NTHS Chapter at FIHS Feed the Homeless

On Saturday, April 11th at 6:15 am, nine brave souls from the NTHS chapter made their way downtown to the Clara White Mission to experience something they had never done before. They had a chance to feed over 200 homeless people from the streets of Jacksonville. In an effort to continue their interest in helping those in need, the students took on this project after feeling such satisfaction in providing their school’s homeless students with bags at Christmas. “What an experience it was to see hundreds of people lined up for a meal, maybe their only one for the day,” said Randy, Vice-President of the organization. Blake, the one who spearheaded the project, spoke to the group and asked them to consider taking on the project with Clara White Mission, an organization aimed at helping our veterans.

While at the mission, Ms. Padgett, sponsor of NTHS, met Adrian (pictured in the back), a former resident who volunteers nearly every week. When asked about his connection with the organization, he simply stated, “It saved my life.” He shared his story with the group when it was their turn to eat. He said he was surrounded by people who helped him during a dark time in his life. He was encouraged to get back in school, which he did and he proudly shared that he is a current UNF student, in a limited access program in health and exercise science. Adrian agreed to come speak to the organization next year to encourage more students to get involved. “This will be a project that the group will participate in during the holidays,” shared Laura Kirk, co-sponsor of the group.

Lynn Dickinson, KHHS Teacher of the Year

Keystone Heights High School is proud to name Lynn Dickinson Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Dickinson is a dedicated educator and leader in our community, devoted to the educational and personal growth of her students.

When she isn’t busy being the CTE Department Head, Academy Team Facilitator, PLC Leader, Varsity Cheerleading Coach, Prom Coordinator, Miss KHHS Scholarship Pageant Director, or Advisory Council Chair for Health Science - she annually navigates 35-40 students to successful CNA industry Certification and assists students with attaining immediate employment. Her students have frequent rotations at the Riverwood Nursing Home, where they routinely gain hands-on experience and strive to improve their soft skills.

The entire faculty at KHHS is excited to honor Mrs. Lynn Dickinson as our Teacher of the Year! Thank you for all that you do, Lynn!
Orange Park High School National ACE (Architecture/Construction/Engineer) Team traveled to Washington D.C. to compete in the final presentation round of the 9th Annual CIRT-ACE National Design Competition. A record 46 entries from across the country were submitted and evaluated for top honors in the National Design Competition. Orange Park High School placed third in the overall competition. The Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) President, Mark Casso, stated, "The quality and level of the entries were the strongest they have ever been in the nine year history of the competition, making the job of the judges all that more difficult."

Students from OPHS designed an $8.1 million dollar health care facility calling it Harmony Springs Health Clinic (above). The intent is for it to be built on the corner of Hwy 17 and SR 16 in Green Cove Springs, FL. The buildings will consist of 32,000+ square feet and will house a Primary Care Center, an Urgent Care Center, and a Rehab Center with a focus on military vets. Natural lighting and solar paneling gave them Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) score. Students participating on the project include Destiny Childress (10th grade), Thomas Glassic (10th grade), Michael Nee (11th grade), Brian Reed (11th grade), Violet Otero (12th grade), Hunter Vatelle (12th grade), and Kenny Windham (12th grade). Many thanks to our ACE Mentors, who, without their guidance, these students may not have had such a distinguished opportunity. They are Mr. Joe DeMarco of Fishman & Tobin, Michael Compton of RS&H, Inc. Architect, and Marie Hurst of Nemours.

MHS Preschool Celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Bronco Building Blocks celebrated Cinco de Mayo with Mrs. Kessler’s Spanish Class on May 5, 2015.

The celebration started with the reading of the book, Chicks and Salsa. The celebration culminated with a Mexican feast!

VyStar Student Managers Award Yearbooks to New Members!

Garrett West, a VyStar student manager for Fleming Island High School, presents two new members a free yearbook, courtesy of VyStar just for opening an account! The student managers run and operate the on-campus branch and one of the most important aspects of the manager’s job is to market the branch to the school-wide population. The managers initiated the incentive to attract new members to their branch. Two lucky “new” members received their yearbooks today, a savings of $85.00. Now that’s money “in the bank”!
OPHS to Compete in National SeaPerch Challenge

