

# MOUNTAIN ECHO

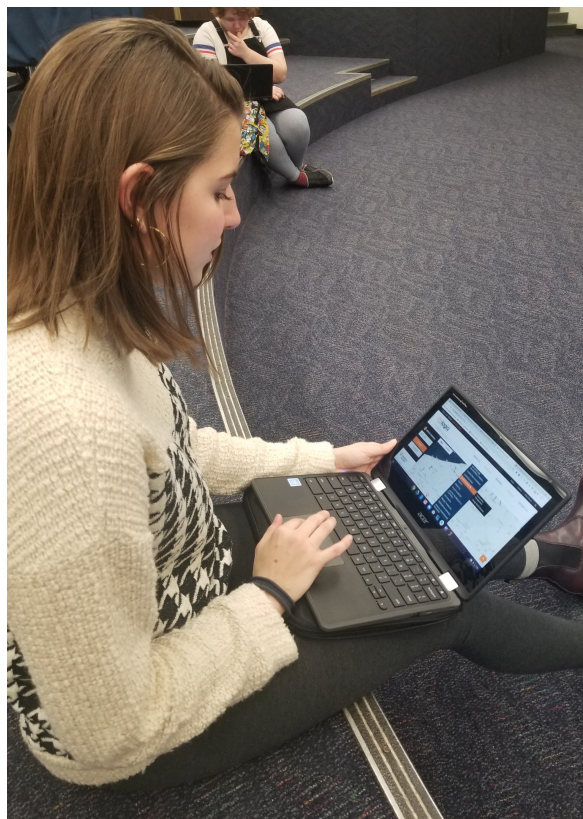
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## Zlupko gains job experience shadowing architect of new school



**by Sonia Yost**  
**Photography Editor**

For many students, figuring out plans for after graduation is not an easy task. Whether or not to attend college, where to find a job, where to go to college or what to major in—these are things that many students have to consider as the end of high school approaches. For senior Mia Zlupko, many of these questions already have an answer.

Zlupko's interest in architectural engineering gave her an opportunity to shadow the architect and on-site construction manager of the new school building during the second semester of her community service class.

Zlupko is able to shadow the architect every other Tuesday, but twice a week she works with the on-site construction manager, Gary Marshall and his assistant, Tyler Zeiders.

"I begin my time in the Reynolds trailer in the lot on 13th St. This is where I meet Gary and Tyler and talk about what we plan on doing that day. Afterward, depending on the plans for that day, we either work in the trailer for the remainder of the day, go out to the construction of the new B building or walk within the construction of the A-building," Zlupko said.

Recently, Zlupko was able to help out with

inspection and maintenance of different door materials in the A-building as well as making sure that the fireproofing was up to standard in the new building.

"I've gotten to learn the general organizational hierarchy of a construction company plus how involved and important each position is within a specific project," Zlupko said.

After graduating, Zlupko plans to attend Drexel University and study architecture and architectural engineering.

"I absolutely think this experience is beneficial for me and my future. Ever since I pinpointed my interest in architecture, I have been eager to learn more about the construction behind the school that I won't get the chance to experience next year," Zlupko said.

Zlupko recommends for other students to visit the website: <https://www.sitelogiq.com/> as they hold group education sessions in construction, construction management, architecture and many other career paths.

"These group settings acted as one of the main reasons why I'm so interested in architecture today, and I hope the experience could be as inspirational as it was for me to other students in Altoona," Zlupko said.

Senior Mia Zlupko visits <https://www.sitelogiq.com/> to view any new group education sessions. Zlupko recommends that anyone interested in a career path related to architecture check out the website. *Photo by Sonia Yost*

## Clubs participate in various competitions throughout year

**by Zak Hicks**  
**Reporter**

Many clubs students join are competitive clubs. Members of these organizations use their talents and knowledge to compete against other like-minded individuals from other schools.

### Interscholastic Reading Team

Interscholastic Reading Team is comprised of students who read a selected list of books each semester and then are quizzed as a group at competitions twice a year. The club adviser for the last seven years is Michele Janosik. As the adviser, she completes and submits paperwork, registers teams and organizes books. The team competes at a fall and spring competition.

