High School District 214
Career Pathways
Program Stories
As educators, we have a responsibility to prepare every student for success after graduation.

High School District 214 is committed to that mission. Our robust Career Pathways program provides students with rigorous academic courses, access to early college credits and industry certifications, and personalized, career-specific learning experiences that take them outside the classroom to internships with our 950 business partners.

In all, District 214 students can choose from nearly four dozen career areas of focus across 16 nationally recognized career clusters — from health science, education and finance to information technology, manufacturing, and architecture and construction.

With business, community and education partners, we are breaking down barriers to college access by providing innovative career-focused opportunities for early college credits, and building opportunities for students to explore careers now to discover their future today.

Our Career Pathways program gives students the academic skills to make them college and career ready, and also instills grit and perseverance to and achieve their future goals.

In spring 2018, the Daily Herald launched a 16-part series exploring the Career Pathways program one pathway at a time. The stories, written primarily by District 214 students about their own peers, spotlighted students who engaged the Pathways to their fullest potential. The Daily Herald’s delivery of these stories, often as a centerpiece package on the front page of the Neighbor section, created even greater exposure of a program that is replicable nationwide.

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This booklet was printed in partnership with, and with permission from, the Daily Herald.
Steppingstone to success

Kolli Pappas

It has been a decade since North Suburban School District 214 launched an innovative new approach to education: a Career Pathways program aimed at engaging students in pathways such as business and technology. The program, which is designed to help high school students explore work futures through a sequence of course-based pathways, work-based learning experiences and access to career counseling, is in its final year.

While the work of the district’s Career Pathways program is designed to help students explore careers, it is also about helping students make informed decisions about their future. More than ever, students are realizing the importance of having a clear understanding of the path they will take after high school.

The district’s “Redefining Ready!” initiative, launched in 2013 in partnership with the Illinois Department of Education, measures each student’s readiness for college or career—using a metric called the Ready Score. Each student receives a score that reflects their knowledge of career readiness, financial readiness and college readiness. The goal is to help students plan a path that’s right for them.

By Kayleigh Padar
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

A lesson in law

Elk Grove High School senior Kayla Diaz is studying law and criminal justice—fields she can pursue through District 214’s Career Pathways program. Diaz is in the process of selecting a career pathway that aligns with her goals and interests.

“Law is something I’ve always been interested in since I was a little girl,” Diaz said. “I think it would be a good fit for me because I enjoy helping people.”

Diaz said she is also interested in the science behind law enforcement and the science behind legal processes, such as forensics and evidence collection.

Diaz said she joined the district’s Career Pathways program because it allows her to explore different career options and make informed decisions about her future.

Students have the opportunity to choose from a variety of career pathways, including law enforcement, criminal justice, business and technology. Diaz said she is considering a career in law enforcement because she would like to help people and make a positive impact on their lives.

“Law enforcement is something I really enjoy,” Diaz said. “I think it would be a good fit for me.”

Diaz said she is also interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice because she enjoys the science behind legal processes.

To learn more about District 214’s Career Pathways program, visit district214.org/career-pathways.
**Career head-start**

By Mr. Henry

**District 214 Pathway, DECA club help students find their calling in business**

District 214 Pathway, DECA club help students find their calling in business

By Mary Ho

**Rolling Meadows High school entrepreneurs pitch their innovative start-up at the 2017 Startup Showcases as a pitch to the judge. The team won the district competition.**

By Kayleigh Pazar

**From digital to print**

District 214 Journalism Pathway teaches students the value of communications

By Kayleigh Pazar

**Bettendorf grew Green High school students are taking part in the role of judges for the 2017 Startup Showcases as a pitch to the judge. The team won the district competition.**

**About this series and here you can help**

This story is part of a 16-week series looking at Northwest Suburban High School District 214's Career Pathway program. To join District 214's Career Pathway effort as an internship host, career mentor or classroom sponsor, contact Beth Kain in the Teaching and Learning Department, beth.kain@214.org. To support the program financially through a sponsorship, early career credential or college credits for students, naming or other contribution, contact Erika Brooks with the District 214 Education Foundation, erika.brooks@214.org.
Buffalo Grove High School teacher and journalism advisor Stefanie McClure answers a question from sophomore Gina Cottingham, a member of the student newspaper, The Charger.

