

Ranken Dual Enrollment

By G. Crimm



Bridgett Wings

Ranken Technical College and the Construction Careers Center Charter High School have entered into an agreement with Ranken Tech to provide dual enrollment for high school seniors who have passed Ranken's entrance exam and interview process. The opportunity was open to all seniors and CCC had three successful students with two of them being enrolled to attend for second semester. A very important component of this program is there is no cost to our students to attend.

Please help me congratulate Bridgett Wings and Jean-Paul Soucy for another milestone! Bridgett plans to pursue a career in electrical engineering and is enrolled in Electrical Systems Design. Jean-Paul plans to pursue a career in Welding and is enrolled in Industrial Technology.

Seniors enrolled in this program successfully completing the courses will be eligible for a scholarship in the fall of 2011 to continue at Ranken Technical College.



Jean-Paul Soucy

CCC Sports Update

By G. Wilson

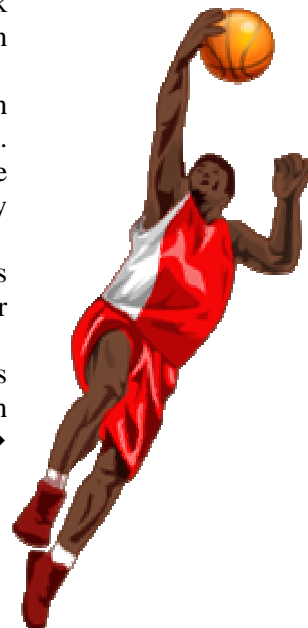


This Construction Careers Centers 2010 soccer season ended with an exciting game. The Bobcats beat Yeshiva 1 to 0 in overtime! Senior Roderick Fields scored the winning goal and was truly an asset to the team.

The Bobcats basketball team took second place in their holiday tournament over the winter break. Hopefully, this momentum will continue into the regular season which gets underway early January with a game against Cleveland ROTC.

The Lady Bobcats basketball and the cheerleaders are also working hard as they prepare to start their season in January as well.

Schedules and information for sporting events is available at www.constructioncareerscenter.org in the "Current Students" section (Current Students → Activities → Sports).



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Gina Washington

Home of the Best Career and Technical Education in St. Louis!

Happy New Year! I am very pleased with how well first semester ended and look forward to seeing more academic improvements during second semester. The school administration and teachers continue to make progress on the following goals: to develop and support high performing students; to achieve full enrollment of active and engaged learners; and to develop and support high performing teachers. In alignment with these goals, we have added two Instructional Coordinators and a Success Counselor to support the efforts of these goals. One of the new programs implemented in November through the leadership of our new Success Counselor, Trecia Buckner, is the Teacher Home Visit Program. The program allows teachers to meet with parents off campus to enhance better lines of communication between the families and the school. Many parents and teachers have positively commented on how much they appreciated this new program.

As the school year continues, please feel free to contact me for any questions that you may have at 314-588-9991 ext. 101. Thanks for your continued support of Construction Careers Center Charter High School "The Home of the Best Career and Technical Education in St. Louis!"

With Bobcat Pride,

Gina Washington

Teacher Home Visits: "Coming to a neighborhood near you..."

By T. Buckner

CCC has hit the ground running with the implementation of the Teacher Home Visit Program. Recently, Executive Director Karen Kalish trained all of CCC's staff to do home visits and begin fostering positive family relationships between the school and the community it serves. Ms. Madden and Mr. Weaver were the first pair to go out into the homes of two students bringing back invaluable information about the students in a more personal setting.

CCC is also hosting the first family event with the theme: Building a Caring Cohesive Community, on January 25th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Our first selected group will enjoy a nice dinner, games, seminars and even free haircuts by our very own in-house certified barber, Mr. Wilson!

We are off to a great start with 25% of our goal reached within the first two weeks! We hope to keep the momentum going!



Melanie Madden and Cornelius Weaver were the first home visit teachers.