Students from the Engineering and Computer Science Academy at Orange Park High School are advancing to the National SeaPerch Challenge, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research (ONR). The DOD Education Association will fly the OPHS SeaPerch team and a chaperone to the University of Massachusetts (Dartmouth) later this month to compete with over 100 teams from across the country. Teams will compete in a juried poster competition and in-pool technical events with their SeaPerch remote operating vehicle’s (ROV’s). The National SeaPerch Challenge is open to teams that have won the SeaPerch Competition at their regional competition level. For the regional competition, OPHS students created an underwater ROV designed to go through an obstacle course (speed challenge) and finesse challenge (specific time tasks) at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. OPHS came in first place amongst six other high schools in the North Florida region. The Orange Park High School SeaPerch team includes: Cole Hewett, Michael Nee (both in the Civil Engineering and Architecture class), Ashley Richardson and Brittney Robinson (both in the Computer Systems IT class). All students are juniors in the Engineering and Computer Science Academy.

Academy of Digital Media Celebrates Another Successful Year!

Over ninety students and parents attended the end of the year awards banquet for the Academy of Digital Media for Fleming Island High School. Awards were presented for “best of” photography and film features along with several academic awards and senior cords. “It will be a night to remember,” shared Joseph Lorentzson, photography teacher, who was presented with a picture signed by all of his seniors in appreciation for all his has done for the past four years.

And is that a real Emmy? Indeed it is! Jim Wachter, 14 time Emmy winner for his camera career with ESPN and NBC, and advisory board member, provided a treat for the family photographs. It will probably be the only chance for students to hold a real, live Emmy Award!

ALES Enjoys End of Year Cookout

The Clay High School Academy of Law and Emergency Services enjoyed a cookout, thanks to donations from Dawn and James Welch of Vanguard Realty Coldwell Banker and academy teachers. The cookout provided an opportunity for team building, communication, and fun for the students involved in this academy. All academy teachers and students enjoyed the cookout. It was a great way to bring the year to an end.
MHS ECE and VPK Participate in Amazing Cultural Journey

As a culmination to their country lesson planning, Early Childhood 3 classes participated in Mrs. Kessler’s Amazing Cultural Journey on April 17th. Each group taught the public about their country. In addition, the Bronco Building Blocks VPK class sang a song in French, Spanish, and English.

MHS Student, Hunter Lee, Will Compete in Louisville, KY, for Nationals

The SkillsUSA® State of FL competition was held April 26-29th in Lakeland, Florida, where students from the entire state competed in a variety of skills representing their academies and schools.

Congratulations to our Middleburg High School DESIGN BUILD ACADEMY students for “bringing home the Hardware” said Jerry Burt, MHS SkillsUSA® Advisor and Carpentry teacher! Hunter Lee won FIRST PLACE in Carpentry and will be heading to Louisville, Kentucky, this summer to compete at the national SkillsUSA® conference! Only the first place winners from each state get to compete at the national conference. Mr. Burt and Middleburg High is also proud of Brantley Lewis, who won SECOND PLACE at the State conference.

Middleburg is also proud of our Information Technology, Automotive, and Electricity students who competed and placed at the SkillsUSA® State conference.

Congratulations to the following MHS students:

Hunter Lee, Carpentry Gold Medal
Brantley Lewis, Carpentry Silver Medal
Morgan Roberts, Electrical Construction, Fourth Place
Joshua Hillis, Information Systems, Fourth Place
Thomas Creel, Information Systems, Ninth Place
Preston Chase, Automotive Service, Twelfth Place

SkillsUSA® is a co-curricular organization offering leadership, social, competitive events, and scholarship opportunities.
Students from the Academy of Digital Media at Fleming Island High School were honored to have a prestigious panel of professionals from the media industry judge their senior portfolio presentations. Seniors from both the Television Production and Photography programs gathered all their skills learned over the course of their time in the academy and presented a sample collection of videos or power point along with a verbal presentation portraying their accomplishments. The judges were impressed as students went beyond the panels’ expectations. As part of the presentation, judges were allowed to ask spontaneous questions related to their work. Russell Rivers was asked by one of the judges for Television Production, “Now that you have been in the program for all four years, will you be pursuing a career in the television industry?” Surprisingly, Rivers said, “No.” The judges followed up with, “If you could do these four years over again, would you still take Television Production?” Without hesitation Rivers response was, “Absolutely!” He went on to explain that he didn’t know what he wanted to do as a career when he entered 9th grade. He was interested in television but didn’t know much about the industry four years ago. He felt the experience he gained by taking the academy program, however, far outweighed not taking it. He stated how his communication skills and confidence has improved. Working in teams has a whole new meaning, and growing as a family of students, teachers, and mentors has helped prepare him to face new and exciting challenges as he moves on to a state college, eventually pursuing a career in archeology.
The ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) Mentor Program held their final student project presentations and scholarship awards banquet on Friday, May 15th, at the UNF University Center. Students from across Northeast Florida, including Duval and Clay public schools and home schools, participated in a project RFP (Request for Proposal) requiring them to work in teams and collaborate on the design of a real-world, detailed, construction project. As in industry, students had to present their project in front of a panel of industry judges comprised of Architects, Engineers, and Construction Managers in hopes of winning the project bid! Students worked on their project RFP’s throughout the school year, and their hard work culminated in the ACE Project Awards presentation. Mr. Chise Apiata’s Drafting Program students were excited about the learning experience!

