



A Focus on Career & Technical Education

Unlocking Potential: Seniors Recognized for Excellence in CTE

CTE programs provide opportunities for our students to gain tangible skills through hands-on experiences, explore career options and find their professional passion, make valuable connections, and enhance their high school experience – all while becoming prepared for post secondary education and/or career paths.



Washington Township Supervisor Sam Previti, Assistant Principal of the DEM Academy Erin Schwehofer, senior Jackson Swords, senior Rachel Kitchen, and RHS Principal Bernie Osebold.

The annual Macomb Career and Technical Education Administrators Association (MCTEAA) honors seniors who exemplify dedication to their education and technical skills. This year's awards celebration took place on February 7. Two Romeo students were recognized along with Sam Previti, Washington Township Supervisor and one of Romeo's outstanding business partners.

Outstanding CTE Seniors



CTE Award Winner Rachel Kitchen with her architecture teacher, Megan Khahil.

As part of the Architectural Design program, **Rachel Kitchen** consistently demonstrates exceptional responsibility and dedication. She excels at managing her work, meeting every deadline with precision and care. Her attention to detail is remarkable, as she consistently produces high-quality work that reflects her thoughtfulness and effort.

Beyond her academic strengths, Rachel is a supportive and dependable classmate. She is always quick to assist when needed, often going above and beyond to ensure the class operates smoothly. Her willingness to contribute and her positive attitude makes her an invaluable member of the classroom.

Additionally, Rachel treats her classmates with kindness and respect, fostering a welcoming and supportive atmosphere. Her consistent excellence showcases her ability to balance multiple responsibilities with ease, highlighting both her current accomplishments and her strong potential for future success.

Rachel exemplifies the qualities of a deserving nominee through her hard work, attention to detail, and commitment to supporting others. After graduation from Romeo, she plans on attending Lawrence Technological University, where she will pursue her passion for architecture.

Jackson Swords

is a standout participant in Romeo High School's Law and Public Safety program. His passion for law and justice is evident through his dedication and achievements.

Jackson had the unique opportunity to sit in on an entire murder trial in Judge Viviano's courtroom, gaining first hand insight into the complexities of the legal system.

As an inaugural member and leader of Romeo High School's Mock Trial team, Jackson's contributions have been instrumental in the team's rapid success, qualifying for the State competition in just its second year. Known for his exceptional cross-examinations and commanding closing arguments, Jackson's courtroom skills have earned him the respect of teammates, judges, and peers alike.

Beyond his technical abilities, Jackson's leadership, commitment to excellence, and passion for public service set him apart. His experiences have shaped his aspirations to pursue a future in law, where his talent and drive will undoubtedly make a lasting impact.



CTE Award Winner Jackson Swords with his law and public safety teacher, Timothy Bussineau.



Letter from the Superintendent

Dear RCS Community,

I hope this edition of The Bulldog Bulletin finds you excited for spring to come after another Michigan winter. We at Romeo Community Schools are celebrating our progress in transforming the school experience while also remaining focused on continuous improvement.

The district recently shared a Special Edition of The Bulldog Bulletin thanking our community for their support for almost a decade of progress we have made in facility improvements. The real story is the incredible transformation that has happened in our instructional and extracurricular programs that these facility updates have been intentionally planned to support. The Academies at Romeo High School and our “wall to wall” career academy model represent one of the best examples of this connection.

Traditionally we honor Career and Technical Education Awareness Month in February and highlight current achievements in these programs. This year, in anticipation of our Annual Retreat for the Academies at Romeo High School, we have created a publication that focuses on the connected learning opportunities that go hand in hand with our CTE programs. We are excited to welcome our business partners from all of our Academy pathways to share an update on our progress, highlight some of our students' incredible work, and seek their input on moving our programs forward.

For our staff and families, I want to encourage you to take the time to review examples of the innovative work that is happening in collaboration with our students, staff and business partners. Although your children might not be high school age at this time, you should be encouraged by what is to come for them in the future. Career and Technical Education is an important part of our learning continuum, but we are also very invested in the further expansion of programs that are connected all the way down to our earliest grade levels.

This year our district theme of **PURPOSE** has us pausing to reflect on our “why” for choosing this work. At the same time, striving to provide the best school experience possible for our students is building “their” purpose.

Go Bulldogs!

