



North Thurston Public Schools
Career & Technical Education

CUTTINGEDGE



A PUBLICATION OF THE NTPS
CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FALL/WINTER
2021-22



CTE Calendar

Feb. 10, 2022
FBLA Winter Conference

Mar. 3-5, 2022
DECA Region 8 Conference

Mar. 3-5
HOSA State Leadership Conference

TBD - Spring
SkillsUSA Welding Competition

What's inside?



Back in business

CTE students present their experiences with student leadership and entrepreneurship to the Lacey South Sound Chamber.



A sign of the times

The River Ridge American Sign Language Program continues its tradition of signing and singing the national anthem for the state legislature - in a new way this year.

CTE Connect



We're "back in business" this year in CTE at North Thurston Public Schools!

After nearly 18 months of necessary pandemic protocols that caused significant modification to our instruction and learning opportunities for our students in the department, students and CTE staff are once again getting to experience all that CTE has to offer this school year!

Our students are getting back to in-person learning opportunities, participating in after-school club opportunities, hosting competitions, and doing more and more hands-on learning both in and out of the classroom. And we're doing it safely with universal masking, strategic grouping and distancing, and hosting classes and experiences outside whenever possible.

Some of the recent developments throughout the department include:

- adding Anatomage tables at 3 schools
- adding new student clubs (HOSA)
- full agriculture program at River Ridge HS
- student presentations to local Chamber
- number of student businesses increasing
- rebuild of the Construction program at THS
- in-person plant sales in planning stages
- return of in-person Cupcake Wars at NTHS
- new Robotics room at Aspire
- student enrollment in CTE is big this year
- building of tiny homes & sheds
- students attending conferences this year

Thank you for all your support of Career & Technical Education at NTPS!

- Brad Hooper

Non-Discriminatory Statement

North Thurston School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.



NTHS & RRHS Marketing students attend DECA conference

A group of nearly 20 students from North Thurston High School and River Ridge High School attended the DECA Washington Fall Leadership Conference in-person in Bellevue from Nov. 5-8 of this fall.

North Thurston DECA advisor **Ronna Reed** noted "The conference was a great in-person experience, while following all Covid protocols and safeguards to keep our students safe." Keynote speakers were April Shprintz, founder of Driven Outcomes and Devin Schain, CEO of Student Playbook.

At the conference, students participated in breakout sessions on interviewing, making a business pitch, college round tables, leadership, DECA competitions, and more. "It was a great conference and great to be back to DECA!" said Reed.

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.



NTHS Electronics repairs toy for elementary Life Skills class

When a beloved electronic toy broke in the Lydia Hawk Elementary School Life Skills classroom, a team of high school students took it upon themselves this winter to repair it and bring it back to life.

About a half-dozen NTHS students led the charge to fix the Mr. Potato Head - which serves many academic & support purposes in the Life Skills classroom - repairing the interior components to make it new again for use at Lydia Hawk.

"This is exactly what CTE is all about, said district CTE Director **Brad Hooper**. "Having our students doing meaningful activities for others and letting them use the skills they have to make another student's life better is why we do what we do."



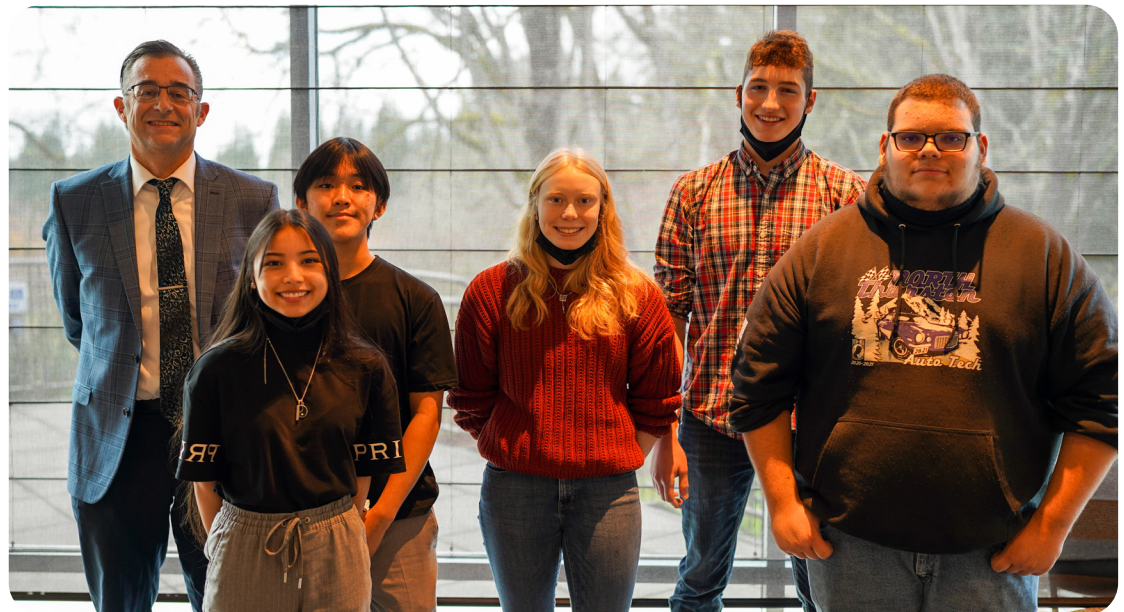
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS
RIVER RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
Lacey, WA

