

MAKING THE Connection TO Career Technical Education

Thursday, March 1, 2018

EDUCATION

Armada High School CTE programs make the connection

Armada High School is proud to offer a variety of Career and Technical Education programs to help connect our students for careers offering growth and opportunity.

The skills students develop in our CTE programs are often supplemented

through job shadowing and our Career Internship program, where students obtain work-based learning.

Our goal is to provide our CTE students advanced coursework and training that prepare them for industry certifications

and employability.

Students have the opportunity to take college-level career-related courses through Ferris State and Macomb Community College while at AHS.

Many continue their education at technical colleges and report their

learning experiences at Armada High School have them well-prepared for college success.

Currently we offer CTE programs in Business/Marketing, Renewable Energy, Building Trades, EMT, Certified Nursing Assistant, and Medical Sci-

ence. All of our CTE programs are promoted and encouraged to be taken by all students.

Our district requires a career sequence as a graduation requirement - two courses in the same career area must be taken over four years.

Armada High School is taking steps toward "Making the Connection" for our students in Career and Technical Education opportunities.

We encourage parents and students to explore the benefits of a career preparatory program in CTE.

Developing future health professionals

By Emma Pardi

Over the past several years Armada's Medical Science programs have rapidly grown in popularity. Students with an interest in the nursing field have the opportunity to get hands-on experience and a leg up in the workplace through the CNA program.

The Certified Nursing Assistant Program is a concurrent enrollment program through Macomb Community College that has helped students through laboratory experiences in developing career skills. The CNA program is taught by our teacher with a nursing background, Mrs. Mahfet, and is available to senior students. The program works in cooperation with Advantage Living Center in Armada for students to complete their clinicals. Students are then able to take a board certification exam in which they will be tested on three of the twenty-one skills they have learned over the course of the year. Students drawn to the CNA program sometimes have goals of becoming registered nurses and use the CNA program as a stepping stone. Students have to accrue patient care hours and CNA allows them to do so before they even enter college, allowing them to be ahead of the game. Seniors also find CNA beneficial because they are able



"The CNA laboratory is much like a hospital setting with beds, curtains, and equipment used in assisting patients needing long-term care."

to use this first-hand experience as a testing zone to determine if they are actually interested in the nursing field. This solidifies some plans and for others, it saves them time and money as they learn their interests lie elsewhere.

Armada High School's EMT program is another great opportunity for students to make an in-depth discovery of the health care field. Students have the opportunity to become licensed by the end of the year. Senior Lexi Mackley is enrolled in both CNA and EMT as she prepares for a career in the medical field and is grateful for the opportunities Armada has provided for her. "CNA has given me great experience and will shape my future

career as I plan to work as an EMT throughout college as I need to have 700 hours to even apply to PA school." The EMT program is rigorous and requires students to be committed as they are tested on all 11 skills at the end of the year.

Many students in CNA and EMT also participate in Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) - Future Health Professionals, which is a student organization. This group brings awareness of healthcare to the community and also competes at HOSA competitions at the regional, state, and national levels. From its starting years, in 2010, the group has gone from having fourteen members to over one hundred members. Armada has started

a HOSA chapter at Armada Middle School to encourage students to start thinking about health care careers even earlier. A career in medicine is spent helping and supporting healthy living and habits to improve everyone's quality of life. Not only do the Medical Science courses at Armada High School teach students the knowledge necessary to get a jumpstart on their career, but also to spread this intellectual wealth to help everyone they can. The opportunity for students to develop a passion for health and medicine at a young age results in a continuous career of innovation, enlightenment, and giving back to the public through a positive impact on their well-being.

Preparing the entrepreneurs of the future

By Brooke Niebauer

Armada High School's business program has grown in strength in recent years under the direction of teacher Jason Moore. Courses offered include Economics, Finance, Accounting, and School Store. These courses give students real business experience and knowledge that will support their future business educational goals. The students learn the value of professionalism and presenting themselves appropriately for the business world.

