

CTE

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CAREER • TECHNICAL • EDUCATION



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Dealerships give cars to help Fitzgerald automotive studies

By Megan Pavlak

Automotive Youth Education Systems is an organization that forms dynamic partnerships with dealerships and high schools.

Selected high schools — such as Fitzgerald High — start a partnership with local dealerships to encourage students with good mechanical aptitude to pursue careers in the automotive industry. Through this exposure, the dealership will give cars to high schools, allowing them to use the model to study mechanics.

Qualified junior high students also

team up with dealerships to work with them during the summer. This practice gives students exposure to a variety of automotive careers, in hope of influencing students to pursue a job in the ever-expanding automotive track.

Students from the Macomb, Lapeer, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties can participate in the program (the Technology Center at Fitzgerald is a school of choice).

Through AYES, students also participate in community events. The SkillsUSA-VICA canned food drive is just one example. Fitzgerald technical

students get the whole school involved, bringing in food items every year for donation to families in need during Thanksgiving. Participating in the SkillsUSA-VICA food drive assists students in strengthening their employability skills.

Students planning to pursue a career in automotive technology would do well to take part in the AYES programs offered at Fitzgerald High School. The program is a wonderful start to any automotive career because it helps students get jobs and certification for work after their high school careers are over.



Jack Huhn, Fitzgerald program manager, Mike Collins, national manager Vocational Education Daimler-Chrysler, handing keys to a 2004 Durango donation to used for Fitz Auto Instruction.



Mike Smeckert and Cassandra Bishop work together in John Smith's class to repair circuitry with the computer.

Program gives computer certification for life

By Megan Pavlak

When you think of an A+, the first thing that typically comes to mind is a grade.

But few people know that in the computer-related field of study there is a certification process by the same name.

Students who attend Fitzgerald High School's branch of the Career Technical Education program can elect to take an A+ certification course, taught by John Smith.

"All a student needs for this class is a screwdriver and a bit of knowledge," Smith said.

The class is an intense, year-long program that is strongly based on the repair of computers and the know-how of putting together and take apart computer components.

After completing the class, many students will go on to create their own computers. Some might even elect to take the actual certification test.

The A+ certification examination is done on the computer, which allows students to know immediately if they have passed or failed. If the student passes the test once, they will be certified for life.

After becoming A+ certified, jobs in computer repair become easier to obtain. Once A+ certification has been granted, other types of certifications such as, MCSE, MCSO, CIW and Network Plus, can be obtained.

Next Week's CTE Page will feature Lincoln High School

Fitzgerald alumnus gives back to the community

By Jaclyn Ketelhut

A former student at Fitzgerald High School is now a teacher.

Nathan Hlavaty excelled in several automotive classes while attending Fitzgerald.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree from Ferris State University in Automotive Business Management, Hlavaty worked in the automotive industry for General Motors.

Along with his previous field experience, he is also Automotive Service Excellence certified. The ASE is a national certificate for the automotive industry. It is a standardized test in eight different automotive fields.

His teacher during high school, Jack Huhn, influenced Hlavaty from high school and throughout his collegiate career.

When asked why he made the choice to become an educator for Fitzgerald High School, Hlavaty said, "I wanted to give back to Fitzgerald for all they gave to me. Specifically, they planted a seed, which grew into a career I could have for life. I wanted to give that back."

He also was asked why the Fitzgerald Automotive Program is important for Macomb County. "Macomb County needs a strong vocational program," he said. "I feel that this is a vocational program that meets the needs of today's society. Students have to decide on going into either college or industry. The new pre-engineering automotive program and facility at Fitzgerald is an excellent advancement for leaning how to work in the automotive industry."



Left to right: Lajuan Walker, Instructor Nathan Hlavaty, Charles Kortright, Stephanie Bowden get a hands-on feel to repairing an auto engine.

Program shows students how to help the less fortunate

By Jessica Ormsby

Every year at Fitzgerald High School, the SkillsUSA-VICA group sponsors a Thanksgiving food drive to assist less-fortunate families in the district.

SkillsUSA-VICA is an association comprised of students, teachers and industry members who provide educational experiences for high school students.

Schools all over the county participate in food drives, but Fitzgerald

separates itself from other districts by creating a competition to get the students motivated. The food drive lasts two weeks in which students in their third-hour classes bring in as many food items as they can. The top three

classes are rewarded with a pizza party from the SkillsUSA-VICA group.

Last year, Fitzgerald collected more than 17,000 food items that helped more than 200 families in the Fitzgerald district.



Student Jason Jones of Mark Sonnenfeld's Auto CAD design class, compares a real component to his computer illustrated version.

A class for those who like to construct, draw and design things

By Jaclyn Ketelhut

Have you ever heard of Computer Aided Design?

The program is used to draw mechanical parts and architectural floor plans. The purpose of this specific program is to teach basic and advanced computer aided design skills.

Many students from different school districts in the Macomb County Consortium can enter this

program at Fitzgerald High School. The student who takes the Auto CAD courses at Fitzgerald typically likes to construct objects or simply loves to draw and design things.

Classes available include Drafting, Auto CAD I and Auto CAD II. Student can also elect to take 3-D Modeling I, 3-D Modeling II and 3-D Modeling III.

The computer program students' use for these classes is called

"3-D Studio Max." The program is used to construct and design projects.

"These classes prepare the students for engineering programs at various colleges," said Auto CAD instructor Marc Sonnenfeld. "The students also work co-op jobs and get real-world experience while still attending high school. After completing the classes, students can also receive college credit at a number of colleges."

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