

# MAKING THE Connection

TO  
Career Technical Education

Thursday, November 15, 2018

ROMEIO

## Real-world skills part of Romeo classes

### Video production

Kayleigh Rienas  
Class of 2021

Romeo High School provides students with the opportunity to choose from various electives that allow students to gain real-world experience to help them grow and improve in a particular career or field. A popular choice, Video Production, develops film and production techniques within students. The students who take this elective expand their learning by creatively reporting relevant news and activities in the form of short films.

Introducing new softwares, tools, and techniques, the class builds upon student's pre-existing skills and develops new ones. Students then present and assign events occurring in the school or community. After assigning an event, students brainstorm how to cover it in a creative way, they gather footage, and then they edit.

"We watch other videos in order to learn from them and we learn new techniques a lot," Michael Jamieson '10 said. "I've always wanted to learn more about editing, so even though we are learning every day, it isn't boring at all."

Whether it's a football game, homecoming week, or school improvement, these students cover events in a unique way to create intriguing videos. Displayed to the student body, these vid-



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Practicing their editing skills, students work to produce a video ready for publication in Mrs. Harbison's Video Production class. Students focus on their editing skills, which not only increase their knowledge for the class, but also their computer ability which is essential for future schooling and careers.

eos serve to both inform and excite students about numerous activities.

The students cover events taking place in Romeo High School, and they also have numerous opportunities to cooperate with other businesses in the community. These involvements provide the students with essential real-world experience and help them grow and improve. When taking college classes and applying for internships or jobs, these experiences aid the students who plan on pursuing careers such as filming, directing, sound, and editing.

"We are able to work with WBRW TV, a news station that interviews important people in the area and covers local events, and we work with MITT.TV sometimes. We also have cooperated with Four Corners, a local business. Also, we have a manufacturing day

where we get to work with Ford and GM - it's pretty cool. We've been working on branching out more," Wesley Hutchinson '12 said. "I really like these experiences since I want to pursue directing one day."

Providing the students with opportunities, the video production teacher, Mrs. Harbison, constantly helps them grow. Through suggesting workshops to attend and encouraging the students submit work into film festivals, they never run out of chances to participate and improve.

"I love having the opportunity to develop your creative style when it comes to filming and I love all of the experience you get," Hutchinson said.

Developing skills and style, Video Production students receive numerous opportunities to grow and improve.

### EMT

Katelynn Medley  
Class of 2020

Romeo High School includes a variety of courses for specific degrees fitting the students interests. These courses allow students the chance to learn about something they feel passionate about and want to pursue in their future. Romeo High's Medical First Response class provides a real world experience for students interested in pursuing a degree within the medical field. Students explore careers in the medical field and receive hands on experience that future occupations look for.

Jacob Clifton, a junior at RHS, intends on pursuing a job in the medical field. Clifton believes this class teaches essential material needed in his future career.

"I want to go to college to become a cardiothoracic surgeon and Medical First Response is a great way to get a start in the medical field," Clifton said. "It offers a basic overview that can help better understand the type of things you have to do on a day to day basis. Only a few weeks into the class, I have learned things that are used everyday at a medical job so I think the class will highly benefit me for my future."

Clifton enjoys the diverse forms of learning and activities in class. It encourages him to look forward to what careers lie in his future.

"The class is different everyday and things are changing everyday, it isn't boring topics that are taught for weeks at a time," Clifton said. "The class is interesting because of the variety of ways we learn and practice what we are learning from hands on tests, to written tests, to presentations. This is exactly why I

want to work in the medical field because it changes day to day and lacks repetition."

The Med First course provides hands on experience with CPR and the use of medical equipment.

"Medical First Response is a hand's on class, which I love," Clifton added. "Working with hands on things requires a different level of understanding, and that's what keeps the Medical First Response program interesting. We truly get to experience what we are learning."

Kayla Phillips, Romeo High School's Athletic Trainer and a first year teacher of Medical First Response, believes that the Medical First Response/EMT classes implements real life experiences for students, which helps guide them to figuring out what they want to pursue outside of schooling.

"When I was in high school I didn't have the opportunity to take any medical or even skill classes," Phillips said. "The medical field isn't for everyone and I know if I had exposure to it during high school it would have helped me in deciding if I could handle it or not. Thankfully I love

the medical field. Not only do the medical classes help students decide if they enjoy the field or not, but also provides a good basic understanding of the medical profession."

Sarah Pile, Romeo High's EMT and twelve year Medical First Response teacher, is a former EMT herself. Pile confirms the training in these classes are beneficial and necessary, regardless of interest of going into the medical field or not.

