

ALL-STARS OF THE ACADEMIES

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

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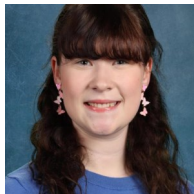
Health Services Academy Spotlight



Avani Doogarsingh is a senior at JHS who plans to pursue a career in nursing. With that career goal in mind, she knew that joining the Health Services Academy would provide her with the best possible classes to help her work toward that goal. When asked about how she has benefited from being in a school with career-themed academies, she explained, “Being in the Health Academy has benefited me in many different ways. Currently, the largest benefit I have gotten from it is an internship at Norton Audubon Hospital. Without being in the Health Academy, I probably would have never found out about this internship opportunity. Being able to work at a hospital while still in school is a great way for me to get my foot in the door and experience real world situations. This opportunity has really allowed me to capture what it is like to be a nurse by working alongside them, and reassured me in my career choice. “



Mekenzi Bierman is Health Careers teacher at JHS who comes to classroom with direct industry experience She takes pride in providing her students with real-world experiences, as she spent nearly 4 years working in an ICU during the COVID19 pandemic. Mekenzi said, “I love sharing these experiences to help them have a realization that healthcare is more than seeing blood (as my students like to say) and making decent money once you exit college. It takes a great amount of compassion and interpersonal skills, as well.”



Emma Grace is a senior at CHS chose her academy because she has always loved science. When asked why she joined the Health Academy, she replied, “Science intrigues me and not only do I get to learn about it in this academy, but I also get to learn about skills that I will use in my future career. I knew by going into the Health Academy I would be at an advantage to get into a career where I can help people. Growing up, that was always my main goal when choosing my future career.” When asked how she has benefited from this academy, she said, “I have benefited from being in a school with career-themed academies because I now know what career I want in the future. I have switched my future career several times and being in this academy has helped me navigate through this. Mr. Cox (my academy teacher for two years) has been extremely supportive and answers all of the questions I have about anything related to health sciences. When I get older, I want to be a pediatric nurse.”



Jason Cox is a Biology and Medical Interventions instructor at CHS with more than two decades of teaching experience. He believes that students should join the Health Services Academy because it “provides students with state-of-the-art equipment in hands-on labs, allowing them to practice science rather than just reading about it. Gathering data and drawing conclusions is integral to science, and students in the Health Service Academy have the opportunity to do this while still in high school. Students often reflect on the benefits of hearing from professionals within our own community. These connections offer valuable opportunities to listen and ask the questions that matter most to them.”

Business & Entrepreneurship Academy Spotlight



Kaleb Anderson is a senior at JHS who joined the Business & Entrepreneurship Academy because of the Computer Science pathway courses. When asked about a favorite project or activity from that pathway, he struggles to pick only one. Kaleb says, “Any activity we did in the Topics of Computer Science class...almost all of it was interesting and fun. If I had to name the one that was the most fun, it was probably the CodeHS Turtle activities.”



Michell Densford is a sixth-year, Biology and Anatomy teacher at JHS. She is a huge proponent of the academy model because it allows students to connect with our community. She says, “It lets them get real world experience with employers and careers. It also allows teachers to communicate with one another about students. Having teachers collaborate on the same students is helpful, especially if a student is struggling. We are able to talk to others about that students behavior and academics in our different classes. This also allows the teacher who has the best relationship with that student to be able to reach out to the student to see if they need any assistance with things going on at home or school. I think having a small community of students and teachers who all know each other in a large school like Jeff High is so important.”



Alyssa Lindsey is a senior at NWHS who is in the Business & Entrepreneurship Academy who aspires to become a lawyer. She said, “this academy helped show me what I want to do with my life.” Taking accounting and marketing classes in high school has also helped, should she ultimately decide to run her own law firm.

Public Service Academy Spotlight



Caitlyn Ashby is a senior at CHS who joined the Public Service Academy because she loves to find new ways to help people. When asked about how her academy has helped her prepare for life after high school, she said, “it has taught me about the struggles of things in the world and what we can do to prevent those things for us. Being a part of this academy is a great thing for people that need to be more associated with other people and that love to help your community and people around you like I do.”



Nate Hayden has 23 years of education experience and currently teaches Choral Music and Music History Appreciation at CHS. When asked about the real-world experiences that he provides to his students, he said, “ Being part of a music ensemble offers valuable, real-world experiences that go beyond musical skills. Singing/Playing in a music ensemble teaches teamwork and collaboration by encouraging students to work with others towards a common goal. With rehearsals, practice schedules and performances, students learn discipline and time management which translates into professional environments where consistent work ethic is essential. Students learn communication skills so they can interpret verbal and non-verbal cues which will help in personal and professional relationships. Students also must be adaptable and flexible when unforeseen circumstances occur during performances. Students have opportunities to learn leadership skills by taking responsibility for one's part, helping peers and guiding the group. These experiences are directly transferable to many areas outside of music.”



Courtney Isaac is a social studies teacher at NWHS with 6 years of education experience. When asked about a favorite project her students do, she described her “Shark Tank” PBL from her senior Economics class. “This project requires students to use skills related to critical thinking and collaboration. Students are expected to create a product or a service that does not currently exist. This project creates a student-centered learning environment that encourages them to identify a need in the consumer market and pose a solution with a product or service. This project is a favorite among students because of the creative freedom that is granted. At the end of this PBL, a real Shark Tank simulation is provided that allows students to pitch their product or service to a panel of community partners.” She believes the academy model is important because “it focuses on every student, not just the high achieving students.”



Kaylee Lawrence is a junior at NWHS who chose her academy because she wants a career in criminal justice, but says, “if that’s not what I decide to do, public service has a wide variety of jobs.” She believes she has benefited from having academies at her school because she’s “been provide job-like experiences.”