The CIESpoilight

Highlighting Career Technical Education in Cocke County Schools



The last nine-weeks of the school year always brings a lot of exciting events and activities to high school in general, but for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs none is more anticipated by our students/teachers more than their respective conferences, state conventions, and/or competitions.

The images provided capture the vibrant energy and hard work of some of our students who recently competed in various state-level competitions as part of Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). Each picture showcases future leaders and innovators across multiple fields. From hands-on technical challenges to leadership and professional development events, our students have truly shined, demonstrating their commitment to excellence and their

> potential to shape tomorrow's workforce. Join us in celebrating their achievements and their bright futures ahead!

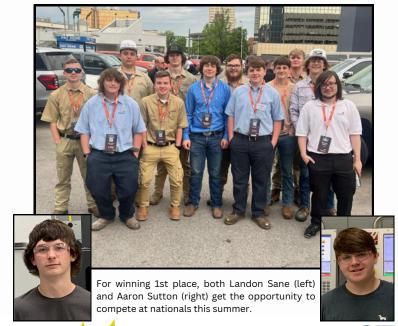
SKILLS "KILLS IT" IN CHATTANOOGA SkillsUSA



At the SkillsUSA Tennessee State Leadership Conference held from April 14-17, 2024, in Chattanooga, students competed in a variety of technical, trade, and leadership events. The conference featured over 135 competitions across different fields, bringing together more than 1,700 high school students and over 2,000 postsecondary students.

Twelve students from CCHS attended the competition this year and are pictured to the right. Five of them placed in their respective areas:

- Aaron Sutton 1st place, Plumbing
- Landon Sane 1st Place, Industrial Motor Controls
- Brennan Hobbs 3rd Place, Technical Drafting
- Nate Murphy and Cameron Wise 2nd place, Mechatronics (team event)





<-- Remember, this icon notes a CTE term throughout the newsletter.



...more from State...

= Program of Study



Representing the Hospitality & Tourism Management CTE **POS** at Cosby High School, Alannta Ball, Angelina Gonzalez, AuBree Hall, Kara Shults, and Ansley Cobble, (pictured here left-right) also attended the Skills conference.

Alannta, AuBree, and Angelina (below) competed for the first time in the Entrepreneurship team competition where teams develop and present business plans, showcasing their understanding of business concepts and innovation. They are designed to reflect real-world challenges and are

judged by industry professionals. Even though it was the team's first time participating in the event, they were awarded SILVER!

One unique competition at this conference was the Suitcase Display Occupational. This event required students to create a suitcase display that
visually represented a particular occupation. The displays needed to be

creative and informative, effectively conveying the essential aspects of the chosen occupation. Participants were judged on the clarity, creativity, and overall presentation of their displays. Ansley's is presented to the left.

Zoom in on that detail!!

Robotic Skills in Action

The Robotics: Urban Search and Rescue Challenge: Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) competition at the SkillsUSA Tennessee State Leadership Conference in Chattanooga involved high school teams tackling a variety of tasks designed to simulate real-world search and rescue scenarios.

In this competition, two-member teams were required to build and operate robots equipped with arm mechanisms. The main objectives were to navigate a 12' x 12' simulated residential area, locate, and safely dispose of simulated ordnances (hazardous items). The robots had to open doors, reach into mailboxes, and pick up objects, all while being remotely controlled from a command center equipped with a video feed from the robot's onboard camera.

The CCHS CTE team that competed consisted of **Carmelo Hurst** and **Aiden Kendall** (pictured below L-R respectively) along with the robot they designed for the task.





The Tennessee HOSA-Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference held with great enthusiasm and vigor, marking a significant event for students pursuing careers in the healthcare industry. The convention took place from Mar. 24-27 2024, in Chattanooga, TN and brought together hundreds of high school students, advisors, and healthcare professionals from across the state.

