



COMPACT Points

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News from the Six District Educational Compact

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent • Stow-Munroe Falls • Tallmadge • Woodridge

Inaugural quarter for Community Agriculture



Several members of the Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education attended the Garden Party, along with Mayor Don Walters and many Compact and CFCS D staff.

Community Agriculture for Local Impact students have wasted no time getting to work during their inaugural quarter at Cuyahoga Falls High School. Students have been involved with community service projects, partnered with local businesses, and completed educational units related to Plant and Animal Science as well as Environmental Science for Agricultural and Natural Resources. Although each day of class may look a little different, the program's core values remain the same: to be of service to others and to strive to become better stewards of the environment.

Over 3,000 pounds of fresh vegetables, grown and harvested by students, have been donated to the *Good Neighbors Food Pantry* in Cuyahoga Falls this year. The program's small-scale, local business sells their vegetables to area businesses such as *HiHo Brewing Company* and *Wholly Frijoles*. Students have also collaborated with other CTE programs such as merchandising with Interactive Marketing and Design, participating in Modern Communication through Media Production's *The 330 Podcast* and have future plans to work with Culinary Arts and Hospitality Studies students. In September, the program hosted a Farm Fresh Garden Party where they showcased unique food dishes containing their vegetables, as well as highlighted community connections such as Rubber City Reuse, who helped make the party a zero waste event by composting all food waste and other materials used throughout the evening.



Victoria Davis (Woodridge) tends to one of the program's chickens at CFHS



Mateo Caponi (Cuyahoga Falls) kicks off the Farm Party

Success Stories



Tara Khanal, 2018 Cuyahoga Falls graduate and Programming and Software Development (PSD) completer, began work as an IT Application Developer Associate at *Progressive* in 2022, after graduating from

The University of Akron with a B.S. in Computer Science.

Tara shares that the PSD program gave him exposure to various computer science fundamentals, along with an extensive knowledge base that increased his confidence and preparedness for his post-secondary and career journey. Tara states, “for aspiring software developers, I wholeheartedly recommend seizing the opportunity presented by CTE. It not only demystifies the path but also equips you with a head start that can make all the difference.”



L to R: Nathan Painter (Chris’s supervisor at Swagelok), Chris Rydzewski, Troy Spear and Al Ehlert

Chris Rydzewski, 2023 Kent-Roosevelt graduate and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Engineering Technologies completer was hired as a full-time Level 2 Operator at Swagelok in Solon after graduation. Chris was placed at Swagelok during his senior year after being introduced to the company’s talent and recruitment staff through the CADET program. This fall, CADET instructor **Troy Spear** and Chris’s football coach, mentor and Kent Roosevelt teacher **Al Ehlert** attended a ceremony at Swagelok where Chris was highlighted as a high school intern now hired as a full-time employee. Troy Spear shares, “Chris always demonstrated a desire to apply himself in class and is now learning how to operate a very unique machine that makes high precision nuts and ferrules for Swagelok compression fittings.”

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Apprenticeships pay off for ERP students

At the end of last school year, Level II Electronics, Robotics and Programming students celebrated the completion of their apprenticeships, as well as their future plans. Pictured from left to right:

Tristan Watson (Stow-Munroe Falls) accepted a full-time position with his apprenticeship employer, *Logic Plunger and Lift*, as an electronics technician.

Owen Pavlock (Tallmadge), CET* worked as an electronics technician at his apprenticeship at *Olstrad Engineering* and is attending The University of Akron, majoring in Electrical Engineering Technology.

Kazi Sourav (Woodridge), CET* completed his apprenticeship as an electronics technician at *Tiny Circuits* and looks forward to taking College Credit Plus courses his senior year.

Lamir Thompson (Kent Roosevelt), CET* was employed as an electronics technician at *Olstrad Engineering* and is attending Kent State University majoring in Information Technology in Cyber Security.

Chris Whitcomb (Cuyahoga Falls), CET* completed his apprenticeship at *Permco* as an assembly technician and has enlisted in the United States Army to perform electrical and mechanical maintenance on drones.