Dr. Todd R. Robinson
Superintendent



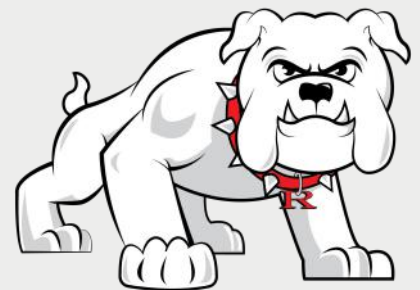
2024-25 Annual Notice of Career and Technical Education Offerings

Each year, the Romeo Community School District offers career and technical education programs at Romeo High School. These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and training services and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers, counselors, and cooperative education coordinators. This QR Code will take you to a list of programs being offered this year and criteria for admission.

For further information about these programs, contact Evva Dossin, Career and Technical Education Director, Romeo High School, 62300 Jewell Road, Washington, MI 48094; or call (586) 752-0300.



Scan or click the QR code to learn more.



Learn more about our CTE programs and work-based learning by listening to our district podcast. Click on the logo or go to the district website at www.romeok12.org.



THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN, MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING (DEM)

CTE Program: Architecture Bringing Designs to Life

The assignment was to redesign a fire station from an old barn. Students in Megan Khahil's architecture class met virtually with Alyssa Dempsey, an architect with Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick (AEW), a full-service engineering and architectural services firm located in Shelby Township.

Alyssa introduced the challenge during the virtual meeting. This was followed by three days of job shadowing, during which the class divided into groups of 8 to 10 students.

"We provided students with a prompt for a proposed addition to an existing barn for a new fire station to serve a local community," Alyssa explained. "The site had some constraints such as existing electrical equipment and tight property boundaries. We asked the students to come to the job shadow day with sketches of their design including room for eight vehicles, a lobby with reception area, four offices and one report writing area, two bunk rooms, one day room, locker rooms and turn out gear areas."

On the day of the job shadows, the students were given a tour of AEW's offices and a presentation about the path to architecture licensure. The architects then began their collaboration exercise with the students.

"Each student had the opportunity to present their design and we worked together to combine all students' designs into one final building," Alyssa said. "This process is very similar to design charrettes that take place in the industry. By combining multiple ideas from designers with different approaches, we are able to provide our owners with the best options."

This is the third year Romeo High School architecture students have enjoyed this job shadowing opportunity with business partner AEW.

"AEW is honored to be in partnership with Romeo and we truly enjoy being able to host these students and provide co-op opportunities," Alyssa said.

CTE Program: Construction Companies Hiring Today

Romeo High School hosted its first Construction Hiring Fair on March 13 for Romeo juniors and seniors as well as students from area high schools. The more than 25 companies in



attendance offered jobs or apprenticeships in heating and cooling, plumbing, dry wall, electric, millwork, landscaping, lighting, lumber, tile installation, roofing, woodworking, carpentry and heavy equipment. Construction teacher Craig Bryant, who organized the event, said the idea for a hiring fair came from his advisory board.

CTE Program: Photo-Graphics Students Get a Taste for Product Photography

Photo-graphics is a new CTE program in its pilot year at Romeo High School. What isn't new is Sherri Stough's photography students collaborating with other pathway classes. In the past they have taken photos of the food trucks that business classes created for Staff Appreciation Day. They also capture appetizing menu offerings for the culinary arts class website, among other collaborative projects.



Photo by Joseph Zaiglin '26

Before the winter break, the culinary students made holiday cookies and the photo-graphics students displayed the cookies on a seasonally appropriate backdrop to showcase them. The variety of cookies on display included assorted biscotti, Christmas conchas, holiday bark, dessert bars and traditional Christmas cookies.



Photo by Briana Dougherty '26

"We work really well together," Mrs. Stough said of her partnership with Chef Monica. "I don't have to pay for things to photograph. She always has great stuff for my students to photograph and the students keep getting better and better."

CTE Program: Media Production A Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Students in Stephany Harbison's media production classes had the opportunity to participate in the Detroit Pistons' media day at Little Caesars Arena, where they were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities before watching the Detroit Pistons defeat the Boston Celtics 117 to 97.

In the control room, they saw how the arena scoreboard, or Jumbotron, is operated to provide live entertainment throughout the game and between quarters. The broadcast experience is one the students are familiar with at Romeo High School, where many of them are involved in producing the morning announcements.

The students also learned about the importance of social media in creating a consistent brand for the team and players. Following the game, the students were invited on the court to shoot a free throw.