Showcasing Future future health professionals Health Professionals



In fact, three CHS students competed this year. Tabaya Spencer (above right) competed with a presentation about vaping and smoking. Amberlee Horne (above center) placed first in medical math. Gracie Stokely (above left) placed 4th in Phlebotomy. Gracie and Amberlee, who have been Cosby students from Kindergarten, are eligible to compete at the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Houston, Texas this June. They were busy the rest of the school year raising the funds for their travel.



Congrats to *Amberlee Horne* for receiving a **\$1000 HOSA scholarship!** Page 2



MARRIOTT

...EVEN MORE FROM STATE...



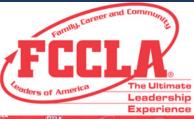
Cocke County High School also sent students to the Tennessee HOSA - Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference. Pictured in front of the Chattanooga Convention Center to the left is **Leyna Vo, Kera Clevenger, Sierra Fisher, and Hannah Suggs**.

Hannah Suggs competed in the Medical Math event where students demonstrated their ability to perform math skills essential for accurate patient care and medication administration. Leyna Vo participated in the Pathophysiology event which tested her knowledge of various diseases and disorders, focusing on the underlying mechanisms that cause the conditions. Kera and Sierra took part in a team leadership event where 60 teams created visual displays to educate others

about various health careers, promoting aware ness and interest in the healthcare field. Their exhibit highlighting CNAs is pictured here.







Strengthening Families and Serving Communities with FCCLA



FCCLA stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. It is a national CTSO for young men and women in Family and Consumer Sciences education in high school. The organization aims to promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences education, focusing on the multiple roles of being a family member, wage earner, and community leader.

This year's FCCLA State Leadership Conference was held on March 20-22, 2024 at the Gatlinburg Conference Center. Pictured left are CCHS FCCLA student members with their teacher advisors, Mrs. Rebekah Fisher (far left) and Mrs. Ashley Dudley (far right).



Pictured far left: **Trinity Blazer** won
Bronze in
Entrepreneurship.

Pictured closest left: **Reagan Webb** won

Bronze in Career

Investigation.

Pictured here
(L-R) Faith
Turner, Gracee
Suggs, and
Emma
Arrowood
received Bronze
in Chapter
Service Project
Display.

Career Technical Student Organization

...And Lastly, from STATE...



FFA Chapters End The Year Celebrating Successes**

FFA stands for Future Farmers of America. The organization is now known simply as the National FFA Organization to reflect its expanded mission of preparing members for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.

Over the last nine-weeks of the school year, the FFA chapters at both Cocke County High School and Cosby High School culminated a year of agricultural education and leadership with their participation in the Tennessee State FFA Convention, held from March 24-27, 2024, in Gatlinburg, TN. These dedicated students showcased their skills and achievements alongside peers from across the state. Then in May, both high schools celebrated their successes and recognized outstanding members with year-end banquets. Advisors Ms. Chelsay Burns and Mrs. Mahala Shumaker from Cocke County High School, along with Mrs. Jennifer Noe from Cosby High School, expressed immense pride in their students' hard work and dedication this year.



Congrats to CHS FFA member, Alee
Leatherwood
(pictured above) for not only your Poultry SAE recognition at State, but also being voted as the new FFA President at CHS!





Twenty members of the CCHS FFA Chapter attended the 96th annual TN State FFA Convention this year. Congratulations to the following individuals:

Nate Mason (pictured above, right) - STATE WINNER for Agriscience Fair Animal Systems, Olivia Lewis (above, left) - STATE WINNER for Small Animal Care Proficiency, and Emily Miller - State Degree Recipient. The chapter itself won multiple awards including 10% Increase, Superior Chapter award, and the Platinum PLOW Award.



CCHS FFA held their Banquet on May 9th. Pictured left are this year's winners with their advisors, Ms. Burns (far left) and Mrs. Shumaker (far right.)



Pictured above are CHS FFA Chapter members who received State Degree recognition.