Pathway: Journalism classes teach students how to communicate

Interested in print, photo and digital journalism? Can work on student newspapers in all of the district’s high schools, putting out a print newspaper as well as digital news through websites and live streams.

For those interested in broadcast journalism, some schools have a variety of options, such as Prospect High School’s broadcasting of sports games with postpone interviews, along with weekly sports shows. In addition, the district offers Studio 214, which gives students the opportunity to work with award-winning producers, directors and editors to produce a television show. This year, students are working on a program that follows the flip of a local house by fellow students from the district’s Practical Architectural Construction program.

“Studio 214 is an opportunity for our students to gain unique skills,” said Hersey journalism adviser Janet Levin, who has been teaching journalism for 37 years and has led The Correspondent for 33 years. “For their productions and in class, students are in charge of everything, from coming up with story ideas and doing research and interviews to creating the end product on deadline — all skills that can be transferred to any career.”

Pathways program now boasts nearly four dozen early career credentials or college credits for students, naming or other contribution, contact Barb Kain at barb.kain@214.org.

Photo courtesy of District 214

NILS ENGBRETSEN/engbretsen@dailyherald.com

About this series, and how you can help

This photo is part of a 16-week series looking at Northwest Suburban High School District 214’s Career Pathways Program.

The program offers students the opportunity to participate in internships and other workplace learning experiences that match their career interests. Nearly 3,000 students annually take advantage of work-based learning experiences that are coordinated by District 214’s Center for Career Discovery. The center works with more than 950 local businesses and industry partners to make these opportunities possible.

The center’s goals are multifaceted: It helps District 214 students discover what they want to do; it certifies effort to ensure students graduate in four years; it most proud are the village’s Main Street program, which they believe the answer to filling the gap between the growing number of young people and the number of older residents. Village Clerk Janet Sirabian, right, joined Village President Bob Susnjara, left, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday to celebrate the opening of the new Elks Steakhouse, which is expected to bring new life to the downtown area.

Photos courtesy of District 214

ERIC PETERSON/epeterson@dailyherald.com

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018
District 214 students participate in internship through the district’s Center for Career Discovery. Buffalo Grove’s Sarah Abdirahman participated in an internship at Vigilant, before graduating high school and reaching pancreatic cancer at 16 years old. “I was amazed to see what was possible,” she said. “I thought I could get,” Cumming said. “I did enough.”

Students embrace legal, criminal justice and early career focused courses, working on app ideas and taking them to workshops and information technology. Professionals are emerging — IT jobs are expected to increase 12 percent by 2026, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. District 214’s programming and software pathway offers career-focused courses, including dual-credit classes and internships with Elk Grove and other local organizations.

This helps students prepare for careers as a computer programmer, computer engineer, network architect and software developer.

For Buffalo Grove High School senior Troy Nelson, a 2017 summer internship at Ashburn Telecom Manufacturing was a high-water mark in his educational experience in two weeks. "I worked on the website engineering on his future career. He also taught him how to contact with students and what he expected on work situations. Now, larger, is a future, he is dividing between the aerospace and electrical engineering fields. This internship gives me knowledge that what students can’t get from class or just talking to someone," he said. "It’s such an interesting job, and this internship is going to be an advantage."
Pathway: Students get hands-on training

Continued from Page 1

High School career and technical educator Paul Henning introduced an app development course that ties in entrepreneurship.

“The students are the programmers and the faculty are the clients. I’m trying to replicate a real-life dev shop,” Henning said. “Over the past three years, my students have created awesome apps that benefit the students and teachers.”

Taking advantage of his IT classes, John Hersey High School junior John Dattilo in December won the 2017 Congressional App Challenge for the Illinois 9th District for his app Dialog, which helps people with diabetes manage and track their disease, including calculating insulin dosages quickly. The app is available on the App Store, and Dattilo said he intends to keep it up to date.

