



San Joaquin County ensures Students are Successful in Life:

COUNTY PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH CHOICES THROUGH CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

HERE AT SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION we believe it is our duty to provide the educational services needed to ensure our students are successful in life. Throughout the years, we have expanded and added programs to meet their needs by bringing innovative lessons into the classroom.

We understand students need choices, and it is our responsibility to open their eyes to various

opportunities. Through Career and Technical Education, we use career pathways to help prepare and educate students for post-secondary education or the workforce.

From creating career awareness for special need students through Workability to providing young adults with construction and leadership skills through YouthBuild San Joaquin, we enhance students' academic achievement while meeting industry needs.

We have always found value in Career and Technical Education, but even more so in today's world. Classes have changed from keyboarding, and beginning woodworking and metal shop classes to the need for capstone courses in everything from engineering to nursing preparation. Integration of traditional curriculum with cutting edge Career and Technical Education programs bring a real-world relevance to students, and a real world application and preparation for our business partners.

Most importantly, we make sure our students come first and regardless of circumstances, he or she has the opportunity for a quality education. To guarantee our students gain the needed skills, we have partnered with our local school districts, regional

programs, and community members. Through these connections students receive education and experience from skilled professionals in their field of choice. As a result, these classes lead to a capstone course known as the regional occupation program, found in eight of the local school districts. From there a number of students go on to receive internships and jobs within our community.

As you will see in the following pages, Career and Technical Education is offered throughout San Joaquin County. I encourage you to contact us if you would like to learn more about any of these programs. Until then, enjoy this edition of Chalkboard.

~ Fredrick A. Wentworth, Ed.D.

San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools

What does your child want to do after high school?

There are a number of choices for your child's future and K-12 public education helps lead to community college courses, four year universities, or career options. Help your child funnel his or her passion into a great job and future by working with your school's counselor, teachers, or career center – help ensure that he or she is making the right choice.

Many career paths start with taking Career Technical Education (CTE) classes in high school and community college. These courses build upon one another and can prepare your child for employment in rewarding careers.



LINCOLN BRINGS MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOCKTONIANS THROUGH NEW ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY

Lincoln Unified School District is proud to announce the construction of Lincoln High School's new Engineering and Construction Academy. Teachers Jeff Wright, California Teacher of the Year, 2001, and Dr. David Dabaco partnered to undertake this one-of-a-kind project, which will provide new opportunities for Stockton students interested in seeking future employment in the construction industry.

The Engineering and Construction Academy represents one more stride toward meeting the needs of all students.

"This outreach effort is possible due to the unwavering support of Superintendent Steve Lowder, Lincoln

High School Principal Debbi Holmerud, and the Lincoln Unified School Board," said Wright.

Working with the district's grant writers, Mr. Wright, Dr. Dabaco, and Julie Hisaka secured \$8.5 million in both federal and state funding to build the new academy. Additionally, Wright and Dabaco solicited approximately \$1 million in donations from local businesses and trade unions working

"THERE IS A GREAT SENSE OF FULFILLMENT WHEN YOU DRIVE BY SOMETHING YOU HELPED BUILD. WE WANT MORE STUDENTS TO HAVE THAT SAME SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT."
- MATHEW SMITH OF SMITH HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING IN STOCKTON.

in the construction industry.

The Academy will provide students in grades 9-12 with a solid academic foundation in a learning environment that will lead to engineering and construction careers, as well as allow students to continue their education in related construction

fields at apprenticeship training centers, colleges, and universities. The philosophy of the Academy is to provide hands-on and project-based learning that explores careers in the building trades and construction industry throughout CTE and academic core curriculum.

The Academy has three state-approved career paths: Residential and Commercial Construction, Mechanical Construction, and Wood Products and Cabinetry. Among a number of other skills, the academy will also provide

students with a 10-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration Safety Certification Card, a California Driver's License, and a four-year CTE digital portfolio detailing their mechanical, technical, and hands-on skills necessary for pre-employment and continuing education in the Building Trades and Construction Industry Career Sector.

"We hope that this new academy will serve as a model program for other comprehensive high schools throughout the state while simultaneously building California's future workforce," said Superintendent Lowder.

If you are interested in learning more about The Engineering and Construction Academy, call 953-8712.



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT LOWDER JOINED WITH TEACHERS JEFF WRIGHT AND DAVE DABACO, PRINCIPAL DEBBI HOLMERUD, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO CELEBRATE THE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY GROUNDBREAKING.



FRONT OF FUTURE LINCOLN USD'S ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY.

Tracy Brings New Careers into the Classroom: NEW HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTS ACADEMICS WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

John C. Kimball High School, located in Tracy Unified, will open its doors to students for the first time in August 2009. As a full comprehensive high school, Kimball will have four curricular pathways: Mass Communications, Health Sciences, The New American High School and an Architecture and Construction Technology/Management pathway. Each pathway will prepare students to enter college by allowing them to meet the University of California

a-g requirements. Students will also have the opportunity to enroll in career technical courses that will support their academics with relevant experiences.

The school's staff is currently in the process of developing curriculum; the focus is academic rigor with relevance. For example, the Architecture and Construction Technology/Management pathway will provide students with an opportunity to complete their core classes such as English, Algebra 2, Modern Language,

Physics, and Social Science. Electives may include Computer Aided Design in grade 10, a construction or architecture course in grade 11, followed by a project management course senior year. While these courses are examples, the emphasis in course sequence is to move students

through courses that become more interesting and challenging as students progress.