RRHS students sign & sing national anthem for state Senate

To help kick off the first day of the 2022 state legislative session, students in **Cathy Boos'** American Sign Language (ASL) class recorded a performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" in both sign language and vocal song to be shown in the state Senate chamber. The class has historically performed in person at the Senate, but with Capitol campus protocols continuing to limit visitors and groups, Boos assembled a group of her ASL students to rehearse & perform remotely.

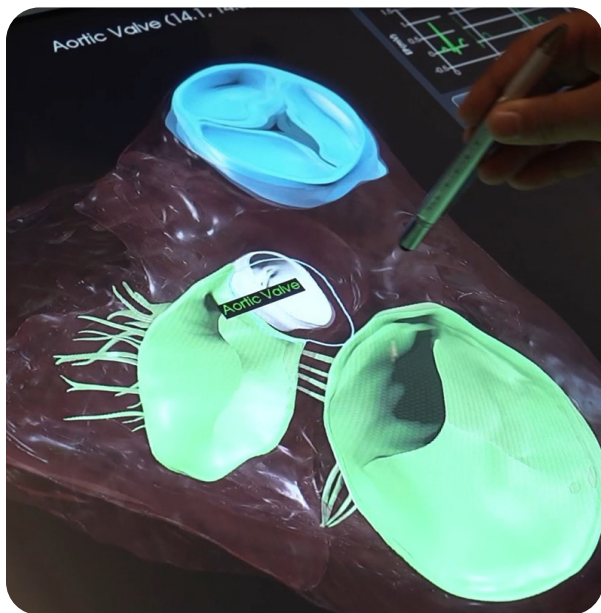


Watch the performance!



CTE students, director share entrepreneurship experiences with Lacey South Sound Chamber

In front of members of the Lacey South Sound Chamber, CTE students from North Thurston High School and Timberline High School - as part of a keynote presentation by CTE Director **Brad Hooper** - shared what they've learned about entrepreneurship and employability in their high school CTE experiences. **Bryant Truong & Kierra Cruz** (above left) shared their experiences as leaders of the Timberline High School Entrepreneurship & Student Store program while **Gwynneth Hogle, Nicholas Spence,** and **Justin Schaffer** presented what they've learned from their student leadership roles in the NTHS Automotive and Welding programs. "These students represent some of the best of CTE," said Hooper. "When you have such great students, we really see the payoff in our program successes and these students prove it day in and day out."



Health Sciences programs enhance learning with 3D digital anatomy tables

This fall, 3D interactive digital anatomy tables were installed and integrated into health science classes at River Ridge, Timberline, and North Thurston high schools - in an effort to help high school students better understand how the human body works and to prepare them for careers beyond high school.

The fully interactive tables, made by Anatomage, digitally allow students to visualize what is beneath their own skin by featuring life-size digital replicas of humans and animals that students in class can rotate, cross-section, and animate to learn how the various body systems and processes work.

"We can look at all anatomical pieces of the human body and look at different injuries and illnesses," says **Stephanie O'Dell**, Sports Medicine & Anatomy teacher at River Ridge. "It is a wonderful, amazing tool that lets students really get to see all the intricacies of anatomy, apply the physiology, and see more in-depth at different levels what the anatomy experience looks like."

Providing teachers and students with the tools that help make learning come to life for students - such as these anatomy tables - is one of the most rewarding elements of North Thurston Public Schools' CTE Director **Brad Hooper**'s job. "We want our students to experience the most engaging activities and cutting edge technology that they can when they're taking our CTE classes and when they're preparing for their careers," says Hooper. "We think the Anatomage

tables can really enhance the student experience in our classrooms across the district."

"One of the best features of the table is the awesome amount of engagement it provides," says **Heath Owens**, a CTE teacher at North Thurston High School. "Students are understanding and retaining information much better when they're able to see and manipulate the table."

