

FUTURE READY

A newsletter for supporters of Wichita Public Schools College and Career Ready programs

SEPTEMBER 2022



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“The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking. Don’t settle.”

- Steve Jobs

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From the Executive Director

Welcome back! A new school year has begun and we are thankful that it has felt much more “normal” than the past two years. The College and Career Readiness Office supports all our students to develop an individual plan for high school and beyond.



To help all students and families develop this plan, we’re hosting a new event, Pathways to Success. The details of this event can be found on the last page of our newsletter, and we encourage all families and community members to attend and learn more about the incredible options we have for high school students at WPS. The event will showcase all 27 CTE pathways, options for college credit, the Early College Academy, AVID, Future Ready Centers, and much, much more.

Help us to support all of our students in finding their individual path to success.

Kelly Bielefeld

Executive Director, College and Career Readiness Office

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WPS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

WPS Launches Work-Based Learning



Wichita Public Schools launched its Work-Based Learning Program during the Spring of 2022. Here, Northeast Magnet student Jason Bell works in the USD 259 Automotive Tech Department. Making connections and building positive relationships with mentors in business and industry is an essential part of work-based learning.

VISION STATEMENT OF WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL) PROGRAM:

Students will have supervised, authentic work-based learning opportunities through:

- Having extended, engaging, and immersive experiences with business and industry professionals.
- Pursuing career goals identified through their Individual Plans of Study (IPS).
- Applying academic, technical, and essential skills.

Students successfully completing the work-based learning experience will be able to dream, believe, and achieve their futures in the Wichita workforce.

The 2022—2023 school year began with 24 students being matched with area businesses in their chosen field to gain valuable work experience and connections.

This will be the first full year for WPS' Work-Based Learning program, which is open to high school seniors. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the work site.

"Students identify their top three career interests, and then I contact a business in one of those fields," said Carey Keller, District Work-Based Learning Coordinator. "There are lots of factors to consider when trying to make a match. Proximity to the student's school is very important, as well as the business' commitment to host a student."

Keller has developed "Internship In a Box," a kit containing helpful tips for business owners who would like to know more about what to expect and what will be expected of them. She recently completed orientation sessions to help explain the process to business internship hosts. Keller is the point of contact between employers and students, answering questions and providing support throughout the year.

This year's seniors have expressed a variety of career interests, including health care, law, construction, child care, architecture, and graphic design. "Working side-by-side with professionals in their field of interest can open amazing doors for students. It's life-changing!" Keller exclaimed.

WPS Students Earn College Credit During High School

Six College Credit Partners



FRIENDS
UNIVERSITY



FLINT HILLS
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE



WPS students can earn both high school and college credit by taking courses provided by the six colleges shown above. Up to 24 college credit hours are available at every WPS high school.

Imagine getting a jump start on college or other post-secondary education by starting with nearly two semesters of credit. The “Excel in CTE” program, enacted by the Kansas Legislature as Senate Bill 155 and initiated by then-governor Sam Brownback, can help do that. It was created to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for college and careers. The program pays college tuition for high school students earning college credits in technical courses while also earning industry credentials valued by employers.

The free college tuition applies to any and all technical courses in approved programs at public community and technical colleges. These courses prepare students for careers in high-demand, high-wage fields. Another benefit: students pay only 20% of the textbook fees.

Other paid tuition courses are available through WSU, WSU Tech, Newman University, and Friends University. These include many pre-requisites, such as College Algebra and Public Speaking.

“The college credit students earn should align with their Individual Plan of Study and their career goals for after high school,” said Kelly Bielefeld, Executive Director of College and Career Readiness, where the Career and Technical Education programs are housed.

All in all, the opportunity to earn dual credit is a great investment with a high rate of return that every student should consider.

BENEFITS OF DUAL-CREDIT COURSES

There are many advantages to taking dual-credit courses while in high school.

1. Students taking dual-credit courses are more likely to receive their high school diploma and go on to earn either an Associate's or a Bachelor's degree in college.
2. They are more likely to know what their area of interest is when it's time to declare a major.
3. They can save on college tuition by paying much less per credit hour for college courses taken in high school.
4. They are more likely to be successful when they enroll in college after high school graduation.
5. WPS students earning college credits in technical courses in approved programs at public community and technical colleges pay no tuition for those courses.

Advanced Manufacturing Classes Take Off at the Future Ready Center



Background: the fuselage of the ultra-light plane being completed by aviation and manufacturing students at the Future Ready Center.

Foreground: Students work on sheet metal riveting.

The Future Ready Center, located on the east side of the North High School campus at 1435 N. Waco, is in the final stages of construction.

In collaboration with WSU Tech, Wichita Public Schools has embarked on a new program whose focus is Advanced Manufacturing for junior and senior students across the district. An instructional team from both WPS along with three guest instructors from WSU Tech provide the training. All instruction begins with Core Manufacturing in both classroom/lab training in OSHA Safety, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Precision Measuring Instruments (PMI), Hand and Power Tooling, Quality Control Concepts, and Print Reading. Students taking these courses will earn 12 hours of dual credit, as well as industry credentials. During the students' final three semesters, they can choose from three advanced manufacturing pathways, including: Aviation Sheet-metal and Composition; Manufacturing Production and Assembly (CNC Machinery, 3D Printing, Jig Assembly); Manufacturing Maintenance and Automation (Mechanical and Hydraulic systems, Electronics systems, and SMART Factory).

In addition to earning college credit in all four semesters for a possible 40 total dual credit hours while in high school, these students can earn valuable workplace credentials (see text box at right). "At the Future Ready center, we're giving high school students a manufacturing education that will put them at the top of many employers' lists," said PJ Reilly, Facility and Pathway Coordinator. "We're all working together to prepare them for great opportunities, leading to a local workforce that is *Wichita Future Ready*."