The integration of career technical courses and challenging core curriculum leads to higher achievement for all students. It also provides an

excellent opportunity for students to graduate from high school prepared to complete college or to enter into an industry.

"The staff of John C. Kimball High School is very excited to have the opportunity to build a school that is focused on student achievement through rigorous and relevant curriculum," said Superintendent James Franco.

For more information about John C. Kimball High School, call 830-3200.



DR. JOHN C. KIMBALL, SCHOOL NAMESAKE, AND THE TUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION BREAK GROUND ON JOHN C. KIMBALL HIGH SCHOOL.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to a 2001 Russell Sage Foundation study, CTE graduates are 10-15 percent more likely to be in the labor force, and earn 8-9 percent more than graduates of academic programs.

Career and Technical Education can provide a foundation of skills that enables high school graduates to be gainfully employed -- either full-time or while in college. Nearly two-thirds of all high school graduates of Career and Technical Education programs enter some form of postsecondary program.

For more information on Career and Technical Education, visit www.acteonline.org/about/.

STOCKTON'S WEBER INSTITUTE IS A MODEL FOR CAREER PATHWAYS

Lisa Perez, an eighth-grade student at Van Buren Elementary, tested a pneumatic impact gun on a red Toyota Camry during the Weber Institute of Applied Science and Technology's Expo. She was one of 90 eighth-graders taking part in Weber Institute's first school-wide demonstration for potential students.

School administrators used the event to market the specialized high school campus that boasts academies in auto mechanics, technology - specifically web-site design and digital photography - and nursing/health careers.

Seniors showed off their yearlong projects and introduced a variety of career pathway disciplines to groups of incoming freshmen. For instance, Sami Clapp displayed her photography, web-site design,

and desktop publishing expertise ----all skills gained during her tenure at Stockton Unified School District's specialty career and technical education high school.

"I wouldn't have traded my education here for anything," Sami said.

Over in the health wing, Janet Cano talked about her project on Lasik Eye Surgery. Janet completed enough classes and volunteer hours in the community to take the Certified Nursing Assistant test in June. She plans to pursue a career in the medical field, where jobs range from nurses and doctors to X-ray technicians, phlebotomists and paramedics, and said her education at Weber Institute kindled a lifelong interest.

"This school offers more opportunities than other schools," Janet said. "It's really preparing us for the business world."

Not to be outdone, auto mechanics spent 150 hours last school year turning a gas-guzzling red 2002 Chrysler Neon into a fully-functioning electric car. Weber Institute is a model for schools looking to

increase career pathways through smaller learning communities, which SUSD Superintendent Anthony Amato is spearheading throughout the district. It is expected that each comprehensive high school will open several similar academies - options may range from business/entrepreneurship, culinary arts, travel and tourism, green technology and others that will prepare students for the emerging workforce of the 21st Century - come August of 2009. For more information about SUSD's career pathway programs, call 933-7025.



Career and Technical Education

provides students with 15 pathways to success. Here lies a career path for almost every student; help your child choose his or hers!

1. Agriculture and Natural Resources Industry
2. Arts, Media, and Entertainment Industry
3. Building Trades and Construction Industry
4. Education, Child Development, and Family Services Industry
5. Energy and Utilities Industry
6. Engineering and Design Industry
7. Fashion and Interior Design Industry
8. Finance and Business Industry
9. Health Science and Medical Technology Industry
10. Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation Industry
11. Information Technology Industry
12. Manufacturing and Product Development Industry
13. Marketing, Sales, and Service Industry
14. Public Services Industry
15. Transportation Industry

imagine-IT Opens Eyes To New Technology

Walking into Venture Academy's Family of Schools' new San Joaquin Career and Technical High School, also called "imagine-IT," has a different feel than traditional high schools. There are big screens located along corridor walls that stream live clips of student projects and activities; students each have a computer they use during math class; and flight simulators and wind tunnels are part of the school's thematic approach to instruction. On August 18, more than 100 students walked through imagine-IT's doors for the first time taking in this new experience.

"imagine-IT gives students the opportunity to explore their future career goals," said Traci Florence, an English teacher at imagine-IT.

The new school is open to grades 9 through 12 and provides students with hands-on, career-based studies that allow them to review 10 possible career paths including biotechnology, digital electronics, alternative energy, science, architectural design, and much more during their first two years of school. Their last two years with imagine-IT are used to focus on their subject area of interest.

"My favorite part about this school is that I get to learn about subjects that aren't offered at other high schools, like aviation," said Ashlee Cash, a senior at imagine-IT. "My goal is to become a helicopter paramedic, and I know the things I am now learning will be useful in my future." For more information about imagine-IT, visit www.ventureacademyca.org, or call 468-5940.

NEW! San Joaquin County Public Schools are excited to announce its new monthly eNewsletter, which will contain important information critical to your child's education. Sign-up for *Chalkboard's* monthly eNewsletter NOW by visiting, www.school2parent.us/ca/sjc.

This publication is a collaborative effort between San Joaquin County's local school districts and County Office of Education. Thanks to the advertising included in the envelope, your local schools are able to provide *Chalkboard* to you without diverting any funds from the classroom. If you have any questions about *Chalkboard*, call 468-4937 or email jratto@sjcoe.net.