

Career & Technical Education Programs

The programs offered within the Family & Consumer Science Department provide students with opportunities to explore careers and develop valuable college- and career-ready skills in four exciting areas: **Culinary Arts, Child Development & Education, Fashion, and Interior Design.**

Culinary Arts

Have you dreamed of becoming the next top chef? The **WOHS Culinary Arts Program** may be the perfect place to begin your journey. This state-approved CTE program offers students a three-year sequence of unique courses designed to prepare them for college and careers in the hospitality and culinary industries.

Select courses align with programs at **Hudson County Community College**, providing students with opportunities to earn dual credit while completing their high school coursework.

Over the past two years, the program has expanded its opportunities through a **\$200,000 New Jersey Department of Education Pre-Apprenticeship Expand Grant**. Through a partnership with the **American Culinary Federation (ACF)**, eligible students may apply to participate in a pre-apprenticeship program that provides valuable industry experience and opportunities to earn stackable ACF credentials before graduation.

Select students may also earn **ServSafe Food Handler and ServSafe Food Manager certifications**, providing them with industry-recognized credentials that can give them a competitive advantage when pursuing employment in the hospitality industry.

Our instructional kitchens are equipped with the tools and equipment students need to develop strong technical and culinary skills. Students learn kitchen safety, food preparation techniques, nutrition, and how to prepare a variety of dishes inspired by cuisines from around the world. Graduates of the program have gone on to continue their culinary education at leading culinary colleges and programs.

Early Childhood & Family Studies

Interested in working with children as an educator, healthcare professional, social worker, or in another child-focused career? **Early Childhood & Family Studies** provides students with an excellent foundation for exploring these professions.

This three-level, six-credit state-approved CTE program gives students an in-depth understanding of child development and family studies. Students explore positive parenting strategies, examine the developmental stages of children from birth through age six, and learn how to plan, develop, and deliver age-appropriate lessons and activities for preschool children.

Students enrolled in the capstone course may have the opportunity to earn **college credit through Fairleigh Dickinson University**, subject to a fee and minimum grade requirement.

Tomorrow's Teachers

Students in **grades 11–12** may also apply to participate in the **Tomorrow's Teachers Program**, an innovative opportunity for students interested in pursuing careers in education.

The course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the teaching profession and explores education across grades K–12. Students gain valuable hands-on experience through practicum opportunities with select educators throughout the West Orange School District, allowing them to experience the teaching profession in an authentic school setting.

Students may also have the opportunity to earn **college credit through Rider University**, subject to a fee and minimum grade requirement.

Fashion Design & Fashion Business

Are you interested in pursuing a career in the fashion industry? Our **Fashion Program** offers students multiple opportunities to explore their creativity while developing the technical, artistic, and business skills needed for success in this dynamic field.

Students in **Fashion Design 1 and Fashion Design 2** develop foundational and advanced garment construction skills while learning about the design process. **Fashion Business Management** introduces students to product development, textiles, marketing, merchandising, buying, and apparel production within the global fashion industry.

In the capstone **Apparel Design Production** course, students take their skills to the next level by designing and constructing advanced garments, developing professional portfolios, and participating in the annual spring fashion show. These experiences provide students with authentic opportunities to showcase their creativity and prepare portfolios for college admissions and future careers.

Our graduates have continued their education at leading fashion programs, including **FIT in New York City, LIM College**, and other nationally recognized institutions.

Interior Design

Do you have a passion for creativity, architecture, decorating, and transforming spaces? **Interior Design** provides students with an opportunity to explore the exciting world of residential and commercial design.

This project-based course introduces students to the fundamental principles of interior design, including **design elements and principles, color theory, space planning, floor plans, furniture styles, architecture, and the selection of materials and finishes**.

Through hands-on projects, students develop their creativity, technical skills, and ability to solve design challenges. Students learn how to transform ideas into functional and visually appealing spaces while gaining an understanding of the many career opportunities available within the design industry.

Interior Design can provide a strong foundation for students interested in careers such as **interior design, architecture, home staging, visual merchandising, furniture design, and other creative design professions.**