



SOUTHWEST

Career and Technical Academy

Student/Parent Newsletter

Volume 1 / Issue 3

February/March 2009

Principal's Message

Dear Coyote Parents and Students;

We just began a new semester and there are many exciting activities taking place each week. As I am writing this message, students are staying after school to prepare the decorations for our first Sadie Hawkins dance, practice for upcoming national DECA, HOSA and archery competitions, and attending club meetings. On March 24 and 25, we have planned a Spring PBL Workshop for the students. The topic will be revealed to the students on March 25th. The focus will be on content mastery, writing skills, professional presentation, collaboration, use of resources and work ethic. Each of these areas will be part of their project-based learning assessments in the future.

The teachers, counselors, staff and administration are here to provide a quality 21st century education for your child. Thank you for your continued support during our first year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Our school newspaper is in full swing, you can read all of the great stories created by the students of Southwest Career and Technical Academy by visiting <http://southwestshadow.com/>.

Jonathan Cervantes and Dana Hackenberger, two freshman broadcast journalism students, have finished their documentary about the Project Based Learning training that the staff participated in last fall. Mr. Rizzo commented, "I have to say I'm pretty pleased with their efforts, especially when you consider the fact that they had very little training prior to working on this project, and most of what they learned was through the discovery process." The video is about 15 minutes long, and you can see it at: http://www.swcta.net/teachers/rizzo/cdm/vid_pages/featured.html

A big thanks to all of the teachers who participated in the interviews for this project.

Proficiency Testing will occur on March 9th and 10th. All SOPHOMORES are to attend. FRESHMEN will have the day of March 9th off.

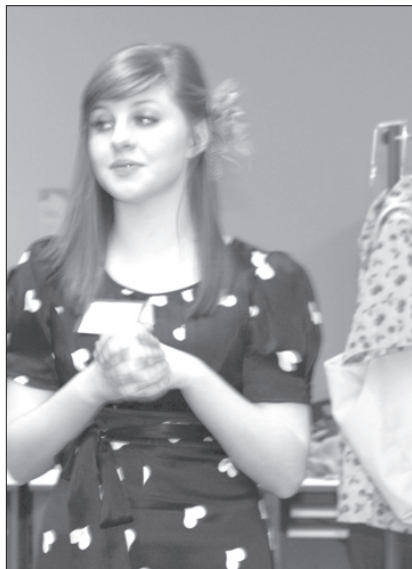
Advanced Placement Exam registration and payment is due on March 19th. Please visit your counselor for more information or questions.

Tutoring Available Six Days a Week

The Southwest CTA offers tutoring each day after school, Monday through Friday, from 2:00-4:00 in the library. In addition to after-school tutoring, there is also a Saturday morning session from 9:00-12:00, also in the library. The SWCTA encourages all students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Community Partnership News

Southwest Career and Technical Academy opened their doors on Jan. 21, 2010 for our third open house. It was a great success with a show of about 600 parents and potential students. Many students stayed and helped to give demonstrations and tours of the campus. Thanks to everyone who came out in support or to help us have such a successful open house.



Corey Tyndall describes the Fashion Program to prospective students.



Mrs. McAllister provides last minute instructions to Jia Liang.

Respiratory Therapy

The Respiratory Therapy Program is for students interested in working side-by-side with doctors, nurses, and other professionals to provide treatment, evaluation, monitoring, and management of cardiovascular patients. Currently the students are learning the medical importance and practical skills of suturing. "It's a fantastic opportunity to teach kids to suture properly. The students practiced on practice boards, but then graduated to chicken thighs and other chicken parts." - Vicki Silvernail-Smith, Program Leader.



Enes Djesevic and Vladislav Zhitny practice suturing.

Hospitality Program

In the Hospitality/Travel and Tourism program, the students have completed their illustrations and diagramming for a meeting space and the school's dedication. Students will be starting on a major event-planning project of their choice. This could include events such as concerts, weddings, corporate training, etc. Hospitality will be teaming up with marketing to deliver a spring P.B.L. on destination marketing.