Mr. Moore also runs the Business Professionals of America Club, which has great student support and has increased its numbers over the years. This year's January BPA competition resulted in 21 medals, 14 of which were for first place, and 18 students qualified for BPA state finals. Ar-



"The Tiger's Den staff provides a welcoming store environment and great shopping experience."

mada prides itself on its ability to incorporate a rigorous work ethic into its CTE programs.

School Store is one of the school's more popular business classes which only juniors and seniors can take. Students are divided into teams, with each team being led by a student manager. The students are responsible for running the business as the teacher

oversees their decisions. Senior Makenna Lawson describes her experience as one of value and responsibility. "School Store has taught me to be responsible and partake in things I wouldn't have been in charge of like: ordering stock, taking inventory, making deposits and overseeing bookkeeping."

After each team's lunch shift, the students head

back to the classroom to discuss the direction of the store, promote slogans for the sports programs, marketing campaigns for shirts and other various products, etc. Lawson continued, "I've learned how to market and I have more of an eye for business now. What we do in School Store helps maintain and improve school spirit and I'm proud of that." School Store gives students a stake in their building and a sense of pride coupled with experience that will guide them throughout their future business careers.

Students in Armada High School's business courses have many opportunities to prepare themselves for a career in business. Next trimester a couple new electives will be available for students, including Sports Entertainment Marketing and Entrepreneurship.

2018 CTE Students of the Year prepared for career success

Armada Area Schools would like to congratulate our 2018 Career and Technical Education Students of the Year, Nicholas Groen of Macomb Township and Matthew Perry of Capac. Both students were recently saluted at the Macomb County CTE Administrators recognition breakfast on February 2.

Nicholas Groen is the type of young man that is not afraid to work and displays a passion for construction trades with a desire to expand his knowledge for a career. He has successfully completed all of our school's Building Trades and Renewable Energy curriculum and is currently taking a Wood Tech course where he is a natural leader for those who are less experienced, working with student teams to guide them through activities. He can be seen during class reminding students about safety procedures and assisting with use of machinery.

Nicholas has shown enough maturity and focus that his teacher, Mr. Defever, has made him a project leader. He estimates materials for projects, creates prints, and manages other student tasks. Nicholas has really grown as a student and exhibits an enthusiastic attitude that will serve him well in the trades - he takes great pride in all of his work.

Nicholas participated in the MITES construction competition last year with his team placing 6th. He hopes to improve on that performance this year. Nicholas has taken a wide variety of academic courses throughout his four years, including Honors and AP courses and has a 3.6 GPA. Teachers enjoy his charming personality and great sense of humor. He is very engaged and a positive classroom contributor. Nicholas runs Cross Country and serves as team captain, and also runs track. He is the PAL Leadership Team president where he assisted with Relay for Life fundraising and event communication.

Nicholas currently is employed with Caruss Construction in Armada as a crew member, working recently on a couple home additions and construction of a barn.

He is clearly using the skills from his CTE classes in the workplace.



Perry Groen

Nicholas fully intends to work in construction trades and recently learned about the many opportunities available on a field trip to Michigan CAT. He plans to attend either the University of Alabama or North Dakota State University and study construction management with the intention of owning his own residential services construction firm.

Matthew Perry is committed to our school's health science curriculum with him currently enrolled in Certified Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, and our Ferris State University Medical Science class. He has also taken classes from Ferris in health care safety and US health care systems.

Matthew takes a professional approach with all he does in his classes and works cooperatively on team activities. Teachers find Matthew demonstrates the leadership qualities and compassion for others that will serve him well in the health care field. A polite and respectful young man, Matthew has a stellar citizenship record with teachers issuing him Outstanding marks over 30 times through the last three years.

Matthew has been a member of HOSA for three years and has competed at the regional and state levels in pharmacology, and has served as a board member of our school HOSA chapter. This year he is part of our new Medical Reserve Corp HOSA Team that is working in conjunction with the Macomb County Health Department. Athletically, Matthew has played football and participated in track all four years.

The plans for Matthew after high school are already in place, with him accepted to St. Clair County Community College in their paramedic program. He also will study radiologic technology to further develop his professional background.

Armada Area Schools wishes both Nicholas Groen and Matthew Perry the best of luck in their future college and career aspirations!

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For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to www.misd.net

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