With the ability for users of the table to interact with bone structures, musculature, pregnancy stages, and a variety of internal systems (circulatory, nervous, etc) of both humans and animals, cross-classroom integration is expanding. Teachers across the district expect the tables to become regular learning tools for students taking courses in animal science, biology, child development, independent living and other areas in coming semesters.

In addition to future student competitions with the tables, Hooper sees the post-high-school and career benefits of students using the tables throughout the district. "These tables benefit every kid who gets to interact with them," says Hooper. "Not only do they teach about body systems, but if we can help inspire some of our students to consider career paths in medicine, biotechnology, computer science/programming or any other path in part because they interacted with these tables, that's why we are committed to bringing this type of interactive, industry-grade equipment for our teachers and students in our classrooms."

NTPS Career & Technical Education Club Update

FBLA (Business)

Chapters from NTHS, THS, RRHS, ECA & KMS plan to attend the winter conference at Great Wolf Lodge on Feb. 10, 2022 and compete in categories such as advertising, graphic design, broadcast journalism, public speaking and more. The clubs are also actively organizing community service events and fundraisers as they continue to build membership and participation now that they can meet in-person. Some chapters also attended the Fall Leadership Kickoff in Yakima.

DECA (Marketing)

The NTHS DECA club organized a community service project (collected 250 boxes of food to donate to food bank) and produced t-shirt decals for all NTHS clubs. 35 students competed in the Area 8 regional competition in January and 12 students attended state leadership conference in December. The RRHS chapter had 6 students place in the Top 3 at the Area 8 regional competition and RRHS student McKenzie Waters was named the Area 8 DECA President for 2022-23 and will serve on behalf of the 8 participating high schools in the region. Additionally, RRHS DECA qualified two students to attend the International Career Development Conference In Atlanta, GA in April by achieving gold level for the School Based Enterprise project.

FFA (Agriculture)

About 10 North Thurston High School students are preparing to show & sell swine at the Thurston County Spring Fair. Members will also compete in public speaking, livestock, agricultural issues, environment, creed & more at spring FFA competitions.

FCCLA (Family & Consumer Science)

The North Thurston High School chapter volunteered at football concessions & as pen pals with elementary students this fall and winter & was part of the school spirit support team for the NTHS Unified Sports program.

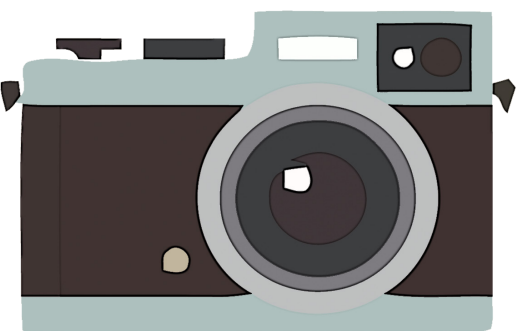
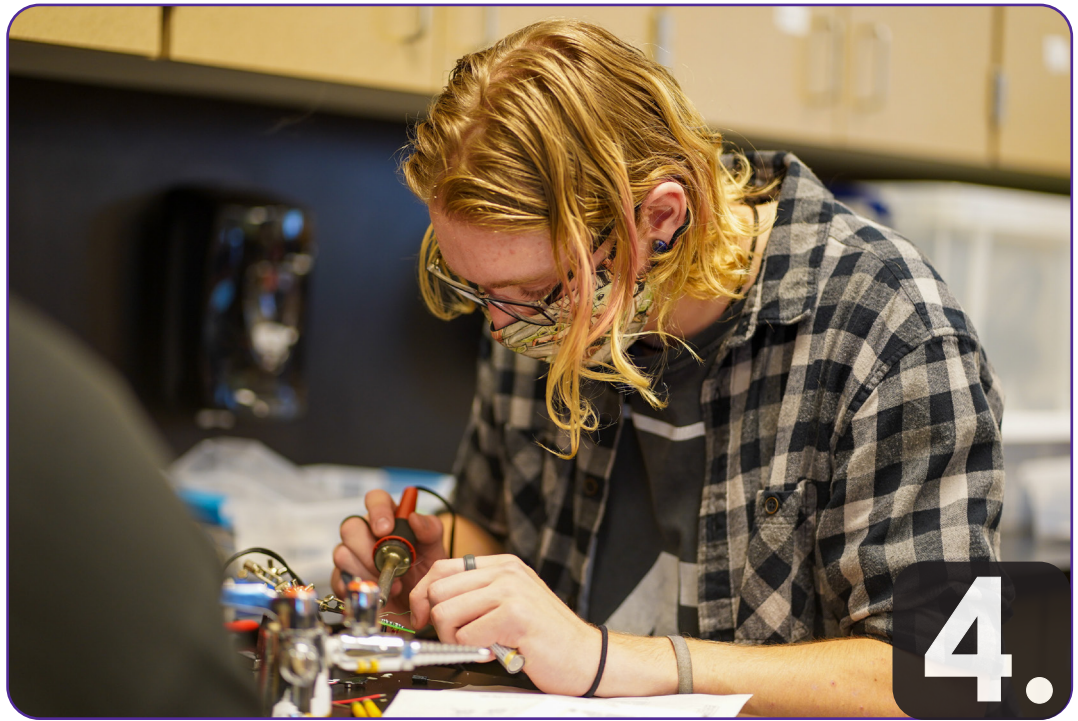
SkillsUSA