*CET denotes *Certified Electronics Technician through the Electronics Technicians’ Association International*

Modern Communication students travel to San Fran for journalism convention



L to R: Cohlman Arthur (Cuyahoga Falls), Faith Biltz (Stow-Munroe), Simon Powers (Hudson) and Julia McDonnell (Cuyahoga Falls) after their presentation at the JEA/NSPA National Convention in San Francisco.

In April, Level II Modern Communications through Media Production students, **Cohlman Arthur** (Cuyahoga Falls), **Faith Biltz** (Stow-Munroe Falls), **Simon Powers** (Hudson), and **Julia McDonnell** (Cuyahoga Falls) traveled to San Francisco, CA where they attended the 2023 Journalism Education Association National High School Journalism Convention, along with over 3,500 students from 47 states. In between visiting media facilities at Stanford University and Palo Alto High School and attending many practical and professional sessions, students also

made professional presentations regarding ethical marketing strategies and building a podcast from scratch. Instructor **Stefanie Crecelius** chaperoned the trip and shared, “this was an opportunity for immense growth for my students.”

The Compact Earns 5 Stars on 22-23 Report Card

The Ohio Department of Education awarded the Six District Educational Compact 5 Stars on the 2022-2023 Report Card, significantly exceeding state standards! Learn more: <https://bit.ly/SDECReportCard2023>



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Level I IMPE student, Chase Wheaton (Stow-Munroe Falls), gains welding experience on the virtual reality simulator.

Grants earned will take programs to new levels (IMPE & Biotech)

Instructors, administrators and Compact staff work tirelessly to open doors for increased opportunities for our CTE students. Recently, both the Industrial Maintenance and Production for Employment (IMPE) and Biotechnology Academy programs made great efforts to secure additional funding through grants and were successful in their endeavors!

Industrial Maintenance and Production for Employment was one of 11 recipients of the Ohio Department of Education's 2024 Equity for Each grant, receiving \$200,000 to expand opportunities for the program! These monies were used to purchase new equipment, including a virtual reality welding training simulator and related supplies, learning system software in mechanical drives, electrical machines and electrical wiring, as well as instructor professional development and SkillsUSA training.

Biotechnology received three grants for use during the 23-24 school year and beyond:

- **National Education Association:** Over \$2,500 to be used for Level II senior capstone projects, plant DNA cloning and DNA sequencing, including a special software license.
- **Toshiba America Foundation:** \$3,500 to purchase a shaking bacterial incubator for use during classroom lab experiments.
- **American Chemical Society:** Over \$1,200 for new equipment, such as industry grade pH meters.

FCCLA vice-president earns scholarship for Japanese Exchange Program

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Japanese Exchange Program selected **Teresa Paskey** (Stow-Munroe Falls), to participate in their summer exchange program with a full, merit-based scholarship, funded by the *Kikkoman Corporation*. Teresa was one of 14 FCCLA students nationwide that earned this scholarship!

When Teresa heard that this scholarship was available to FCCLA students, she knew she had to apply. Teresa's grandma moved to the United States from Japan when she was in high school, and Teresa was motivated to connect with her culture and improve her Japanese language skills. During her six-week stay, she attended high school with her 15-year old host sister, enjoyed visiting many temples and shrines and touring the *Kikkoman Corporation*. Teresa shares that the most eye-opening experience she had during the exchange program was visiting the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima.



Teresa Paskey



Level II summer interns L to R: Mars Vasko (Tallmadge), Hailey Mullen (Tallmadge), Serenity Nicholas (Tallmadge), and Mackenzie Gaines (Kent Roosevelt)

Level II students get a headstart at internships over the summer

Many CTE students took advantage of internship placements over the summer and began important work-based learning that will continue throughout the school year.

Athletic Health Care and Fitness Level II senior, **Ryleigh Balan** (Kent Roosevelt) began work as a Nutrition Services Assistant at *University Hospital Portage County* in June. Ryleigh shares that she enjoys interacting with patients and staff, as well as experiencing the overall hospital environment. As a UH employee, she will be eligible for post-secondary tuition reimbursement in the future!



