



Building Careers for High School Students Career Technical Education (CTE) Classes

Photo by Debbie Brown.
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Career Technical Education (also known as CTE classes or pathways), help prepare students for real life and provides students with the opportunity to explore different careers options. Students may not know where life will take them after high school, but CTE classes can help them decide.

There are six different fields of study in the CTE program: Agriculture, Biomedical Sciences, Computer Science, Construction, Engineering, and Media Arts.

CTE classes introduce students to possible career paths and can provide students with possible internships, certifications, and more. Lincoln High School Agriculture Teacher Jessica Armistead said, “Our pathway classes build industry skills, and as students move further through pathways, their experiences come closer to what they will actually experience in the industry. Many pathways end with an internship which can lead to employment.”

Barret Hess, LHS Welding Teacher hosts ‘Professional Mondays,’ where various employers come speak to his class and create networking opportunities for students. Students are able to hear first-hand what it takes to join their workforce.

Biomedical Science helps students who wish to pursue a career in the medical field. Students engage in dissections and learn the biology, anatomy, and physiology of the body. In addition, they learn the causes, treatments and prevention methods of common diseases throughout their coursework. The Biomedical pathway consists of three classes - Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Human Body Systems and Medical Interventions. Mandy Retallack, LHS Science Teacher, dives into why students should chose this pathway. “Students should choose this pathway if they think that they are at all interested in the sciences - specifically biolog-

ical sciences, healthcare and medicine. It is a great pathway to expose them to all facets of healthcare professions, as well as the strong science skills necessary for this field.”

Lincoln High School junior, Julia Hernandez is taking the Biomedical pathway in hopes of entering the medical field. Hernandez says, “I think it’s prepared me for life by showing me if I was really interested in following this career path, I mean I was only 13 when I made the decision that this was what I wanted to do. It also taught me important information about the body and different aspects of the medical field that I wouldn’t know of otherwise.” Hernandez says her favorite part of the class are the labs. “I love all the labs. It is so much fun being able to do hands-on learning. Another favorite part would be the people; my class has been together for almost three years, so we have gotten pretty close. It’s really cool to be surrounded by

people with a common interest.” There is also the Media Arts pathway that allows students to learn about the Arts, Media, and Entertainment industry. The classes for this pathway include Media Communication, Digital Photography, Advanced Digital Photography, Graphic Art and Animation, Computer Journalism (school newspaper), Video Production and Advanced Video Production.

Students who enjoy writing, graphic design and taking photos find themselves seated in the Computer Journalism class. Computer Journalism is the student newspaper class, which introduces students to the field of journalism, including writing for a newspaper and designing the paper on industry standard software. Julianna Felt, Editor-in-Chief of ZebraTales (Lincoln High School’s newspaper) said how the class has helped her, “I’ve become a much better writer



Engineering & Media Arts student Nathan Stewart, Grade 12 operating a machine in the engineering shop at Lincoln High School.

and better at Photoshop and as Editor-in-Chief this year. I’ve become a much better leader.” While in Computer Journalism, students learn more than the writing piece of journalism. The pathway implements a design component where students are using programs colleges want to see on applications and employers want to see on resumes. What is more, students have the opportunity to have published articles in the local paper, The Lincoln News Messenger. Debbie Tofft is the Media Arts teacher and when asked about why students should choose this pathway, she answered, “Knowledge of the Adobe Suite and design principles will benefit

students in many job industries and in life in general. These skills are very desirable to employers across industry sectors” Chris Bombard, LHS Computer Science Teacher said, “The Computer Science Pathway allows students to be in a hands-on, fun environment. Students are able to take the knowledge they have learned and apply it to real world settings, which will allow them to thrive in college and the workplace.” All of the CTE pathways introduce students to education they are going to need in their college and/or professional careers. They provide students with employment opportunities and help prepare students for the real world.

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