Middleburg’s winning project team included: Blake Troutman, Travis Collins, Cassidy Fatheree, and Boone Hatcher (pictured above) with their mentors and Brooke Robbins, ACE Chairman. Industry Mentors assisting students with their project guidance throughout the year included: Tom Hanley, Elkins Constructors, and Team Leader and Mentor Coordinator; Scott Fraser, Design Development Architecture, Chuck Kohler, Civil Engineer, and Doug Mercer, NAVFAC.

Middleburg is proud of the following MHS Drafting students who participated in the ACE Program and were awarded college scholarships:

- Dominic Berk — $1,000
- Boone Hatcher — $800

OPHS Engineer Students Win Scholarships

Congratulations to the big winners of the 2015 ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida Student Presentation and Scholarship Awards event held at the University of North Florida. With competition from three other schools (8 teams, including home schools), the following students from Orange Park High School received college scholarships:

- **Ryan Merrill**— (Associated Builders & Contractors ) for $1,000
- **Kenny Windham** (Haskell) —$1,200
- **Violette Otero** (ACE Founders Scholarship) —$1,500 x 4 years while in college

Recurring scholarships for previous ACE Founders Scholarship recipients from Orange Park High School include Shanna Xia, currently at University of Florida and Charlene Xia, Currently at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Aaron Graczyk, currently at St. John’s River State College. The ACE Mentors have given out over $140K in scholarships over the last 8 years to students who participate in the program. Our lead mentor for the ACE National Program, Mr. Joe DeMarco, was named the Mentor of the Year by the ACE organization. Mr. DeMarco helped each of our students to excellence.
MHS Students of the Month for April and May

These students were selected by their Academy Team Teachers for their grades, attendance, and work readiness skills! Each student is a role model for his/her peers and exemplifies the hard work it takes to be college and career ready! As Student of the Month, students receive an award letter, a framed certificate of achievement, and a “head of the lunch line” pass to be used through the end of the school year!

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

*Chris Wetzel, Academy of AgriScience & Automotive (STEAM ACAD-EMY)
*Michael “Travis” Johnson, Academy of Architecture, Construction, & Interior Design (DESIGN BUILD ACADEMY)
*Savannah Huggins, Academy of Arts, Humanities, & Advanced Studies
*Caleb King, Academy of Health & Human Services (MECCA ACADEMY)
*Alexis Hall, Academy of Information Technology (VITAL ACADEMY)

MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

*Doug Evans, Academy of Arts, Humanities, & Advanced Studies
*Kurt Jackson, Academy of Health & Human Services (MECCA ACADEMY)
*Gavin Fowler, Academy of Information Technology (VITAL ACADEMY)

Thanks to our Academy Teams for their hard work in monitoring student progress and recognition opportunities! Thanks also to the parents for attending the Student of the Month Ceremony, and to Principal Feltner for making student success recognition a priority!

FIHS Students Receive Scholarships from Construction Career Day Committee

Clay County Schools participated for a second year in the regional Construction Career Days field trip in March of this year. Seniors who participated were given the opportunity to apply for one of the 12 scholarships provided by the sponsors of the event. Two Fleming Island High School students were presented with a scholarship for $1000.00 by Janet Duffy, co-chair of the event, and Suzanna Milbrandt. Recipients of the scholarship include Mary Dailey (left) and David Schilkofski (right). Mary will be attending the University of Central Florida next year where she plans to major in engineering. David (D.J.) will be attending the University of North Florida where he plans to major in engineering as well. Fleming Island is very proud to have two of the four Clay County high school recipients receive these awards!

KHHS Holds Blood Drive

The KHHS CNA program completed its last service project of the school year with a blood drive with Life-South Community Blood Center on the KHHS track.

