Career Pathways

Winter Newsletter 2025-2026



2025-2026 is turning out to be a busy school year for Mt. Diablo Unified School District's College & Career Readiness Department. We had a great fall and it looks like winter is turning out to be just as busy with events like MDUSD's 8th grade CTE Fair, Winter Mt. Diablo Business Education Alliance meetings, and MDUSD's annual Allied Health Fair. Additionally, MDUSD is continuing its regular activities including taking students to the Concord Chamber of Commerce's First Friday Coffees, work readiness workshops at several of our schools and starting spring dual enrollment classes.

All of these activities have the same goal of ensuring MDUSD students graduate college & career ready. They also require the support of our industry partners. These partnerships provide students with real world experiences, while preparing students for future employment.



MDUSD CAREER PATHWAYS

Preparing Today's Students for the Jobs of Tomo

Upcoming Events!

- **February 4- March 4, 2026 –** After School Work Readiness Workshops (Wednesdays- MDHS/YVHS)
- **February 24, 2026** – Alt Ed Trades Day @ Los Medanos College
- **March 16, 2026** – B.E.S.T. Day
- **March 19, 2026**– Allied Health Fair @ Mt. Diablo Adult Ed.
- **April 30, 2026** – Campus to Commerce Showcase @ John Muir Health, Concord

CAREER PATHWAY HIGHLIGHTS!

- 8th Grade CTE Fair
- First Friday Coffee
- Work-Readiness Workshops
- Dual Enrollment classes
- Education Pathway at YVHS
- Consumer Services at OHS

Fall and Winter Impact Snapshot

Guest Speakers

Engagement from industry, civic partners, and postsecondary institutions.

Career Fairs

Large-scale, high-impact employer engagement events connecting students with multiple career sectors.

Work Readiness Workshop

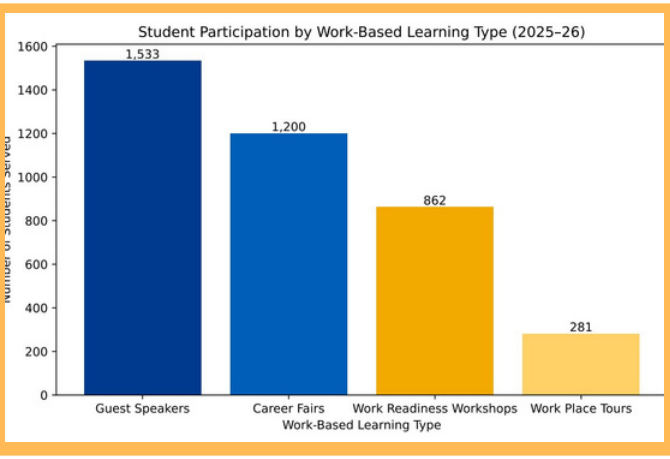
Strong focus on professionalism, communication, interviewing, resume skills, and career exploration.

Work Place Tours

Learning through industry visits, job site tours, and sector exposure trips.

1,533 | **1,200** | **863** | **281**

Students Served By Work-Based Learning Experiences



MDUSD Career Pathway Sectors

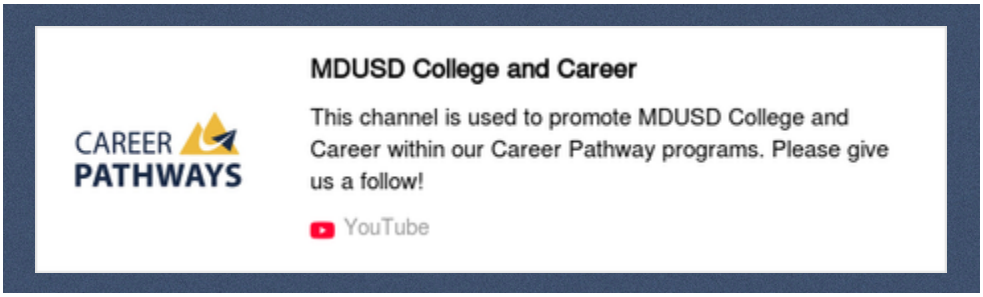
- **Culinary**
- **Education**
- **Patient Care/Health**
- **Art & Digital Media**
- **Engineering**
- **Information & Computer**
- **Technology**
- **Transportation/Automotive**
- **Building Trades and Construction**



