



**Career and
Cooperative
Education:** Linking
Education, Business
and Industry

In the Spotlight

Chambersburg
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students at the Chambersburg Area Senior High School have a valuable opportunity to get a jumpstart on their future by enrolling in the cooperative education program during their senior year. This program is a key component of our district's commitment to workforce development for our students.

The sixty-eight students enrolled in the program this year spend only half a day in our high school building and the other half in a real-world setting aligned with their chosen career path. This gives them a tremendous advantage when they graduate and are ready to move into the workforce, or a post-secondary educational experience.

AS THE NEW Grade 10 Assistant Principal and the new supervisor of the Cooperative Education Program at Chambersburg Area Senior High School, I am passionate about providing students resources and tools that successfully guide them down a career pathway. One such resource is Cooperative Education.

Cooperative Education is an individualized job shadowing experience that enables a secondary student to explore first-hand the expectations of their choice career.

These learning experiences have been available to our students for a number of years. It is our goal to increase these opportunities and develop a wide-range of school and community member partnerships for our students.

CASHS future Cooperative Education goals include:

- Job shadowing/Career exploration
- Possible employment opportunities
- Employability skills
- Community service
- Career portfolio development

These five goals will improve post-secondary opportunities for all CASHS graduates. It is my hope that with community cooperation all students will have a career plan with momentum.

"Students will no longer graduate not having some form of career experience."

— Bradley L. Ocker
CASHS Assistant Principal and
Cooperative Education Supervisor

For more information about the Cooperative Education Program at CASHS, please contact our Program Coordinators, Sandra Traynor, traynsan@chambersburg.k12.pa.us and Kathy Jo Reinsmith, reinskats@chambersburg.k12.pa.us.



SuperSHOES

Retail Sales

CODY ROBERTS WORKS AT SUPERSHOES in Chambersburg and is learning much more than just how to sell shoes. According to his manager, Sara Weaver, Cody has shown outstanding initiative and very quickly took over as the boot department manager. In this role, he supervises two other part-time employees. "This job is much more than I thought it would be. I am learning about how to work with others, how to help customers, how to manage the inventory and stay organized." Like many of the cooperative education students, Cody feels he would not be able to learn these skills as well in a traditional classroom setting. "I am taking an accounting class in the morning at CASHS, and I see how that will help me in business throughout my career, but I am learning so much by working here. I know I can succeed here and I love being part of the team."

Fitzgerald Auto Mall

Automotive Technician

Kyle Shaffer spends his afternoons learning how to be a mechanic at Fitzgerald Auto Mall. "I have always been interested in working with cars," notes Kyle who says he's learned so much from his on-the-job training. "I am impressed with how fast-paced and organized the service center is. "You really have to be on your toes to do well and I like that about being here everyday."

Students in cooperative education placements are often surprised by the variety of learning opportunities. According to Kyle, the customer-service part of the job was a surprise. "Not only is this job technical, but you also have to be able to work with customers, which is something I didn't anticipate but I definitely enjoy." Kyle spends his afternoons learning to be a mechanic, and he also works Saturdays and gets paid for his time at Fitzgerald. "I like being active and I can't learn how to be a good mechanic and a responsible employee in a classroom. Hand-on learning is the best."

According to Mark Johnson, Service Manager of Fitzgerald Auto, "Technicians are very hard to



find and we've learned that the cooperative programs are a benefit to us and the students. Cooperative education students like Kyle receive basic automotive training as CASHS seniors." Kyle is already looking forward to continuing his education through technical schooling after high school. "I can work here and get advanced training while I make money." And according to Mark Johnson, having the opportunity to train technicians on-the-job is a definite benefit to his business.



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Franklin County Career and
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J. Frank Faust Jr. High School

Chambersburg Area Middle School

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

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Coldbrook Elementary School, Falling
Spring Elementary School, Fayetteville
Elementary School, Grandview Elementary
School, Guilford Hills Elementary School,
Hamilton Heights Elementary School,
King Street Elementary School, Lurgan
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YMCA Preschool Discovery Center

Child Development Opportunities

Liz Ross spends her mornings at the YMCA Preschool Discovery Center. Working with the young children and teachers at the YMCA has given her a good understanding of the childcare profession. She works with the children all morning on learning activities, reading, and games designed to prepare these children for kindergarten.

According to Sheryl McCuen, the Director of the Center, "The CASHS students have been wonderful to work with. They are enthusiastic, diligent and willing to work hard. The most important quality I see in them is an eagerness to do whatever is asked with a smile on their faces. They are an asset to this program and I believe this experience helps them decide if this is the right career choice for them."



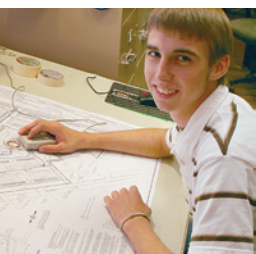
Liz Ross, "I love working here every morning. It makes me excited to go to school because I really enjoy what I'm learning here and I know this is the right career for me. After high school I want to continue to work at the YMCA while I go to college for a degree in early childhood education."