This year, CHS's FFA banquet was held at the high school on May 16, 2024. Some tears were shed as this year's senior members "signed out" of their positions. Pictured here is Mrs. Noe with past VP, Rosemary McManaman -- and recent CHS graduate. Below

left shows newly "signed in" FFA
Officers. Bottom right, FFA
Reporter, Claire Holt, addresses
the group behind Kara Shults.





SOWING SUCCESS: Grants, Gardens, and Good Times in Our CTE Agriculture Programs

We Were Bloomin' and Boomin' in April

Spring is always a hectic time for our Horticulture Science POS students as they prepare for the greenhouse openings for the annual plant sales events. Both high schools kicked off their Spring FFA Plant Sale events in April.

CCHS's Greenhouse Grand Opening Day for the public was on Saturday, April 13th. It was a festive event with a silent auction and fun activities for children, like games and face painting. Vendors present included Big Al's Bent Creek BBQ, Red Byrd Boutique, Sweet Cheeks, and Hillbilly Hibachi. Emma Blair (here, bottom right) picks from some of the last remaining ferns this season.

For Cosby High School, senior **Sierra Lane** (top right) and junior **Christian Rymer** (here, left) show off their hard work with a fully stocked greenhouse for CHS's FFA. Their opening day was April 10th. Items available ranged from flats of flowers and potted plants to vegetables, such as cucumbers and bell peppers.

For both programs all proceeds go not only to help strengthen their FFA programs, but also to assist students with participating in local, regional, and state competitions/events.





In the Fall, the CCHS FFA program received a STEM grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority of \$5000 in order to build raised beds in the spring. Above Ms. Chelsay Burns, Horticulture Science CTE teacher, is presented with the check from the TVA Representative. The grant was very competitive having over 700 applicants from seven states--300 received funds. In fact, CCHS FFA was one of the few programs that received the maximum amount.

In March-April, students used them to grow both vegetables and fresh-cut flowers. To the right, Abby Wyatt is excited to start digging, and just can't wait to get her hands dirty!







CHS FFA Brings FARM DAY FUN to "the Hill"

On April 15th, the Cosby High School FFA chapter sponsored an exciting "Day at the Farm" event, delighting students from Cosby Elementary School. The event featured a wide range of animals, including horses, goats, dogs, turtles, and more, creating a fun and educational experience for the young visitors." event, delighting students from Cosby Elementary School. The event featured a wide range of animals, including horses, goats, dogs, turtles, and more, creating a fun and educational experience for the young visitors.

The FFA members organized and hosted the event, ensuring a memorable day for all in attendance. Everyone had the opportunity to interact with and learn about the animals, fostering an appreciation for agriculture and animal care. Advisor, Mrs. Noe expressed her pride in the students' efforts, highlighting the importance of such events in promoting agricultural education and community





Exploring Career Opportunities & Engaging INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Health Science Happenings: April's Drill and Thrills

UT Medical Center's LifeStar Helicopter Visits CTE

On April 5th, the CTE classes from the Health Science career cluster at CCHS were treated to an extraordinary event—a visit from the UT LifeStar helicopter team. This exciting and educational experience provided students with an in-depth look at the vital role of medical helicopters in emergency services and the various career opportunities available in flight nursing.

During their visit, the LifeStar team conducted a comprehensive discussion on the use of medical helicopters, highlighting their importance in transporting critically ill or injured patients to specialized medical facilities quickly and efficiently.

In addition to explaining the operational aspects of the helicopter, the LifeStar team provided valuable insights into the careers associated with air medical services. They detailed the training and qualifications required to become a flight nurse, emphasizing the unique skills and dedication needed for this challenging yet rewarding profession. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the professionals, gaining a clearer understanding of the pathways to pursuing a career in flight nursing.

CCHS Nursing Services POS CTE instructor, Mr. Mark Grigsby expressed his gratitude for the LifeStar team's visit, noting the profound impact such real-world experiences have on students' aspirations.







Real-World Readiness: Clinical Students Tackle Disaster Drill.





