



Bulletin Board

Middle Country Central School District

ISSUE IV OF DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN MIDDLE COUNTRY *Instruction on the Cutting Edge, Students at the Forefront*

Welcome to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) edition of the Middle Country Bulletin Board. We want to share some of our students' achievements and accomplishments. CTE plays a strong role in providing our students with the foundational, transferable skills they will need for future careers and shifting work opportunities. Our CTE programs provide a strong pathway for students to prepare for the future of work by equipping them with real-world skills, such as entrepreneurial and employability skills, that have great value across rapidly shifting sectors and work activities. If you need any assistance, please contact Mr. Cangero, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, at ncangero@mccsd.net.

THE FUTURE OF STEM: MIDDLE COUNTRY ROBOTICS

The introduction of robotics has been such an exciting and groundbreaking addition to our high school curriculum. Robotics stimulates the creativity of young minds, provides an outlet for innovation and competition, and reinforces the very science and math principles students have been learning throughout their educational careers. The Board of Education, along with the entire Middle Country community, take great pride in seeing our students embrace robotics with enthusiasm and success. This passion is exemplified by our Centereach and Newfield high school robotics teams, the "CouGears" and the "Roverines," respectively. Composed of dedicated students accomplishing incredible things in their study of robotics, the CouGears and Roverines consistently make waves in regional, state and national robotics competitions. Pictured on this page are the CouGears, who competed in the VEX Spin Up Robotics Competition.



Trustee Deborah Mann-Rodriguez, along with other members of the Board of Education, take the CouGears robot for a spin.



"The range of CTE programs offered in the Middle Country School District opens doors to many pathways to successful futures."

- Dawn Sharrock, Middle Country School District Board of Education President

OUR PROGRAMMING AND SOFTWARE DESIGN STUDENTS SKILLFULLY ENGINEER VIDEO GAMES

As part of their Capstone Projects, Middle Country students are applying the programming skills they learn to create platform video games, much like the ones made famous by Nintendo and its iconic mascot, Super Mario. The student-made platform games feature all the staples of the genre, including themes, story, victory conditions, enemies, pitfalls and more.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Studying the Relationship Between People's Health and Their Environment

Students Use Their Creative Knowledge as a Capstone Project

The Fashion Design and Apparel Construction class allows students to create a cohesive fashion collection using the information learned in class over a semester. Topics include fashion figure sketching, elements and principles of design, color schemes, fashion history, terms and concepts, and styles and trends. The Capstone Project provides students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned and allows them to incorporate their personal inspirations. These students do not necessarily aspire to become fashion designers; advancing technology has provided so many more opportunities such as graphic design, gaming, comic book design, graphic novels, multimedia artist and animators, and so much more.



"[The project was] interesting because it allowed me to have creative freedom and think out of the box when it came to designing the clothing." – Lauren Waters, Junior at Centereach High School

Cosmetology Integrates Arts and Sciences in Middle Country

The study of cosmetology is an exciting and important field of study for our students. Like robotics, it fulfills students' creativity and ingenuity using complicated and constantly changing tools. Furthermore, the study of cosmetology opens so many doors for students, post-graduation, not just in the fields of beauty, skin and hair care, but also in marketing, business, design, theater and the arts. Cosmetology's application in the theater has been noticed in Middle Country. The Centereach High School cosmetology students' hair-and-makeup work on the fall 2022 production of *Pinocchio* was simply astounding. Over at Newfield High School, the cosmetology students applied their detailed and beautiful work supporting the cast of the school's *Disney's The Little Mermaid*.



Board of Education Trustee Doreen Feldmann visits the set of Pinocchio.

"Graduating from Middle Country with a cosmetology license in hand not only started my early career, but also gave me the skills needed to succeed in my later endeavors."

- Kathleen Walsh, Middle Country School District Board of Education Trustee

Cosmetology Students Compete in SkillsUSA

Our high school cosmetology students participated in the SkillsUSA Regional Conference competition at Suffolk County Community College. SkillsUSA holds an annual local, regional, state and national conference allowing all students that are enrolled in cosmetology to come together to demonstrate and compete in their various Career and Technical Education fields.



