

Career and Technical Education Highlights for November 2024

CTE Celebrations

Shout Out to Bruce Morrow!

A huge shout out to Bruce Morrow and his Construction Technology students who were recently featured in Northern Virginia Magazine! Our Construction Technology class runs out of Edison Academy but takes place on an actual construction site at Spring Village Estates. This one-of-a-kind program gives students the opportunity to build residential homes and is supported by FATE. You can read the [full article here.](https://northernvirginiamag.com/family/education/2024/10/15/programs-at-spring-village-estates-lets-fairfax-county-students-construct-homes-) (<https://northernvirginiamag.com/family/education/2024/10/15/programs-at-spring-village-estates-lets-fairfax-county-students-construct-homes->)

Welding Program

Our welding program at Bryant HS is in full swing as the students recently completed their OSHA 10 certification. The welding program is brand new this school year and we are eager to watch our students learn this skill!

Academy Experience

West Potomac Academy and Edison Academy hosted an “Academy Experience” for counselors around FCPS to learn more about the programs. Academy Ambassadors spoke about their experiences in the academy programs. What a terrific way to help spread the word about the amazing things happening at our schools!

Business and Information Technology

Mission Possible Launching

On Friday, October 25, Marshall Academy’s Cloud Computing and Security students participated in a speed networking event, Cyber Chat: Mission Possible Launching a Career in Cyber. Students engaged with cybersecurity/IT professionals in small groups and learned about their different career and collegiate paths, in-demand certifications, interviewing and hiring tips. Many of our panelists are academy alums including Devin Moore, who is featured in the October 2024 calendar. It was great networking opportunity for students.

Family and Consumer Science

Cuisines From Around the World

Thoreau MS FCS students researched varied and popular cuisines from around the world to complete their “Global Food Assignment” This provided an opportunity to share their cultural backgrounds and learn from their peers. Paired with a home cooking assignment, students shared a sample of their food products with the class. A few of the items created were: Irish soda bread, Mochi, Empanadas, Pupusas, Lazy Lithuanian Cake and Perogies. These recipes originated with the students’ grandparents thereby extending the curriculum to multiple generations!

Culinary

Annandale HS Culinary students had an amazing opportunity provided by Nick Grossi, head butcher at Organic Butcher of McLean (Voted #1 butcher according to USA Today in the USA for 2024). He has been part of Chef Plum’s network and loves to share his expertise with students. A whole pig was brought in and butchered into the different pieces for students to understand how butchery works as part of the food industry. Mr. Grossi did an amazing job of relating each piece of the pig to a different animal for those that did not eat pig. He also explained how the pieces could be used in different cuisines around the world to relate back to the student’s heritage. Mr. Grossi is a wealth of knowledge and was able to relate to other areas of the curriculum during his discussion. Some students had never seen a pig before and by the end of the demonstration were enthralled by what had taken place in front of them, asking questions and even being part of the butchery itself. In addition to the pig, the students had an opportunity to breakdown chickens with the guidance of Mr. Grossi. All the food will be used throughout the year in the culinary program.

“Cupcake Wars” Challenge

The most recent interdisciplinary project in the Key MS FCS classes was the “Cupcake Wars” challenge. Students were tasked with creating themed cupcakes, using fresh eggs from our school chickens, and designing unique presentations to display their ideas. This project blended culinary arts, design, and workplace readiness skills, encouraging students to think creatively and work across disciplines. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and creativity were impressive!

Crime Scene Investigation!

Key MS FCS students were assigned to investigate a serious safety violation at a kitchen, focusing on a crime scene investigation. They carefully examined the area, noting ten hazards such as faulty equipment, improper food handling and a lack of kitchen safety protocols. The students gathered evidence and proposed corrective actions, including repairing equipment and enhancing safety

measures, to prevent future incidents. Their mission aimed to uncover the cause of the violation, seek justice for the victim, and ensure a safer kitchen environment for everyone.

Hors d'oeuvre

Mount Vernon HS Culinary Arts students prepared finger food and heavy hors d'oeuvres for STEM FEST. This event that took place at Mount Vernon HS on the 12th of October. Students had access to free activities related to STEM including robotics, Coding Experiments and more. The culinary students will also be catering the Homecoming Dance October 26. The application of skills is applied as much as possible throughout the year.

Culinary Institute of America

Culinary Institute of America (CIA) graduate Chef Hanna Mae Lambert visited the Chantilly Academy Culinary Arts classes to share her experiences as a CIA student. She also demonstrated how to make naan and tzatziki sauce. Yum!

Grab-n-GO!

Chantilly Academy students are busy this month preparing meals for Dinner Done and Grab n Go, as well as launching a new Friday Snack Pack menu.

Health and Medical Science

EMT Class

The Fairfax County police helicopter visited the EMT class at Falls Church Academy!

George Washington University

Chantilly Academy students recently had the opportunity to experience George Washington University's Immersive Learning Center. Students from our Health and Medical Science classes participated in this unique mobile experience which allowed them to engage in medical simulations and use virtual reality headsets.

