



Winter 2025

# COMPACT Points

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News from the Six District Educational Compact

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



**Kate McDaniels (Cuyahoga Falls)** shares information with a visitor to their exhibit



**L to R: Kate McDaniels, Riley Paradis, and Mackenzie Stump (all from Cuyahoga Falls)** in front of their program display at the OSB Student Achievement Fair in Columbus

## Community Agriculture featured at Ohio School Boards' Student Achievement Fair

Several Community Agriculture for Local Impact students had the opportunity to strengthen their leadership and public speaking skills while sharing their expertise and passion for their CTE program at the Ohio School Boards' Student Achievement Fair.

In November, Community Agriculture and Cuyahoga Falls students **Kate McDaniels, Riley Paradis, and Mackenzie Stump** traveled to Columbus for the event where they spoke to teachers, students, board members, and administrators from across the state about their program. They enjoyed sharing the unique and important aspects of the program, such as their valuable partnerships within the community, the industry credentials they can earn, and how they donated over 3,000 pounds of food to those in need in 2024. The students also enjoyed checking out other innovative and interesting projects and programs that were showcased at the event.



**Level I ERP students engaged in clean room training and protocols**



**Brendan Jaronowski (Kent)**

## ERP student jumpstarts his career in the semiconductor industry

Level II Electronics, Robotics, and Programming student **Brendan Jaronowski (Kent)** took advantage of an exceptional opportunity within Kent State University's "Pathways to a Semiconductor Career Program." Brendan has earned 19 college credits through the ERP program that can be applied to a variety of degrees at KSU and has also been awarded a full scholarship for additional coursework within the semiconductor pathway this summer. This scholarship was made possible through the generous support of Intel Corporation.

During Level I in ERP, students complete a micro-credential course in microchip manufacturing and clean room protocols in conjunction with KSU. Brendan and his peers were trained in clean room protocols and experiences, chemical lab safety, and semiconductor manufacturing. This experience, paired with the support and collaboration between ERP and KSU, fueled Brendan to pursue a future in the growing semiconductor industry. Congratulations Brendan!



## Celebrating National CTE Month

February is National Career and Technical Education Month and this year's theme is "Building Skills, Shaping Futures." All six districts adopted proclamations honoring the month. This month marks the perfect time to celebrate the real-world skills and opportunities that our CTE programs provide!



## Finance students teach financial literacy skills

**Zoey McCullough (Tallmadge) shares important personal finance information to fifth graders**

Recently the Academy of Finance Careers (AFC) program partnered with Junior Achievement-

ment to teach personal finance and economic concepts to the entire fifth grade at Tallmadge Elementary. This was an ideal way for the AFC students to practice their leadership, team building, and corporate social responsibility through a first-hand volunteerism experience. The AFC is committed to helping all Tallmadge students make wise money decisions to lead a financially stable future. In November, seniors in the AFC created an interactive presentation on the importance of financial literacy and delivered this message to all ninth and tenth graders enrolled in THS's Business Foundations classes. The students stressed that opening a bank account was a crucial first step on the path to financial freedom.



**2nd place Quiz Bowl winners alongside instructor Mike Ondash (far right) and chaperone and HHS teacher Joe Caniglia (far left)**

## Mod Comm students visit Philadelphia for journalism convention

In November, students from the Modern Communications through Media Production program joined over 4,000 students from across the country in Philadelphia, PA to attend the *National Scholastic Press Association's* national convention. Students attended breakout sessions from all media types -- newspaper, online, broadcast, and magazine. While in Philadelphia, students visited Reading Terminal Market, Eastern State Penitentiary, and The Rocky Steps, and took an authentic food walk tour of the city. Our students also placed 2nd nationally in the Quiz Bowl, held at the convention! Next year, Mod Comm students will have an opportunity to attend the convention in Nashville, TN.

# CTE programs showcased at recruitment event

In early January, the Compact hosted its second annual Career Program Showcase at Kent State University. Nearly 2,000 high school sophomores attended the event during the school day to view the exhibits of the 29 Career-Technical Education programs and to meet with student ambassadors and instructors. In the evening, around 350 members of our six communities, including parents, guardians, middle and high school students, administrators, Board of Education members, and industry professionals visited to learn more about the programs available.

Student ambassadors serve as leaders of their CTE program and are selected by their program instructors to represent their program at this event and during other recruitment activities. This fall, over 175 student ambassadors participated in a two-day leadership training to prepare for this event. They created and prepared their program exhibit, marketing materials, giveaways, and hands-on activities to provide students and community members with the opportunity to better understand the incredible opportunities within their programs. Their efforts were exceptional!



**Cyber Academy student ambassadors are ready for prospective students**



**At the evening Showcase, Tallmadge Superintendent Steve Wood engages in discussion with Aeronautics ambassador Parker Duncan (Stow-Munroe Falls)**



**Hudson sophomores attend the welcome session and review materials before viewing the exhibits**



**Biotechnology student ambassadors stand proudly in front of their program exhibit before the Showcase**



**Athletic Health Care & Fitness student ambassadors share exciting information related to their program**



**Academy of Future Entertainment Professionals student ambassadors and instructor Dave Obney bring great energy to the Showcase**



Students explore DNA extraction with Cuyahoga Community College Biology Professor Elaine Brunschwig, Ph.D



Students participate in a chemical reaction experiment with Kylie Knipp, Senior Technical Account Manager at ACE Laboratories in Ravenna



**Bryce Fordyce** is a 2016 graduate of Cuyahoga Falls High School and a Teaching Professions completer. Bryce attended Wilmington College where he received his bachelor's

degree in Educational Studies/History. He is currently in his last semester of graduate school at The University of Akron where he is pursuing his Master of Arts in School Counseling.