Project Lead The Way

By A. Butler



The Project Lead The Way program at Construction Careers Center is in the second year of implementation and continuing to inspire more students to pursue careers in engineering. The first steps of an enhanced program for this year were the movement of the PLTW lab to the former first floor library and the purchase of 28 new student computers to run the required Autodesk software. This move gave the instructors and students more room to integrate both the computer and hands-on components of the Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering curricula. In addition to the new lab space, Mr. Carnes led a field trip of future engineers to Florissant Valley Community College in early November to learn more about the engineering program. CCC students received compliments from the college staff on their knowledge of the software and ability to solve engineering related problems.

Instructional Coaches

By K. Henneboehle and D. DeFiglio

With new SIG funding and a renewed focus on student achievement, CCC hired two Instructional Coaches, Daniel DeFiglio and Kelsey Henneboehle, to assist teachers in driving their students toward excellence. Dan and Kelsey spend time observing teachers in the classroom, and working directly with teachers to improve their instruction. By outlining specific strategies teachers can employ to improve instruction, Dan and Kelsey provide support to teachers that will help them achieve their goals with their students.

This year at CCC, with the guidance of the Instructional Coaches and the Vice Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, the faculty is making many changes that will improve the academic climate of CCC. Teachers will be tracking individual student achievement and progress in each core course, and curriculum maps have been created for those courses. With these measures in place, CCC teachers will be able to monitor student success on Missouri state standards, and accommodate for students with different abilities and skills.



Kelsey Henneboehle assists Mitch Avitt (science) with preparation for his classroom.

Career Coaching

By G. Crimm



CCCP participants engaged in a group discussion.

The Construction Career Coaching Program (CCCP) is off to a good start with eleven senior participants that have committed to pursue careers in the construction industry. The students' interests range from carpentry, heating and cooling, construction business management and engineering to architecture. Participants will follow the legacies of four graduating classes pursuing careers in construction.

The impetus for this program is to provide the construction industry with a more diverse workforce and business owners. CCCP participants have funding that provides them with a scholarship, tuition for dual enrollment, registration fees to attend conferences and transportation resources.

Coaches for the program will be from the skilled trades and professional track in the construction industry. Participants and coaches will meet at least twice a week and attend business luncheons/dinners, and participants will shadow their coaches and colleagues at work. The program has been a launching pad for construction careers for participants.

School Improvement Grant (SIG): Focusing on the Things That Matter Most

By P. Mackay

Many things matter in changing school and classroom practices to improve student learning. The focus of CCC's School Improvement initiative is to focus on the things that matter most so that the end result is a student who is prepared for both work and lifelong learning.

Following are some examples of the things that the CCC staff feel matter most for improving CCC's student achievement and some examples of the efforts that have occurred since the last *Blueprint*:

It matters that faculty and staff are continuously aware of student progress towards achievement goals. Since the last *Blueprint*, student data in the areas of attendance have been posted in the cafeteria. Student data concerning progress on the Northwest Educational Achievement Assessment has been shared with all staff. Awareness of our shortcomings and successes is critical to driving continued improvement.

It matters that teachers are aware that they have the most influence on increased student achievement. Since the last *Blueprint*, teachers have received professional development in effective instructional practices and have had their proficiency in instructional areas mapped.

It matters that parents are intimately connected to the school and assist teachers with information about their child so that teachers can plan the best instruction for that student. Since the last *Blueprint*, all CCC teachers have been trained on how to visit with the parents of CCC students in the student's home. Visits began this month with the goal of visiting 40 homes of freshmen students. So far teacher feedback is very positive.

It matters that teachers work together. Since the last *Blueprint*, many members of the teaching staff have been meeting for Collaboration Saturdays. These Saturdays are dedicated to discussions about how to create a learning environment that fosters increased student achievement.

The casual observer might wonder if we have bit off a little more than we can chew in our improvement efforts, but they should rest assured that there is a commitment to this systems approach to improving student achievement. A lot is happening at CCC in the area of school improvement, and the focus will always be on the things that matter most.