CTE Program: Mechatronics Game for a Challenge

Last summer, robotics and mechatronics teacher Mike Savage received an unusual request. Amy Aul, president of the Robert J. Aul II Memorial Foundation (RJA II), had a claw machine that was no longer functional. She wanted to know if one of Mr. Savage's classes would be willing to take a look at it and possibly repair it.

A claw machine, also known as a crane game, is an arcade game where players use a joystick to grab a prize with a mechanical claw. Mr. Savage was happy to take on the challenge, enlisting the help of some of his students.

"The kids and I started taking it apart," he said. "Some of it was cleaning debris out of it. There were



The claw machine repair team, from left, Nathan Phillips, Cooper Touchette, Max Elter, Caelan Fingal and Lucas Aemisegger.

a couple of switches and sensors that needed to be replaced. The kids loved doing it and taking it apart and putting it back together, connecting everything the way it was supposed to be."

This involved testing the wires to figure out where the breaks were in the circuit, replacing burnt out lightbulbs after determining what kind of lightbulbs would fit into the slots, and replacing a cracked inner shield.

A student in Lewis Page's graphics design class joined the group to create a logo for the machine and a local sign company, Signs365 – one of the Bytting Bulldogs sponsors – donated the time and materials to print a label.

Now, thanks to this team effort, the machine is refurbished and functional.

THE ACADEMY OF BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION (BEI)

CTE Program: Accounting Leaving a Legacy

Mike Archutowski's Accounting II students took on a new challenge this year – working in a joint venture with the athletics department to manage their books. The class bought a Square register and uses Quickbooks to analyze the sales reports in class. By running sales reports by product, they can track sales and determine the top selling items as well as what is most profitable. They also can track inventory.



During the winter season they managed selling concessions at sporting events that take place in the gym, such as girls' and boys' basketball and wrestling. The goal is to expand to Barnabo Field and eventually sell tickets in addition to concessions at games as well as theater productions.

This new business venture marks the first time attendees at sporting events are able to use credit cards for concession items.

"Right now it's all cash, but there's a big demand from students to use their phones to pay," Mr. Archutowski said.

The project is a natural outgrowth of the skills the students are learning in class. For example, they recently completed a certification exam in QuickBooks, the most popular accounting software in the industry.

"Now they have a resume building and certification that sets them apart from other potential applicants," Mr. Archutowski said. "The certification exam is book work, but now because of this class, they are applying it to the athletic department. They are working through real problems and gaining experience."

His favorite aspect of this undertaking is the impact the class is having on the school.

"This isn't just learning from a textbook," Mr. Archutowski said. "When the kids leave Romeo and come back, they'll see they can pay for concessions with a credit card and think: 'We did that.' The legacy piece is awesome."

CTE Program: Entrepreneurship
Perfecting a Pitch

Students in Julia Lengemann’s entrepreneurship class teamed up with local entrepreneurs at Velocity, a business incubator located in Sterling Heights, to create a product that provided a solution to a particular problem. For example, one team created a mental health and wellness app called SafeSpace that offered resources, tools and support for students’ mental health and well-being, including meditation guides, counseling services, and stress management tips.

“The problem is mental health problems for students, overall well-being, stress, mental health issues, access to health, embarrassment and also people want self-improvement,” said Cooper Meadows, a senior.

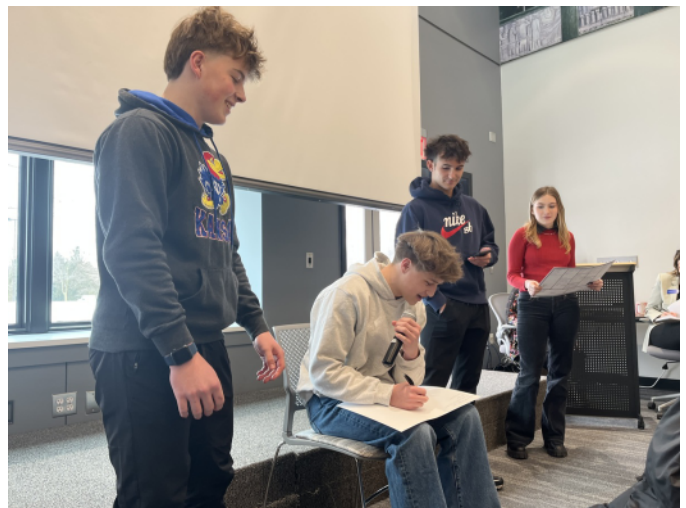
Another team created an app called Study Buddy to address academic challenges, connecting students to a tutor while factoring in the challenges of cost and accessibility.

