



CTE

Okeechobee

CAREER & TECH EDUCATION

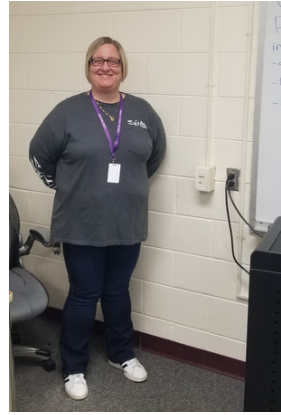
Monthly Newsletter
November/December
2023
BE SURE TO CHECK
STUDENT GRADES!

NEW CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUILDING UPDATE

The first phase of the new Okeechobee High School reached a milestone this past week as concrete for the new building was poured. The roof and the walls will be the part of the structure, which should take place in the next few weeks. The new CTE building will house Automotive, Construction, JROTC, and the planned new Outboard and Marine Technology program. Once complete and equipment and classrooms are relocated, the demolition of the “old” CTE building will take place as the new high school will utilize that space. Exciting changes are occurring!



The concrete pad was poured this past week for the new CTE building as phase 1 of the new Okeechobee High School is progressing.



YMS WELCOMES NEW DIT INSTRUCTOR, MS. AMANDA HUFF

A “new” Digital Information Technology teacher was welcomed to Yearling Middle School. Ms. Huff was working recently earned her IT Systems and Cybersecurity degree from IRSC. Her students will be completing the Digital Information Technology coursework and working toward earning an Entrepreneurship Certification. DIT is the first course in many of the Business and Computer Arts programs within those career clusters. Upon completion of the DIT course, students then can continue in the Digital Design program where they will have the opportunity to earn multiple Adobe certifications.

STUDENTS EARNING INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS IN PROGRAMS

Students in multiple CTE courses have begun industry certification testing. Students take certification tests at various times during the school year, depending on the course in which they are enrolled. Industry certifications provide an excellent opportunity for students to show their aptitude and build their resumes for jobs and post-secondary education. Certifications can also earn credits, both high school and college. See instructors or counselors for more details.

A CAREER FAIR IS BEING PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 2ND, 2024 FOR ALL OKEECHOBEE 5TH, 8TH, AND 10TH GRADERS. STUDENTS WILL BE EXPOSED TO CAREERS IN ALL OF THE 17 CAREER CLUSTERS. BUSINESS PARTNERS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND COMMITTED TO PRESENT TO STUDENTS EXPECTATIONS OF CAREERS WITHIN THOSE CLUSTERS.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT - HEALTH SCIENCE - NURSING ASSISTANT

The Health Science Nursing Assistant program is flourishing at Okeechobee High School. Students interested in any career involving the Health Science career cluster are encouraged to enroll in and complete the program. The instructors in the program are Victoria Skeen and Eden (Jill) Hornung. Mrs. Hornung, a lifelong resident of Okeechobee, began her career as a CNA in 2009. She continued taking classes and became an RN in 2019. She worked closely with Mrs. Skeen while an RN and when the current position opened four years ago, was encouraged to apply. Mrs. H, as her students know her, teaches the first course in the program, Health Science Anatomy and Physiology. She enjoys sharing her work experiences with the students and emphasizes learning about specific jobs in the field. She also emphasizes to students their role as a caregiver involves also being an advocate for the patient and an educator to the patient and family.



Left - Mrs. Skeen with Nursing students. Above - Nursing students performing CNA exam skills in preparation for CNA exam

OHS NURSING PROGRAM CONT.

The 2nd and 3rd courses in the health science program are taken in the same year. Mrs. Skeen is the instructor for the Health Science Foundations and Nursing Assistant classes, which are taken as a two hour block. Mrs. Skeen, who has taught at OHS for seven years, had worked as an RN, Nurse Manager, and Director of Nursing at various locations for over 15 years. Students enrolled in the course must be 16 by January of the year in which they are enrolled in order to participate in Clinicals, which is a vital part of their training for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) exam they take in the spring of the school year in which they are enrolled. The school boasts a pass rate of over 90%. Students are also afforded the opportunity to take the Patient Care Technician Certification in the spring. Another credential students in the course earn is their First Aid/CPR certification. While working in the field, Mrs. Skeen always thought, "if only I could get these CNA's from the beginning, I could give them a great foundation". When the teaching position opened, it was an opportunity that she could not pass up.



Left - HOSA officers for the 2023-2024 school year. Above - Nursing students attend clinicals as Nursing Home in Okeechobee.



STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY STARTED EARNING CERTIFICATIONS. OVER 30 STUDENTS AT OFC HAVE EARNED WORDPRESS CERTIFICATIONS, WHILE OHS STUDENTS HAVE EARNED ADOBE CERTIFICATIONS. TESTING WILL CONTINUE AMONG MULTIPLE PROGRAMS IN NOV.

HOSA STUDENTS HOLD BLOOD DRIVE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Students enrolled in the Health Science program are all members of the Career and Technical Student Organization HOSA. The program is advised by Mrs. Skeen. Students join HOSA and participate in numerous health science related activities throughout the school year. The Blood Drive is always very successful and the students do an excellent job of managing the events.



ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT JOBS IN FLORIDA? A QUICK SEARCH IN INDEED.COM SHOWS 6,448 JOBS AVAILABLE. MOST SHOW A START WAGE ABOVE \$15. YOU WANT TO STAY IN OKEECHOBEE? THERE ARE 20 POSITIONS OPEN NOW!

FFA TEAMS IN THE MIDST OF COMPETITIONS

Numerous members of FFA are competing in various events this fall. The OHS Vegetable team consisting of Jenna Johnston, Abby Keith, Ada Keith, and Rebekah Thompson recently finished first in the State. The team advisor is Brian Dryden. Mrs. Kristen Newell also helped coach the team.

Students enrolled in new Dispatch and Firefighting program enjoyed lunch and were recognized at recent Okeechobee Educational Foundation event.



nha



Students from the OHS Animal Science and Technical Ag Operations programs built pens for the Yearling Middle School Pig Barn. Job Well Done for all that helped.



WHAT ARE CAREER PATHWAYS AND WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT FOR TODAY'S STUDENT?

Students in high school can choose multiple graduation diploma options. One of these options is the 18 credit Career Pathway Diploma. What does that entail? All of the various diploma options have some of the same requirements, which are as follows:

- FOUR Credits in English
- FOUR Credits in Math with 1 credit being Algebra 1 and 1 credit being Geometry
- THREE Credits in Science with 1 credit being Biology
- THREE Credits in Social Studies - World History, US History, Economics (.5) and Government (.5)
- All Diplomas Require a 2.0 GPA
- All Diplomas Require passing the State ELA test and Alg 1 test (Students can earn concordant scores for both by performing at certain levels on other tests).
- Starting with 9th graders in 2023-2024, all diplomas will require a .5 credit in Personal Financial Literacy

The Career Pathway Diploma requires 4 additional elective credits (3.5 for students entering 9th grade in 23-24).

These elective requirements are met by:

- Earning TWO credits in the **same** CTE program
- Earning TWO credits in Work Based Learning programs (1.5 for students entering 9th in 23-24). These work based learning credits can be substituted by other elective courses.

The other major requirement for this diploma is that students must earn an industry certification that is offered in the program.

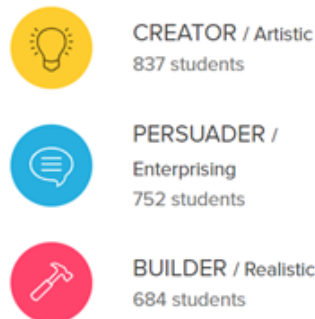
Another facet of Career Technical Education pathways that can help students in the process of earning a diploma is substituting a math or science credit by earning an industry certification (cannot replace Algebra 1, Geometry, or Biology). Some Industry Certifications can also earn college credits and save hundreds of dollars for college students. This information is found on our district website at okee.k12.fl.us.

XELLO - CAREER PLANNING

Students are continuing to work through XELLO, a career planning program available for all students in Okeechobee. Students explore careers, complete activities, and can match their interests to careers. Below is a participation chart of our students.

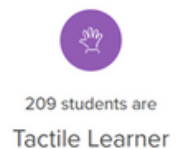


PERSONALITY STYLES



Graphs are from student completion as of December 8th, 2023. Students continue to complete activities and

LEARNING STYLES



WOULD YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS LIKE TO SERVE ON OUR CTE ADVISORY BOARD? WE MEET ROUGHLY THREE TIMES A YEAR AND DISCUSS ALL AREAS OF CAREER TECH - FUNDING, , STRUCTURE, AND OVERALL PLANS FOR CTE. CONTACT DARYL ROEHM AT ROEHMD@OKEE.K12.FL.US. OUR NEXT MEETING IS IN JANUARY!