Bryce completed his practicum work at Stow-Munroe Falls High School and is currently interning in the school counseling office at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent. He is also a Special Education Aide for Stow-Munroe Falls High School and a substitute teacher for Kent City Schools. Bryce shares that the Teaching Professions program allowed him to "be authentically himself," which he believes is a very important aspect of a positive learning environment. He valued the field experiences within the program that gave him experience working with different ages and classrooms as well as the chance to connect with a variety of educators. Upon graduation, Bryce would like to find a school counseling position where he can also pursue his passion of becoming a high school baseball coach. Bryce's message to prospective students is, "...if you are looking to start your career in education, there is no better place than the Teaching Professions program!"



Career presenters from L to R: Tali Kenigsberg-Israeli, Elaine Brunschwig, Ph.D., Brandy Johnson, Kylie Knipp, Sandra Ridgeway-Williams



Keynote speaker Susan Kohler of NASA Glenn Research Center (left), alongside Compact Executive Director Mary Jane Stanchina (right)

## Middle school students explore STEM careers

The Diane Burbick Math and Science Experience for Middle School Girls was held in November at Summa Health. Participants and their families had the opportunity to engage with a variety of women in stem-related careers through presentations, panel discussions, and hands-on breakout sessions. Keynote speaker **Susan Kohler**, MAA Senior Project Coordinator at NASA *Glenn Research Center*, shared inspiring stories of the fascinating STEM career opportunities at NASA. Students participated in engaging activities such as architecture and design, hydrogen production, fingerprinting, and DNA extraction. Additionally, parents and guardians gained valuable insights and knowledge from school representatives and unique perspectives from the fathers panel. Thank you so much to our distinguished career presenters, fathers panel participants, school counselors, and gifted and talent coordinators for their involvement and support of this important experience for middle school girls.



Practicing hammer skills

## Construction and Teaching students host elementary students

The Teaching Professions program developed Project Thrive this school year, a mentoring program for students at Holden Elementary in Kent. They visited Holden several times throughout the school year to lead students in various lessons and activities.



Most recently, the Teaching students teamed up with the Construction Management program to host the Holden students at the high school. The Holden students visited for two afternoons where the CTE students taught them about careers, workplace safety, and the proper use of tools. The elementary students learned how to use a variety of tools and created and painted their own toolbox.

Level I Construction student **Grace Duda** (Stow-Munroe Falls) approached Lowes and secured a donation of Build and Grow Kits that included a hammer and goggles for all of the participating students. Additionally, Grace's father **Josh Duda**, donated tape measures to be used throughout the project. This amazing collaboration was a valuable experience for both the elementary students and the high school CTE students.



## Joshua's Holiday Buffet

Culinary Arts and Hospitality Studies students prepared another fabulous holiday buffet for school personnel and community members that included delicious trimmings such as roasted turkey, pork loin with cranberry apple compote, sage stuffing, and assorted salads and desserts. Pictured with students and instructor **Tracey Lee** are satisfied patrons Stow-Munroe Falls Superintendent **Dr. Felicia Gould** and Director of Operations **Mark Treen**.

# News from around the Compact



**Criminal Justice students looking festive at a Night at the North Pole toy drive event**

## Criminal Justice students give back through toy drive event

Students in the Criminal Justice program hosted a “Night at the North Pole,” a toy drive and community event held at Cuyahoga Falls High School. Students honed their leadership and philanthropic skills as they planned for this event. They connected with all six Compact high schools to market the event, created flyers, and planned activities. Children in attendance participated in holiday-themed games and crafts and got to visit with Santa. The event was a great success with nearly 200 attendees who were all encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy. Students donated the toys to *Good Neighbors*, a local organization dedicated to helping those in need.



**Level II Computer Science Pathways students check out the CodeHS road trip van during their visit**

## CodeHS visits Computer Science Pathways

Computer Science Pathways (CSP) students utilize *CodeHS*, a coding and computer science platform, within their curriculum. *CodeHS* sends company ambassadors around the country to engage with students regarding computer science and this school year they selected Stow-Munroe Falls High School for a visit! *CodeHS* ambassador **Brett** led CSP students through a coding workshop, talked to students about careers in computer science, and gave away some cool swag. Brett shared on his blog that his visit to SMFHS was “one of the most memorable,” and that the students were “buzzing with energy!”

### Let's Connect



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**Students explore downtown San Antonio, including a stop by The Alamo**



**Level II EntrepreneNew students engaged with many successful entrepreneurs on their trip to San Antonio, including (front row from L to R): Michael Ramirez, CEO of Evisio, Carmen Lidia Fajardo, Owner of Mend, CEO of The Madrina Project, Caleb Scott, CEO of Fabra**

## Six District EntrepreneNew trip inspires students

Level II Six District EntrepreneNew Pathways students had the opportunity to visit San Antonio, Texas to attend the University of San Antonio Innovation and Entrepreneurship event and spend a day at *Geekdom*, a startup community for budding entrepreneurs. Last spring, students raised over \$18,000 at their inaugural Quackstream Classic duck race which helped fund this trip.

At *Geekdom*, students spent the day engaged in a series of entrepreneurial workshops and events. They heard from *Geekdom* CEO **Charles Woodin** and gained valuable career insights from several other successful entrepreneurs. The University of San Antonio's Innovation and Entrepreneurship event provided students with an excellent platform to connect with students from all over the country. Students bonded, experienced a new culture and cuisines, had a lot of fun exploring the city, and even attended a San Antonio Spurs-winning game!



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