Right above, CHS student, Isaiah Cameron is assisting a WSCC Nursing student during the drill. Center above, CCHS's Kiley Meeks is being "treated" by CHS's Ariel Ottinger as part of the drill. Pictured left (L-R) are Kalen Hawkins and Kinley Williams either playing their parts or recuperating from the day's ordeal.

CTE Nursing Clinical students are comprised of students from both high schools where CHS students attend class at the Ben W. Hooper CTE Center. On April 11th, they teamed up with Walters State Community College (WSCC) Nursing students to participate in a comprehensive disaster drill at Tennova Newport Medical Center.

The disaster drill simulated a real-life emergency, challenging the students to apply their skills and knowledge in a high-pressure environment. Working alongside the WSCC Nursing students, the high school Clinicals students gained practical insights into emergency response protocols, patient care, and teamwork in crisis situations.

The experience was an excellent opportunity for the high school students to learn from seasoned professionals and their peers in a realistic setting. Both the instructors and students from CCHS expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in such a crucial training exercise, underscoring the importance of preparedness in healthcare careers

Health Pros Drop In: WSCC Leaders Share Wisdom

Beth Cruze, with WSCC's Nursing program, engaged the CTE Anatomy & Physiology students on April 19th at the Ben W. Hooper CTE Center. During the session, she covered the advantages and disadvantages of nursing, the requirements for entering WSCC's Nursing program, and shared her personal career journey. A former student, Ty Ponder, who is now an instructor in the Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant program, also participated. Students had the opportunity to ask questions to enhance their readiness for possible health field careers and more.





CTE Celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week

TAP Treats
Teachers to

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week from May 6-10, 2024, Mrs. Rebekah Fisher's Teaching as a Profession (TAP) students hosted a cozy "drop-in" tea party for the faculty and staff at Cocke County High School on Thursday, May 9th, during 3rd block. This event was a sweet way to say thank you to the amazing teachers and staff who work so hard all year long.

The tea party, organized and hosted by the TAP students, featured a delightful spread of tea, coffee, water, punch, fresh fruit, muffins, cheese and crackers, cucumber sandwiches, and pimento cheese sandwiches. It was a perfect chance for teachers and staff to take a break, relax, and enjoy some tasty treats.



Sponsored by FCCLA advisors Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Ashley Dudley, along with the CCHS administration, the event was a big hit. The support from everyone involved made it a special and memorable occasion.

The TAP students did a fantastic job planning and hosting the tea party, making sure teachers and staff felt appreciated and valued. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Teacher **Appreciation** Week gratitude for everything they do.



WBL Students "Get the Job Done"

To mark the completion of this year's Work-Based Learning classes, students were treated to a celebration party on May 3. Mrs. Gray stated that she was impressed with the work that the group completed.



CCHS Semester 2 WBL students: First row: Rachel Hartsell, Aaron Sutton, Caleb Hyatt, Allen Cureton, Andrew Roach, Gaige Buckner, Christopher Foster. Back row: Camdyn Holt, Josh Duncan, Vraj Patel, Noah Caughran, Nate Shults, Matthew Burton

CHS Semester 2 WBL students: (Left-right) Amberlee Horne, Brooke Freeman, Isaiah Cameron, and Josiah Dillard







Brewing Success

We appreciate it "a Latte"!:)

Starting in mid-April, the CCHS Hospitality and Tourism Management POS students began treating faculty and staff to specialty lattes. To help make it through the end of the year (not to mention the testing season), a lot of lattes with double shots of espresso were not only ordered, but also consumed.



= Work-Based Learning (providing real-work experiences)

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER -- or IS IT

CHECKOUT OUR OTE SUMMER CAMPS

While Alice Cooper famously sang "School's Out for Summer," it seems he might have been a bit premature in his declaration. This year, students have discovered that school is very much in session-with a twist. Instead of textbooks and tests, summer brings a new kind of classroom, filled with flowers, food, science experiments, and animals. These CTE-based (Career and Technical Education) day camps are turning the traditional summer break on its head, offering students a chance to learn and have fun in unique and engaging ways.