Dattilo, who plans to study economics and computer science in college, said he has benefited from his teacher and the computer programming pathway.

“The computer science classes have helped teach me all the basic information that I need to know to code.”

By Anse Elders

Hans Maucci, founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, a national nonprofit organization, visited Prospect High School in 2016 to meet with students in the school’s Girls Who Code club. The organization seeks to encourage more girls to pursue computer science.

Reshma Saujani, founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, a national nonprofit organization, visited Prospect High School in 2016 to meet with students in the school’s Girls Who Code club. The organization seeks to encourage more girls to pursue computer science.

As a paper-and-pen artist, Rolling Meadows High School student Miranda Adelman wasn’t sure about trying graphic arts when Northwest Suburban High School District 214 launched the Graphic Arts Career Pathway at her school during her freshman year.

But with encouragement from her mom, Adelman opted to take an introductory graphic arts course. This decision was the turning point in her plans for the future. “Originally, I was like, ‘Oh, I don’t know,’” said Adelman, who plans to pursue a career in visual arts after graduating this month. “I took the class my sophomore year, and I kind of just fell in love with everything.”

District 214 students interested in pursuing graphic design start with the basic graphic arts course and move on to an advanced design course that combines an internship opportunity at Harper College with an honors-level design course.

“Tally likes that class … one reason being you get college credit,” said Rolling Meadows graphic design teacher Kent Dyer. “The second thing is you’re getting District 214 credit. The class is all project-based, and it’s really geared toward real-life designing, real-life application.

The graphic arts pathway prepares students for careers in such fields as advertising, art education, graphic design and web design through classes, internships, mentorships and art shows. It also leads them to opportunities to earn certificates at Harper in various areas. With so desktop publishing, web design and digital photography.

The pathway courses differ slightly in each of the District 214 schools. While the dual-credit and Advanced Placement courses are offered throughout the district, students at Rolling Meadows, for example, can take a Small Business Management class.

According to Dyer, Small Business Management combines business elements with graphic design projects, with students forming teams to work on design projects for real-life clients. Last semester, a group of students designed graduation shirts for Juliette Low Elementary School’s fifth grade class, learning how to manage a budget while meeting client requests and arranging delivery and packaging for their customers.

At Prospect High School, students in the beginning graphic arts classes get the opportunity to collaborate with students in the school’s Entrepreneurship course. Graphic arts students design shirts, buttons, posters or other requested products for business projects for students taking the entrepreneurship class.

For second-year pathway students, Prospect graphic arts teacher Andy Poisson organizes several field trips to different companies with graphic arts departments. On a recent trip to a local photo shop, one student design shirts, buttons, posters or other requested products for business projects for students taking the entrepreneurship class.

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Pathway: Students get real-life experience

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discovered how her passion for makeup could be combined with a graphic arts background to work on such sets. “There are so many opportunities and so many different things, so every body can find their niche,” Poisson said.

At Rolling Meadows, students have gotten practical experience by designing T-shirts for the Rolling Meadows Fire Department and the school’s own sports teams and clubs.

Graphic design students provide apparel designs for the school’s Spirit store, which sells shirts starting at $5 to make sure every student can afford one.

“Some of these kids are telling me, ‘We’re walking down the hall, and we see

like 500 people wearing the shirt I designed,’” Dyer said. “The kids are taking pride in it, and they’re enjoying seeing their stuff on everyone and knowing that by being part of this class, this pathway, they’re reshaping and redesigning our school and our school spirit.”

Blueprint for success

Dist. 214 helps architecture, construction students build futures

Buffalo Grove High School senior Bartosz Oleszko credits one course with his decision to pursue a career in carpentry—geometry. While that math skill might not be for everyone, Oleszko says the Geometry in Construction class, which combines geometry with hands-on construction training as part of High School District 214’s Architecture and Construction Career Pathways, was a turning point for him.