Ryleigh Balan (Kent Roosevelt) at her internship at UH Portage

Early Childhood Professions Level II students had the opportunity to participate in paid internships at *Small Steps Big Strides Child Care Center* and *ChildScape Learn and Grow*. Level II students work towards earning their Child Development Associate Credential and these students will have a head start by completing these internship hours over the summer. **Mars Vasko** (Tallmadge) shares, "Starting an internship during the summer made the transition into my senior year easier and made me feel more confident in my abilities to be successful in this career field!"

Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Engineering Technologies students continue work this school year after interning over the summer months. **Griffin Croghan** (Stow-Munroe Falls), started his internship at *MAAG Reduction* and currently works in the CNC department. **Ace Ades** (Stow-Munroe Falls) began work at *Leiden Cabinetry* and works alongside the engineers during the design and production process. **Jeremiah Berkey** (Tallmadge) has been working in the Engineering department at *Swagelok* and **Leah Stanley** (Kent Roosevelt), interned this past summer at *Kyocera SGS Precision Tools* in Cuyahoga Falls.

Great work to all of our summer interns!

Hudson Auto Tech recognized as an accredited training site

The Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Institute recognized the Hudson Automotive Technologies program as an Accredited Training Site in June. Students in the Auto program work toward earning their ASE accreditation, and this recognition will allow the program to gain access to reduced ASE testing costs. Earning the ASE accreditation is extremely beneficial for students as it demonstrates a level of competency that is recognized by both post-secondary institutions and local businesses. Universities work with the Compact to develop articulation agreements that provide college credits to our students and local businesses hire our students confidently, knowing that they have completed strict training standards.



StowTech participants alongside Superintendent Tom Bratten, program instructor Terri Whitmer and sponsors Shon Christy and David Segen

Programming students shine at CoolTech Expo

Level I Programming and Software Development students worked hard over the course of several months in teams of two to create and market an innovative mobile application at the end of last school year. The program then hosted the StowTech Showcase, where 11 teams presented their pitch to community members and school staff and students. **Shon Christy**, of the Stow Schools Foundation collaborated with program instructor, **Terri Whitmer**, to bring in members of the IT industry to judge the events and provide prizes. The first place team of **Noah Brown** (Stow-Munroe Falls) and **Brandon Grubbs** (Stow-Munroe Falls) created the app, BusCheck. Tied for second place included the FAST app creators, **Rachel Tanner** (Tallmadge) and **Penelope Covey** (Stow-Munroe Falls) and Mile Marker creators **Andrew Loznianu** (Stow-Munroe Falls) and **Kristian Leseure** (Stow-Munroe Falls). Receiving third place honors were the creators of PreparePlate, **Dakota Schifano** (Kent Roosevelt) and **Nicholas Peace** (Cuyahoga Falls). Special thanks to the Stow Schools Foundation for their support of this event!

Welcome new CTE instructors!

Richard Graves (Business & Sports Management)

Kyle Kutinsky (Forestry & Environmental Studies)

Ethan Stallman (Cosmetology-Kent Roosevelt)

The Six District Educational Compact does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.



L to R: Isaac Gallegos (Hudson), Lars Schwartz (Woodridge), Anna Hurst (Stow-Munroe Falls), Grey Melin (Stow-Munroe Falls) and Todd Remenaric (instructor) at the volunteer training.

Aero students volunteer at air show

In August, Aeronautics Careers Academy students, along with their instructor, **Todd Remenaric**, volunteered at the Props and Pistons Air Show at Akron Fulton Airport. Four students assisted with ticket sales, box protection (keeping people out of areas that are used for aerobatic stunts) and as the “ready crew” who served as the trouble shooters for the event. ACA completer, **Caleb Sowash**, earned the “Spar Award,” for being recognized as the top volunteer at this year’s airshow.



Summer Camps 2023



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