The teams went through a variety of steps to develop a solution to the problem they were given, including their ideal customer, appropriate messaging, distribution, and start-up needs.

Each team presented a pitch presentation to a panel of judges. The winning team received Velocity blankets designed by local entrepreneur and Romeo parent Joanna Serra.

One tip the students received during their visit was the importance of creating a LinkedIn account for students to begin networking with potential future employers.

“It’s a positive digital footprint for the students to have so that when companies search for their names, that’s the first account to come up before all other social networks,” Mrs. Lengemann said.



THE ACADEMY OF HEALTH, HUMAN & PUBLIC SERVICE (HHP)

CTE Program: Education
Digital Classrooms Designed for Success

Students in Lori Ferrington’s Introduction to Education class learned how important it is to create a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Each student had the opportunity to digitally design their own learning environment. They worked within a budget to plan the decor they wanted for their classroom, while also meeting Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. This psychological theory proposes that humans have five basic needs – physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem and self-actualization. Meeting these needs in an educational setting is particularly important for students to achieve success.

When their designs were complete, the students gave Mrs. Ferrington and their classmates a tour of their classroom, explaining the selections and choices they made, what materials they put in their classroom, and why. For example, a snack station and water cooler meet a student’s basic need for food and water. Indicating in their designs that the door is clear, there is enough room between desks to walk, and that an emergency plan is available factors in the essential need for safety.

A sense of love and belonging bolsters a student’s social needs. Digital classrooms included a table where students could work together or socialize during a class party, among other ideas.

To meet the highest level of self-actualization, students created encouraging posters, a Star Student chart, a calming station, and a goals notebook.

“They were very thoughtful in how they put their classrooms together,” Mrs. Ferrington said, adding that creating a space that makes her students feel comfortable and safe enough to learn is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a teacher.



Top: Digital classroom by Maya McMillan

Bottom: Digital classroom by Megan Mularczyk

CTE Program: Medical Sciences An Insider's Look at a Firehouse

Tenth graders in the medical sciences pathway visited local firehouses in the fall. By the end of their junior year, these students must choose either emergency medical technician (EMT) or certified medical assistant (CMA) for senior year. Going to the firehouse allowed them to observe first-hand what the EMT pathway would entail. They experienced what it is like to "live" in the firehouse, see demonstrations of common equipment used, and hear workers share their personal experiences as well as what they love about their career.



Students also gained an understanding of how much schooling is required, the cost of the program, and the benefits and challenges associated with this career choice.

Career Exploration through Virtual Reality



In January, students in the medical sciences pathway were given the opportunity to experience virtual reality simulations courtesy of Emerge, a company that uses VR to provide career exploration, skills development and employment connections. The students were able to choose from a host of medical simulations, from assisting on a knee surgery to capturing an X-ray.

"Virtual reality is a great way for students to repeat and build muscle memory and try procedures over and over that, due to insurance, liability or HIPAA, they would never be allowed to participate in," said Joe Bamberger, Emerge president.

The company focuses mainly on CTE curriculum in high schools and colleges. Its online platform allows students to build an online portfolio – or digital resume – that gives them access to video resources,



technology resources, and VR experiences. Employers join the platform and offer the students opportunities ranging from job shadows to work-based learning, internships and summer jobs.

Preparation for Life

One way the medical sciences pathway prepares students is through field studies. These experiences equip students with skills that will not only propel students forward professionally, but prepare them for life.

This year the medical sciences program boasts a total of 82 students who are gaining hands-on experience in the field on a regular basis. This number encompasses 58 field study students and 24 EMT students. These students are placed at 16 different locations throughout the area, including at local firehouses and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital.

Students leave the medical sciences pathway with 17 certifications ranging from first aid and bleeding control to mass casualty events. They have completed over 1,300 clinical hours in the EMT class



Senior Megan Gratopp draws up a medication that would be administered to a patient having an anaphylactic reaction.

alone, with two non-emergency classes available as well.

"They only have to do 32 clinical hours to move forward to get that national certification or state license," said EMT teacher Sarah Pile. "Most of our students have well over that."

Supporting those clinical hours are the professionals the students encounter daily in their field studies. These emergency workers debrief the students after they've experienced an event and alert Mrs. Pile to check in with the students after the fact.