Over 80 students signed up to donate blood. Students worked registration, recovery, hot dog preparation, and escorted students back to class to insure safety. We send our thanks to all who supported this worthy project.
MHS Academy Students Partner with Jr. Achievement (JA) for Work Readiness Training

Middleburg High School (MHS) says “THANKS” to the following business volunteers who were Junior Achievement (JA®) Volunteer Instructors for seven weeks at MHS: Alaina Rankin, Ameris Bank; Shawna Oxford, Ameris Bank; Margaret Hoyt, Ameris Bank; Ericka MacIntyre, Microsoft Corporation; Ryan Williams, Pearle Vision/Dr. Brink & Assoc.; Jon Dehner, ValuTeachers

These individuals provided work-readiness training to our Academy students, using experiential learning to inspire students to dream big and reach their potential for the 21st century global marketplace!

The following Programs were Taught:

JA Career Success:

JA Career Success - Students learn the tools and skills required to earn and keep a job in high-growth career industries and covered the following key topics:

- 4Cs: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity
- Strong soft skills
- Work priorities
- STEM and other high-growth industries

Personal-brand and job-hunting tools—resumes, cover letters, interviews, and digital profiles

JA Be Entrepreneurial:

JA Be Entrepreneurial - introduced students to the essential elements of a practical business plan and then challenged them to start an entrepreneurial venture. Students learned about advertising, competitive advantages, financing, marketing, and product development.

College and Career Readiness is a goal for our “Academies of Clay” district vision. Thanks to the support of these volunteer trainers, Sabrina Kinslow, JA Program Manager, and our participating teachers Mrs. Bridges, Ms. O’Brien, Mrs. Hendricks, and Mrs. Diamond, our MHS students now have a much better understanding of college and career readiness!

Elin Cornett Chosen 2015 KHHS Culinary Arts Chef of the Year

Please join me in congratulating Elin Cornett for having been chosen as the 2015 KHHS Culinary Arts Chef of the Year.

At the close of the school year Elin will have completed eight culinary arts classes with a 4.2 GPA. She is graduating with high honors and will be recognized for her academic achievement. In addition, she works nearly full time at Panda Express in Middleburg. After high school Elin plans to pursue a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Hospitality and Culinary Management at Daytona State College.

Congratulations aspiring chef, Miss Elin Cornett!

MHS Automotive Students Receive Certified Technician Industry Certification

Congratulations to John Bowden, Preston Chase, Joseph Gibson, Garrett Myers, and Michael Vileno, MHS Automotive Maintenance & Repair students who successfully passed the Florida Automotive Dealers Association (FADA®) Certified Technician Industry Certification! The (FADA) Certified Technician Industry certification is an industry-driven assessment, reflecting the skills and competencies necessary for success in the automotive technician career field.

Jacob Alliton, MHS Automotive Maintenance and Repair Instructor, is proud of these students for passing this difficult certification test. In fact, according to Alice Paulk, Career and Technical Education Supervisor for Clay County School District, MHS is the FIRST Automotive Program in the district to have students receive FADA® Certified Technician industry certifications! Congratulations Mr. Alliton and Automotive Students!
MHS Design Build Academy Students
Mock Interview with Business Partners

Middleburg High School’s Design Build Academy seniors who are program completers in Drafting, Electricity, Carpentry, and Interior Design, had the opportunity to “market” their skills and talents during a “mock” interview with local business partners on Wednesday, May 20th. Students received real-world business interviews in preparation for the workforce or higher education. “It’s not uncommon for a business partner to offer a job on-the-spot to a deserving, impressive student,” said Keith Ward, President of Thomas May Construction and Chairman of the Design Build Academy Advisory Board. Today’s mock interviews were no exception. Participating Business Partners from JEA, Thomas May, Haskell, and Harp Electric were impressed and in fact, made several offers, in addition to sharing valuable tips and career advice!

Mr. Lance Simons of Haskell Corp. told the students that “the real world needs team players and collaboration skills, no one is an island!” He added that “if the employer says something like “We think you are the right fit for a particular position, even if it’s not in your comfort zone, just SAY YES!”

David Harp, Owner of Harp Electric, and MHS Electricity Program graduate, stated he too made a job offer to a deserving student and feels “the mock interview experience was an excellent way to allow the students to get comfortable with interviewing and hear the necessary feedback to improve upon their interviewing skills”.