Culinary Program

The Culinary program has been extremely busy this semester with their banquets. They have been averaging 75 customers per event. The students will be hosting the SkillsUSA state culinary competition and will be supplying over 700 students with breakfast during the spring P.B.L. workshops. The students have supplied breakfast for about 90 students during the Saturday morning math proficiency practice exams. During the next term, students will be focusing on sanitation and terminology in the culinary industry.

Automotive Technology Program

Students have been studying ignition systems using various fuels. The workshop has been busy with continuous work on engines, transmissions and utilizing the on-board diagnostic scan-tool. This type of work is even more advanced than many auto shops can perform. The students have just completed testing in conjunction with the robotics club and are looking forward to seeing how their robot performs in competition.

Health Sciences

Freshmen have recently completed their theory unit on the muscular system and are transitioning into their laboratory work of dissecting chicken wings and muscles. The next module they will study is the nervous system. Sophomores are currently completing pain assessment lab work and will progress into nutritional assessment and deficiencies. The program will be linking up with science to work on a P.B.L. entitled "Public Health Emergency Preparedness".

Electronic Devices at the SWCTA

The Southwest Career and Technical Academy would like to remind students and parents that the school is not responsible for any electronic devices that are lost, stolen, or broken while on campus. This includes, MP3 players, iPods, and all cell phones.

CAREER SERVICE

CCSD students have FREE access to the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS), which is a career exploration and educational planning tool. Students and parents may log on to www.nvcis.intocareers.org in order to access this resource. Upon log-in, students may enter the username: NCIS and the password: NEVADA in order to proceed (zip code/area code may also be entered for access). Students can learn about colleges, universities, apprenticeships, and financial aid opportunities. In addition, students may take a career assessment, which enables them to explore a wide variety of occupations by matching interests and skills. NCIS is provided to Nevada students by the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.



Club News

Break-Dance

The Break-Dance club now has over one hundred members and are preparing for future school events to show off their talent. Mr. O'Brien is working to negate the common negative opinion concerning the hip hop culture. All team members are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA and they are also expected to have excellent citizenship.

Skills USA

SWCTA is looking to register the entire school for a total participation plan with SkillsUSA. This will increase membership benefits and maintain the dues the same as the current year.

SkillsUSA Auto students are preparing for their regional competition at CSN March 6 at 8AM. These students will be testing their knowledge and hands on ability against other automotive High School students to see who the best is. Students will spend the day going through 10 minute stations with a work area, and 1 written test station. There are 7 students who have signed up to compete. A minimum of two students will compete, with the other five students waiting on stand-by as alternated. Auto club is open to students after school. Any student who has a project vehicle to work on, if approved a day prior by Mr. Sylvester, can bring it in to be worked on.

Robotics Club

Robotics club is in the middle of their USFirst Robotics regional competition build. Students are meeting every day that is possible day after school 2 to 4PM to have the robot built by February 22nd. The robot will be shipped February 23rd. The robotics competition is at the Thomas and Mack Center on April 1 - 3.

Drama Club

SWCTA Drama club has begun meeting with over sixty members attending the first meeting. They will be practicing prose and dramatic expression, with the aim of putting on school based shows later in the school year.

Key Club

The SWCTA Key club has now been officially chartered. At a ceremony in January, the president of the club, Alyssa Suphunchat, was presented with their new charter by Philip Tanlim, the Lieutenant Governor of Division 28-South. At the end of the installation, SWCTA's Key club was recognized as an official section of Key club. The inducted members received a personal certificate, a membership card, and a pin.

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DESIGN ACADEMY NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT ENGINEERING: The Freshman Entertainment Engineering Design students are currently working on a simple machines contest that will be held in March. For more information you can visit RubeGoldberg.com. The sophomore students are also involved in a contest that will require them to build bridges. The bridge design contest will be held in March. We will keep you updated on the results of the contests.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Currently in the Interior Design classroom the students are working on redesigning the Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park's welcome center. They joined the Biology students on a field trip to the zoo on February 23, 2010, to view the existing welcome center.