"Reading is a critical life skill. If students read more often they are able to comprehend at a faster rate which will certainly help them in college. However, even for students not enrolling in college,

effective comprehension is necessary for everyday living. The students have fun at the competitions, and of course, 'the more you read, the more you know,'" Janosik said. They placed third in the fall competition. The next competition is on April 14.

### Scholastic Scrimmage Team

Scholastic Scrimmage Team is a club and competition team of students who like trivia. At competitions, they are asked questions about school subjects and general knowledge. The club adviser for the last 10 years has been Jennifer Lowe. As the adviser, she supervises weekly practices and organized field trips for their competitions. The club meets every week to have fun as well as to improve their trivia knowledge and skill.

"It is a perfect extracurricular for students who enjoy trivia and an opportunity to see the knowledge they've acquired be appreciated and

even rewarded," Lowe said.

The club is open to anyone, and the top six to eight performers then qualify for the competition team. This year's team was comprised of Captain Aiden Phillips, President Talon McKendree, Alex Thaler, Sonia Yost, Isaac Brumbaugh, Josh Mentzer and Rich Wei.

*To read more about this competitive club and Earthkeepers, Speech League, Junior Academy of Science, Mock Trial and FBLA check out the story online at [aahs.mountainecho.com](https://www.aahs.mountainecho.com)*

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*Special thanks to the Altoona Area School District Foundation for making the printing of this special edition possible.*



Editorial: Students need to be more aware of needs of others

A lot of students do not have to worry about whether they are eating dinner tonight or not. They don't have to worry about where their next meal will come from. However, this is not the case for 31.5% of families living in the Altoona School District.

The recent student council cereal drive collected cereal boxes to donate to local food banks. Other food drives throughout the year also benefit families within the school, but not everyone donates. For example, during the November to December Food drive, student council needed 50 baskets of food, however only seven organizations initially signed up to help.

Student council adviser Kimberly Shope sent out another email to faculty asking them to fill another basket. Eventually, all 50 baskets were filled, but the student council shouldn't have had to ask twice.

Everyone went under the assumption that "someone else" will take care of it. But what happens when no one else takes care of it? Students and faculty, but mostly students, need to be aware and understand that not everyone has food at home or money to spare. For some students, it can be difficult to pay for their SATs, while for others, it isn't a big deal. Students are not aware of the poverty issue with other students in the building. Students need to be more educated on how much poverty can affect the lives of those around them and give whenever they can. Those who cannot give donations or money can find ways to share time by volunteering.

Echo in the halls: What do you think of the eight period day?



"I'm concerned that the adjustment will be difficult, but I'm optimistic that the students and teachers will be able to handle it," English teacher Nichole Harris said.

"I think it is very convenient for students. I had so much more room in my schedule that I couldn't pick enough classes to fill my day," junior Alayna Sweeley said.

"I like the new schedule. There are more variety of classes and more classes that I want to be in instead of the classes that I have to be," junior Shamus Walker said.

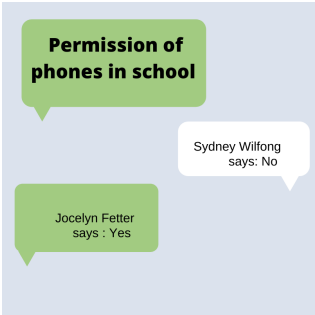
"I don't see the need for it. If anything, it might make the school day feel longer. But we'll be getting less work, so that should be good," junior Christopher Pérez said.

"When I was in high school, we had a block schedule, so I can see the benefits of moving to eight periods and I think it could work well," student teacher Thomas Holodick said.

# I Said, You Said

## Cell phones in school?

by Jocelyn Fetter and Sydney Wilfong  
Reporters



### Jocelyn says...

Violence has sadly become a prominent feature in society. Students are faced with threatening situations more often than they should be. Horrifying news articles blast over cities all across the world listing day in and day out what society has come to. School shootings, threats and even things like fires are all common horrors children all across the world are dealing with.

Day by day students are in school for hours away from their parents and at any moment anything could happen and parents wouldn't know. An advantage of having a phone when it comes to this situation is limitless.