"This class isn't just a necessity if you're pursuing in the medical field, but also can train students to remain not only calm, but helpful in emergencies," Pile said. "I have seen my students become EMT's, nurses, and even some work in ambulances. I have seen how well these courses benefit my students for their futures and I'm so glad to be along for that process."

Romeo High School offers these courses to students to give them exposure into future careers. In addition, it teaches them necessary life skills. These courses open opportunities for students before the college level and offers them the chance to pursue passions early in life.



In her third-hour class, EMT and Medical First Response teacher Sarah Piles tests sophomore Grace Marus for CPR implementation. Hands-on testing in medical classes is essential; students are able to literally experience real-life emergencies and test their abilities under pressure.

### Robotics

Joseph Milana  
Class of 2019

In a world of constant ingenuity and improvement, a new concept surfaced in the past few years with the target of better preparing students for the harsh competition of finding and excelling in a career. This new development, known as a CTE class, or in other words, a career and technical education class allows educators and students to adapt to an ever expanding world. Tod Rawling is among the first set of teachers with an opportunity to teach using these new and exciting ways of presenting information to students.

"To me, a CTE class, is a class which involves hands on type learning, vs learning through a book," Rawling said. "Some students don't relate well to the regular class, in the classroom, where other students when they are working with their hands on, even though it's kind of the same information, they just do better with it if they can actually do stuff with their hands. We do a combination of both, we have the opportunity to actually go into a shop and make things with our hands, and also learn curriculum through a book, that's what I like about the CTE classes."

On top of students having a chance to comprehend and see their day to day work in a specific career, these types of classes also come with benefits after completing them.

"In my class, we do a bunch of different projects.



In Rawling's third-hour class, students familiarize themselves with the machines by practicing lubricating and cutting blocks. Students are given the opportunity to experience hands-on learning and discover skills that are critical for a student's future.

They [students] can do stuff on a lathe, on a mill, sanders, etc. that gives students a well rounded skill base in the world of machining. Students can take what they learn in machining, and get a job right out of high school and can make some good money in a shop," Rawling said.

While these classes provide a good educational tool to get students involved, it also gives them a leg up on competitors. Experiencing hands on learning makes students more appealing for hiring over another applicant with the same credentials.

Along with these classes benefiting students, it also gives the teachers involved a sense of fulfillment.

"Part of the reason I became a teacher was to see some kids grow and hopefully make something out of themselves as they get out of school, and I hope I can be a part of that," Rawling said.

A CTE class not only enhances a student's experience inside and outside of school, but also impacts the teachers involved. These classes assist in giving teachers a more fulfilling experience, and ensure they send their students off on the right foot in the next chapter of their lives. From providing students involved with an edge over competitors, to aiding teachers in truly enjoying their craft, CTE classes pave the way for curriculum and educational progression.

### Architecture design and drafting

Giovanna Ruffino  
Class of 2019

With the development of new teaching concepts, such as hands on learning and the utilization of real life connections, the career and technical education classes in Romeo High School incorporate different teaching methods and perspectives. Paving the way for a better future, Mrs. Eva Dossin teaches the Architecture Design and Drafting class at Romeo.

Dossin describes the purpose of CTE classes as preparation for careers outside of school or even after high school. Getting hands-on experience provides students with the form of learning which requires a more cognitive way of processing.

"Students are able to think critically and more creatively," Dossin said. "We are focusing on résumés, work based learning, and career skills which make students marketable to get jobs, and a lot of those skills are transferable."

The kinesthetic teaching



Working on their designing projects, Mrs. Dossin's Architecture Design class is using CAD to draft and work on their projects. CAD is a computer program that supports mechanical, engineer, and architectural design. This program provides students with hands-on skills they need for their future.

style applied to CTE classes allows students to connect school with the real world through projects.

"My drafting class introduces kids to drawing on the board, such as CAD, which is a computer program that helps with mechanical design, architectural design, and engineer-

ing class," Dossin said.

Her classes put concepts of building structures to real life, opposed to a regular class, which provides the same information but in a more conceptual way.

Educators focus a great deal on projects in their CTE classroom. Tasks given to students which pertain to real world problems actually come in handy in their future.

"I love when the kids design their own dream houses," Dossin said. "They create a full set of up to date construction documents, which meet the current building standards, so they could build them in real life."

Students learn early on, in order to move forward, the roadblock of not solving a problem requires a detour.

Career and Technical Education classes, or in other words CTE classes, provide students with adaptable work based learning, useful outside of the classroom, not only creating a substantial change on a student's high school education, but making them more applicable to jobs in the world.

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For more information about CTE, contact  
Shannon Williams at 586.228.3488 or swilliams@misd.net



Macomb Intermediate School District  
44001 Garfield Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
586.228.3300

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