Mandy Brown, Interior Design Instructor and Design Build Academy teacher coordinated the event, including having her students prepare breakfast for the business partners. The Design Build students and teachers Jerry Burt, Carpentry; Karl Hoffman, Electricity; Mandy Brown, Interior Design; and Chise Apiata, Drafting, were pleased with the student and business feedback, and thanked the business partners for providing interviewing tips and invaluable career advice for student success! Congratulations students on accomplishing another successful measure of college and career readiness!

OPHS Kampus Kids Finish Out
2014-2015 in Style

Kampus Kids and our Early Childhood students have enjoyed a busy and exciting month of May. Our ECPC Awards Ceremony recognized students who have completed their Early Childhood Professional Certificate. Mrs. Alice Paulk, CTE Supervisor, and Mr. William Fletcher, Vice Principal of OPHS, helped congratulate our recipients. The following students received their ECPC certification: Kiara Boyd, Danielle Coffman, Skyler Early, Chynna Gross, Megan Hayward, Brandi Huff, Cheyenne Huff, Ashlyn Nowlan, Jessica O’Kelley, Morgan Schneider, Dominique Taylor, and Dennisa Wimberly.

Our mothers and grandmothers were honored for Mother’s Day at our “Muffins with Moms” breakfast. Mrs. Pam Smitley, our VPK teacher, baked an assortment of delicious muffins. Our moms and grandmoms had a special time with their Kampus Kids’ little ones before beginning their work day.

May lesson plans for Kampus Kids included a visit from Mrs. Katherine Irish’s Spanish class to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Her class played a piñata game and other Spanish games, sang a Spanish song and read a Spanish book with the children. To accompany their book, Dinosaur Roar, our little archeologists thawed out “Ice Age” dinosaurs and had a dinosaur dig.

To end our fabulous school year our 2015 Early Childhood graduates helped with Kampus Kids VPK graduation. What great memories we all have of 2014-2015!
WJHS IT Students’ Achievements for 2014-2015

At WJHS, Mrs. Hall’s Introduction to Information Technology students have been working hard during 2014-15 school year. Six students have earned their Microsoft Office Specialist Certification. Achieving industry recognized certification were Haley Wadsworth, Paige Agnew, Tyler Prince, Vincent Gonzalez, Shane Williams, and Melinda King. These students have completed the requirements to be recognized as a Microsoft Office Specialist Master. Each student took a series of exams on the Microsoft Office 2010 Suite in order to become certified. Students who earn their Microsoft Office Specialist certification will be rewarded with heightened confidence, credibility and differentiation in an increasingly competitive and academic workforce environment. They will be qualified to meet greater challenges, possessing the knowledge and ability to be more productive, and share information in a compelling, intuitive manner.

On May 21st, WJHS held the 10th Annual Hammer Off Contest between Mr. Snell’s Construction Technology students and Mrs. Hall’s Business Education students. The students had a great time watching during lunch while the contest was held on stage. The Girls winner was Saige Rivers from Business Education and the Boys winner was Clayton Ross from Construction Technology.

FIHS Selects Academy Teacher and Student of the Year

Mary Soud, English teacher for the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, was selected to represent Fleming Island High School as the Academy Teacher of the Year! “Mary serves as the facilitator for the academy and has helped to bring this new academy to levels unimaginable for a first year,” stated Toni Padgett, Academy Coach. Her creativity as a teacher and leadership with her team helped give her this deserving recognition.

Cali Larson, a 9th grader in the VyStar Academy of Business and Finance, was selected to represent FIHS as the Academy Student of the Year! Cali has been a wonderful role model for the academy students. She is an outstanding student who excels academically while playing varsity soccer as a 9th grader. She was also selected, through a rigorous interview process, to be a VyStar Student Manager next year.

Both were honored at a luncheon sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce at the Thrasher-Horne Center in April.

MHS IT Students Design New Logo

Brian Knight from Pragmatic Works and a member of the MHS IT Advisory Board asked MHS Digital Design 2 and 3 students to design a logo for his new company. On May 21st, Mr. Knight presented the winning students, Austin Farris, Britany Rainwater, and Spencer Kalapp, with t-shirts and a $50 Amazon gift card for the overall winner, Bethany Mincey. Mr. Knight made a point to tell the students how professional and creative the designs they submitted were, even more so than the professional designers he had used previously. This was a great real-world experience for students to design for a real client and know that the final output will be used for the branding of a new company!
The Hospitality & Tourism II class at Fleming Island High School finished a culminating project of a total event plan that they began this semester. Students planned everything from invites, guest lists, venue set up, right down to decorations. Some of the events presented were Quinceañera, Super Bowl Party, Large Company product debut, Engagement party, baby gender reveal party and even an anniversary commitment ceremony. Students called vendors for pricing and suggestions. This large event planning process took several weeks and ended with a presentation to the class (pictures).

