



Update from the Superintendent

To: All BDS Employees
From: Bill Husfelt, Superintendent
Date: February 10, 2023

This is a copy of the Superintendent's weekly message that is sent to parents/guardians. We want to make sure you have the same information as well, so you're in the loop :)

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, and it's always exciting to see how these programs are growing in popularity and need. Hundreds of students throughout our community are enrolled in these programs designed to provide students with valuable industry certifications AND chances to explore different career fields while still enrolled in school.

Our district currently has 17 unique CTE pathways for students to choose from and each of our secondary schools have different specialties depending upon the interest of their students. Deane Bozeman School, for example, has a thriving agricultural sciences program. Many of their students use that as a stepping stone to advanced farming degrees, horticultural programs of study and veterinary sciences pathways. Rutherford and J.R. Arnold High School offer their students Construction Academies designed to teach the life skills and handyman tips we could all use along with real-world industry certifications that translate into work opportunities for those interested in that career field. A. Crawford Mosley High School has a thriving pre-med program, and another focusing on engineering. Bay High is developing a high-need medical pathways program for nursing students.

We meet regularly with industry experts and community leaders who help us design the right CTE programs for Bay County and our students. The construction academies are a perfect example of this partnership. It was Richard Dodd, with Reliant South Construction, who approached us years ago with a request (for construction-related coursework for students) and an offer to help fund our fledgling programs. We're so grateful to him and all of the other community leaders who regularly offer their expertise and insight regarding CTE and the programs we offer.

And none of this would be possible without the amazing men and women who have come to us from these various industrial fields willing to teach our students. Of course, ALL of our CTE instructors could be making FAR MORE money in the "real world" than they make as full-time BDS teachers, but they are all committed to sharing their knowledge with students, and we're so grateful.

You can read a lot more about our varied CTE pathways on our website at <https://www.bay.k12.fl.us/cte-about> but here's a "short list" of what we're currently offering:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Agriculture Biotechnology
- Allied Health
- Applied Cybersecurity
- Computer Science

Construction
Culinary Arts
Digital Design
Early Childhood
Early Childhood Education Certificate Program
Engineering
Entrepreneurship
Exercise Science
Game/Simulation/Animation/Visual Design
Hospitality and Tourism Management
Landscape Operations
Sports, Recreation and Entertainment Marketing
Unmanned Aircraft Systems

All of our middle schools have CTE courses that lead into the high school programs, and we encourage any parents/guardians who want to know more about these opportunities to reach out to the school counselors who are experts in their fields. CTE is NOT the old “vo-tech” that we often remember from our childhood experiences ... it’s state-of-the-art education that prepares students for college and careers, and it’s a vital component of who we are and what we do best.

Thank you to all of the students, educators, businessmen and women and community leaders who are helping us blaze a trail in the field of CTE. We appreciate all of you, and we’re grateful for our partnership.

Stay safe, and God Bless!