Hearing and Vision Screening

Over 100 West Potomac Medical Assistant students participated as Hearing and Vision Screeners at 14 FCPS schools. Students were trained and worked under the supervision of the Public Health Nurses and Fairfax County Health Department's School Health Program. Students are earning Externship and Service-Learning Hours from these experiences.

Pharmacy Technician Internships

Almost thirty Pharmacy Technician students from West Potomac were placed in 11 Giant Pharmacies for Internships to complete 130 required clinical hours. Students will be learning and demonstrating competency with pharmacy operations, processing prescriptions, and customer service.

Technology and Engineering Education:

Robinson Secondary Students Visit AstraZeneca!

On Thursday October 24, 2024, twenty-three ambitious female students from Robinson Secondary School had the unique opportunity to attend a networking event at AstraZeneca's Research Laboratory in Gaithersburg, MD. These talented students, currently enrolled in engineering and International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology classes, were eager to explore the world of biosciences and engage with professionals in the field. Sponsored by STEM4Her, an organization dedicated to empowering young women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields, the event provided a dynamic platform for the students to connect with industry leaders and gain invaluable insights into the biosciences sector. STEM4Her focuses on creating pathways for young women to thrive in STEM careers, and this event was a shining example of their mission in action. During the visit, the students rotated through various stations, each designed to provide hands-on experiences that highlighted best practices in a modern bioscience's lab. From learning about cutting-edge research techniques to engaging in interactive demonstrations, the girls were immersed in an environment that encouraged curiosity and innovation. The opportunity to network with AstraZeneca employees allowed them to ask questions, seek advice, and learn about potential career paths in the biosciences field. This experience not only equipped the students with practical knowledge but also inspired them to pursue their passions in STEM. Events like these are crucial in bridging the gap between education and industry, fostering confidence and ambition among the next generation of female scientists. The visit to AstraZeneca was a memorable and transformative experience for the students at Robinson Secondary School, reinforcing the importance of community support and engagement in nurturing young women's interests in STEM. As they continue their educational journeys, these students will carry with them the knowledge, skills, and connections that will help pave the way for their future careers.

STEM Advisory Council

Four Marshall Academy students and one Marshall HS student were selected to serve on STEM4Her's Student Advisory Council. The council will be instrumental with assisting STEM4Her staff, board members in planning events, outreach, and programming.

Trade & Industrial Education & JROTC

Air Force JROTC's

Chantilly Academy Air Force JROTC Cadets had a live concert experience courtesy of Max Impact, the United States Air Force's official rock/pop music ensemble. Max Impact is part of the U.S. Air Force Band and is comprised of six active-duty Air Force musicians. It looks like the cadets had a wonderful time! What a fun way to interact with active-duty military members!

Criminal Justice Program

Service to others is a core value of the Chantilly Academy Criminal Justice program, and the students rallied together recently to help victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina by collecting and loading supplies to be transported to communities impacted by the hurricane.

Auto Tech

Marshall Academy Auto Tech students had an exciting opportunity to tour the Tysons Porsche and Mercedes dealerships and learn about business operations, sales, marketing service and parts. Then on Sunday, October 13th, the students volunteered in the Driven to Make a Difference Car Wash Fundraiser. Driven to Make a Difference is a family event which featured various food and retail vendors and tours of dealerships.

Other Academy Programs

World Languages

Korean students at Chantilly Academy hosted students from the National High School of Traditional Korean Arts, a prestigious performing arts high school in Seoul, South Korea.

Career and Technical Student Organization:

CTSO stands for Career and Technical Student Organization. They help students extend their learning by offering competitive events in CTE program areas. FCPS participates in the following CTSOs:

- DECA (Marketing)
- FBLA (Business and Information Technology)
- FCCLA (Family and Consumer Sciences)
- FFA (Veterinary Science/Agriculture)
- Educators Rising ((Teachers for Tomorrow and Early Childhood)
- HOSA (Health and Medical Sciences)

- SkillsUSA (Trade and Industrial)
- TSA (Technology and Engineering)

DECA

DECA held their District Competition this month with over 1,000 participants. Congratulations to all those who attended. We will include more results from that competition in future highlights.

FBLA

The NOVA FBLA Regional Fall Leadership Conference was recently held at George Mason University. FBLA members from Centreville, Chantilly, Edison, Fairfax, Lewis, Liberty, Mount Vernon, Robinson, South County and Westfield were in attendance. Students participated in a variety of leadership sessions, heard from GMU students on “Finding Your Fit” when looking at colleges to attend and worked on their team building skills by building the tallest balloon tower possible in 10 minutes. The Presidents from each chapter also participated in a President’s Roundtable to discuss chapter activities and work on future regional FBLA events.

FCCLA

College Day at GMU Fairfax HS, Madison HS, and South County HS Family, Career and Community, Leaders of America (FCCLA) members attended FCCLA College Day at GMU. Students learned about Family & Consumer Sciences related majors at GMU, participated in a campus scavenger hunt, and gained leadership skills through FCCLA activities.