

# MAKING THE Connection TO Career Technical Education

February 8, 2018

CTE

## Building our way into the business field

By Selena Yousif, Marena Youhana, and Sarah Oakes

It has been a fun filled and busy year for our Career & Technical Education (CTE) classes at Sterling Heights High School. My Business Tech Management class spent part of the first semester preparing for future employment. The students created a resume, reference sheet, filled out job applications, created a cover letter, sat through a mock job interview and wrote a post job interview thank you letter.

My philosophy is to teach the students real world curriculum and I am not a fan of memorizing then forgetting. I want students to use what they learn for the rest of their lives. I have had numerous CTE alumni visit in the past and tell me they used the same resume they created in class and applied the same job interview skills they learned and secured a job. It is humbling to hear that and have an impact in their lives even beyond high school.

"The mock job interview really put everything into

perspective," said junior Helen Oakes. "I was interviewed by Mr. Pavicic and two principals and it felt like a real interview. I really enjoy this class because we learn real world applications and we keep up with current events in the world of business." Principal Craig Miller and Assistant Principal Kevin Griesel also sat down in a few of the interviews so the students would have the experience of a group interview. "I was impressed by the demeanor and professionalism of the students," said Miller. "One student gave an answer to a tough interview question that may rank as one of the best I've heard in a long time."

In my Integrated Technology Specialist 1 class, the students learn the Microsoft Office Programs, learning how to create Business Letters in Word, financial statements in Excel and how to create artistic slide show presentations using PowerPoint.

"I would recommend this class to anyone who is looking to improve their computer skills," said . "I think that every high school stu-



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Sarah Oakes, student, Kevin Griesel, AP, Anthony Pavicic, Teacher, and Craig Miller Principal.

dent should take Integrated Tech", said senior Merna Yaldo.

Students also take a Microsoft Certification test for each of the Microsoft programs and if they pass, they receive a Microsoft Certification Certificate, which is valuable as something they can put on their resume and to make them more marketable.

There is a lot more in store as we transition into the second semester.

In the beginning of the year in our Business Tech Management class with Mr. Pavicic, we started out by researching our careers, preparing us for our future and what we have to overcome later in life.

We gained more knowledge about the salary, the educational requirements, and the required skills for that specific career. We also gained research skills for potential career opportunities as well as finding

the right college.

We learned how to fill out a job application and prepare for the application process. We had to fill out job applications, create a resume and reference sheet, and conduct research about the career you want to apply for.

Our 5-10 minute interviews were random; students had anywhere from one to three interviewers. Attire was business formal and we had to come pre-

pared with both our resume and reference sheet. The questions that were asked simulating actual questions that would be asked in a real interview. We were also asked illegal questions and we had to identify if they were allowed to be asked or not.

The employability unit was a great learning experience that prepared us for what's ahead in our future. For those that don't work, they could find this very helpful for their first job because they'll know what to expect. For those who do work, it showed what we could improve on for future job interviews.

After interviewing for the job, our next task was to hold a reality fair where we took our yearly earnings and put it towards our own realistic needs such as bills, food, clothing, and transportation.

Taking these Career & Technical Education classes will help you in the future no matter what career you want to go into. The classes are also very resourceful to high school students who will soon to go into the real world.

WEB DESIGN

## Students use creativity to build coding skills

By Tony Wright  
Instructor

The demand for computer coding jobs is high. Who doesn't need tech support every now and then?

The students at Sterling Heights High School, part of Warren Consolidated Schools, are learning real-world skills in a newly-approved Web Design Career and Technical Education Program.

The Web Design Program (Web 1-4) at Sterling Heights aims to help students use their creativity to build skills across multiple coding languages. Students enrolled in Web Design 1 learn HTML coding as a foundation along with important tips on how to protect their digital identity. Web Design 2 allows students a chance to hone their skills in a practical manner by operating the Sterling Heights Web Site along with developing deeper coding skills including CSS coding.

Web Design 3 is for experienced coders and focuses on leadership roles related to Sterling's Web Site. Web 3 students act as editors and will respond to pertinent community requests through the email system.