FASHION DESIGN: In the Fashion Design class, the students are participating in a recycle/reuse contest put on by the Junior League. In the contest the students will be required to create an outfit completely out of recycled products. Finalist in the contest will go on to the city-wide contest that will be held at the Fashion Show Mall.



Students work to design a simple machine during Mr. Pappano's class.



Students work with their recycled materials to make a new outfit.



WEB DESIGN: The Web Design students will be working on their first outside client project for the Landscaping and Grounds Department for the Clark County School District. This website will be used by the Landscaping and Grounds staff, school district personnel, and the general public. The class is working in small groups and each group is competing for the privilege of having their work displayed on the CCSD website.

VIDEO GAME DESIGN: The 9th grade students finished a logo design unit in which small groups created logos for the Video Game Technology program and the Web Design program. The students presented in front of community partner groups. At the end of their presentation, the students received feedback on their work. The students will be making modifications to these logos based on their discussions with the community partners. The best logos will be voted on by the students, staff, and the community partners to determine the winner.

Student ID's Required on Campus

The Southwest CTA will begin requiring all students to wear their SWCTA ID and lanyard on a daily basis. This will be for security purposes, enabling the administration and staff to better identify students that do not belong on the campus. If a student has lost their ID or lanyard, each can be replaced in the library. ID's are \$2.00 and lanyards are \$3.00 each.

COUNSELOR News

KEY FACTORS for COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

According to the 2009 State College Admission report from the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), the most important factors used by admissions officers to evaluate college applicants were:

1. Grades in college prep classes
2. Strength of curriculum
3. Scores from standardized admissions tests
4. Overall GPA
5. Strength of the application essay or writing sample
6. Counselor and teacher recommendations
7. Class rank
8. Student's level of interest in attending

Advanced Placement on the Rise in CCSD

Enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses in CCSD high schools is up significantly over the past year. There are a number of reasons CCSD students are choosing to take AP courses more than ever before. First, Advanced Placement courses reflect college-level work, so students can demonstrate to prospective colleges and universities that they are capable of succeeding in rigorous courses. Second, students may also earn college credit by taking AP courses. Students who take AP exams in May and earn a score of 3, 4, or 5 (on a scale of 1-5) may earn college credit for the course. (College and University AP credit policies differ, so students are advised to inquire about AP policies at the school(s) they are interested in attending.) Third, it is possible to earn enough college credits to complete a college degree in less time, which also equates to a financial savings. The cost per AP Exam is \$86.00; however, AP fee waiver assistance for qualified students may be available through the counseling office. Students interested in enrolling in an AP course next year should speak to their high school counselor.

PSAT Results Distributed in High Schools

Results from the October PSAT test administration will be distributed in all Clark County School District high schools during the months of January and February. The test was mandatory for all CCSD 10th grade students and was encouraged but optional for 11th grade students. Students will receive their PSAT Score Report Plus and their test booklet. Staff members will assist students on interpreting the different sections of the PSAT. Students will also be encouraged to create an online account for My College Quickstart. This is a free online personalized college, career, and test preparation tool that may be accessed until the student graduates from high school. Students must visit www.collegeboard.com/quickstart to create an account by entering their unique access code found on their official PSAT Score Report.

The PSAT and My College Quick Start

All CCSD sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT in October 2008 will have FREE access to MyCollegeQuickStart and MyRoad – the CollegeBoard's online college major, campus search, test preparation, and career exploration tool. In order to create a user account, students must obtain the access code that appears on the upper right corner of the PSAT Score Report. Students must also have an email address in order to register for the program. Go to www.collegeboard.com/quickstart to create an account. Once an account has been created, the student may access a personality profiler, explore majors, find colleges, research careers, develop an SAT study plan, and access test preparation for the SAT I.

PSAT/Scholarship/Financial Aid Workshop for Sophomores & Juniors

All CCSD 10th & 11th grade students and their parents are invited to attend the College Readiness and Educational Workshop (C.R.E.W.) on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at the Texas Station Hotel. The presentation and breakout sessions will begin at 5:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:00p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for sophomores and juniors to learn more about the college/university financial aid and scholarship process. Information on understanding PSAT results from October test administration will be presented. Students are encouraged to bring their PSAT score report and test booklet to the workshop.

