

October Newsletter

Public school education is often reduced to what we remember from our own high school experiences. If we went to college, then we think public education is a preparatory school. If we went to UTC we may remember high school as a trade school. If we were in FFA we might remember it for agriculture. The truth is, it is all of these, and it can be so much more. When our learning is broader, when we learn skills with our hands and our minds, we become more well-rounded and our job prospects are much brighter.

Our vision for education in Doddridge County is to teach the skills needed for success as an adult. Earlier this week Representative David McKinley met with our high school Career and Technical Education instructors and came away impressed with our teachers. These CTE teachers are on the front line of our new initiatives to train our students for life after high school. Our high school has 292 students in grades 9-12 and of those, 225 students that are taking at least one CTE class this year. These classes include business education, computer coding, restaurant management, meat processing and vocational agriculture.

Regardless of a student's career path, the end goal is to be successful in the work they find. Our work-place simulated classrooms help students learn what it means to clock-in, to have a uniform ready and be prepared for work. Not only do students learn the basics of the workday, they also learn the administrative side – how to manage workers and workplaces. We also have classes that teach our more entrepreneurial students the ins and outs of starting their own business. Our STEAM classes enhance these programs by providing another layer of real-world issues for our students. Confronted with an engineering problem, students will work through a solution using the same equipment that they will see in their 21st century workplace.

Our world does not revolve around wellhead workers, finance, hospitality or management workers. The world revolves around skilled workers that are passionate, dedicated and prepared for their careers. Our goal is to prepare all of our students to find gainful and meaningful work.

As Superintendent of Doddridge County Schools in 2018 I am the steward of a great responsibility. There are jobs available in Doddridge County unlike there have been for a very, very long time – perhaps ever. Our school system must be prepared to train our students for the upcoming jobs that are available. Not only the obvious ones that are directly related to energy companies; but also the restaurant workers, the accountants, the teachers, bankers and doctors that will make our community successful. Our school system continues to strive to be a Future Ready school system for the benefit of our students and community where every student can achieve their full potential.

Our CTE programs are paid for, in large part, by the Excess Levy. It pays for the STEAM labs, additional instructors and the equipment that trains our students. Our CTE program lays the groundwork for successful future jobs for our students. We will continue to seek ways to train our students so that they are not only college-ready or job-ready; but life-ready.

Adam L. Cheeseman
Superintendent of Doddridge County Schools