Manassas City Public Schools

Career and Technical Education Newsletter!

MCPS CTE Department Hosts First Annual Business Advisory Banquet

Over 80 businesses, staff members and students attended the first annual CTE Business Advisory Banquet that was held on October 30, 2019 at Osbourn High School. The focus of the event was to bridge the gap between local businesses and the related CTE programs that are offered at OHS. Topics discussed at the meeting included internships, equipment, instruction, student organizations and how businesses can help our students. More information can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Guest speaker, Mr. James Dyke spoke to the many businesses, administrators and students about the need to build a strong advisory program and the need to build a more diverse workforce.
2019-20 Governor’s STEM Academy Induction Ceremony

Nineteen (19) Osbourn High School students were inducted into the Governor’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academy at Osbourn High School during a pinning ceremony on December 11, 2019.

Students enrolled in the Governor’s STEM Academy participate in specialized, project-based courses, giving them hands-on experience in one of three chosen pathways: automotive, networking/IT or engineering. These students are also provided opportunities to earn industry certifications, preparing them to be more competitive in the workforce, postsecondary institutions and/or specialized technical training schools.

At the ceremony, inductees and guests heard from Dr. Kevin Newman, Superintendent of Manassas City Public Schools and Tim Demeria, a member of the school board and the board’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) representative. Melissa Boyle, Systems Engineering Manager for Lockheed Martin RMS, also delivered a speech.

Students that graduate from the Governor’s STEM Academy receive an Advanced Science and Technical Studies Seal on their diploma.

In order to be considered for the STEM Academy, students must apply, receive a teacher recommendation and write an essay. Students enrolled in the program must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

2019-20 Governor’s STEM Academy Inductees

Prince Addy
Ernest Amoyaw
Michelle Guerrero
Jaxon Hardy
Liliana Hernandez
Joshua Hunt
Amanda Hurley
Jeffrey Johnson
Ethan Kraft
Austin Malos
Brett Merchant
Danny Martinez
Logan Monhollen
Brandon Olguin
Nelson Palacios Suria
Janu Singh
Sebastian Steinbach
Nicholas Tan
Malachi Williams

Newly inducted Governor’s STEM Academy students with MCPS Administrators.

School Board Member and CTE representative, Tim Demeria speaks about the importance of the Governor’s STEM Academy at Osbourn.

Congratulations STEM Students
SkillsUSA Student Organization wins First Place in the 2019 Greater Manassas Christmas Parade!

Pictured above is the float created by the SkillsUSA student organization that participated in the annual Greater Manassas City Christmas parade on December 7, 2019. The students showed their SkillsUSA and holiday spirit when they took hours and hours to create the FIRST Place winning float.

Second Annual Counselor’s CTE Meeting a Success!

On December 11, 2019, the Osbourn High School Counseling Department organized a counseling/CTE meeting directed by the Career and Technical Education Department. Betsy Ingles-Whitaker, Osbourn CTE Administrator, and Dr. Trey Davis, Supervisor of K-12 CTE, headed up the professional development opportunity.

Since the Counseling Department is filled with many new faces, the CTE Department believed presenting information about the history and current status of the Career and Technical Education programs was essential. Being advised on each program curriculum, the various certifications, and the field of competency based education was important for both parties.

The topics of the meeting were: new CTE marketing strategies, program certifications, curriculum, grade level courses, prerequisite courses, and much more.

FBLA Students Attend State Conference

The 2019 FBLA Fall Germanna and NOVA Regional Conference, was held at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia on October 15, 2019. The event provided a great opportunity for OHS FBLA students to further their knowledge of business related topics, as well as participate in many workshops that focused on leadership. Examples of some of the workshops included: How to Make Meetings Fun, Project ASK Blankets, and Time Management. In addition, students were able to meet, share and participate with other FBLA members from different schools.

Many of the workshops were led by former and current FBLA members. Students were able to enhance their skills and share those moments with their peers. Not only did they share a great experience, but they also shared great food!

The conference was an event that everyone enjoyed and we look forward to attending more in the near future.
Leadership students from Osbourn High School are familiar with doing good work as many of the students within the class participate in various clubs and community organizations throughout the year. However, that didn’t stop these students from serving more than 500 children with cancer and their families during “Do Good December.”

Under the direction of teacher Robin Albrecht, Leadership students traveled to Richmond recently to participate in a holiday party for oncology patients. The holiday party is an annual event for Project ASK, a childhood cancer foundation serving Central Virginia’s pediatric oncology patients and their families.

“At the ASK holiday party, children scurried through the hotel excitedly getting their faces painted, making crafts, and doing other holiday activities,” Albrecht said. “But, the biggest highlight for many of the little ones and their families was being able to take photos with Santa Claus.”

During the event, Leadership students hosted four tables of crafts they had prepared in the weeks leading up to the event. With help from the Leadership students, children and their families were given the opportunity to decorate a tree with finger paints, decorate a gingerbread man card, make a reindeer ornament and color holiday-related coloring pages. The Leadership class also helped children prepare letters to Santa.

“Our class was enlightened by the experience,” Albrecht said. “Many of us had not had the opportunity to contribute to such a large event. In addition, many of us had never had interactions with a child going through cancer treatments. It was a humbling experience to make great memories with these children and their families.”

Do Good December is an initiative founded by the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, which is a national program for high school students that promotes “impact through action.” Volunteering at ASK’s holiday party was the project chosen by Albrecht’s Leadership class for the month. The students’ involvement in the academy is sponsored by local Chick-fil-A owner and operator George Snyder of Chick-fil-A Signal Hill.