CREDENTIALS STUDENTS WILL EARN AT THE FUTURE READY CENTER:

After four semesters
students will earn:

- OSHA-10 certification
- NC3-PMI (precision measuring instruments)
- NC3-PPE (personal protective equipment)
- NC3-3D printing
- NC3-CNC machinery certification
- Sheet metal and composites certificate
- UAS 107-pilot certification

Market Day at North High: Real Life Entrepreneurs

This fall, as they have for every year since 1991, North High entrepreneurship students will create a product, develop a marketing plan for it, obtain start-up funding, and launch their own enterprise. It all happens on “Market Day”, which will be held on November 17 and 18. *[Note: Market Day will also be held this school year at East, Heights, Northwest, South, Southeast, and West High Schools.]*

Students are encouraged to prepare a bid where they pitch their idea to Jon Berseth, Empowered instructor. The bid includes the amount of capital they need to purchase items to launch their business. Students can work by themselves or in a partnership with up to two other students. Since Market Day began students have sold crafts like t-shirts and jewelry, but about 90% sell food, much of it authentic recipes from their native culture. Market Day is a real-life



This trio prepared and sold tamales. In 2021, the top three teams each netted more than \$1,000. Students get to keep the net profits they earn after expenses, which include paying back the loan.

“Market Day is where the rubber meets the road. You may have great ideas, but on Market Day you’ll find out what they’re worth.”

—Jon Berseth, Empowered Instructor, Wichita North High



An important part of creating a product to sell is knowing what it costs to make it. “If you’re going to sell sandwiches,” said Berseth, “you have to know what the meat, cheese, and bread cost.”

business experience few high school students can replicate on their own.

What do students learn from Market Day? According to Jon Berseth, *lots*. They come away with new skills like working as a team, time management, dealing with adversity, building value into their product, marketing, becoming problem solvers, and handling competition.

They also learn the importance of paying back the loan that ultimately comes from Empowered, formerly Youth Entrepreneurs. Berseth said that some loans are more than \$300—but students pay them back. In nearly 30 years of organizing Market Day at North, he’s only lost \$10.

Market Day is not open to the public, in part due to security concerns but also because the 2,500 student body at North is a huge captive audience providing more than enough potential customers. Throughout the day long lines of students eager to make a purchase snake around the gym and out the door. For entrepreneurship students, Market Day is a great learning experience. For the rest, it’s just fun!

What are CTSOs and Why Do They Matter?

Students can join their choice of several different CTSOs, or Career and Technical Student Organizations, at their high school. Across the U.S., CTSOs are comprised of 11 not-for-profit organizations that align with the 16 Career Clusters and 79 Career Pathways recognized by Career and Technical Education across the U.S. [Note: *Wichita Public Schools offer courses in 27 Career Pathways*].

CTSOs can seem like a confusing alphabet soup of acronyms—BPA, DECA, FCCLA, FFA, TSA along with SkillsUSA and Educators Rising are the CTSOs in USD 259. Their purpose is to enhance student learning through leadership, personal development, and real world application. Participation in a CTSO helps students engage in hands-on demonstration and real life and/or work experiences that help them gain skills needed to be successful not only in high school, but in life. Students can hold leadership positions in their own chapters, as well as at the state and national level.



Students John Robertson and Isaac Graves from Northwest High competed in the National SkillsUSA competition held in Atlanta this past summer. To qualify, these students built robots and had to win state competitions earlier in the school year.



Heights High School students earned a gold medal for their Chapter Service Project and placed in the top 10 at the 2022 National FCCLA Leadership Conference in sunny San Diego this past June. Pictured are Becca Kaufman, De'Azia Gulley and Zhane' Love.

Local and state competitions help sharpen the skills needed to compete nationally. National tournaments are usually combined with a conference for both students and educators, drawing thousands of students from across the U.S. For many of our Wichita students, a trip to the national conference is their first opportunity to travel out of state. It's an exciting time, made possible by their hard work and practice.

"CTSOs expose students to diverse populations across the city, state, and nation by working together to solve a problem," said Cathy Mong, Pathway Coordinator. "In FCCLA, competitions are designed as projects to deepen students' knowledge about the content they've been studying."

So why do CTSOs matter? Because they are building tomorrow's leaders...today.

Students Will Visit With College Reps at the Annual Futures Fair on Oct. 18

The Futures Fair will be back in full force this October at Koch Arena on the Wichita State University campus. More than 2,000 area high school students, the majority of them juniors, will have the opportunity to visit with area representatives of technical, community, and four-year colleges.

The event is an annual partnership of KACRAO (Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers), the Wichita Public Schools, and other south central Kansas high schools. Its purpose is to expose students to the many options available to them after graduation for training and education.



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“I greatly appreciated the opportunity to be in front of 2,000 Wichita-area students. The Futures Fair is a great event—well-run and fun.”

—College representative



These students from Heights High School attended the Futures Fair held in October 2021. Because the Futures Fair of 2020 was virtual, students appreciated the opportunity last fall to visit in person with college representatives from more than 100 area colleges and post-secondary institutions from the Midwest.

All participating schools must have programs that lead to certification and/or a degree. Although the primary audience is high school juniors, seniors are welcome to attend.

The Futures Fair gives students opportunities for one-on-one conversations with college reps, opening the door to a brighter future that includes post-secondary education. Students spend about an hour attending the fair and leave with optimism about what the future holds in terms of education after graduation.



September 20, 2022 5-7 p.m.
Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center
903 S Edgemoor St, Room 813

WPS has many options for students across our high schools and beyond. This event will showcase the many CTE Pathways, College Credit courses, Advanced Programs, and Career-Ready opportunities that our district has to offer.



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