

## *Cooking by Ms. Shubitz*

*After years of living in cities where I could easily go out to dinner or order take-out, I moved to a Harrisburg suburb in 2009. No longer could I rely on Whole Foods (There wasn't one for 75+ miles!) for prepared dinners. Unless I wanted to order-in pizza every night, I knew I'd have to start cooking.*

*It's not like I didn't know how to cook. I just hadn't had the time to cook much when I was a classroom teacher. Therefore, in order to get learn how to cook, I had to watch other people do it. Good thing we had the Food Network on cable. I spent hours watching the Food Network the first year we lived in Pennsylvania. If I found a recipe on a show that looked good, I tried it out. Sometimes the recipes tasted as delicious as the TV hosts claimed they were and other times they were a flop.*

*In addition to finding good recipes on the Food Network, I also learned cooking techniques from the on-air talent. For instance, Ina Garten (aka: the Barefoot Contessa) taught me how to make a chiffonade of basil! I learned how to grill by watching Bobby Flay use the barbeque.*

*I'm always on the lookout for a new dish that will taste great. I have subscribed to magazines like *Cooking Light* and websites like *America's Test Kitchen*. I regularly peruse Pinterest and cooking blogs, like Smitten Kitchen, for new recipe ideas. I'm always trying out something new and hoping that it will become worthy of my recipe binders!*

*Along the way, I've had cooking accidents. I've haphazardly tossed the pasta too forcefully and splattered scalding water on my hands. Similarly, my bare arm once got burned on a 425-degree oven rack. Usually the accidents I have result from taking shortcuts or from not having read a recipe through fully.*

*Anyone who is interested in cooking needs to read cookbooks, cooking blogs, and/or food magazines. The more the better! It also helps to start like I did, by watching cooking shows, if you don't have someone to teach you how to cook. Finally, trial and error is the best way to learn how to cook. Sometimes a recipe will be an epic failure, but as long as you learn from your mistakes, you will be successful in the future.*