



Career & Technical Education

By Dr. Denise Jonas, Director of Career & Technical Education

Be a CTE Champion

February is CTE Month

What is Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month?

1. CTE Month® is an annual public awareness campaign held across the nation to celebrate the accomplishments of Career and Technical Education programs, instructors, and students.
2. CTE Month® gives programs the platform and opportunity to demonstrate ways in which CTE contributes to college- and career- readiness and prepares students for high-wage, high-demand career fields.
3. CTE is for all students, post-secondary, workforce, military, technical training, apprenticeship, to advanced degrees.



CTE Month Theme - “Be a CTE Champion”



In 2022, the North Dakota Department of CTE announced its theme “Be a CTE Champion” to educators across the state. CTE instructors and students are proud to share their classroom stories, curriculum activities, and student accomplishments. Throughout the month of February, watch for high school promotional activities, media segments, open house events, project showcases, and CTSO student leadership announcements. As a parent/guardian, talk to your student about their high school experiences and encourage them to explore CTE as they register for the 2023-2024 school year.

Get active and learn more about CTE by following the CTE Month champion campaign:

- FPS Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fargonschools>
- Cass CTE Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CassCTE>
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthDakotaCTE
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthDakotaCTE>



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Career Awareness and Impact!

CTE's mission is to provide opportunities for students to explore their personal interests on their journey to discover a career passion after graduation. FPS is proud to host CTE middle school programs in careers exploration, family and computer sciences, and technology & engineering education. High school programs expand to automotive technology, business education, construction technology, family and consumer sciences, health science, information technology, marketing education, manufacturing, technology and engineering, and welding, along with shared programs through the Cass County CTE Center including agriculture, aviation, and diesel technology.

- [Fargo Public School's CTE Programs at a Glance \(Video\)](#).
- As of the 2021-2022 FPS Annual Report, 2,552 students participated in CTE courses, with several students completing one or more CTE courses, 4,264 ([FPS Annual Report 2021-2022, pp. 32-33](#))
- FPS students enrolled in two or more CTE courses in a coordinated plan of study at a graduate rate of 96.1% compared to 89.5%.

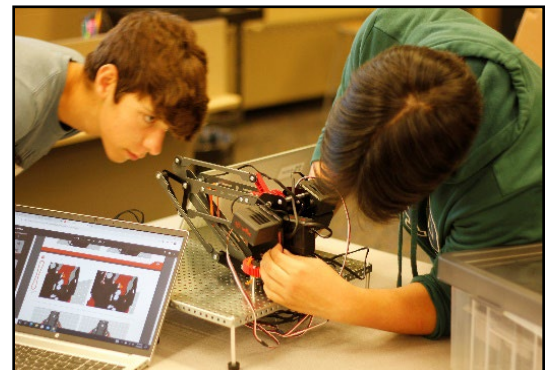
As North Dakota faces low unemployment rates, unfilled jobs ([ND Job Service](#)), post-secondary shifts, the need for a skilled workforce, and growing work-based learning opportunities, community members continue to ask, "How do students know about options and how are they making career decisions?"

Career Planning and Choice Ready!

Throughout the school year, FPS counselors and careers advisors guide student exploration using interest inventories, career planning tools, and [Career Pathway](#) exposure through classroom activities, business field trips, and college visits. Intentional conversations help students identify their passion and develop career goals. This may lead to high school courses, post-secondary visits, business field trips, military connections, or



Health Sciences - CNA Skills with Mrs. Horne



Robotics II at North High School



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apprenticeship awareness. Students in grades 8-11 will register for courses throughout the month of February and March for the upcoming school year.

In this process, FPS embraces the philosophy of a “well rounded” education for students and has increased focus on Choice Ready preparation. Using information from the FPS Choice Ready Dashboard, discussions are helping students monitor their own learning in essential skills and in strands for Post-Secondary, Workforce, and Military Ready. CTE is proud to support goals to ensure students develop essential and work ready skills toward graduation, growing from 69% in 2020-21 to 76% in 2021-22. ([FPS Annual Report 21-22, pp. 14-15](#))

CTE is expanding beyond the classroom through Work-based Learning (WBL)!

WBL is an instructional strategy that connects classroom learning to the world of work. Students can earn and learn at the same time through a paid work experience and/or credit bearing activities. The goal is to prepare students for success after high school as they learn and gain valuable feedback from business partners in a career field of choice. FPS will continue to work with the business community to expand options for learners.

- Learn more about Fargo WBL and become a partner. [Career & Technical Education / Work-based Learning \(k12.nd.us\)](#)



Spartan Build Team - North High School

CTE is a National Vision!

In March 2021, AdvanceCTE released, “[Without Limits: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career and Technical Education](#).” It is critical for schools to engage with students and the community partners through CTE to motivate, educate, and prepare our students for the future economy in which they will live and transform. The following guiding principles will drive the future of CTE, how programs are designed, and the way in which students learn:

- Principle 1: Each learner engages in a cohesive, flexible and responsive career preparation ecosystem.*
- Principle 2: Each learner feels welcome in, is supported by and has the means to succeed in the career preparation ecosystem.*
- Principle 3: Each learner skillfully navigates their own career journey.*
- Principle 4: Each learner’s skills are counted, valued and portable.*



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Principle 5: Each learner can access CTE without borders.

Ultimately, better informed students, parents, teachers, and communities contribute to intentional guidance, opportunities, and decision-making for our students. Check out your school's CTE programs and activities during CTE Month to better prepare your student and to **“Be a CTE Champion!”**

