

Top 10 Things Parents Should Know about Career & Technology Education

1. **Career and Technology Education (CTE) - it's more than a name change!** Career and Technology Education (formerly vocational education) gives students a head start on college and careers in high-skill, high-wage and high-demand occupations organized in ten different Career Clusters* including programs in Information Technology, Teaching, Construction Technology, Homeland Security, Health Professions, and more.
2. **CTE is for the career and college bound.** In today's workplace, continued education and training are given. CTE programs include a sequence of 4 or 5 high school courses taken in addition to the academic core classes of math, science, English and social studies. Students completing both the academic requirements and a CTE program have the advantage of graduating from high school prepared for college and the workplace.
3. **CTE students are able to earn college credits and certifications** to give them an extra advantage after earning their diplomas. It's true! Most of the CTE programs offered provide students with an opportunity to earn college credit, industry-recognized certifications or both. As an added bonus, nearly every CTE program connects to a similar community college program which makes it possible for students to transition from high school to college.
4. **Students apply what they learn in academic classes** – and this applied learning increases retention and understanding.
5. **Instructors are industry professionals teaching with up-to-date equipment and technology.** CTE teachers have worked in their fields as part of their certification. Industry advisory boards help program design and equip learning labs. For example, Culinary Arts students work in commercial kitchens; Cisco (Information Technology) students use state-of-the-art networking software, and Automotive Technician students hone their skills using tools, equipment and curriculum recommended by The National Automotive Training and Education Foundation (NATEF).
6. **Parents and students can save money!** High school is the only time individuals can obtain education focused on career preparation without writing tuition check! High school students can earn licenses and credentials, such as an EMT or LNA, ServSafe or a range of computer software certifications, often at a reduced cost compared to the cost of obtaining certifications and licenses outside of high school. CTE students can also save money on college tuition by earning college credit. Students completing CTE programs obtain knowledge and skills that can help them achieve better paying jobs while they are attending college.
7. **Programs are designed for the future.** Concord Area industries and businesses partner with the CRTC, community colleges and the New Hampshire State Department of Education to create programs of study that prepare students with the knowledge and skills required for current and future careers in today's global economy
8. **Internships and work-based learning opportunities provide "real world" work experiences and the prospect of developing a professional network.** CTE programs frequently include a final internship or work-based learning experience which helps students develop a network of co-workers and managers who may also become valuable references.
9. **Leadership and interpersonal skills are expanded!** Students enrolled in CTE programs can join local chapters of national student organizations such as the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Participating in Career and Technical Student Organizations like Skills USA, and other state and national career competitions builds confidence as students demonstrate their skills and knowledge.
10. **Beginning of their Future.** To enroll your teen or to learn more about CTE in your community, contact your local school guidance department or : The Concord Regional Technology Center - 170 Warren St. - Concord, NH 03301
603-225-0800 - Steve Rothenberg, Director - email: info@theCRTC.net