"When they go out into the field, we have no idea who is calling 911 that day," Mrs. Pile said. "We have no idea what they are going to encounter or see. There's nothing we can do besides prepare them as much as we can."

In Search of Curious, Creative and Engaged Students

Representatives from L&L Products, Inc., a family owned company specializing in solutions for static sealing, acoustics and vibration, met with chemistry classes at Romeo High School, offering them a glimpse into the industry and the company's mission and values.

They also presented the students with an opportunity. The company is looking for a small, curious group of students to do a joint project led by the L&L Team. These

students may potentially be interested in pursuing a career in the field of formulation, innovation and application. They would have the opportunity to do hands-on lab work and experimentation, attend demonstrations at L&L, and evaluate new L&L materials and applications.

During the visit, students participated in demonstrations to show unbreakable bonds and the difference between thermosetting plastics and thermoplastics – both polymers that behave differently when exposed to heat.



THE 9TH GRADE ACADEMY

On the Pathway to Success



When Romeo High School 9th graders signed their names to the Commitment to Graduate banner at the beginning of the school year, they were embarking on a journey of career exploration that ultimately will guide the remainder of their high school years.

Marking an important milestone is the Pathway Reveal Ceremony, during which the 9th graders gathered in the auditorium at the high school to open the envelope that determines what Academy and pathway they will commit to for the next three years.

Before the big moment arrived, 9th Grade Academy Principal Melissa Arendts recapped significant moments along the journey. Through use of Xello, the students



discovered their strengths and areas for improvement. They worked through their success rubric to decide on goals. They completed a project about themselves and participated in "deep dives" on a career. They headed to the high school for Romeo's Career Day. Trips off campus included a visit to Macomb Community College and a morning at the Michigan Career Quest in Novi.

The 9th graders investigated trade schools, community colleges and universities, and students interested in advanced manufacturing had the opportunity to visit local manufacturing companies as part of a mini manufacturing day.

Finally, they toured their top four pathways at the high school before making their final choices.



**ROMEO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

316 N. Main Street
Romeo, Michigan 48065
(586) 752-0200

**2024-2025
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Mission

Embracing **R** community while engaging, educating, and empowering students to inspire the future.

Vision

Forging pathways through academic exploration guided by...

- Passions of our students
- Dynamic learning environments
- Invested community advocates

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a learning/working environment in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment. There will be no tolerance for discrimination or harassment on any basis prohibited by law. The Superintendent will develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. The Superintendent designates Ms. Julia Butler, Executive Director of Employee Services and Title IX Coordinator, to supervise the implementation of this policy and its implementing regulations.

A Spotlight on Sam Previti: 2025 Outstanding CTE Business Partner

Sam Previti, Washington Township Supervisor, has been an invaluable partner to our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, embodying the spirit of the Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) model since its inception in 2019-2020. His commitment began with guest speaking engagements, sharing real-world insights with students, and quickly evolved into a deeper role on our Law and Public Safety Community Advisory Board.



Under Supervisor Previti's leadership, Washington Township became a trailblazer by hiring its first two paid high school interns in 2022-2023. These students gained hands-on experience in government operations while still in school. This initiative has since grown, with two additional interns joining the team and three students earning permanent positions in the Supervisor's, Clerk's, and Assessing Offices post-graduation.

Supervisor Previti's dedication to nurturing young talent has not only enhanced the township's workforce but also provided invaluable opportunities for our students to build meaningful careers in public service. His vision and support exemplify the profound impact strong business partnerships have on education and community growth.

**Introducing:
The Academies at Romeo Middle School**

Romeo Community Schools imagined a new way to do high school – and the Academies at Romeo High School came into being.



Now we have imagined a new way to support our middle school students. We have furthered our partnership with Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) by incorporating a comprehensive community initiative that brings together educators, parents, students, and representatives from community-based organizations and nonprofits to transform the middle school experience for every student. As of March 11, the Academies at Romeo Middle School is officially recognized as part of the Ford NGL network.



One of the premiere events of this transformation was the inaugural Nonprofit Exploration Fair on February 27. All Romeo Middle School students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the more than 60 nonprofits and community organizations in attendance and learn about ways they can make a difference in their community. In the future, the fair will be

part of the Explore Academy (6th grade), while the Engage Academy (7th grade) will have opportunities to enrich their knowledge of community organizations, and the Empower Academy (8th grade) will embark on changemaker projects.