MDUSD College & Career Career Pathway Videos

We've launched a new set of Career Pathways districtwide videos on the MDUSD College & Career YouTube page that highlight the different pathway programs across our high schools. These videos give students and families a behind-the-scenes look at the hands-on projects, classroom experiences, and career opportunities available throughout MDUSD.

It's a great way to see our students and teachers in action and learn more about the pathways shaping future careers. We invite our community to check them out and share them with students and families.









8th Grade CTE Fair

The **3rd Annual MDUSD Career Technical Education (CTE) Fair** at Riverview Middle School brought together 8th-grade students from across the district for a day of hands-on career exploration. Students had the chance to learn about local industry careers and explore the wide range of pathway programs offered at MDUSD high schools. This was also the first year we piloted inviting **5th-grade students from Shore Acres Elementary** to attend, giving them an early preview of middle school and future career opportunities.

The event featured:

- 13 education and industry partners and 11 high school career pathways
- Hands-on activities like welding, CPR practice, and robotics demonstrations
- Opportunities to meet high school students and teachers showcasing real pathway projects
- Participation from post-secondary partners, including MDUSD Adult Education, Diablo Valley College, and Cal State East Bay
- A fun interactive BINGO card activity that encouraged students to visit booths and reflect on what they learned

High school pathway students played a big role in leading demonstrations and mentoring middle school students, while also building their own leadership and communication skills. The fair introduced students to programs in areas such as engineering, healthcare, digital media, construction, auto tech, culinary arts, animation, JROTC, and education, helping them to start thinking about future course selections and career interests.

First Friday Coffee

GREATER CONCORD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce hosts a monthly Friday mixer for its members, giving them an opportunity to network and build professional realtionships. Beginning in 2024-2025, MDUSD, through its partnership with the Chamber, career pathway students joined in these mixers. Each month, students from designated pathways attend the Chamber's First Friday Coffee mixer at Gratitude Coffee bar in Downtown Concord, connecting with local business professionals and practicing real-world networking skills.



Throught this experience, students strengthen their professionalism, build social capital, and explore internship and work-based learning opportunities, while continuing to grow MDUSD's strong partnerships with the local business community. We're grateful for the Chamber's ongoing support in creating meaningful career connections for our students.

On February 6th, Culinary pathway students from Mt. Diablo High School participated in the mixer. The Chamber also invited them to support and volunteer at an upcoming crab feed as a work-based learning opportunity. Students will be able to practice their hospitality skills while earning volunteer hours, another great example of community partnerships creating real experiences for our students.

Education Pathway at YVHS





On January 12th, MDUSD superintendent, Dr. Adam Clark, visited Ygnacio Valley High School's Education Pathway where he spoke to 11th graders.. Dr. Clark shared his journey into education from being a student to becoming MDUSD's superintendent. It was inspiring and insightful, prompting numerous expressions of gratitude from students, including one who said, **"Dr. Clark showed me that he was just like me when he was younger, and if he can become that successful, then I know I can, too."**

That same week, 11th grade Education Pathway students visited three district elementary schools, Bel Air Elementary, Shore Acres Elementary, and Sun Terrace Elementary, teaching TK-2nd graders in garden science education. This is part of the work-based learning partnership between the Education Pathway and Growing Healthy Kids (GHK), a local nonprofit that partners with MDUSD to provide outdoor educational opportunities across the district. Education Pathway students work with GHK to plan and implement lessons for elementary students. This partnership allows the 11th graders to take what they are learning in the classroom and apply it in a real world setting. It is also preparing the students for their 12th grade internships.