Phones offer a way of students having one on one conversations with their parents or people who know how to comfort them in times like these. Phones give a way of communication to a student, so they're not feeling as though they're being deprived of talking to their parents. Students can also contact siblings within the same school and check up on them to make sure they're okay. This gives the students a right of communication with their parents and as much as we all hate to say it or even think it, wouldn't you rather have your kid tell you goodbye rather than a police officer or AMED?

Teachers can argue that having a cellphone is pointless when there are phones in the room; however, iPhones specifically offer safety features that allow the user to signal for help without ever calling anyone called the SOS. It contacts emergency services and sends someone without putting anyone in danger of talking too loudly on a phone.

Cellphones can be an obvious distraction, but that can all be eliminated if teachers require students to put their phones in a bin or a "calculator caddy" and keep them during classes when they don't need them. Then at the end of class, students can get their phones and keep them until the next class. During independent work, students can get their phones to listen to music which, trust me on this one, will help them get their work done more efficiently because they're going to be grooving to the bop of J. Cole while solving logarithms.

Many teachers, parents and administrators are going to be against phones because it's so hard to get people to all agree on one thing. However, teaching students how to use them properly, the way they taught us how to use computers, is all that is needed for a successful ending. The benefits for many classes of having cell phone usage will far outweigh the negative.

### Sydney says...

School staff repeat the same argument over and over. "Phones during class are a distraction." Although students try to dismiss it, this is unfortunately true.

Phones and the apps within them are extremely addictive and result in hours and hours spent looking at a screen rather than finishing a simple homework assignment. That same distraction many students feel when at home trying to complete homework would only be exacerbated if phones were available during the school day.

If phones were accessible throughout the school day, the staff, in turn, would place limits on phone usage. Whether this means limited time or the need for a teacher's permission, any limits forced by the school district would seem to contradict having phone accessibility in the first place. What's the purpose of having access to a phone if a student can rarely use it? If teachers collected students' phones or if teachers prohibited phone access when they were giving a lesson, well, then when can students use their phones? Even if teachers allow phone usage during the last five minutes of class, having phone accessibility "during the day" would be pointless.

Access to phones would also lead to more cases of cheating. If students have their phones during a quiz or test, many will be tempted to look up a question or two (or twenty). Even if they feel confident with their answers, double-checking through phones gives a sense of relief but decreases self-confidence in a student's own knowledge and preparation.

Despite all the academic issues having accessible phones bring to students and staff, perhaps the most prominent yet least-discussed problem is increasing the accessibility of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying would only increase as students now have the capability of sending and receiving demeaning texts and posts throughout the school day.

For many students, phone accessibility may seem like an overdue step forward, but availability during the school day would be an academic and social step backward.

## Fine arts department prepares for Disney music festival

by **Destiny Montgomery**  
Reporter

Every three years, the music department takes a trip for the students to perform at a music festival. Usually, they go to Myrtle Beach, S.C. This year they will be traveling to Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

"We had plans to do Myrtle Beach, but they only offer certain weekends. One is the same as testing, the other was the same as the all-state festival for PMEA. Because we couldn't go to Myrtle, we looked at Virginia Beach. They had the right weekend, but it's so early in the season that nothing was open except the beach. We eventually looked at Disney, and it worked out how we wanted it. So we just said, 'hey what the heck,' and now that's what we are doing. Our biggest concern was the price, but since it worked out everything is okay," band director Larry Detwiler said.

The band, chorus, orchestra and drama clubs will be leaving for Disney on April 29 and returning on May 4. Students must pay a fair share of \$650 and had to make a \$150 deposit, totaling \$800. Students were given the opportunity to do fundraisers such as grilled stickies, hoagies, brownies, dumplings, cookie dough, Gardners Candies, poinsettias, Bedford Candies' Popcorn, the Scrip Program and more.

Each day will be spent in a different park. April 30, will be in Disney Springs for chorus and orchestra to perform, then Epcot for the rest of the day. May 1, will be in Magic Kingdom, and the marching band will be performing in the Disney Parade. May 2, will be in Hollywood Studios, and on May 3, Animal Kingdom.

"The parade is going to be really exciting. What people don't know is we put in an application to march parade. There's a parade in all four parks. They first decide whether you are marching or not. Then they decide which park to put us in. To know we are doing the parade on Main Street in Magic Kingdom is perfect, and we are glad it worked out," Detwiler said.

