

MAKING THE Connection TO Career Technical Education

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EDUCATION

Center Line High School career academies going strong

Center Line High School continues to redefine secondary education with career academies for all students in grades 10-12. After career exploration in the Freshman Academy, sophomore students enter either the Academy of Health and Human Services (HHS) or the Academy of Industry, Technology, and Innovation (ITI).

The HHS Academy features classes in Law Enforcement, Firefighting, Emergency Medical Services, JROTC, Life Guarding, and a Teacher Cadet program.

The ITI Academy includes FANUC Robotics, Computer Numerical Control (CNC), Graphic Design, as well as classes in art, business, and engineering. In each academy, students have the opportunity to earn certifications that can lead to employment in their given field.

The academies are located in separate wings of the school, and students take most of their classes in that area. This helps develop a team atmosphere within the academy, where teachers and students can develop strong working relationships.

"The academy model has made my classes more relevant and overall more enjoyable," teacher Donna Giacona said. "One of the most basic benefits is that students are being placed in classes that spark their interest. I have also enjoyed being given time to collaborate with my colleagues in order to develop academy lessons plans or organize field trips and special events."

In addition to the career specific courses, the academy model places students in small learning communities where they take core classes in math, science, social studies, and English. The core teachers make connections between their content and the academy course work.

"The academy model has really helped students see how all of their classes are interconnected," English teacher Dan Hamilton said.

"I can take a topic that students are working on in their engineering class, for example, and have them read an article or research information that will deepen their understanding."

Center Line teachers have also implemented Project Based Learning, where students work collaboratively to solve problems and develop ideas related to the content of their academy. The classroom projects are designed to give students experiences similar to what they will face when they enter the work force.

Another key component of the academy model is cultivating partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with career based learning experiences and opportunities. CLHS has formed partnerships with Ford Next Generation Learning, Crest Ford, Rinke

Chevrolet, Binson's Health Care Supplies, and several other organizations.

The goal is to have professionals come into the school to work with and inspire students, and to have students go into the work place to gain hands-on experience.

The academies have made school more engaging for students, and given them preparation for college and career choices that will come after graduation.

The Academy of Industry, Technology, and Innovation (ITI) CNC

Computer Numerical Control, also known as CNC, is a machining process used in the manufacturing industry that involves the use of computers to control tools. Mills, routers, and grinders are all tools that can be controlled in this manner.

Students at Center Line High School can acquire the skills of CNC robotics thanks to a course instructed by Mr. Michael Quinn. In this class, students learn how to read blueprints, and program and set up machine processes.

These are skills needed to meet the demands of the manufacturing industry.

"The class is for students who want to pursue a technical career, as well as those who might be interested in engineering," Quinn said. "The students are driven, and ready to focus and learn."

"Overall, I believe that we learn best from hands-on experiences, so I try to lean more toward those types of activities," Quinn said. "However, students need to take in a lot of information before they are able to work on the CNC machine."

Graphic design

The Graphic Design class at Center Line High School focuses on the design and production of electronic and print media.

Electronic media include digital video and photography, while print media are things like t-shirts and business cards.

Visual Imaging is a tangible class in which students get to choose to design what they like. Projects include making posters for the auto show, designing advertisements for businesses, and designing and printing t-shirts.

FANUC robotics

Center Line High School offers a FANUC Robotics program in which students participate in learning motion programs. One of the main focuses is creating robot work cells.

Course instructor Donna Giacona became certified to teach this class after some on-line and on-site learning. She has been teaching this course for four years now and is thrilled with the opportunities that it creates for her students.

"FANUC is the industry



PHOTO BY ALLY FOUCAUT

CLHS Law Enforcement students use the skills they have learned to conduct a mock crime scene investigation.

meter in robotics," Giacona said. "These robots do jobs that are repetitive or dangerous. A misconception of robots is that they take jobs away from humans, but these robots have created interesting and exciting new careers for humans."

The Academy of Health and Human Services (HHS) Firefighting

Center Line High School's Firefighting course is a great educational opportunity open to all students who seek it. The course teaches the students everything they need to know about firefighting and basic emergency medicine. They learn how to extinguish many types of fires, and learn fire prevention safety. The students receive a mix of lecture and hands-on learning about ropes, ladders, fire hoses, and other equipment used in the field. The class also completed a project outside of school in which they helped local residents install smoke detectors.

Law enforcement

The Law Enforcement class teaches students the skills needed to become a police officer.

In this course, Mr. Robert Plotzke, a retired police officer, helps the students achieve their goals and provides them with the same materials and training used at colleges in the area.

Mr. Plotzke shares his many past experiences from his years on the force to give students a firsthand look at real police situations. Activities practiced in this class include traffic stops, felony stops, handcuffing, and crime scene investigation. The program even has its own police car that the students use in these scenarios.

"When students experience realistic law enforcement scenarios, it gives them a better grasp of what it's like in the field," Plotzke



PHOTO BY SARAH SHARPLES

EMS students learn how to properly place an accident victim on a back board.



PHOTO BY SARAH SHARPLES

Graphic Arts instructor Donna Giacona helps Ramondo Flood bring his animation to life.

Emergency medical services

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is one of the career training classes offered at Center Line High School.

The class is taught by Mr. David Watts.

In EMS, students learn "Pre-Hospital Care" which is the care provided to a sick or injured person during the first ten minutes of an emergency.

The course uses the same curriculum that is taught in

college and medical training courses. Some skills taught throughout the class are CPR, bleeding control, splinting broken bones, and treating heart attacks and strokes. Students also learn how to take care of people with diabetes or severe allergic reactions

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