CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

THE OPPORTUNITY ENGINE



Student Spotlight

Royce Apple, a senior at William Byrd HS, started his Registered Apprenticeship at Hotel Roanoke in June. He is learning, exceling in, and growing toward his career goal in the culinary industry. Great work, Royce!

IN THE WORKS

Industry Insight Tour

September 24, 2025

RCPS CTE, partnering with RoCo Economic Development, is hosting an Industry Insight Tour of Carilion Childrens Pediatric Medicine for school staff.

Manufacturing Week

September 29-October 3

High school TechEd students are visiting seven local manufacturers celebrating Manufacturing Week 2025.

CareerQuest

October 7-8, 2025

VA Career Works is partnering with local school systems hosting 7th graders from all RCPS middle schools.



A Message from the Director

I want to welcome you to the first issue of the monthly Roanoke County Public Schools CTE Department newsletter. The main purpose of this newsletter is to highlight the many opportunities and activities that CTE students are engaged in. CTE is an engine that generates engaging and purposeful instruction that aligns with the RCPS Strategic Framework.

This newsletter will provide insight into the broad spectrum of CTE programs and course offerings that our school system offers. Programs fall into the categories listed on the pillars in the graphic above. In each issue of the newsletter, you will find student and teacher highlights, upcoming events, work-based learning news, stakeholder collaborations, and more.

We are proud to offer a wide portfolio of CTE electives for middle and high school students. The CTE Department's quest is to continue to offer high-relevance, impactful CTE programs that engage our students and prepare them to be Opportunity Ready graduates!

Looking forward to the year ahead,

Jason Suhr

Teacher Feature

Meet Ms. Mooney, FACS Teacher at Northside HS/MS

After a career in hospitality, marketing, and operations, I shifted into teaching to help students build essential life skills. I'm especially passionate about the soft skills—communication, teamwork, empathy, adaptability, and problem-solving—that are hardest to master but most important for happier, healthier communities. While many still remember FACS as "home ec," the field has grown into so much more, preparing students with tools they need for life beyond the classroom.



"The best part of this year has been seeing students connect our lessons to their everyday lives—it makes the impact of FACS real for them and rewarding for me."

—Ms. Mooney

Work-Based Learning News

Putting Learning to **Work!**

What is High-Quality Work-Based Learning? HQWBL is an educational strategy that provides students with structured, real-world learning experiences in a workplace setting, or simulated environment, to apply academic and technical skills, explore careers, and develop employability skills like critical thinking and professional habits. This approach involves partnerships between schools and employers.

RCPS students currently participating in HQWBL:
Registered Apprenticeships: 25
Internships: 56
School-Based Enterprise: 185
Cooperative Education: 346

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ROANOKE COUNTY Career & Technology Center



RCCTC UPDATES

Construction is well underway on the new Roanoke County Career and Technology Center located off North Peters Creek Road. RCCTC is projected to open to students in early 2027, expanding career and technical education opportunities for high school students across Roanoke County Public Schools.

See the latest updates at: www.rcps.us/RCCTC



CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

More information to come in the October issue of The Opportunity Engine!

Opportunity Engine Podcast

COMING SOON

We are looking forward to upcoming Opportunity Engine Podcasts that will provide candid discussion on CTE newsletter topics and beyond.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROCOCTE