

# The CTE Spotlight

Highlighting Career Technical Education in Cocke County Schools

## Catching New CTE Rising Stars!

CTE events involving the 8th grade transition to high school (see pages 1-2)



**Pictured above:** Mrs. Jennifer Noe talked to the visiting 8th graders about her POS, Horticulture Science. CHS FFA members assisted and answered questions from a student's perspective.

### CHS Hosts "Rising Freshmen Night"

Cosby High School recently hosted Rising Freshmen Night, welcoming 8th graders to get a glimpse of their future high school experience. Principal Shawna Murrell and the counseling staff warmly greeted the 66 students and their parents who were in attendance, setting a positive tone for the evening.

The young visitors had the opportunity to explore the school during a tour where they engaged with all the Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers. This interactive session allowed them to learn about the various programs of study available, giving them a sneak peek into the exciting educational pathways that await them in their upcoming high school journey.



**Pictured above:** Mrs. Kim Hurst introduces 8th graders and their parents/guardians to her CTE Programs of Study at Cosby High School -- Therapeutic Services and Nursing Services. Check out the artificial arm where they can test their blood-drawing skills.



**Pictured above:** 8th grade students and their parents walked through Cosby High School's Industrial Maintenance Technology shop while the program's teacher, Mr. Travis Sane, discussed the different types of equipment that they may use if they take any courses in his CTE Program of Study.

Learning the  
**LINGO**

<-- Look for this symbol throughout this document to learn some common CTE terms/vocabulary.



# Showing-Off Our Programs at the CTE Showcase!!

## CONT... MORE EVENTS FOR TRANSITIONING 8TH GRADERS AT CCHS:

Tuesday, February 27th was a busy day at the Ben W. Hooper CTE Center on the campus of Cocke County High School.

During the day (before lunch), ALL 8th graders from CCHS's "feeder" elementary schools took part in **8th Grade Visit Day**. As part of their activities, they toured the CTE center where they received brief introductions to the CTE Programs of Study available.

Then, in the evening, our first ever **CTE Showcase** for students AND their parents/guardians took place. All students and their families across the district were invited to attend. At this event, they all were able to spend more time hearing from CTE teachers, and involved high school students (a.k.a. **CTE Ambassadors**), about four programs in more detail. In fact, each student's schedule was tailored specifically to them based on their unique interests.

Mrs. Crystal McGaha, our new CTE Career Counselor, organized the event with the help of CTE Faculty/Staff. Parent/Student feedback surveys received showed that, while more time with teachers to better experience the programs would be beneficial, almost all rated the event as "Excellent" overall.



**Top Left:** Automotive Collision Repair teacher, Mr. Jason Smith quickly describes his program and the techniques used as students toured the CTE Center. **Top Right:** Mrs. Mahala Shumaker, Veterinary & Animal Science teacher, discusses what courses make up her POS, as well as Ms. Burns's Horticulture Science POS. **Bottom Left:** Mr. Billy Holt, Welding teacher, stresses what he expects from students that select his POS. **Bottom Right:** CTE Student Ambassadors, Maliyah Massengill and Khristopher Kolnicki Lopez highlight Mrs. Fisher's programs (Teaching as a Profession and Hospitality & Tourism Management), as well as, present Mrs. Dudley's two programs which are detailed below.



POS

This stands for "**Program of Study**". A POS is a group of courses within the same career pathway. Each POS consists of a minimum of THREE courses that are taken in a specific order. Students must pass them (in order) to complete a program. A student is required to complete a POS in order to graduate.

**Pictured left:** Mrs. Ashley Dudley and CTE Ambassador, November Seaton, were ready to receive both students and parents during the CTE Showcase. CTE Programs of Study promoted by Mrs. Dudley and November were the Human & Social Science and Dietetics & Nutrition programs. Both of which lead to the possibility of earning a TN Specific Industry Certification (TSIC) in the third (or last) class to complete the POS.

Want to learn more about ALL CTE programs offered in Cocke County? Click on the items below.

For: [POS Info & Class Order](#)

For: [Program VIDEOS](#)



CTSO stands for **Career and Technical Student Organizations**. These are student-led organizations in the United States that are specifically focused on career and technical education (CTE) fields. CTSOs available in Cocke County Schools include SkillsUSA, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), and FFA (Future Farmers of America). These organizations provide students with opportunities for leadership development, career exploration, and skill-building activities related to various vocational fields.

