

Making the Connection

Thursday, January 9th, 2020

Armada Area Schools

ARMADA



Junior Cameron Keller and Senior Austin Prisby.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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, Medical Science, Fire Academy, and Culinary Arts. 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.



Teacher Patrick Defever with Introduction to Small Engines class.

This year Armada High School started a new Small Engine Repair

program that has proven to be very popular with all types of students. The introductory course covers dissecting two and four stroke engines and trouble shooting. The advanced course includes fabrication skills, such as welding and machining, with students using engineering skills to build a go-cart from the ground up.

Armada Area Schools is proud to be a member of the Macomb Classroom to Career Talent Consortium which is part of the Marshall Plan for Talent Innovation Grant program. Collaborating with businesses and other districts, planning is underway to help prepare students for high demand and high wage career sectors. Creative and innovative approaches to education will be part of this emerging program.

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.

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Medical Science Students Connect with the Community

By Alexis Whitmore

Our school district does a great job of providing CTE courses in growing career areas. One of the most exciting of these is the Medical Science department that allows those who are interested to pursue and explore medical and the health-related fields. The first course for students wishing to learn about this career path is Introduction to Medical Science, followed by a year of Medical Science I and a year of Medical Science II. Some students then proceed to either the EMT course or Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course on their way to a college and career track in the medical sciences.

This program covers a wide variety of subjects including everything from muscle structure to the proper way to care for patients in different settings, which provides a challenging yet rewarding experience for every individual student. Teachers

Donna McCollom and Kristen Stephenson bring great professional experience to the classroom from their time working in the industry.

Armada High School has a large Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) organization for its size. This year, the program trained and certified 32 students in BLS (Basic Life Support), teaching them how to perform 1- and 2- man CPR on adults, children and infants, along with the ability to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The students received the official BLS cards this past February. One student stated, "The information I learned in the BLS course could potentially save lives, which is really exciting to me because of my interest in the health field".

Some students who earned their BLS cards went across the street to run a CPR course education program for the elementary and middle school students. Giving back to the community like this is not uncommon though, often students looking for

jobs and internships are pointed toward the nursing home in town and other practitioners in the area to not only aid in the learning process, but also support these local businesses. Another senior explained her reasoning for doing this, "I like the fact that I'm getting more experience and continuing my education while giving back to the community that helped me become who I am today".

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.

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2020 CTE Students of the Year Prepared for College and Careers

Armada Area Schools would like to congratulate our 2020 Career and Technical Education Students of the Year, Audrey Wood of Armada and Gianna Annoni of Ray Township. Both students will be saluted at the Macomb County CTE Administrators recognition breakfast at the Macomb Intermediate School District on February 7.

Audrey Wood is the daughter of Danielle and Kirk Christoff. She has continually emerged as a leader in all of her Health Sciences courses and demonstrates a compassionate and caring demeanor. She feels that Armada's medical science program has helped her discover a love of caring for others and that the program has her well-prepared for future study.

Teachers count on Audrey to help lead group activities and appreciate her professional approach shown on a daily basis. She currently is enrolled in Armada's Certified Nursing Assistant program in conjunction with Macomb Community College and also is enrolled in college level English through Ferris State University.

Audrey is a four-year member of HOSA and is the current Vice-President. She also is a member of Armada's Medical Reserve Corps and has assisted in a fundraising campaign for the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation. Her caring for others has also been shown in her community service participation and certification in Stop the Bleed and CPR.

Audrey will be attending Grand Valley State University next fall and study Pre-Nursing with the anticipation of starting their nursing program the following year. Once becoming a nurse, Audrey plans to further her education by becoming a certified nurse practitioner with a focus on either labor and delivery or pediatric oncology.

Gianna Annoni is the daughter of Antonella and Nicola Annoni and a second year culinary student. Her teacher, Mrs. Mathis indicates that although only a sophomore, she has shown outstanding growth as a young chef.

Gianna is always ready to go in class, always dressed appropriately, her station is set up properly, and her recipe is in hand. She shows great attention to detail in her Mise en Place from start to finish. She is planning on utilizing her skills learned this upcoming year with Skills USA in the baking and culinary arts competitions.

What makes Gianna a standout student is the way she thinks about food, the way she has grown into a young chef, her organiza-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Adrianna Annoni



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Audrey Wood

tional skills and the way she stands behind the food she produces. During a recent culinary lab exercise, Gianna was left to prep her very labor intensive recipe. It was impressive the way she gathered ingredients on a sheet tray, marked items as completed on her recipe and as the class went on she had each item prepped, labeled, dated and properly stored. Her teacher commended her on her work and she went on to produce a wonderful Asian cream of chicken soup. Gianna is a great student, always ready to work, keeps her group on task and is a valuable asset to her team.

Gianna excels in all of her classes, with all "A"s and a 4.22 GPA at this point. Besides Skills USA, she is involved in HOSA, Student Council, Cross Country, Track, Nature Club, and PLT. Outside of school she enjoys teaching at her church, and doing community service projects such as this year's Relay for Life.

After high school, Gianna plans to pursue a path through medical school to a career as a pediatrician. Certainly, the culinary skills she has developed will help her fix more creative college meals than ramen noodles.

Armada Area Schools wishes Audrey Wood and Gianna Annoni best of luck in their college and career aspirations!

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For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to

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