“I’m very happy I took the class because, at the time, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do in life,” Oleszko says. “But at the end of sophomore year, I was sure I wanted to become a carpenter. Northwest Suburban District 214’s Architecture and Construction Pathways are designed to prepare students for careers in such areas as architecture, construction and civil engineering, as well as specific trades including carpentry and plumbing—jobs that are forecast to be in high demand over the next 10 years, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“I’m very passionate about.”

Students in High School District 214’s Geometry in Construction class, part of the Architecture and Construction pathway, combine geometry skills with hands-on construction to create various projects, including walls for a home for a disabled veteran. Students at Buffalo Grove High School build the walls for half the house while students at Rolling Meadows High School build the other half. This year, the walls were shipped to Texas, where the home is being constructed through the national nonprofit A Soldier’s Journey.

See Pathway on Page 3

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Pathway: Students get job experience

Students in High School District 214’s Practical Architectural Construction program work together to remodel a home, getting hands-on experience in construction under the guidance of educators as part of the Architecture and Construction pathway.

By Kayleigh Padar

When it comes to careers, Buffalo Grove High School junior William Kaplan is on the fast track. Kaplan, a senior at Buffalo Grove High School District 214’s Information Technology Innovation Academy, is focusing his curriculum on cyber security to prepare him for a career in the field.

“I’m glad I’ve taken (these classes). As a high school student, you have to think of what you’re going to do in the future,” said Kaplan, who joined the Information Technology Innovation Academy last year. “I’ve always been interested in computer science, so this was a good fit for me.”

Kaplan is one of many students in District 214 who participate in the Information Technology Innovation Academy. The program began when Wheeling High School District 214 formed the academy in March 2018 to discuss the need to build a pipeline of talent for the cybersecurity industry.

“A large shortage of cyber security talent in the private sector has created an environment where (companies) are looking to hire hacker-type people,” said District 214 Information Technology Innovation Academy team members.

In the fall of 2019, the academy was named the Cybersecurity Pathway by the Northwest Suburban Chamber of Commerce.

The academy consists of nine classes that cover a range of topics, from basic courses in IT fundamentals to more advanced courses in programming and networking.

“Students learn about the different facets of cybersecurity, like red teaming and ethical hacking,” said District 214 Information Technology Innovation Academy team member. “This helps them understand the importance of cybersecurity in today’s world.”

For students interested in cybersecurity, the academy offers the opportunity to learn how to break into systems and identify vulnerabilities.

“Any student who has been interested in cybersecurity and has an interest in technology is encouraged to join,” said District 214 Information Technology Innovation Academy team member.

“Students have the opportunity to work on real-life projects and gain hands-on experience,” said District 214 Information Technology Innovation Academy team member. “This allows them to apply what they’ve learned in class and prepare for their future careers.”

Kaplan joined the Information Technology Innovation Academy last year and has been able to apply what he’s learned in class to real-life projects.

“I’ve been able to work on projects with other students, which has helped me gain confidence and develop my skills,” said Kaplan. “I’ve also been able to work with different companies, which has helped me gain experience and make connections.”

Kaplan has worked on projects with companies like Tesla, Microsoft, and Google, among others.

“Working with companies like Tesla and Microsoft has been really beneficial,” said Kaplan. “I’ve been able to work on real-life projects and gain experience that will be helpful in my future career.”

Kaplan plans to attend a four-year university and major in computer science. He hopes to work in the cybersecurity industry after graduation.

“I’m excited to continue working on projects with companies and growing my skills,” said Kaplan. “I’m also excited to see where my career takes me.”

“By having the opportunity to work on real-life projects, students are able to gain hands-on experience and build their resumes,” said District 214 Information Technology Innovation Academy team member.

“Students have the opportunity to work on projects that are related to their future careers, which helps them gain confidence and develop their skills,” said District 214 Information Technology Innovation Academy team member.

“The academy is a great opportunity for students who are interested in cybersecurity and technology,” said District 214 Information Technology Innovation Academy team member. “It’s a great way to get started in your future career.”
**Dual purpose**

Early College Center helps District 214 students earn dual credits and save money

Submitted by Northwest Suburban Daily Herald
High School District 214

During her senior year of high school, Alethia Hernandez enrolled in online college courses offered through Northwest Suburban High School District 214’s new Early College Center.