Students also completed a portfolio of their work that showed off their computer skills with layouts and designs.

The following are the OPHS Raiders Health Academy students who passed their Florida Board of Nursing Certified Nursing Assistant License exam:

Julio Batista, Alexandra Brignoni, Kayla Clark, Courtney Padgett, Kenneth Szillus, Joseph Buchman, Katie Cartaya, Elizabeth Chartier, Katherine Davis, Bakangela Massanka, Jacob Romani, Ramiro Romero, Sarah Stadtmiler, Dominique Taylor, Breanna Bryant, Janee Gainer, Monica Kendall, Brittney Miller, Elise Morgan, Trexie Palomo, Jillian Tallaksen, Madison Truluck, Nicole Welling

The students' project garnered national attention. The cast and crew of “Small Town, Big Deal” flew in from California to videotape the students’ work. Jann Carl, the host and former Entertainment Tonight host, expressed her admiration for the ambitious nature of the project and the overall sense of kindness expressed by all of the student volunteers. The students’ story will air nationally on June 11th on the RFD-TV channel.

KHHS CNA Students Pass State Exam

Congratulations to the 36 KHHS CNA students for passing the State of Florida Certified Nursing Assistant Exam this school year. KHHS has enjoyed record numbers of student enrollment in this year’s CNA program. Sixteen of the students have already secured jobs in the health care industry at Riverwood Rehab and Nursing Center in Starke, Shands at UF in Gainesville, North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville, Park of the Palms Assisted Living Facility in Keystone Heights, and Windsor Manor Long Term Care Facility in Starke. Most of the students will continue their education to pursue a career in the field of healthcare.

OPHS CNA Student Pass State Exam

RHS Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy Impacts our Waterways

CTE students enrolled in the school’s Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy completed their year with their Spring Impact Project “Operation: Protect our Waters” on May 1st. The students hosted an on-campus field experience in the stadium, assembling nearly 140 water retention barrels for the local community. Each school within the community was slated to have a barrel on site to help educate the community on the importance of keeping our waterways clean. Other barrels were on-site for delivery to the school’s faculty and staff.

The students’ project garnered national attention. The cast and crew of “Small Town, Big Deal” flew in from California to videotape the students’ work. Jann Carl, the host and former Entertainment Tonight host, expressed her admiration for the ambitious nature of the project and the overall sense of kindness expressed by all of the student volunteers. The students’ story will air nationally on June 11th on the RFD-TV channel.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a great year this has been! Our Academies are moving forward and looking great. Our CTE teachers and students continue to reach new heights.

I would like to say “thank you” for all you do each and every day to help make students more successful.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and stay safe.

See you next year!

Chereese Stewart
Director of CTE

THE ACADEMIES OF CLAY

Pajama projects end in a "Pajama Party"!

Students in Mrs. Speicher-Harris’ Design Services class have been busy learning the basics of sewing with a simple pajama pattern project. Students were given permission to wear the projects during the school day and that they did! How fun to end the project by showing off their creations at a classroom pajama party!

Learning the basics of the sewing machine is part of the design services core curriculum. Students who really enjoy this aspect will be able to perfect their sewing skills in Principles of Fashion Design and Pattern Design Techniques. "Sewing is quickly becoming a lost art," said Ms. Speicher-Harris. "It is great to see young people becoming interested in sewing and quilting again."

Lem Kirkland Retires from RHS with 39 Years Experience

Lem Kirkland, a graduate of Clay High School’s vocational program, worked in the county maintenance department for over 20 years after his high school graduation. For the past sixteen years, Lem has given back to his community by teaching the HVAC program at Ridgeview High School. Over the years, Lem has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and his students. While the true reach of a teacher cannot be measured, few doubt that Lem’s program made the difference between a high school diploma and a high school dropout on numerous occasions.

This June, Lem will be retiring with over 39 years of service within the Clay County School District. Lem was honored by the NEFBA and Haskell Corporation with a plaque dedication at the Golden Hammer Event on May 21st at the Hilltop. Ridgeview High School has been blessed to share the years with him, but wishes him all the best in his much deserved retirement years.