Summer School Information

Session I for 2010 Summer School will be held June 14 – July 1 and Session II will be held July 6 – July

23, 2010. At the middle school level, the courses to be offered will be English, math, reading, social studies and science. At the high school level, the courses to be offered will be English, math, social studies, PE, health, and driver education. Limited science classes may also be offered. Summer School will be held at multiple locations to be announced. The morning session will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The evening session will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Both middle school and high school courses will be held at all locations. The fee for each course will be \$100.00 per half credit (\$200.00 for one credit). Students should make an appointment with their counselor to discuss credit options and to register for summer school classes from April 14 – June 4, 2010. Parents may pay for courses online from May 1 – June 6, 2010 at www.ccsd.net/schools/summerschool. Additional summer school information may also be found on the website after March 1, 2010.

Athletes and the NCAA Clearinghouse

Students who plan to attend an NCAA Division I or II institution and who wish to participate in intercollegiate athletics need to follow initial eligibility procedures established by the NCAA Clearinghouse. Students must make their school counselor and their coach aware of their interest in collegiate athletics, as high school courses must be NCAA-approved. Current high school juniors should plan to take the ACT or SAT by the end of their eleventh grade year. When registering for the ACT/SAT, use code 9999 to report test scores to the NCAA Clearinghouse. At the start of the senior year, students should register with the Clearinghouse

online at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>. At the time of registration, students should request that their high school transcript be sent to the Clearinghouse. Following graduation, high school seniors must also request that their final high school transcript be sent to the Clearinghouse. For more information, call the NCAA hotline at 1-877-262-1492 or visit the website.

Can you help your teen deal with a tough teacher?

Practice really does make perfect when it comes to math classes. Sooner or later, every student will encounter a tough teacher. Are you preparing your teen for life after high school by helping him deal with this challenge?

Answer yes or no to the questions below to find out:

- ___1. Have you reminded your teen that throughout his life he will have to deal with people who are difficult?
- ___2. Have you talked with your teen about his goals for the class? If he wants to earn a good grade, he will need to work with the teacher.
- ___3. Have you brainstormed with your teen about things he can do to improve the relationship?
- ___4. Have you explained to your teen that the teacher's attitude does not have to affect him? He is still a capable student who works hard.
- ___5. Will you encourage your teen to talk with his guidance counselor if the problem persists?

How well are you doing?

Each yes means you are helping your teen learn how to handle life's challenging people. For each no answer, try that idea in the quiz.

Students of the Month

For **January**, the Students of the Month are Miguel Ebro from the Design Academy and Danielle Cruz from the Professional Services Academy.



Miguel Ebro
Design Academy



Danielle Cruz
Professional Services Academy

For **February**, the Students of the Month are Enes Djesevic from the Professional Services Academy and Jonathan Cervantes and Dana Hackenberger from the Design Academy. Congratulations Coyotes.



Enes Djesevic
Professional Services Academy



Jonathan Cervantes
Design Academy



Dana Hackenberger
Design Academy

Staff of the Month

The Southwest Career and Technical Academy recognizes a teacher and a support staff each month for their hard work and dedication.

For the month of **January**, the Teacher of the Month is **Jonathan O'Brien** and the Support Staff of the Month is **Claude Tellef**.



Jonathan O'Brien
Teacher of the Month,
January

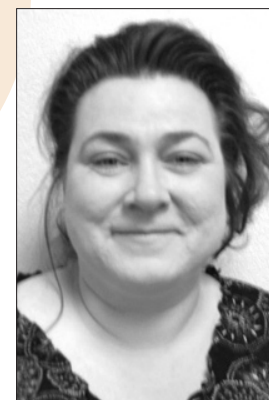


Claude Tellef
Support Staff of the
Month, January

For **February**, the Teacher of the Month is **Tom Rizzo** and the Support Staff of the Month is **Karen Valerio**.