FLORAL DESIGN & CULINARY CAMPS AT COSBY HIGH SCHOOL



Above, students are learning and practicing knife dough at CHS's Culinary Camp.

From June 3-6, Cosby High School will host two camps, Floral Design and Culinary Art.. These camps promise to be both creative and culinary delights, allowing students to explore the art of floral arrangement and the culinary skills necessary to create delicious dishes. With Mrs. Jennifer Noe, participants will learn the fundamentals of floral design, including flower selection, arrangement techniques, and maintenance. With Mrs. cutting skills with play Michelle Lane, in the culinary camp, students will get hands-on experience in the kitchen, learning about food preparation, cooking methods, and presentation.



Lunch is served! Who doesn't like chicken tenders and apple crisp for dessert?!





Elsie Ford creates a grapevine wreath. The "before" and "after"

STEM & FLORAL CAMPS AT BEN W. HOOPER CTE CENTER

At the Ben W. Hooper CTE Center on CCHS's campus, three specialized camps were/are available, each focusing on a different area of interest.

- STEM Camp was held May 28-31 by CTE Coding teacher Mr. Dewayne Simpson, who worked with students and staff to integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subject areas. Through interactive projects and collaborative activities, students engaged in problem-solving and creative thinking.
- Floral Design Boot Camp at CCHS was conducted by Ag CTE Teacher, Ms. Chelsay Burns from May 28-31. It offered an intensive look into the world

floral artistry. Students will delve deeper into advanced techniques of flower arranging, bouquet creation, and event-specific floral design. This camp is perfect for those who have a keen interest in developing their skills in floral design beyond the basics.





The Animal Science Day Camp will be held on July 10th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the UT-Agriculture Extension Agency. The location is to be determined. The cost for this camp is \$50, reflecting the comprehensive nature of the program and the resources involved. Interested students may still register if interested in attending.

The day camp plans to provide an engaging experience for students interested in veterinary sciences, animal husbandry, and agricultural studies. It is an excellent opportunity for those considering a future in veterinary or animal science fields. If interested, please call 423-623-7531 or email sorr6@utk.edu.



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 Page 8

CTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CTE HEALTH SCIENCE TEACHER CHOSEN AS CHS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

On May 10th, Mrs. Kim Hurst was selected as Cosby High School's Teacher of the Year by her fellow faculty/staff. At CHS, she teaches the CTE Therapeutic Services POS classes, and is the HOSA sponsor, but Mrs. Hurst has been a nurse for 30 years, working in the ICU, OR, and ER.

Upon hearing the news, she stated, "To say I was shocked to be named Teacher of the Year is an understatement...I have so enjoyed watching my students grow and succeed. Thank you for the award, and thank you all who have answered this "green" teacher's questions for the last three years."

One of Mrs. Hurst's students, rising senior Tabaya Spencer, stated, "Mrs. Hurst has been my school mom. No matter if she is busy or not, she always has time or makes time for questions and concerns." CONGRATULATIONS, Mrs. Hurst!! We're proud to have you with us in CTE!



CCHS CTE HORTICULTURE SCIENCE TEACHER CHOSEN AS TAAE'S "TURN THE KEY" **AWARD WINNER**



teaching, but her FIRST YEAR teaching the CTE Horticulture Science POS classes at CCHS, her alma mater.

Good job, Ms. Burns! We're proud to work with you in CTE! We wish you good luck at the national "Turn The Key" competition in December.

CHS CTE HORTICULTURE SCIENCE TEACHER RECOGNIZED BY TN DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

On May 9th, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture posted the certificate below on their website honoring Mrs. Jennifer Noe as the "Best AG Teacher Ever." Hers was one of five certificates that the agency posted to celebrate teachers across the state during Teacher Appreciation Week.