NTHS SkillsUSA Welding planned to have students compete at a SkillsUSA welding competition on Feb. 11, 2022, but that has been postponed.

Robotics

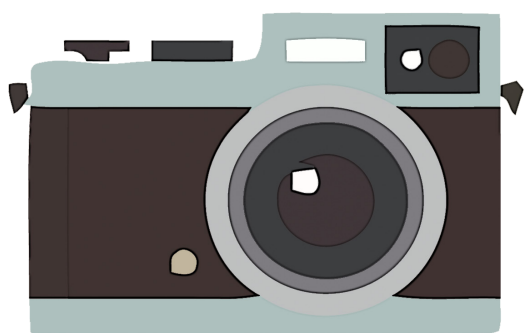
Robotics has been very active this year at both the high school and middle school levels. Teams from Timberline HS and North Thurston HS have competed in three First Tech Challenge competitions over the past few months and are seeing increases in student club participation as the clubs rebuild after seasons of remote competition. Middle School teams have been preparing for January competitions in First Lego League. With construction wrapping up at Aspire School for the Performing Arts, the Robotics club of 30 students at Aspire has moved into its new home classroom and recently qualified for state in FLL.





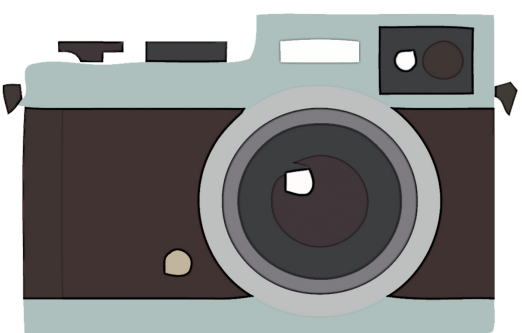
1. Nisqually Middle School teacher Chad Carignan taught students how to use power tools as they manufactured wooden utensils in Applied Technology.
2. NTHS Metal Design students passed inspections before they used welding equipment.
3. River Ridge Yearbook students flew a drone to get aerial photos of the campus.
4. Robotics & Electronics students repaired circuit boards with soldering tools at Timberline.

CTE Snapshots



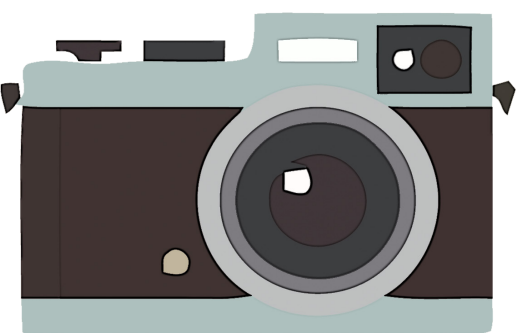
5. North Thurston High School Robotics students prepare for a fall competition.
6. CTE teacher Lori Borseth (right) instructs Photography students how to use digital camera.
7. River Ridge High School Sports Medicine students learned how to tape wrists and ankles.
8. Timberline HS Video Production students created stop-motion videos to start the year.

CTE Snapshots



- 9. Robotics students at Salish MS programmed their dragster cars for a class competition
- 10. Approximately 60 students competed in the Annual NTHS Cupcake Wars in December.
- 11. Chinook MS Animal Science students practice veterinary injections in a lab last month.
- 12. Envision Career Academy Business & Marketing students learn how to run a coffeehouse.

CTE Snapshots



13. Matt Newton (CMS) demonstrated the basics of woodworking in Applied Technology
14. NTHS Construction students have been building and painting tiny houses & sheds.
15. North Thurston High School students have learned various types of welding in the shop.
16. THS Horticulture students placed 100s of mushroom dowels into cut logs at the LandLab.

CTE Snapshots