

## Career and Technical Education Highlights for February 2024

### CTE Celebrations

#### ***Best Social Media Account Managers in FCPS***

Congratulations to Amy Hard, Career Experience Specialist at Fairfax Academy, for being selected as one of the best social media account managers in FCPS! This award is presented by the FCPS Office of Communications during their 2024 School Communicator's Conference. You can check out Amy's work on Instagram (@fairfaxacademy\_fcps), X (@Fairfax\_Academy), and Facebook (@FairfaxAcademy). Way to go Amy!

### Business and Information Technology

Business and Information Technology (BIT) students from Hayfield SS had a blast joining Microsoft as part of NVTC's Aim High initiative. The day was all about soaking in knowledge and having fun. The BIT students got the inside scoop from Microsoft pros on a career panel, jumped into interactive exercises for some real-world know-how, and even got hands-on programming experience with an Arduino robot! The students couldn't stop talking about how interactive and eye-opening the trip was, giving them a cool perspective on IT and STEM careers.

Aim High is all about making sure high schoolers like these get a taste of the tech world through sessions, discussions, workshops, tours, and more. We're prepping them for awesome careers down the road!

### Family and Consumer Science

#### ***School Board Dinner***

Chef Appleby and the Junior Chef Team from the Marshall Academy culinary arts program hosted the FCPS School Board for a pasta dinner.

#### ***Event for Staff***

Family and Consumer Science students from Stone MS hosted an event for the staff. Teachers brought in their younger children, and they worked with the middle school students to roll, cut, and decorate cookies! This was the 5th year hosting the event. The middle school FCS students baked several hundred cookies ahead of time so there was also one room set up where the families could enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. What a fun way to bring the Stone MS staff together.

### ***Collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Services***

A collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Services department and the Culinary arts program of Falls Church HS is underway! Together, students under the direction of FCPS employees, will benefit from an authentic learning experience in the school cafeteria. The experience will include:

- serving line support
- daily production of breakfast for the next day
- food preparation of vegetables, wraps, parfaits, and super snacks
- organization of dry food inventory
- replenishing supplies on food service lines, and sanitation of all large and small equipment

The students were thrilled to put their skills to work for their school community!

### ***Emoji Pillows***

Machine operation and fine motor skills were applied by Glasgow MS FCS students under the direction of their instructor Omega Smith to create their emoji pillows.

### ***Sewing and Presentation Skills***

7th grade Family and Consumer Science students at Thoreau MS are showing off their sewing and presentation skills during their childcare unit! Students made finger puppets to go along with classic children's stories and are presenting their work to their classmates with a little show! What a fun and interactive project!

### ***Citizenship Topics***

Students in Mrs. Peterson's Family and Consumer Sciences 8 class at South County MS researched and created visual presentations on various citizenship topics to market citizenship. Topics included: Family Citizenship, School Citizenship, Global Citizenship, Community Citizenship, and Environmental Citizenship, Reducing Waste and Conserving Resources. Their mission was to convince others to be good citizens in all facets of their lives by marketing their ideas. These projects combined several Career and Technical Education Competencies all in one project. In addition, the project provided an opportunity for the students to utilize skills comprised in the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate attributes of Collaborator, Communicator, Ethical & Global Citizen, and Creative and Critical Thinker. The students created creative, convincing slogans, and presentations!

## Health and Medical Science

### *Inova Fairfax Hospital Visit*

100 students from Falls Church Academy Exploring Health Science and Medical Assisting classes visited Inova Fairfax Hospital for a day long medical mentoring experience! During the event, students participated in a variety of different experiences and learned how:

- Back surgeries are done with orthopedic surgeons
- Tracheostomy tubes are put in with respiratory specialists
- VR and AI simulations are used in medical training in the Inova Healthcare System
- Arterial sticks are done using a phlebotomy/arterial arm
- To take blood pressures and hear heart and lung sounds from UVA Medical students

In addition to the hands-on learning, students ate lunch and conversed with medical professionals who gave great advice to the students at their table and shared their career and life pathways.

### **Veterinary Science**

The Veterinary Science students at Chantilly Academy have been busy this month! They introduced prospective students to the resident tortoise, Sheldon, during a recruiting event. They also welcomed dogs into the classroom for grooming.

### **Marketing:**

A special shout out to marketing student from Fairfax HS who was featured on [NBC4 Washington](#)! The student shared his DECA project - “Make It Market” with the news channel. For this project, he worked with elementary students to learn more about marketing and entrepreneurship.

### **Career and Technical Student Organization:**

CTSO stands for Career and Technical Student Organization. They help students extend their learning by offering competitive events in CTE program areas. FCPS participates in the following CTSOs:

- DECA (Marketing)
- FBLA (Business and Information Technology)
- FCCLA (Family and Consumer Sciences)
- FFA (Veterinary Science/Agriculture)
- Educators Rising (Family and Consumer Sciences)
- HOSA (Health and Medical Sciences)
- SkillsUSA (Trade and Industrial)

- TSA (Technology and Engineering)

### ***FBLA***

The Northern Virginia Region of FBLA held their Regional Leadership Conference at Edison High School. Over 650 students competed in 74 events ranging from Accounting and Business Ethics to Digital Animation and Networking Infrastructures. Students took objective tests, skills tests, gave presentations and created programs to compete in the wide variety of events. That afternoon, over 200 FCPS students took the stage and were awarded first, second or third place medals in recognition of their hard work and achievements. Of those winners, more than 150 have now qualified to compete in the FBLA State Leadership Conference which will be held in Reston on April 12 and 13.

In addition to the competitions, the FBLA Regional Officer Elections were also held during the conference. FBLA members from Edison, Chantilly, Robinson, and Westfield were elected and installed to lead the Northern Virginia Region of FBLA for the 2024 – 2025 school year. Please contact Stephanie Holt ([seholt@fcps.edu](mailto:seholt@fcps.edu)) for any additional information about FBLA.

### ***HOSA***

The 2024 HOSA District Leadership Conference was held at Chantilly Academy. Approximately 70 students from Chantilly, Falls Church, West Potomac Academies as well as Plum Center competed in contests such as CPR/First Aid, EMT, Health Career Display, Health Career Photography, Medical Spelling, and more.

### ***SkillsUSA***

Chantilly Academy hosted SkillsUSA students from 8 high schools across FCPS and Arlington Public Schools. Contestants had the opportunity to show off in the lab spaces and test their project-based learning in collision repair, auto maintenance and light repair, carpentry, cosmetology, and crime scene investigations! Edison Academy hosted a specialized electrical construction competition with students from both Arlington Career Center and Edison Academy.