The development of the Early College Center paved the way for Hernandez to concurrently earn a semester of high school and college credit while saving time and money on college tuition. Through the online classes, Hernandez said she gained skills that will help her in the future.

“Being a part of this online program shows that I am definitely college ready and that I have a lot of potential,” said Hernandez, a 2018 Elk Grove High School graduate. “It made (colleges and universities) realize that I’m independent and I’m really ready to take on challenging courses.”

In District 214’s Career Pathways program, students have a variety of opportunities to earn college credits while in high school, significantly increasing their chances to succeed at the college level and saving them thousands of dollars.

The ultimate goal is to break down barriers of postsecondary access and affordability while ensuring students leave high school poised to excel. Through the Advanced Placement program, students can be plugged into the contract so they can be guaranteed college credit at any public state college or university in Illinois by earning a 3 or higher on the end-of-year exam.

At the same time, District 214 offers more than 60 dual credit course opportunities through partnering with colleges such as Eastern Illinois University, Harper College, National Louis University and Northeastern Illinois University.

In the 2017-18 school year, District 214 students earned 37,500 college credits. For students attending an Illinois public university, that figure equates to a potential savings of $12.9 million. At a state community college, it translates to $4.1 million saved.

“Through our partnerships, students are able to fully benefit from the college-level instruction which has traditionally occurred in our high schools, as well as experience new opportunities for learning,” said Dan Hardrict, District 214’s director of academic programs and pathways. “Collectively, these efforts have allowed us to increase access to and reduce the overall cost of college attendance for our students.”

The Early College Center, which opened last fall in the Forest View Educational Center, provides an opportunity for District 214 seniors to participate in a honors, online program to complete college-level coursework. Students can earn up to 16 college credits through Arizona State University.

Students must first apply to the program. Once accepted, they take an eight-week honors course every quarter, as well as a self-paced math course guided by a District 214 teacher.

Students spend the mornings in their home schools and the afternoons at the Early College Center. In the center’s first year, 18 students from different academic backgrounds enrolled in online classes. The students, all of whom are headed to college this fall, earned 208 hours of college credits at Arizona State University.

The classes, which include

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From left, Alethia Hernandez and High Hardrict help each other with an online lesson in District 214’s Early College Center. Both students simultaneously earned high school and college credit.

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About this series, and how you can help

This story is part of a 16-week series looking at Northwest Suburban High School District 214’s Career Pathways program.

To join District 214’s Career Pathways effort as an internship host, career mentor or classroom speaker, contact Barb Kain in the Teaching and Learning Department, barb.kain@d214.org.

To support the program financially through a sponsorship, early career credential or college credits for students, naming or other contribution, contact Erin Brooks with the District 214 Educational Foundation, erin.brooks@d214.org.

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Colleges: Students earn dual credits in program

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University, Harper College, National Louis University and Northeastern Illinois University.

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Noemi Rames works on an assignment in District 214’s Early College Center. Eighteen students enrolled in online classes during the 2017-18 school year and collectively earned 208 hours of college credits at Arizona State University.

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Future teachers get started with Dist. 214 education pathway

**About this series, and how you can help**

This year, a 10-week series looking at Northwest Suburban High School District 214’s Career Pathways program. To join Dist. 214’s Career Pathways effort as an internship host, career mentor or classroom sponsor, contact Teaching and Learning Department, 214-415-2141. To support the program financially through a sponsorship, contact Erin Brooks with District 214’s Education Foundation, 630-372-4152 or barb.kain@d214.org.

Students from across District 214 gathered in May to sign letters of intent to become teachers. The opening ceremony, one part of District 214’s Education Career Pathway, was held at the Forest View Education Center and brought together 160 students.

**Education: Students make pledge to become teachers**

Continued from Page 1

"It’s so great that the district is recognizing the need for teachers and the importance of teachers — and how hard it is to be a teacher," said Rolling Meadows teacher Linda Thorsen, who runs the district’s Education Academy, an intense, hands-on dual credit teaching course for seniors in the education pathway.

