

Tech News



Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall 2007

Meet Mr. Dado



Technical Guidance Counselor

THE CAREER PLAN

A student-centered and student managed plan to identify career goals.

Many hours have been spent redesigning the career planning process used by students to evaluate their progress in reaching post secondary goals. Mr. Dado meets with every student to help chart their progress, determine their academic needs, and modify their plan as necessary. We ask parents to review your child's plan and become an active partner in guiding your child as they navigate down their career pathway.

For information call:
Bill Dado
508-347-3045 ext. 5115
dadow@tantasqua.org

Career and Technical Ed Move to Higher Standards

Tantasqua teachers work to implement CTE Frameworks

With the release of the (CTE) Career & Technical Education Frameworks, our instructors have spent in-service days mapping curriculum to determine the necessary modifications to the curriculum content. This process requires each program

Education has been developing the necessary testing to determine every student's level of competency. State-wide committees have been formed to design the test for ten programs each year. There are forty-three recognized programs in Massachusetts that are referred to as Chapter 74 approved. Tantasqua has eight approved areas of study.

Students will participate in an on-line assessment of 200 questions in the spring of their junior year.

This will be followed by a performance based test where students will be asked to demonstrate their skill levels by completing a project or task during the fall of their senior year. Students who succeed in both assessments will earn a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency that will be an industry recognized level of achievement.

Your child's teachers have been hard at work preparing their students to be ready for the COP test. We are comfortable that our students will be adequately prepared.

to design instruction for the following frameworks: Health & Safety, Technical Skills, Embedded Academics, Employability Skills, Management & Entrepreneurship, and Underlying Principle of Technology. The six curriculum frameworks identify the breadth of the instruction that will be assessed of all technical students beginning with the Class of 2010.

While instructors work to combine these elements and develop learning activities that blend instruction from each of the six frameworks, the Dept. of

*Certificate of
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Six Technical Students Earn John & Abigail Adams Scholarship

John Dunbar, Alex Fogarty, Matthew Lisiecki, Jessica Ruppert, David Thompson, and Juliet Zietkowski joined students from across the Commonwealth by qualifying for this scholarship by scoring in the Advanced category in English Language Arts or Mathematics and Advanced or Proficient in the other subject area on the grade 10 MCAS assessments, **and** in the top 25% of all students in the district on the same tests.

Each recipient will receive a tuition waiver to a state or community college or university for eight (8) consecutive traditional semesters or four (4) years.

The recipient must begin to use the waiver in the first fall semester following graduation from high school. The waiver shall remain in effect as long as each student maintains a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The tuition waiver applies to all Massachusetts public state colleges and universities with the exception of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and the Massachusetts College of Art.

Congratulations to our students who have strived to achieve in both academic and in technical classes. Thank you to your parents who have supported your efforts. You are well on your way to success in your career pathway.

Our students are different! They make noise, they get out of their seats, they are active learners.

Computer Tech Earns Education & Environmental Leadership Award



FundingFactory is one of the organizations we work with to recycle printer cartridges and cell phones. Of its approximately 20,000 participants the Computer Technology Department has been recognized as one of less than 100 participants to have achieved 20,000 recycling points since joining. We were recognized with a Successories Plaque "The Essence of Success" with the following inscription:

"Successful is the person who has lived well, laughed often and loved much, who has gained the respect of children, who leaves the world better than they found it, who has never lacked appreciation for the earth's beauty, who never fails to look for the best in others or give the best of themselves."

Tech News

Celebrity Chef Visits the Cornerstone Cafe

Recently Culinary Arts students were visited by celebrity Chef J. Warren. He can be seen regularly on NBC and CBS Morning Shows. Besides his being a nationally recognized media personality and television host; he is a Five Star Certified Executive Chef. He is most

famous for his series for creating "30 Minute Gourmet" meals and performing his "Joy of Chocolate" magic.

During his recent visit to the Cornerstone Cafe he shared his experience and philosophy about pursuing a career as a chef. He asked the students why they selected their career path and

New CAD/Drafting Lab

Increases in enrollment drive expansion

With the realization that experience in Computer Aided Drafting serves as a firm foundation for aspiring engineers, we have seen a steady increase in demand for seats in our CAD classes. Over this last summer we installed a 15 seat, ergonomically designed CAD lab with high end computerized workstations all equipped with a suite of AutoCAD software.

The software package provides opportunities for students who desire experience in civil, architectural, and mechanical engineering projects. The lab also has software for three dimensional visualization and animation. Students learn the many functions and palettes available to AutoCAD then specialize in their individual area of interest.



Chef Colognesi, Chef Dell'Olio, Chef Warren and Chef Boland

whether they are committed to the amount of work and dedication required to succeed. He shared his personal history of growing up in a family business where he was expected to work from the early age of nine.

He spoke of his passion for cooking, experimenting in the kitchen, and most of all, his love of working in a bakery when he was young.