The Osbourn Robotics team is ready to start a new build season. For the past 15 years, Osbourn’s CTE students have participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition receiving a game challenge in the first week of January and have only six weeks to design, build and code a large robot. Once the six-week build season ends, the team competes against other robotic teams in a basketball court sized arena. The competition matches three robots on a red alliance opposing three robots on the blue alliance. Alliances strategize gameplay to include robots performing game scoring tasks while defensive robots engage in hard hits and pushing matches between opposing robots.

Every year the competition game is different, varying from loading spacecraft with cargo to shooting Frisbees across the arena to playing soccer. Every game has easy low-scoring tasks and difficult high-scoring tasks challenging both rookie and experienced teams. Each game includes a 15 second autonomous task where the robots perform specific scoring tasks without human guidance.

By designing and building the robot, CTE students learn problem solving, time management and teamwork. The students work with professional technical leaders and engineers from the local businesses. Meetings are held 3 nights a week from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and all day Saturday to meet the rigorous build schedule. Skills learned on the team are highly regarded by engineering firms leading to a number of OHS students being hired right out of high school.

The Robotics team is currently lead by Mr. Frederick, Dr. Choudhary and Mr. Barbuzza.
Osbourn Students Reveal “Kindness Rocks”

A small act of kindness can leave a big impression, which was the intended goal of Osbourn High School’s “Kindness Rocks” campaign. That goal was achieved when students from Robin Albrecht’s Leadership class recently handed out dozens of small rocks painted with bright colors, pictures and encouraging words around Manassas.

Each rock was paired with a handwritten note from the Leadership students meant to improve someone’s day. On Monday, November 18, the students visited Old Town to share their Kindness Rocks with community members and place them throughout historic Manassas.

“It made me happy to see the smiles on people’s faces and it was wonderful to hear that I made their day,” said senior Jenny Cruz. “So many people thanked us and loved what we were doing,” added Love Delaney, another OHS senior.

Students visited City Hall and area businesses, allowing many of the students to experience parts of their community for the first time and in a new way.

“A lady driving pulled over next to me and asked what it was [that] we were doing,” said senior Merlin Gamez-Melendez, “And after I explained I gave her a card/rock and she was so happy and thankful. It made me feel really good about the work I was doing for my community.”

OHS Senior Irving Vargas-Herrera said he enjoyed making people’s day. He described seeing people’s reactions as his favorite part of the experience, especially at one Manassas restaurant.

“The workers were very cheerful, and they reminded me of little kids when they were comparing their notes,” Irving said.

Whether it was through a rock that said “Smile,” a note with encouraging words or a simple exchange, Leadership students realized they can make a difference and “Kindness Rocks.”
October 30, 2019 - Over 80 people making up local businesses, city administration, school administration, staff members, and students met to discuss ways to build a strong career and technical education advisory group that would benefit each individual program.

The banquet involved an opening session that concluded Dr. Trey Davis, CTE Supervisor, updating everyone on the various CTE highlights, a dinner for all attendees, followed by two student speakers named Leo Solis (Criminal Justice program) and Karla Juarez-Orozco (Cosmetology program). The first session concluded with Mr. James Dyke speaking about the importance of advisory boards, creating a pipeline of employment, and the importance of a diversified workforce. Mr. Dyke is a senior advisor in Virginia state government relations. He works for McGuireWoods Consulting. He previously served as Virginia’s Secretary of Education under former Governor L. Douglas Wilder.

The second session involved the various advisors attending the classroom of their related program. Topics discussed in these detailed meetings included: internships, equipment, instruction, student organizations, and more.

If you would like to know more about the CTE Advisory Board please contact Dr. Trey Davis at bdavis@mcpsva.org.

First Annual CTE Business Advisory Banquet

OHS CTE Department Nominated for PWC Commerce Award

Congratulations to the Osbourn Career and Technical Education Department for being nominated for the 2020 Prince William Chamber of Commerce Business Award in the category of: Innovative Practice or Partnership of the Year.

The CTE Department was nominated for the 1st Annual Business Advisory Banquet and it’s impact to the local business community.

The award ceremony will be held on February 27th. Details will be given in the spring edition of this newsletter.

Career Fair Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin Elementary</td>
<td>Heather Hartman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hramey@mcpsva.org">hramey@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>Program called “Career Wax Museum” - no date set yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennie Dean Eleme</td>
<td>Emily George</td>
<td><a href="mailto:EGGeorge@mcpsva.org">EGGeorge@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>no dates set yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haydon Elementary</td>
<td>Sarah Myers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smyers@mcpsva.org">smyers@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>no date set yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Elementary</td>
<td>Taylor Hawkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thawkins@mcpsva.org">thawkins@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>no date set yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weems Elementary</td>
<td>Leigh Corner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcorner@mcpsva.org">lcorner@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>April 17, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin Intermed.</td>
<td>Lori White</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lwhite@mcpsva.org">lwhite@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>December 17, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayfield Intermed.</td>
<td>Robert Vavrinak</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RVavrinak@mcpsva.org">RVavrinak@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>March 27, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metz Middle School</td>
<td>Ms. Zayatz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:azayatz@mcpsva.org">azayatz@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>no date set yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osbourn High School</td>
<td>Larry Gilligan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LGilligan@mcpsva.org">LGilligan@mcpsva.org</a></td>
<td>April 14, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in participating in any of the career fairs, please email the contact person of the school listed above.