# CTSO PARTICIPANTS ON-THE-GO!



Recently, FFA (Future Farmers of America) students attended the National Farm Machinery show in Feb.

Pictured above (L-R) are Karissa Messer, Emma Blair, Nate Mason, Addy Styles, Jenna Arms, Madison Webb, and Emily Miller.

**FFA**

## Pictured Right:

CCHS FFA members recently competed in competitions where we were awarded as **REGIONAL CHAMPIONS** in Marketing Plan and Floriculture. Our Floriculture team winners were (L-R) Allie Ball, Maci McCallister, Olivia Lewis and Rachel Hartsell. The FFA members who won for Marketing Plan were Karissa Messer, Nate Mason, and Ireland Strange.



There were also two Regional Proficiency Winners (not pictured): Ely Smith for Forage Production and Olivia Smith for Small Animal Production.

FFA members and Horticulture Science teacher, Ms. Chelsay Burns, have been tending to plants in the greenhouse this quarter to prepare them for the upcoming **CCHS FFA Plant Sale. Its Grand Greenhouse Opening will be on Sat., Apr. 13th from 11am-3pm. For more information go to:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LZdp5ID35nfJHP9PQoneXODRwLgK9zAT/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LZdp5ID35nfJHP9PQoneXODRwLgK9zAT/view?usp=drive_link)



**Pictured Left:** Alessia Mahoney and Karissa Norris are current CHS Horticulture Science students, FFA members, and CTE Student Ambassadors. Here they are in the greenhouse preparing the plants for the upcoming **Cosby FFA Plant Sale which begins April 10th, 8 am - 3 pm Mon.-Friday. Cosby's Saturday sale will be April 20th from 9 am - 1 pm. Click [HERE](#) for more info.**

**HOSA**

## Pictured Left:

This year the HOSA Leadership Conference was in Chattanooga during Spring Break, March 25-27. Both high schools had students in attendance. Some CCHS HOSA members who went are pictured to the left in their professional attire. They are Hannah Suggs, Sierra Fisher, Kera Clevenger, and Leyna Vo.



As part of Mrs. Lane's Hospitality & Tourism Management II / III classes, some students were able to take part in a extraordinary field trip. These Cosby High School students left March 21st to board a flight to Florida, where they then boarded a Carnival passenger cruise ship to the Bahamas. Talk about a **TRUE TRAVEL** experience!!

Above, Kara Shults, Addy Woods, Samuel Austin, De'vonte Wigfall, Chase Joyce, and Josiah Dillard pose for their first of many cruise photo ops. To the right, Kara and Addy are taking in the sun on one of the many decks of the **Carnival Sunshine**.



**SkillsUSA**

**SKILLSUSA...**



## **“Metal Magic”-- Machining Technology Students Demonstrate Their Metalworking Skills**

Students in Mr. Chad Webb's Machining Technology POS classes have been working hard this year. In a dazzling showcase of craftsmanship, they unveil some of their metal masterpieces. Now, they're showing off what they've made and what they can do. It's a mini metal show where everyone gets to see what some can do with their hands and some heavy-duty equipment!



**Top Left:** Leland Clevenger showcases his micrometer stand. **Top Middle:** Nick Leffew runs the Haas CNC mill. **Top Right:** Aaron Sutton displays his tractor pin. **Bottom Left:** Jesse Gates operates the running manual mill as Coven Wise observes.

## **Exploring Career Opportunities & Engaging INDUSTRY PARTNERS**



### **Sonoco's Generosity Shines during CTE Visit**

On January 26th, in a heartwarming display of community collaboration, three representatives from **Sonoco Converted Paper** visited the Ben W. Hooper Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center. Students in the Principles of Machining II class expressed gratitude as they received generous donations from the company and some of its vendors. Their visit allowed students not only to gain insightful knowledge about work in the real world, but also to make numerous connections between local industry and the skills they are learning in the classroom.” To read the full article, click [HERE](#).



### **Unlocking Career Paths: Students Explore Manufacturing at Crenlo**

On March 21st, a group of enthusiastic students from CCHS's SkillsUSA and Work-Based Learning (WBL) programs embarked on an insightful journey to **Crenlo** in Greeneville, TN. The field trip aimed to provide these budding professionals with firsthand exposure to the diverse career opportunities available in the manufacturing industry.

