

COVER STORY:

Over 5,000 students in Charlotte County celebrate Career and Technical Education month in February!

Students and Parents:

Take a peek inside this action-packed issue of :

“Transitions”

The CTE Career Guide for 8th grade families!

LOOK INSIDE!

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an Apple Training
Center

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Celebrate CTE Month!

Charlotte County will be celebrating Career and Technical Education month in February with over 5,000 CTE students participating. With the local partnerships in the business community, many students will be shadowing, completing Internships, or working through their On-the-Job Training program to have “hands on” experiences in their field of study.

Diversified Career Technology (DCT)

Port Charlotte High’s DCT class under teacher, Ron Jones, is working on a career research paper and a personal finance and banking practice set.

Michelle Dill’s Charlotte High class has completed a series of workshops on customer service, goal setting, time management, and how to dress for success. Their career projects are well under way. Enrollment in DCT/OJT has surged to almost 100 students for next semester.

Agriculture

Future Farmers of America students (FFA) traveled to Indianapolis again this year with chaperon, Cindy Webb. A premature baby calf was born at the Agriculture barn one evening and gave the students quite a surprise when they arrived in class the next morning! A new class will be offered next year—Plant Biotechnology—and the Vet Assisting program will be expanding. See a counselor for details.

Culinary Arts

All three high schools are busier than ever in the Culinary classroom—LBHS has been baking cookies and producing chocolate holiday houses to fund families using Englewood Helping Hands. PCHS students are designing menus for their dream restaurant along with working on plate presentations. CHS students continue to please the faculty with their Thursday restaurant event and have hosted CTE functions this semester. All three teachers—Aime Mcleod, Roberta Ruxton, and Ron Westrom—had a staff development day in October and shared ideas.

Television Production

CHS students are working on entries for the “What’s Super About Our Public Schools” video contest. They also prepared a marketing DVD for CTE programs that was shown at the National CTE Conference in St. Louis in November. Teacher, Janet Scinta, says she has some great talent this year!

Multimedia Design

CHS’s Multimedia Design class is working on evaluating and creating advertisements through Photoshop and InDesign software. Team teachers, Karen and Brad Smith, are both industry certified in Adobe Photoshop.

Career and Technical Education—CTE

by Carolyn Gorton, Director of Career and Technical Education



Career and Technical Education (CTE) has come a long way since the dusty industrial shop classes and manual typewriters in the 1950s! Today we see students using virtual simulations to design, build, and maneuver projects. Other students are manipulating data through desktop computers, laptop computers, iPADS, IPODS, and their cell phones.

As things have gotten smaller, quicker, and more efficient, our CTE students have become more sophisticated. Critical thinking skills, team building, and problem solving have remained at the CORE of what CTE teachers use in their classrooms, though. The foundation of CTE will never change! Giving an employer an honest day’s work; using initiative;

being a team player; and being willing to participate in lifetime learning will always be at the heart of CTE. Thanks, Charlotte County CTE teachers, for being the best at delivering this! Your students are acquiring the skills, knowledge, and attitude to enter and advance in the real world of work.



A+++

CTE's state monitoring visit led to PERFECT scores for CTE in all areas of learning including data, technology, leadership, curriculum, finances, inventory, and more! Way to go CTE teachers and students!

Port Charlotte High School Earns Apple Authorized Training Center Status

Everyone knows that being a teacher is a 24/7 job, but one Port Charlotte High School teacher knows this better than anyone. Bryan Bouton, Television Production teacher, has spent the past year researching the possibility of PCHS becoming an Apple Authorized Training Center (AATC). He attended training to learn both Final Cut Pro VII and X software and then began the tedious process of applying to become an Apple Training Center.

The final contract was approved by the CCPS School Board and Apple in December. This was the final step in allowing Bryan to train and test his TV Production students in this valuable industry certification. No longer will students have to travel to Orlando or Tampa for testing. They will test right on the PCHS campus.

Port Charlotte High School has the distinction of being one of two high school testing centers on the West Coast of Florida. Way to go Bryan!

CTE on the MOVE

- ◆ Sharon Bruno, PGMS, was nominated for the STEM Program of Excellence Award from the International Technology Engineering Education Association (ITEEA).
- ◆ Maryjo Holleran, LBHS, and Carolyn Gorton presented at the National Career Pathways Network in Orlando. Carolyn also presented in St. Louis at the National ACTE conference.
- ◆ Susan Chabot, LBHS Health and Science teacher, spent a day at the MOSI Museum in Tampa learning new STEM strategies.

Where do your skills fit into the 17 Career Clusters?

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
 Architecture and Construction
 Arts, AV Technology and Communication
 Business, Management & Administration
 Education and Training
 Energy
 Government & Public Administration
 Health Science
 Finance
 Hospitality & Tourism
 Human Services
 Information Technology
 Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
 Manufacturing
 Marketing, Sales & Service
 Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
 Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Ainger STEM Thrives!

Teacher Natalia Shea believes in always being ahead of technology! Her students are working on the engineering and design process as it relates to STEM concepts. They have completed an introduction to Drafting Design using AutoCAD which led to a national competition in a Toothpick Bridge project. Next they moved to an animation software, SCRATCH, using a 7 Habits theme, and ended with Gagle email accounts that use electronic communication tools through Edmodo to devise a Prezi presenta-

tion centered around their future personal, education, and career goals over the next ten years!