Tom Rizzo
Teacher of the Month,
February



Karen Valerio
Support Staff of the
Month, February

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How to assist your child's education

- Access parentlink on a weekly basis to monitor your child's attendance and grades progress
- Attend school sponsored events
- Schedule time and area for homework to be completed
- Provide materials needed to complete homework
- Review your child's homework daily
- Check backpacks daily
- Make sure your student attends school regularly and on time
- Investigate in college savings plans and scholarship programs
- Set academic and personal goals with your children
- Talk about career choices point out what level of education is needed
- Limit TV, playing video games and computer time
- Know your child(s) friends, their parent's names, addresses and phone numbers
- Make sure your child is appropriately dressed for school
- Encourage your child to get involved in school sponsored activities, scouting, etc.
- Establish and maintain communication with your child's teachers
- Know how to access internet networking systems (MySpace, facebook, etc.) and their passwords
- Keep the computer in a common area to oversee your child's usage
- Know how to access cell phone including text messages and pictures

SWCTA Archery Team Wins State!

On Thursday, February 18, 2010, The Southwest CTA Archery Team competed in the inaugural National Archery in Schools Program State Tournament. Over 130 Clark County School District middle school and high school students participated at the Riviera Hotel.

The Southwest CTA Team 'A' won the state title, while the Southwest CTA Team 'B' finished third. In addition, the teams combined to win the overall "Spirit Award" for their enthusiasm and cheering.

The top archers were: Sabine Bacha, 2nd Place and Katlyn Douglas, 4th Place in the girls division. In the boy's division, Bryce Ebert, Kavindu Amarasinghe, Richard Thompson, and Alex Sordahl finished 2nd through 5th respectively.

The team has earned the right to compete for the National Championship in Louisville, Kentucky on May 7th and 8th. Good luck and congratulations Coyotes!



The Archery Team poses for a group picture after the state competition.

SWCTA DECA TEAM SENDS A DOZEN TO NATIONALS

On February 17th and 18th, the Southwest CTA DECA Organization competed in the state DECA competition at the Santa Fe Station. Fifty-seven students participated in the event, with 28 of those students earning an award.

Three teams took first place in their respective divisions. Desiree Tolentino, Karina Nguyen, and Stefanie Parrish won in the Business Services Operation category; Tiffany Head, Haley Smetany, and Maylin Retana won in the Public Relations Research Project category; and Neela Zaman and Kristelle Dealca won for their Fashion Merchandising Promotion plan.

Twelve Coyotes qualified to compete at the National DECA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, and six more students have qualified as alternates. Way to go DECA!



Stefanie Parrish, Karina Nguyen, and Desiree Tolentino accept their first-place plaque.

SOPHOMORE PROFICIENCY TESTING

The week of March 8 -12, 2010 is very important in the life of your child. It is the week of the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (NHSPE). The testing schedule for the Southwest CTA is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 9 – Math and Reading
- Wednesday, March 10 – Science

ALL STUDENTS MUST PASS THE NEVADA HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAM IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

Please make it a priority to have your child attend school on March 9th and 10th.

In an effort to help your child prepare for the upcoming exams, our school has a number of resources available to support your son or daughter. The following academic activities are available to your child:

- After School Tutoring (Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday) 2:00-4:00 p.m. in room B112.
- Saturday Mock Proficiency Testing, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- My SkillsTutor online

Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (NHSPE) in Science

Starting with the class of 2010, all students in the state of Nevada will be required to pass the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam (NHSPE) in Science in order to earn a high school diploma. This is in addition to the mathematics, reading, and writing NHSPE requirement currently in place. SWCTA has been busy preparing students for this exam by ensuring that all science curricula K - 12 is aligned to state standards and CCSD power standards. There is also a website provided through the Regional Profession Development Program (RPDP) called TIPS which can be accessed to give content reviews and sample test questions; it can be accessed at <http://www.rpd.net/index.html>.

Tutoring for Science - Monday and Thursday 2pm-4pm in room C106.