Web Design 4 students also learn JavaScript coding as a means to help increase their workforce skills. Students enrolled in Web Design 4 operate as editor-in-chief and will coordinate the student groups while working to get certified in HTML 5 coding.

The program has undergone some significant

changes in recent history. Because of the increased program goals along with the need for highly qualified tech jobs projected, the Web Design Program at Sterling Heights has earned full Career and Technical Education (CTE) status. Program Facilitator Tony Wright said the change helps kids.

"We've got great kids. They really bought into the process and because of their hard work, along with Warren Con's dedication to helping kids, we were able to clean up some details. The benefit has been that kids are working with cutting-edge technology," Wright said.

Web Design's ability to earn CTE status allowed them to update technology.

The class is currently using industry-standard software.

Students work on assignments both individually and in groups to help the class function and resolve complex industry issues. Wright appreciates the shift in learning going on in class.

"I think sometimes computer classes get a bad rap. It's assumed that kids have to be quiet the entire time and kids can feel isolated. That's not the way the world works. Life is a team game and sometimes we pick someone up; other times someone picks us up. In the end, our kids make the program a little better each day," Wright said.

Students are talking about what's happening in class also.

"It's really nice how



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Joel Maceroni and Mr. Wright in class



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Ghilas Diaconescu, class of 2020

we have so many different software programs we could potentially work with and it's even nicer that they are up to date," said Winnie Tang, 2020.

HTML, CSS, and JavaScript are the best ways for students to learn the language to talk to computers. Students are talking

to each other about the high-demand, high-wage job skills they are learning and their ability to be creative in the Web Design Program offered at Sterling Heights High School. Do you want to join the conversation? Contact us today at shhsweb@wcskids.net.

GLOBAL FINANCIAL CITIZENSHIP

## Real-World Roadmap to Financial Success

By Tony Wright  
Instructor

Career and Technical Education Courses are designed to help students develop skills that are readily transferable from their classroom to a job site. Sterling Heights High School offers a Global Financial Citizenship course aimed at helping kids figure out how to "Get on Track to Financial Success".

Global Financial Citizenship is a Finance class that evolved from Personal Finance to include more than just calculating monthly budgets, properly filling out a check book, and preparing personal income tax returns. Now it offers students a chance to run their own virtual enterprise. Students participate in different work teams to run weekly payroll, choose vendors for products, and complete a 3 bid process for vendors. Global Financial Citizenship also allows an opportunity for students to collaborate in a team atmosphere. They address complex issues such as creating business plans or deciding corporate strategy.

"From the first day of class to now has been a whirlwind of activity getting us ready for jobs, payments, taxes, and so much more. It's been a great experience and I can't wait for what's next," Bernadette Magner, 2018 GFC, said.

Some of the specific activities students partic-



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Serena Coja, 2018 finishes her budget challenge through Reality Fair.

ipate in include: an employability unit where kids figure out which career suits them best, research the degree field needed to begin that career, and fill out job applications. Students also conduct mock interviews where kids take turns acting as good and bad interviewees so they can use their creativity to help demonstrate the do's and don'ts of proper interviewing skills.

This year kids also participated in an event sponsored by Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union called Reality Fair.

Reality Fair concluded with students meeting up with representatives from Michigan Schools and Government Credit union to receive financial consultation regarding their experience. "The math in this class is really straight up," said Christian Hiddou, 2018 GFC.

If you're looking for a class to help develop real - world skills and get to perform actual work tasks as a senior math credit, Global Financial Citizenship hs 7612 - 7613 could be the course for you.

Anchor Bay Schools  
Armada Area Schools  
Center Line Public Schools  
Chippewa Valley Schools  
Clintondale Community Schools  
Eastpointe Community Schools  
Fitzgerald Public Schools  
Fraser Public Schools  
Lake Shore Public Schools  
Lakeview Public Schools  
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools  
Mount Clemens Community Schools  
New Haven Community Schools

For more information about CTE, contact Shannon Williams at 586.228.3488 or swilliams@misd.net



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For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to [www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)

Richmond Community Schools  
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Roseville Community Schools  
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Van Dyke Public Schools  
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