Murdock Middle School Academy

The first middle school career academy will open in 2012-2013 at MUM! Teacher, Chris Carboni, is busy working on a curriculum format to allow students to learn technology through a high school credit course while in 8th grade. This would lead to an Industry Certification and enrollment in a high school CAPE Career Academy. What a win-win-win for everyone!

STEM at Punta Gorda Middle School

Punta Gorda Middle School continues to offer outstanding STEM projects for students under the direction of instructor, Sharon Bruno.



One of the most popular modules is Construction Technology. The students build circular, triangular, and rectangular pillars to investigate how shape affects strength. They also like using the materials tester to calculate the strength of three types of beams, an I-Beam, Panel beam, and U-Beam, that they assemble using balsa wood and glue. The fun part is testing their beams and graphing how many masses it takes to bend, and sometimes break, each type. This experimentation helps to reinforce how bending is reduced by arranging the same amount of materials in different ways. The thermal chamber is where students test the properties of single and double-glazing to understand the benefits of energy conservation. They also use an earthquake simulator to test the effect earthquakes have on different skyscraper designs.

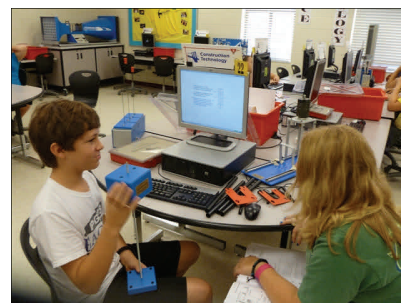
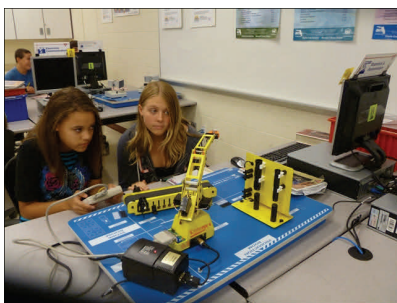
A new addition to the lab is the Anatomy and Myology module. Students follow step-by-step displays on their computer monitor, and then create anatomical structures such as muscles, arteries, and intestines using colorful modeling clay. They also must use several clay tools such as a roller, clay knife, and extruder to precisely build each of these forms. They then need to apply their colorful and accurate sections to their manikin.

There is an increased interest in student's selection of the Health Management modules. Many students are considering careers in the medical field and getting some hands on experience with learning health terms, and understanding how current information on nutrition and technology has improved the way in which we manage our health. Some of the basic skills students learn is how to check systolic and diastolic blood pressures using a blood pressure cuff, become informed about the six basic nutrients (carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water) and research about calories and the caloric values of foods.

The Robotics module is one of the fun automated systems. Students learn how to operate and control the shoulder, elbow and jaw of a roboTEK II robot arm. They also program it to operate and perform tasks independently using a graphical sequence and knowledge of degrees to perform rotation. The students learn how the use of flow diagrams can simplify even complex tasks. Parallels are drawn between the model and larger industrial robots and how automation is commonly used in industries.

Overall, the students select modules that are interesting to them now and which may eventually lead to enrollment in a Career Academy in high school or dual enrollment at Charlotte Technical Center.

Written by Sharon Bruno, M.Ed., NBCT



8th Grade Students—Apply Now for Career Academy

SEE YOUR COUNSELOR TODAY TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING TO BE A MEMBER OF AN EXCITING CAREER ACADEMY THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL.



CAPE CAREER ACADEMY APPLICATION

Please complete and sign this application and turn in to your Career Specialist or Guidance Counselor before registration. A “Parent/Guardian” signature is required.

Student Name _____ Grade Level _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____



Charlotte County Public Schools offers Career Academies for students who desire to work in small learning communities that lead to specific career fields. These academies offer integrated course work; industry certifications; opportunities for Bright Futures Gold Seal scholarships; a college prep curriculum with a career theme; and partnerships with employers, the community, and postsecondary education.

All academies lead to an education that focuses on rigor, relevance, and relationships. Students who desire to enroll in at least three (3) credits in a career sequence should apply.

Please check the Academy offered at YOUR high school that you are interested in attending:

Agriculture (CHS) _____ Multimedia Design (CHS; PCHS) _____

Technology Excellence (LBHS) _____ Culinary (CHS; LBHS) _____

Drafting/Design (CHS; PCHS) _____ Television Production (CHS; PCHS) _____

It is a special privilege to be a member of an academy. Please agree to the following conditions before applying:

- I have at least a “C” overall GPA and will maintain this GPA or higher while enrolled in the academy.
- I have no more than a minimal number of minor occurrences in disciplinary action and understand that I could be withdrawn for any disciplinary actions.
- I agree to maintain a good attendance policy missing less than 9 days per school year.
- I understand that I must maintain at least an annual 3.0 GPA in the academy courses and at least an overall 2.0 GPA. Failure to maintain this GPA could result in withdrawal from the academy at the end of the year.
- I understand that students in the career academies will complete additional assignments focused on integration with core academics; will take an Industry Certification examination; may complete an internship; and will be encouraged to join a student club related to the career field.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

The School Board of Charlotte County does not discriminate in educational programs/activities or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status or handicap. S.B.C.C. Policy 2260, 5730.

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