As a former Cooperative Education student at CASHS, **Chris Misner** has reaped the benefits of this program. She is now a full-time employee of the YMCA and credits her Cooperative Education placement with giving her an edge in securing her job. "Because I worked here as a senior in high school, I made some valuable contacts with the YMCA staff. They knew I would be a valuable employee because I had the chance to demonstrate my desire to be here as a student."

David H. Martin

EXCAVATING Construction Technology



TYLER BENSHOFF IS THE FIRST Cooperative Education student to work in the office of David H. Martin Excavating. As a part-time member of the estimation department, he spends his mornings at CASHS and his afternoons in a professional office working with blueprints and advanced technology utilized in estimating the cost of an excavating project for the company.

"This Cooperative Education placement works really well for me because I am learning a lot about reading blueprints, and using a scale rule to determine the materials and costs of each project. One of my strengths is in mathematics and here I am learning that a career in construction engineering and structural design is really what I would like to pursue after high school," says Tyler.

Grant Benedict supervises Tyler's Cooperative Education program and he sees this experience as a good investment in the future. "I was a Cooperative Education student from the Franklin County Career and Technology Center. Before I graduated from high school, I had a good understanding of what I wanted to do. Tyler is getting a good head start also and we benefit from having him here."

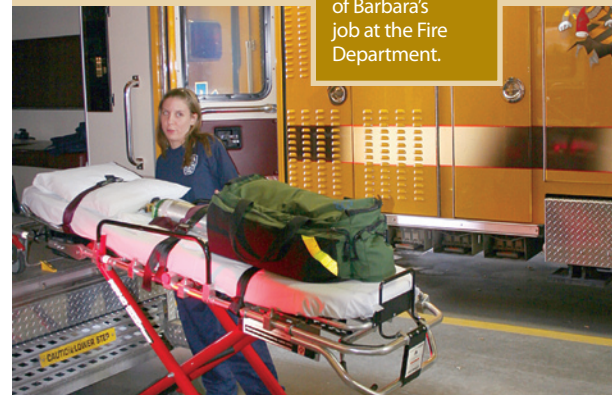


Chambersburg Fire Department

Protective Services

After her morning classes at CASHS, Barbara Clever arrives at the Chambersburg Fire Department for an afternoon of learning the necessary skills of a firefighter and paramedic. Her particular interest is going out on ambulance calls to assist the Emergency Medical Technicians in responding to the needs of Chambersburg residents. "This is definitely what I want to do after high school. Working here has been a great experience for me and I really feel like part of the team. The people here have taught me I have to work hard to gain their respect." Barbara is going to school to become a paramedic after she graduates from CASHS. To work in the Fire Department, she has already received hazardous materials training and CPR training that will benefit her as a paramedic and she is currently enrolled in Emergency Medical Technician classes.

(Above) Barbara's co-workers ensure she practices the necessary skills needed to assist during an ambulance run. (Below) Maintaining equipment and supplies is an important part of Barbara's job at the Fire Department.





The CASD *In the Spotlight* is distributed to all residents of the Chambersburg Area School District.

Serving Greene, Guilford, Hamilton, Letterkenny and Lurgan Townships and the Borough of Chambersburg since 1966.

The Healthcare Career Institute of **SUMMIT HEALTH** Healthcare Opportunities

STUDENTS INTERESTED in a healthcare career have the opportunity to participate in the Healthcare Career Institute at the Chambersburg Hospital. These students arrive at the hospital every morning and work through a rotation of 25 different departments. They spend time with doctors, nurses, technicians, specialist and educators to learn about the healthcare setting. Kirstie Domer: "Before I started in this program I thought I wanted to be a nurse, but now I realize I really want to work in radiology. I never would have known that if I hadn't spend time with the radiologic technologist to learn what it's really like." After students rotate through the various departments, they chose one area of particular interest and spend more time there for the remainder of the semester. After the exploratory phase of the program, the concentration in one area really allows the students to experience more in-depth, hands-on learning.

Cheri Kearney, School Liaison for Summit Health notes that for many students, the Institute highlights the diversity of possible healthcare careers. "When I visit schools many students tell me they don't want to work in healthcare, but then I explain

Elise Horn spends time in the medical laboratory learning the complexities of chemistry from the Medical Laboratory Technicians.



the various careers in a hospital including technology and education and they are amazed."

Students Kirstie Domer and Elise Horn recognize the value of this program as part of their high school education. "This opportunity is teaching me about so much more than just healthcare. We are learning interview skills, customer service and I can use this experience on my resume." Elise: "After spending time in the hospital, I feel very confident that this is the right career for me and when I am ready to apply for a job, I know I will have the qualifications I need to be successful."