career Technical Center Principal; Allen Gentry, McMinn Career Technical Center Mechatronics Instructor; Mickey Blevins, Director of schools; and everyone involved from the McMinn County Center of Excellence Central Office. Last, but definitely not least, thank you to the staff of Coker Millwrights who donated their time and equipment to unload and setup the new equipment in the MCTC manufacturing lab. They made an impossible task for us look very simple. Thank you once again, now it's time to make some metal shavings!

FBLA Halloween

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On October 31st, students involved in FBLA helped with the downtown Halloween event. They provided local children with a pumpkin throwing game, then handed out candy to the participants. Students really enjoyed an opportunity to get out in the community and see smiles from others in return. One student commented, "It was definitely a night to remember!"



McMinn County FFA Chapter Participates in Community Service Effort

The McMinn County FFA Chapter happily participated in the Let's Read 20 event to encourage reading among students of all ages. Several hundred students, parents, and community members stopped by our petting zoo which featured rabbits, pigs, and goats. FFA Members and Agriculture students were present to answer questions about the animals and to read farm related books to the attendees. Participants were encouraged to dress like the characters in the books they were reading and the FFA Members wore their t-shirts, bib overalls, and boots.



At the beginning of the event, when things were slow, students were working with the animals, when all of a sudden, one of the pigs squealed. "It was

like that one little squeal let everyone know there were animals present, then everyone came to our booth," stated FFA Reporter, Breanna Daniels. She said that FFA Members talked to over 100 people about agriculture, the animals, and the FFA Chapter at the event. Daniels believed that five different farm related stories were read to young children multiple times during the event.

"The McMinn County FFA Chapter enjoys participating in events such as Let's Read 20 throughout the year," stated Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor, Angela Shaver. "It not only gives our students the opportunity to give back to their community, it lets the community know that we are here and we care," she said. "The community provides support to the FFA Chapter through our annual fruit sale and at various events and activities throughout the year. It's nice to give back when we can."

Let's Read 20 is an annual event that was founded as a partnership between the McMinn County Education Foundation, United Way, and the school systems to encourage families to read together for 20 minutes per day. Free books were provided at the event to help encourage families to reach this goal.

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The Mission of The McMinn County School System is to equip students for life-long learning through academics, accountability, and learning experiences. We are committed to assist our students in achieving their greatest potential to adapt and adjust to an ever-changing world. We believe education is the shared responsibility of the student, home, school, and community. We strive to recognize talents, diversity, and individual needs of all students thus enabling them to become productive and contributing citizens.