Real Care Baby Experience: A Lesson in Parenting

The Parenting Program at Centereach and Newfield high schools allows each student to take home a lifelike baby simulator for several weekends throughout the semester. Students combine knowledge learned throughout the parenting coursework of infant care, including safety, feeding, diapering, burping and dressing. These lessons prepare students for the realities of caring for an infant in their own homes.



CAREER EDUCATION AT MIDDLE COUNTRY

Showing Our Students the Boundless Opportunities that Await Them

Students in our District participate in Career and Technical Education Month in so many unique ways. At Selden and Dawnwood middle schools, for example, students “go to work for a day” as part of our Annual Job Shadowing Day event, sponsored by the Middle Country Business Advisory Board (MCBAB). Instead of just reading and hearing about careers, they were able to experience the behind-the-scenes functions of an average work day. The students see firsthand how the education they are receiving in school is directly connected to future employment. Here is what a few of our middle school students had to say ...



“This job uses many skills such as mathematics and communication.”

- Anthony Portesy, Student Intern
(Billing Agent for LI Laparoscopic Surgery)

“It takes a lot of observing and organizing to be able to do all parts of the job well.”

- Danica Lykthey, Student Intern
(Oncology Nurse Navigator)

“This job is much harder than it seems. It requires good decision making, organization, perseverance, good time management and careful thinking. Trying to use all these skills at once is quite hard but very useful.”

- Riya Batta, Student Intern (Martial Arts Instructor)

Alumnus Opens His Own Barbershop in Middle Country

Local entrepreneur and licensed barber Brendan Ebbits visited our cosmetology classroom to demonstrate barbering techniques and skills to our senior cosmetology students.



“The Greater Middle Country Chamber of Commerce is proud to provide a connection between education and industry, offering students real-world experiences to enhance the valuable education already going on in the classrooms.”

- Lenore Paprocky, President
Greater Middle Country
Chamber of Commerce

ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESSES: GET INVOLVED WITH OUR CAREER EXPLORATION CHALLENGE

The Middle Country Business Advisory Board is a combined effort of the Middle Country Central School District and the Greater Middle Country Chamber of Commerce. We are always seeking local businesses interested in mentoring students through our Career Exploration Challenge Program. We need business leaders who will allow students to shadow them for 10 hours. Students are required to make presentations at the conclusion of the program. These presentations are judged by a committee, and students are awarded small scholarship amounts based on the committee selections. Thank you to our Middle Country local businesses and industries for funding these awards.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT MIDDLE COUNTRY

How Our Investment in Technology Fosters the Leaders of Tomorrow

Leadership Conference Provides Theoretical Challenges and Real-Life Networking Opportunities

The Middle Country Virtual Enterprise officers attended a leadership conference at LIU in Brookville. Sixteen students represented the four firms in their respective roles as Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Marketing Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Along with other officers from over 50 firms from Long Island, they were able to network and participate in simulations of real-life challenges that would affect the workplace and how they would change it. The students exchanged business cards and began the sales process that they will continue in the following weeks. Virtual Enterprise students are regularly invited to compete in state competitions.



National Technical Honor Society Gives Back to the Community

Our CTE curriculum, like our music and arts curriculum, offers a great opportunity for students to engage in altruism and give back to the community. Each spring, our National Technical Honor Society students volunteer their Saturdays to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity for a family needing a hand in Suffolk County. The volunteer day is an excellent opportunity to apply many of the lessons and skills students learn in their classrooms to a real-world experience.

Middle Country Students Are Preparing for an Alternative Energy Future

Offshore wind is poised to be the next renewable energy industry to establish roots on Long Island and drive increasing demand for clean energy workers in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Middle Country is preparing to meet those demands—many of which will be in skilled trades. It is expected that 10,000 high-quality and well-paying jobs will be in manufacturing, construction, installation, research and development, operations and maintenance. Our District's focus will be on providing students with apprenticeship and internship opportunities to meet the workforce gap. We have begun planning and meeting with industry leaders and looking at newly emerging college-level certificate training programs.



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING
MIDDLE COUNTRY'S CTE PROGRAMS, PLEASE SCAN THE
FOLLOWING QR CODE OR VISIT www.mccsd.net/Domain/14**