Chorus will be performing a number of pieces, including Disney

songs and pieces from "The Greatest Showman."

"Musically, we are doing some Disney pieces and some other fun, well-known pieces. We are doing a song from the Lion King the musical. We are doing a song from 'The Greatest Showman' because it is a popular recent movie, and I just think it has good music. We are also most likely doing 'Walking on Sunshine' because we will be in Disney; it's just sunny and it's fun," chorus director Kelly Sipes said.

The drama students will be attending a behind the scenes workshop in one of the parks.

"They get to tour backstage at one of the theaters in the park, see the lighting and sound equipment, see the and sound equipment, see the fireworks set up, meet the tech crew that works the shows and tour the costume storage area. We aren't having a separate 'drama' performance but most of the drama students that sing will be performing with the chorus," drama director Benjamin Cossitor said.

The directors hosted a t-shirt contest for students to submit a t-shirt with their own design on it. There will be four winners because students will be given four different t-shirts, one for each day.

The band will have many practices before the trip, and drum major Maeve Wonderly is happy to be a part of the group.

"I think it'll be awesome to get to be a drum major at Disney. We spend so much time working and practicing. It takes

countless hours of practicing together and lots of preparation from the adult staff, and I'm glad I get to be a part of an awesome group that works so hard and is so dedicated to making something great," Wonderly said.

Instead of playing regular music for the parade, they are having their own song being made.

"The song that we are playing is being specially written specifically for this trip and parade. That is kind of neat. This trip to Disney will probably be a highlight of my career. I love Disney, and it makes me excited that we get to take students that haven't gone before," Detwiler said.



Practicing hard! Seniors Maeve Wonderly, Aaron Bollman and Micah Hamilton play their instruments during seventh period band practice. The band will eventually get their own music for the Disney parade. *Photo by Destiny Montgomery*

## Cereal drive helps community

by **Mckenzie Quirin**  
Reporter

Various clubs contribute to a variety of organizations including local food banks, the humane society and the local community. One collection is the cereal drive collection run by student council. The cereal drive ran from Feb. 3 through Feb. 28.

In the past, the school has been able to collect and donate hundreds to thousands of boxes of cereal. Kimberly Shope, head of student council and community service, and all student council members manage the cereal drive every year, extending the offer out to teachers and students to participate.

"We have been fortunate for our school to actively participate and have the community and faculty express their needs to support the cereal drive," Shope said. "I think it is important because it allows us to pull together to support the local communities while having the food banks reach out to us as a local community to help."

Mathematics teachers Joseph Falger and Natalie Trimmer, social studies teacher James Lowe and English teacher Tabitha Quinn are a few among the staff who take part in the cereal drive every year.

"I started participating in the cereal drive last year when Lowe was out due to his kidney transplant. He remains dedicated to the cereal drive, and I wanted my classes to help," Falger said.

The staff believes it is important to participate in the cereal drive to eliminate shortages of food at food banks and give back to the community.

"The food bank and pantries often experience a shortage in their donations this time of year. Many families and individuals in our community from infants and toddlers to senior citizens are food insecure. It is certainly a great benefit to help supplement families and individuals with food, especially cereal as many people know the importance of a healthy start of the day with breakfast or a solid snack at any time of the day or night. Above all, by donating cereal, students, staff and teachers not only gain an act of kindness or giving, but food banks and pantries create a presence in our community," Quinn said.



Check out more of this story online at [aahsmountainecho.com](http://aahsmountainecho.com)



## B building architecture lost to history

by Connor George

Reporter

With a new B-Building being built, students and teachers begin to admire the unique architecture of the current B-Building.

In 1905, architects Charles M. Robinson and George Winkler built the Brownstone building, originally called Lincoln. It featured ideas from Greek architecture, such as quartz pillars and a rotunda with a clock tower.

When the Brownstone didn't have enough space for the growing student population, architects Shollar and Hersh planned the B Building, a back to the Brownstone Building.

Then, in 1974, the Brownstone and the current B-Building weren't enough to house the student population, so Thomas Large of Campbell, Rea, Hayes and Large devised a plan to build the A-Building and current auditorium, tearing down the almost 70-year-old Brownstone building.