Students who qualify for the Education Academy teach in four different educational settings and take dual-credit teacher education courses with Thornton at Rolling Meadows.

Allee Ontaidea, a recent graduate of Rolling Meadows High School, said that Education Academy helped prepare her for the teaching career that she’s dreamed about since she was young. She has learned to write lesson plans and teach them to students — a challenging but rewarding experience.

"This is the most difficult part of the class, but well worth it because of the experience and confidence we are building," she said.

This fall, Ontaidea will attend Carriage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, to major in Spanish and music in secondary education to become a high school Spanish teacher.

"I hope to return to District 214 to teach and give back to the community that helped me improve my self-esteem and find my purpose," she said.

**Show business**

Dist. 214 students get to explore creativity via the arts pathways

**About this series**

From telling out stories in show choir competitions to creating paintings with brushes and palettes, students are being trained as future teachers by learning skills in several courses in the district. District 214’s Career Pathways effort as an internship host, career mentor or classroom sponsor, contact Erin Brooks with District 214’s Education Foundation, 630-372-4152.

The district’s Career Pathways program is an opportunity for District 214 students to gain a unique, professional experience in any field of education or career pathway moving forward," said Christopher Placek, the district’s chief of instruction. "With this experience, students have the chance to learn more about and explore a career in education or a field related to education."
A step ahead

District 214 offers prescription for health career success

BY AMANDA TALALAJ  
*Sitting High School*

Hatice Canbolat has wanted to be a doctor since she became interested in science in third grade. The senior, "Casablanca," is currently participating in a summer internship at Harper College that’s expected to benefit her as she prepares for the future, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In addition to these programs, District 214 is launching a "Shadow College" health careers partnership this fall, an opportunity for health care professionals to spend a day at Harper College, earning dual credits and putting a jump start on their careers and further college education.

"It is giving students the opportunity to earn around 45 hours of college credit in a health career certification or degree area that will help them prepare for health careers," said Julie Cohen, district director of Academic Programs and Pathways. "Through our career pathways, we’re really trying to help students decide where their post-secondary path is while they can go to college with purpose."

At Elk Grove High School, Career Blanks teaches introduction to health careers and biological and medical terminology classes. There, students study the human body and medical terminology and learn skills such as how to speak to patients and interact with a nurse.

The experiences, coordinated by District 214’s Center for Career Discovery, are part of the district’s effort to ensure all students explore careers, leave with an authentic workplace experience and gain soft skills to help them find jobs.

See PATHWAYS ON PAGE 3

Special needs students in Dist. 214 learn job skills to help find careers

BY KAYLEIGH PADAR  
John Hayon High School

More than two years ago, Northwestern Suburban High School District 214 opened its first coffee cart in the main hallway of the district’s headquarters.

About 18 students with special needs in the district’s transition program worked behind the cart in the mornings and afternoons. With the help of a staff member, they learned to handle money, restock supplies and improve their social skills and communication.

Today, nearly 130 special needs students across District 214 work at microbusinesses in their schools and in workplaces in the Northwest suburbs.

The experiences, coordinated by District 214’s Center for Career Discovery, are part of the district’s effort to ensure all students explore careers, leave with an authentic workplace experience and gain soft skills to help them find jobs.

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Pathways: Experience leads to choices

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“These experiences are student-centered, driven by interests and strengths, and meet students where they are socially, emotionally and academically to prepare them for success,” said Krista Paul, District 214’s assistant director of career and technical education, who oversees the Center for Career Discovery.

Once students have identified a career area of interest, they are matched with a job site for a semester and given support to grow.

For example, the district uses grant funds to employ job coaches to work directly with special needs students at every workplace. Job coaches help students develop appropriate work habits and behavior, including problem solving, staying on task, asking for help and taking the initiative, district officials said.

Besides microbusinesses in the schools, students work at jobs in the community and serve in a variety of roles, from helping prepare food to delivering mail to interacting with adults and children.

