



**ROMEO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

GOOD NEWS ACROSS 'R' DISTRICT

November 20, 2023



9th graders embark on Career quest

On November 14, 424 students from the 9th Grade Academy experienced an exciting career exploration event. Accompanied by 29 staff members, they were among approximately 8,000 students and chaperones from more than 125 high schools across the six-county region who participated in MiCareerQuest Southeast at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. According to event organizers, Romeo was the largest group in attendance.

Traveling the more than 400,000 square-feet of floor space, the 9th graders had the opportunity to meet with employers and engage in hands-on activities in four career quadrants: advanced manufacturing, construction, technology and health sciences – all in alignment with the 12

career pathways within Romeo High School's Academy of Business, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (BEI), Academy of Design, Engineering and Manufacturing (DEM), and Academy of Health, Human and Public Service (HHP).

Students had a half hour in each career quadrant to visit exhibitions of their choice. The exhibitors took time to answer their questions and share techniques in a host of skills. From augmented reality welders, chemists and marine technicians in advanced manufacturing, to software developers, cybersecurity analysts and geologists in technology, just to name a few, there was no limit to what the students could explore.

The focus of the career expo was to showcase the skills needed to succeed in nearly 200 in-demand, high-skill jobs. The event was designed to spark students' curiosity and, most importantly, expand their knowledge of the career possibilities available to them after graduation.

MiCareerQuest was one of a series of career exploration events the 9th graders will participate in this year to guide them in selecting a pathway before they embark on the remainder of their high school career.





For going above and beyond, members of the Transportation Department enjoyed an appreciation lunch donated by The Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Bus drivers save the day

The text came in early the morning of November 14 while Transportation Director Jodi Marshall was monitoring the arrival of buses at Romeo High School.

The charter bus company hired to transport the 9th graders at 8 a.m. to the MiCareerQuest in Novi had canceled the night before, Superintendent Dr. Todd Robinson informed her. While the email was sent at 10:30 p.m., Academy Coach Rich Boggio didn't receive it until 5 a.m. the next morning.

Would it be possible, Dr. Robinson wanted to know, to get enough Romeo buses to the 9th Grade Academy to pick up approximately 425 students and 30 staff members and drive them to Novi for their scheduled start time of 10:15 a.m.?

It was possible, Mrs. Marshall replied, but not until 9 a.m., as the buses had to complete their morning runs first.

After a conference call with Dr. Robinson and Mr. Boggio to work out the logistics, she reached out to her drivers. In no time, she had enough volunteers to drive all 10 buses needed to transport that number of students – and four additional drivers to cover the noon runs for the preschoolers at Croswell Early Childhood Center.

By 9 a.m., the students were lined up on the sidewalk along the bus loop as the buses pulled in one by one.

“They loaded the students and went on their way,” Mrs. Marshell said. “I watched on our GPS. They were pulling in the parking lot just before 10:20 a.m. I sent Dr. Robinson a text saying they had arrived.”

Without the immediate actions of administrators and the willingness of the drivers to step up, the result would have been a lost learning opportunity for the 9th graders.

“CareerQuest is crucial for the 9th grade students to gain hands-on experience with many potential careers,” Mr. Boggio said. “It is a once a year, one-day event that could not be replicated locally.”

Mrs. Marshell wasn’t surprised by the positive response she received from her drivers, one after the other responding with a quick, “I’ll do it. I’ll go.”

“When push comes to shove, they all jump in and are willing to help and do what it takes to get the job done,” she said. “That’s what makes them a great team. That’s what makes them the best.”

For the drivers, whether to help out wasn’t even a question.

“We didn’t want the kids to miss out on the experience,” said Rosalie Dove.

“We’re like that,” said Lorraine DeMeyere. “If a driver needs help, we’re there.”

“We’re a family,” agreed Marilyn Zajko.