Crenlo, renowned for its innovative solutions in the manufacturing sector, opened its doors to welcome the students. Throughout the day, they had the chance to witness the intricate processes involved in manufacturing high-quality products, gaining valuable insights into the company's operations.

The visit proved to be an eye-opener for the students as they interacted with industry experts, learning about the various roles and responsibilities within the manufacturing environment. From design and engineering to production and quality control, every aspect of the manufacturing process was meticulously explained, allowing the students to grasp the complexity and importance of each stage.

Moreover, the trip served as a platform for the students to understand the practical application of the skills they have been developing, not only in the classroom, but also through their participation in SkillsUSA and WBL programs. Also, it reinforced the significance of hands-on experience and real-world exposure in shaping their future careers.

The success of this field trip underscores the importance of experiential learning opportunities in empowering students to make informed career choices. **By collaborating with industry partners like Crenlo**, SkillsUSA and WBL programs continue to play a pivotal role in preparing the next generation of skilled professionals, ready to thrive in the dynamic world of manufacturing.



Above, Crenlo Human Resources Manager, Mr. David Burroughs, showcases some of the facility's innovative products, illustrating the diverse career opportunities within the manufacturing sector.



# Let's Talk about Work-Based Learning (WBL)

## Work-Based Learning (WBL)

**Work-Based Learning (WBL).** WBL is a dynamic educational approach that bridges the gap between academic learning and **real-world work** experiences, providing students with invaluable opportunities to explore careers, develop essential skills, and make meaningful connections in the workforce. *Check out more details below.*

Work-Based Learning (WBL) encompasses a variety of experiences that integrate classroom instruction with hands-on learning in professional settings. These experiences can take many forms, including internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, cooperative education programs, and more. By engaging in WBL opportunities, students gain practical knowledge, develop workplace skills, and clarify their career goals.

### BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

1. **Real-World Experience:** WBL provides students with the chance to apply academic knowledge in authentic work settings, gaining firsthand experience and insight into potential career paths.
2. **Skill Development:** Through WBL experiences, students develop essential skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management, which are highly valued by employers in today's workforce.
3. **Career Exploration:** WBL allows students to explore different industries and professions, helping them make informed decisions about their future careers.
4. **Networking Opportunities:** By interacting with professionals in their chosen field, students can build valuable connections and mentors who can offer guidance and support as they pursue their career goals.

### BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS

1. **Access to Talent:** WBL programs provide employers with access to motivated, enthusiastic students who bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the workplace.
2. **Pipeline for Recruitment:** By engaging with students through WBL experiences, employers can identify and cultivate talent, potentially leading to future employment opportunities.
3. **Community Engagement:** Participating in WBL allows employers to contribute to the development of their local workforce and build relationships with educational institutions and the broader community.



**Mrs. Gail Gray**  
WBL Coordinator  
[grayg@cocke.k12.tn.us](mailto:grayg@cocke.k12.tn.us)

Check out the WBL class from Semester 1. All together they logged over 1600 hours.

**First row:** Logan Bryant, Noah Caughran, Vraj Patel, Christopher Foster, McKenzie Banner, Savannah Millette, and Ian Shetley.

**Back row:** Hunter Hurst, Edward Luebke, Ely Smith, Aaron Sutton, Kaden Uhls



Are you going to be 16 or older this summer and interested in a **PAID** internship?? Check out details [HERE](#).  
**Deadline to apply is April 15th.**

#### 9th & 10th graders:

Interested in earning **Industry 4.0 Diploma Distinction**? You **MUST** be registered before the end of 10th grade. Get the details [HERE](#).

Any questions, concerns, suggestions for or corrections to this newsletter should be directed to:  
Mrs. Crystal McGaha, CTE Career Counselor, by emailing [mcgahac@cocke.k12.tn.us](mailto:mcgahac@cocke.k12.tn.us).



If you enjoyed this **The CTE Spotlight** and would like to stay informed about CTE activities/events within the Cocke County School System, click... -->

**SUBSCRIBE**

**Rising JRS & SRS: If you are interested in participating in WBL next year, see your school counselor and ask for a WBL Application ASAP!**