

ALL-STARS OF THE ACADEMIES

A quarterly newsletter highlighting the students & staff at the Academies of Greater Clark

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Business & Entrepreneurship Academy Spotlight

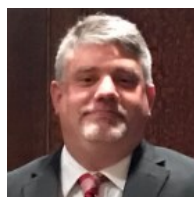


Tristan O'Neal is a senior at NWHS who selected his academy using traditional logic. He wanted to learn how to run and manage a business, so he knew the Business & Entrepreneurship Academy would best align with his career interests and goals. When asked to share a favorite activity or project he completed in his academy, Tristan replied, "I enjoyed when we got to create a board game about the struggles of budgeting. It was fun because I got to work with some of my friends to make something that other people would enjoy."



Cassie Norman is a first-year teacher at NWHS and teaches several business courses—including management, marketing, and accounting. Cassie is a champion for the academy model, as it has had an equal impact on her becoming a teacher. She shared, "I was working as the Media Clerk in our school when the academy model began and seeing all of the ways that true to life scenarios could be brought into the classroom pushed me to return to school to pursue a teaching career." When asked about her students favorite project this year, she indicated it is their "Dream Job Project." In all of her classes, students research their desired profession. From there, students complete a SWOT analysis (a key concept in business) of the skills they currently possess to perform that job. This gives students the chance to reflect on some of the areas where they have strengths; areas where they are weak and how to improve those weaknesses; what opportunities do they currently have to obtain that job (such as knowing someone in the field); and what threats might they encounter in their pursuit of this job. During this process, students must also see what aspect of the class they are in applies to their dream job. For example, if a student is in accounting and wants to be a nurse how might the skill they are learning apply to that field? This not only ties the activity to the subject-matter, but also makes the project relevant to all students.

Health Services Academy Spotlight

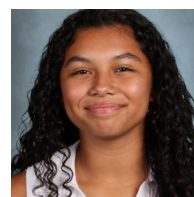


Nicolaas Weise is a Biomedical Sciences instructor at JHS with thirty years of teaching experience. Through the Project-Lead-the-Way curriculum he uses, he takes the topic of medicine and teaches the concept through a real-life experience or application. A favorite project in his class is when students build prosthetic limbs. Students get a firsthand feel and experience the issues and frustrations with utilizing a prosthetic limb. Not only do they have to build it, but it also must be attachable and functional. Not only does this project build applicable scientific knowledge and understanding, but it also builds empathy within our students. When asked about the importance of the academies, he highlighted two specific aspects: "The first is giving them experiences that they would see on their path to becoming whatever it is that they want to be. Second is the most important, and that is to get to know our students and talk about the students that we share. If they are struggling or celebrating we all know and we all can check in. We are family within a family."

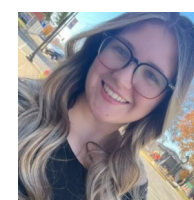


LaQaya Gold is a senior at JHS who chose the Health Services Academy because she loves to help people and be there for them. She also appreciated that the field of healthcare provides a wide range of jobs, which would allow for her to transition or grow into other roles in the industry that focus on patient care. When asked how her academy has prepared her for life after high school she said, "It taught me to trust in my abilities." She believes the labs in her CNA course have appropriately prepared her for the future, which has increased her confidence—in general, but also specifically to the skills required of a CNA.

Public Service Academy Spotlight



Briceidy Moreno is a sophomore at CHS and is interested in pursuing a career in the legal field as a prosecutor. Since she plans to work with the public in that career field, she felt the Public Service Academy would be the best fit for her. When asked how she has benefited from attending a school with career themed academies, she replied, "Having career-themed classes and academies helps you to have an idea of what your future career could be like. My career pathway class this year is Biomedical Science. Since I want to become a prosecutor I need to be familiar with police work. The first unit of Biomedical Science is working on a case with a suspicious death and the process of solving/investigating the case. This class has helped me grasp real-world situations that I might face on the job in the future."



Claudia Neff is a Family & Consumer Sciences instructor at CHS who is in her fourth year of teaching. She is a huge proponent of the academy model and explained, "I believe that it offers a great opportunity for specialized learning that is more focused on students' interests and career goals. I think that it helps students explore potential career paths and provides excellent opportunities for students such as field trips and guest speakers." Claudia helps bring her classroom to life by assigning projects that are relevant to her students. Currently, students are exploring causes of poverty and working to develop solutions that positively impact the unhoused individuals in their community. Claudia says, "Students enjoy the hands-on engagement with this activity and the freedom of creativity they have."