Laure Shaffer was a student in District 214’s transition program for 18- to 22-year-olds. As a student, she worked at a few job sites, including the Rolling Meadows Public Library, T.J. Maxx and Walgreens.

At each workplace, Shaffer said she learned valuable skills and gained insight.

“I’ve learned a lot from all these job sites. Take one thing at a time and don’t go too fast. If you make a mistake, it’s OK,” she said.

A few years ago, while working at Walgreens, Shaffer impressed her supervisor with her work ethic and was offered a job.

“I was very excited. This (was) my first time being hired for a job,” she said.

Last school year, Brandon Artwohl worked at Marshalls, where he learned how to put sensors on products and how to tag items.

“My favorite part ... is seeing other people that I know and talking and helping them out,” said Artwohl, a recent John Hersey High School graduate.

Giving students the opportunity to interact with others in the community and outside of the classroom has value, said Hersey special education division head Genevieve Rosenberg.

“They learn to respond to someone other than their teachers, so they learn to respond to someone who really is their boss and has the potential to be their real boss,” she said.

District 214 educators created a coffee cart workplace learning experience for students in the district’s transition program in 2016. It was so well received that multiple other coffee carts were commissioned at other District 214 schools.

Continued on page 26

Autos and aviation

District 214 students learn career options in transportation with Pathways program

Submitted by District 214

Jordan Monroe thought he would have to wait until college to begin studying the fundamentals of aviation.

But the Prospect High School senior is already taking a dual credit introductory aviation course, networking with industry professionals and learning about careers in the field. The opportunities are part of an expanded transportation career pathway in Northwest Suburban High School District 214 that now includes aviation.

“I’m so glad we have this (aviation) program,” said Monroe, 17, an aspiring pilot who hopes to travel and learn about new cultures. “There needs to be more aviation (courses) in high school. I wish more schools had aviation integrated into their curriculum.

The aviation program in District 214’s transportation career pathway launched this summer and comes as the airline industry addresses the extraordinary demand of personnel needed to maintain aircraft.

A 2018 Boeing study found that 1.2 million new commercial airline pilots and maintenance technicians will be needed to fly and maintain the world fleet over the next 20 years.

To create the program, District 214 partnered with Lewis University and built upon the robust aviation and maintenance program already designed by district educators.

At District 214 schools, for example, students can enroll in a three-year automotive program that provides access to dual credit courses through Triton College and up to nine industry certifications.

All schools have a

See PATHWAYS on page 3

About this series

To join District 214’s Career Pathways offer in an intensive, hands-on, career-related or classroom program, contact the Pathways Program. For additional information on other contributions, contact Erin Brooks, erin.brooks@d214.org.

Sixteen students from across District 214 participated in an introductory aviation class at the Chicago Executive Airport in Arlington Heights on July 24. The class is part of a new aviation program in partnership with Lewis University.
Pathways: Students can learn about planes, cars

Continued from Page 1

214 students can earn an aviation maintenance technician certificate and associate’s degree within 12 to 18 months of high school graduation. The AMT certificate is considered the gold standard by the FAA.

Individuals with the AMT certification are in high demand because they are skilled in areas such as pneumatics, hydraulics, advanced electrical systems and advanced avionics, said retiring automotive teacher for the last 16 years.

Together, these experiences give students practical knowledge and live shop exposure that prepares them for college and to go straight into the workforce, Zdeno said.

Beginning this school year, District 214 students in the automotive maintenance program will learn about aviation career opportunities, including maintenance.

School counselors will work with students to assess their interest in aviation and let them know of the new program.

As part of the partnership with Lewis University, District 214 students can enroll in a three-year automotive program that provides access to dual credit courses through Triton College and up to nine industry certifications.

Prepared for the future

District 214’s STEM, manufacturing career pathways help guide students

By Kayleigh Padar

Maryann Saffi and Abby Foster were both immersed in science and engineering when they wanted high school courses so many years ago.

After taking a mix of courses in engineering and manufacturing career pathways, both graduated in May with a high degree of confidence and preparedness. They will study electrical engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Foster pursue industrial engineering, or Bradley University.