Much of the current B-Building was inspired by the architecture of the Brownstone. As many can tell, the current B Building doesn't have a main entrance.

"This building was never thought of as a front big entrance, which makes it hard for people to come here because we can't just say 'just go to the main entrance,'" Principal Andrew Neely said.

There's also some unique woodwork in the current B-Building.

"I really like the wood floors. That's something you'll probably never see again... I am a fan of the woodwork, but over the years, the styles change. Some of the decorative woodwork is in the offices here," Neely said.

When the B-Building was originally built, it featured a few different technology education classrooms. However, when the building was renovated, they had to remove these classrooms to have enough room for other classes. Now there is a need for these rooms once again.

"I think one of the cool things is that all of the wood shops are coming back," Neely said

Yet another part of the B Building is the mural in the William P. Kimmel Board room.

"What I'm going to miss the most is the mural [in the William P. Kimmel board room] that depicts different aspects of Altoona and how the community and education intertwine," AAHS Alumni Association executive director Paula Foreman said.

The mural was painted by Joseph Servello, a 1950 Altoona graduate.

There is discussion about what to do with the Mountain Lion statue.

"I'm hoping we're able to get it moved, that statue was designed by the same guy who made the Nittany Lion statue up at Penn State. It's a nice nod to our history, and it was really cool, especially since not many schools have that kind of artwork," Neely said.

One feature in the Brownstone was the clock tower. When the B Building was being renovated, one of the clock faces was supposed to go into it. However, that didn't happen. Now, there's a plan to put the clock into the new B-Building.

"We are trying to figure that out. It is made out of wrought iron, but with a glass face. It's beautiful and probably too old to be put outside. I would like to put it inside the main lobby. As of now, there are no plans in the architecture of the new school to do so. We're unsure if it'll ever be a working clock," Neely said

"There has been interest in incorporating it into the new B-Building. That clock is unique, it works on a pulley system, and I don't know if anyone has taken a serious interest in the cost of it," Foreman said.



A scale model of the Brownstone building sits in the auditorium lobby and another one is in the library. The original Brownstone building was constructed in 1905.

## Goodbye B Building

by Jocelyn Fetter

Reporter

Facing goodbyes is all part of growing up. This year, Altoona's staff and students will say goodbye to half of their school: the B building.

"There's a level of nostalgia- the wood and the old-time aesthetic of the building that is certainly going to be missed. I remember the first time I walked into this building right after I got hired and thinking how old it looked. We've just outgrown the space, and we need to modernize," principal Andrew Neely said.

Staff and students have made memories throughout the school.

"I once was a student in this building. This school is where I chose my profession of being a health and physical education teacher. I also took away the relationship I had with my counselor here because I had a lot going on in my life, and she helped me through it. At the time, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer and walking across the bridge to get to the counselor's office in the B-Building was like a shift in time, and it was like me getting to walk into a whole new world," junior class principal Jason McGinnis said.

Some teachers grew up as students from AAHS and started their memories at young adolescent ages; others created some once they started working.

"I remember the students I've taught here. I've only been in two classrooms since I started teaching here, and every year I can

remember seeing my kids walk into their classes. The building is very old, and it's outdated with current education and its expectations- but there's a lot of history here. There are very few buildings as old as this one still standing. This building is like a faithful soldier; it has served its people well. It's like growing up in the same house and having that sense of comfort that makes it a home then having to move into a new one," English teacher Anthony Derubis said.

The public will be able to bid on some of the old materials in a public auction.

"April 1 teachers can start moving their things into the third floor, May 1 will be the second floor and May 15 will be the first floor. There will be people coming through to take pictures of things and catalog items. The auction will be online, and it will be like eBay pretty much," Neely said.

The start of the 2020-2021 school year will mean the first graduating class all the way down to the freshman class will be in the remodeled high school.

"My expectations do not change because of new walls. I want my seniors to choose kindness and be positive leaders. I want to be their leader and watch them engage in new courses. They need to lead by example and show the freshman what it is really like to be a Mountain Lion. My seniors have a chance to leave a legacy. They're going to be the new faces of the school," McGinnis said.

Check out Jada Quinn's video and story of Hidden treasures in the B Building online.



Wondering how everything will be moved into the new building? Check out McKenzie Quirin's story online.