The Foundary at OHS

We're excited to share the latest Career Pathways video featuring The Foundry at Olympic High School. Link Here



The Foundry students turn learning into action through hands-on projects and real-world experiences. For example, after exploring community spaces, students designed and built scale models that reimagined how local areas could better serve their communities. They also **earned Infant, Child, and Adult CPR/First Aid certifications**, adding valuable life-saving skills and industry-recognized credentials to their resumes.

Through partnerships with local organizations and businesses, students are exploring different career pathways:

- Joybound: Learning about nonprofit work and community impact
- Pacific States Aviation: Exploring careers in aviation and airport operations
- Local 159 & Local 342 trade unions: Gaining hands-on experience in skilled trades
- 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu: Learning about entrepreneurship and turning passion into a career
- Concord Chamber of Commerce: Practicing networking and professional communication skills

Congratulations to **Franklin,** the second Foundry graduate, who is pursuing a future in construction and the trades.

Work-Readiness Workshops



Beginning February 4, students at MDHS, YVHS, and OHS had an opportunity to participate in a series of Spring Work Readiness Workshops to get ready for their future careers. These hands-on sessions are open to all students, including MDUSD's **38 spring interns**, building skills like resume writing, interview prep, and professional communication.

Led by Career Pathways Coordinators Daisy Romero-Briceno (MDHS) and Isaiah Harper (YVHS), students are gaining practical tools, confidence, and real-world experience to take the next step, whether that's college, training, or entering the workforce.

Dual Enrollment MDUSD/ CCGI

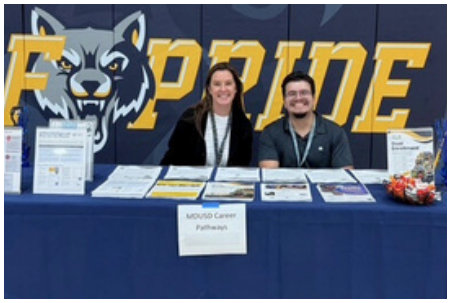
Dual Enrollment Updates

Dual Enrollment is in full swing across MDUSD, giving students the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. These college classes help students explore career interests, experience the pace of college coursework, and get a head start on their post-secondary goals.



This spring, Dual Enrollment classes offered at our high schools include:

- **Mt. Diablo HS** (MDHS): **ENGIN 131, PH-130, SOCIO 120**
- **Ygnacio Valley HS** (YVHS): **ENGTC 128, ECE 125, SOCIO 120**
- **Northgate HS** (NGHS): **KINES 234**
- **Concord HS** (CHS)**: CARER 101**



Dual Enrollment continues to be an important way for our students to build confidence, gain college experience, and open doors to future opportunities.



CCGI Updates

During the Second Semester, our Middle School Counselors will deliver Tier 1 lessons to 6th-8th grade students. All middle school students will be using CaliforniaColleges.edu (CCGI) to take a Career Interest Survey, which will help them consider their interests and tie them to potential career paths. The survey results will highlight careers students may want to explore and will help middle school students make more informed choices when selecting their high school courses. At the high school level, College and Career Advisors will be using CaliforniaColleges.edu with their 9th & 10th grade students to explore college & post-secondary options while 11th & 12th grade students will be using the platform to prepare for college while discussing college costs, financial aid and the transition out of high school.



SAVE THE DATES:

- **March 16, 2026** – BEST Day
  - (Serendipity Restaurant Mt. Diablo HS, Concord)
  - 8:30 AM-3:30 PM
- **March 19, 2026**– Allied Health Fair
  - (Loma Vista Adult Center, Concord)
  - 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
- **April 30, 2026** – Campus to Commerce Showcase
  - (John Muir Health, Concord)
  - 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

@PATHWAYS_MDUSD

SCAN ME

For more information regarding MDUSD Career Pathways Visit Our Website:
College & Career Readiness

Heather S. Fontanilla, Ed.D.
Director, College & Career Readiness
fontanillah@mdusd.org
925-682-8000 x4011

MDUSD CAREER PATHWAYS
Preparing Today's Students for the Jobs of Tomorrow