The two credit their success to the rigorous pathway courses and the hands-on experiences they received from going into the classrooms for making the transition to college easier.

"Being able to talk about these career pathways experience allowed me to talk through college application process with your students and made you feel better," said Foster, who attended Elk Grove High School.

Besides apparel design, Foster's 214 pioneered the career pathway—manufacturing—a holistic high school that helps develop employment, manufacturing and business leaders.

The goal was to address the needs of locals within the manufacturing industry and, together, they build a pipeline of talent by giving students access to manufacturing high-tech equipment and career-connected internships.

District 214's re-imagined the high school curriculum and manufacturing career pathways into a combination of technology, engineering and manufacturing courses to give them a well-rounded understanding of these industries.

"Each student who has left college credits through advanced classes and joint-world skills through real-world projects, apprenticeships and internships is one more win for students who come to our high schools," said Foster, who attended Elk Grove High School.

To get involved, visit district officials.

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Pathways: Program offers students opportunities

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robots from scratch. They also design and fabricate energy-efficient, high-mileage vehicles that they later race at a statewide competition.

Many middle school students in District 214’s feeder schools can explore the STEM and manufacturing career pathways before they begin high school. For example, nearly all of the district’s schools offer after-school engineering and manufacturing programs for middle school students, taught by District 214 educators.

Through a partnership with Prospect Heights School District 23, MacArthur Middle School students participate on the district’s award-winning WildStang robotics team and, in turn, the team is provided with space to create and build robots.

Middle school students in District 214’s feeder schools can explore the district’s manufacturing and engineering pathways through after-school programs. Hersey educator Richard Hyde, right, helps a middle school student with a project.

Based on industry demand, the district has also enhanced its automated manufacturing curriculum and updated the manufacturing and engineering laboratories at each school. Wheeling’s lab, for example, has doubled in size and includes a dedicated area for new automation and robotics cells, funded by a $150,000 donation from HydraForce in Lincolnshire.

Angel Villegas graduated in May from Wheeling and was selected for an apprenticeship with Innovative Components in Schaumburg. The apprenticeship means the company will pay for his education and provide him with on-the-job experience within the manufacturing industry.

The apprenticeship, he said, means a lot because he won’t be in debt after college and is able to pursue a career that he loves. He said he is grateful for the skills and knowledge he gained in the district’s engineering and manufacturing career pathways.

“We have such a great opportunity here, (and) more people should take advantage of it,” he said.

Learn about District 214’s Career Pathways program

This is the last story in a 16-part series looking at Northwest Suburban High School District 214’s Career Pathways program.

District 214 will hold an informational event in October for students and parents to learn about the District’s Career Pathways program and early college credit opportunities.

The College and Career Ready! Night runs from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, at the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert in Arlington Heights.

Parents in District 214’s feeder schools are also welcome to attend.

District 214’s nationally recognized Career Pathways programs provide students with opportunities to explore careers through career-focused courses, access to early college credits and industry certifications, and workplace learning experiences.

As part of the College and Career Ready! Night, parents and students can attend 45-minute informational sessions that cover various career pathways such as aviation, education, manufacturing, early childhood education, business management, information technology, fine and performing arts, automotive, hospitality and health science.

Sessions running from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. will be repeated between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Parents and students can also attend a session on District 214’s early college credit opportunities, which provide District 214 seniors a chance to simultaneously earn high school and college credit.

For information, contact Barb Kain at barbara.kain@d214.org.

How you can help

To join District 214’s Career Pathways effort as an internship host, career mentor or classroom speaker, contact Kain. To support the program financially through a sponsorship, early career credentials or college credits for students, naming or other contributions, contact Erin Brooks with the District 214 Education Foundation, erin.brooks@d214.org.
Robert Parker Coffin Road, downtown that's projected
downtown is an amenity
municipal water system into

Elk Grove High School senior Kayla Diaz is studying law and criminal justice – fields she can

Elk Grove High School's

But it's not all mock trials and

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A lesson in law

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