Chef Warren's visit was arranged by local Sturbridge resident Brad Campbell who serves as our General Advisory Committee Chairperson. Mr. Campbell also serves as the President of the Home Builders'



This growth has also brought in another teacher, Mr. Ray Vallee. Mr. Vallee now works with Mr. Labelle in providing students a comprehensive array of real-world applications for learning the universal language of drafting. Students are encouraged to network within the community and perform public service using their skills. Zack Hellyar and Evan Balderelli recently assisted in redesigning the Gold Star Memorial across from the Sturbridge Town Hall and were recognized for their recent work.



The fall season is a busy time for the seniors in the carpentry program. The first goal is to get the project built and closed to the weather before the first snow. This year's project is an addition to a Sturbridge home. The students will construct a two car garage with breezeway attached to an existing garage. The students will convert the existing garage to living space. The pictures displayed here show the transition from foundation, framing and the preparation for windows and doors.

Several aspects of our Mission Statement are clearly represented by students' work. For example, one goal of our mission is to: **Maintain a distinctive, active learning environment that requires student application of knowledge and demonstration skills.**

At this site, students actively demonstrate their individual levels of skills on a daily basis. This is the culmination of their sophomore and junior shop acquired skills being put to the test. Under the supervision of Mr. Seguin, students are guided through a series of learning activities that are truly representative of the real world of work.

skills and not necessarily a wage at this time. This aspect of the program also brings to life another goal of our mission. That is to: **Provide learning experiences that are school and community based in order to promote within students a spirit of civic pride and community involvement.**

Below: Raising the walls on the second floor



SENIOR CARPENTRY PROJECT 2007-2008



*Fulfilling our
Mission Statement*



While learning, the students are contributing to the dreams of a homeowner within the district. The homeowner provides the materials while the students provide the labor. Every day students must discipline themselves to accept the responsibility of working for acquisition of



Above: Ready for shingles & windows

Left: Senior Carpentry Students

GENERAL ADVISORY AND PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEET

In Massachusetts Vocational-Technical schools are required to consult with advisory committees to review the scope and validity of the activities used for instruction. On October 24th, the individual Program Advisory Committees (PACs) met at the Cornerstone Cafe for

a light supper while Tim Prouty, Principal of the Tech Division reported the accomplishments of the previous year and presented some of the initiatives coming from the Department of Education.

New faces were introduced; Mr. Pat Lariviere from Machine Tech, Mr. Paul Flynn from

Computer Tech, and Ray Vallee from CAD.

A presentation from Ted, the Tantasqua Educational Foundation informed PAC members of the mission of the foundation and invited members to get involved with the upcoming fund-raising event held at Old Sturbridge Village.

Brad Campbell, General Advisory Committee (GAC) chair, presented a donation from the Western New England Home Builders' to the Carpentry Program in recognition of their help in preparing for the Home Show last spring. Students work along side of contractors to erect walls and platforms for the show.

Following Brad's brief remarks the individual PACs met in their respective areas. Each program later sent representatives to the GAC to elect a new chair and set the goals for the new school year. Mr. Campbell was reelected as the GAC Chair and the committee established the goals for the year.

Learning for Life

The Technical Division of the Tantasqua Regional High School is committed to preparing Tantasqua students to meet the needs and demands of the ever-changing technical work place. It is essential that we provide students with broad, transferable technical skills, as well as the communication, computation, collaboration, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills necessary for successful lifelong learning, wage earning, and citizenship.

Tantasqua Technical Division Active on a State Level

The Department of Education's statewide implementation plan for the CTE Frameworks has included Tantasqua as a partner in its efforts to improve the education of technical students across the state.

Tim Prouty, Technical Division Principal, has been appointed to the CVTE's Curriculum Study Group. The group is formed to make recommendations to the State Director for CVTE for the Massachusetts DOE on statewide professional development focused on curriculum development for programs that qualify under the federal Perkins Act. This curriculum focused professional development plan will cover the five years of the 5 Year State Plan for CVTE, fiscal year 2009-2013. Mr. Prouty has hosted the first two meetings here at Tantasqua.

The Tech Division also hosted ten schools from central Massachusetts to participate in a training for the VCTE Competency Tracking System. As part of the state's roll out of the Certificate of Occupational Proficiency, teachers will be required to assess the level of skill attainment for all students over the course

of their studies.

This competency tracking system records every skill/task attempted and the level of attainment on a four-point scale. Students will be required to attain a predetermined skill level to qualify to take the COP Assessment in their senior year.

Pittsfield Public Schools sent nine teachers to see first hand how we have been dealing with the many initiatives from the state. Their new Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Keith Babuszczyk, formerly employed by the CVTE unit if the DOE, recognized the progress made by Tantasqua teachers. He asked that his teachers be allowed to visit and ask questions, witness strategies employed by our staff to integrate the changes into the existing curricula. The exchange was the beginning of a healthy relationship between both school systems.

Last year, Mr. Labelle, Mr. Boland and Mr. Dell'Olio all participated in designing the test questions used for the DOE on-line assessment. For such a small school, Tantasqua does more than its share and is finally getting recognized at the state level.

TANTASQUA TECHNICAL DIVISION



Timothy J. Prouty
Principal/Director
319 Brookfield Rd.
Fiskdale, MA 01518
508-347-3045 ext 5102
proutyt@tantasqua.org