In order to receive the recognition, Mrs. Noe was nominated by two students--Elsie Ford and Christian Rymer. Upon seeing the posting, Mrs. Noe stated, "I am in absolute shock over this...I am forever grateful to my kids (students)."



NEW AND RETURNING CTE STAFF CELEBRATE THEIR YEAR

In addition to Ms. Burns (above left), this year brought us Mr. Bill Miller who experienced his first year as the CTE teacher of the Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement POS classes within Cocke County Schools. Summing up his first year, he stated, "First year teaching has truly been a learning experience for me." Ms. Cynthia Black was welcomed to CTE as our new bookkeeper.



Mrs. Cynthia Black Mr. Bill



Mrs. Rebekah

Fisher

Mrs. Gail

Gray



Mrs. Crystal McGaha

Mrs. Fisher returned back to CTE from working as the district's Cafeteria Supervisor to fulfill both the Teaching as a Profession (TAP) and Hospitality & Tourism Management programs at CCHS. She stated that she really missed working with students, so she wanted to be back in the classroom.

This year, Mrs. Gray and Mrs. McGaha started working as new CTE staff taking the positions of WBL Coordinator and the new CTE Career Counselor respectively. After working as school counselor at CCHS for many years, Mrs. McGaha stated, "I have liked the change to CTE--getting to know my new role, and look forward to working with CTE students more next year.

CTE CH---CHANGES are Coming!

As the current school year comes to a close, exciting changes are already on the horizon for the next academic year in our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. While students and staff prepare for a well-deserved break, our CTE department is ramping up efforts to introduce innovative courses, new technologies, and enhanced learning opportunities. Some things planned for next year include (but may not be limited to):

- New moves -
 - Look for Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Webb to have new classrooms next year at CCHS. Mrs. Fisher is planning to move into the CTE Center when all prep work gets completed for the new Hospitality/Tourism room, including a mock host podium, hotel desk, and retail area.
 - At CHS, Mrs. Hurst is looking forward to moving into a new classroom-- one with its own "hospital room" mock-up.
- New course(s)
 - o Jobs for America's Graduates (or JAG) will be a new program available to students in 24-25. Check out the website www.jagtn.org for more info.
 - o SDC Criminal Justice will now be the 2nd course in the Criminal Justice & Law Enf POS, adding Criminal Justice III: Forensics & Investigation

Look out Middle School!! Here We Come!

Cocke County Schools and CTE is thrilled to announce a major development in education for our middle school students. Construction is underway for the district's new Innovation Center at the Newport Plaza—specifically in the old Wal-Mart shopping center on the west end of town. This state-of-the-art facility is set to open its doors next school year, and with it comes a groundbreaking opportunity for our 7th and 8th graders.



Starting in the spring semester, 7–8th grade students from all elementary schools will be transported once a week to the Innovation Center to participate in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. This initiative aims to introduce them to a variety of career paths early on, providing a solid foundation and clearer vision as they prepare for high school and beyond. The CTE programs at the Innovation Center will offer introductory courses in three dynamic career clusters: Health Science, Agriculture, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Additionally, an interactive Career Exploration area will allow students to engage hands-on with different career options, helping them discover their interests and talents.

The goal of this early exposure to CTE is multifaceted:

- Early Career Exploration: By engaging with various fields, students can begin to identify their passions and strengths at a younger age.
- **Informed Decision–Making:** Students will be better equipped to make informed decisions about their high school coursework and future career paths.
- **Skill Development:** The programs are designed to build foundational skills that will benefit students in any career they choose to pursue.

Stay tuned for more exciting news as we prepare to launch this innovative educational experience for our students! Together, we are building a brighter future for Cocke County.



Explore the mock-up of the new Health Science Classroom above.



Missed our first issue? - Don't fret.

Just click on the picture to the left. If that doesn't work, then copy and paste this url into your browser:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGBk_R2eKs/eNcaDQLX5wJKSkx6bofFjA/view?

<u>utm_content=DAGBk_R2eKs&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer</u>

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.

SUBSCRIBE



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