Northern Neck Regional Technical Center Newsletter
Serving the students of Colonial Beach, Essex, Lancaster, Northumberland, Rappahannock, and Washington and Lee High Schools since 1978.

Principal: Bernard S. “Trey” Davis III, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal: Todd Davis
Winter Newsletter - Date: January - March 2018

Cosmetology Is Getting a Face Lift

The Cosmetology program is receiving new equipment for their classroom. The salon styling chairs are being replaced and a new wig dryer and two hair drying stations have been purchased. The Salon was also repainted this past summer!

Board Meetings
♦ January 23
♦ February 27
♦ March 27
♦ April 24
♦ May 22
♦ 6:00 Start Times

Principal News - Bernard Davis
From the Desk of Mr. Davis

You will find this quarterly newsletter filled with information about our programs and winter events. This is also the time of year where our students are participating in competitions. Look for those results in the spring edition of our newsletter.

Take a look at the website at www.northernnecktech.org for more information regarding programs and events.

Dr. Bernard S. Davis III
Auto Body News - Instructor Matt Ingram

Auto Body I students have been putting their skills to work by ramping up production and moving cars into the refinishing process. Particularly, they had been working hard on a 1973 Buick Riviera covering major panel replacement, such as a rear clip and a new top. The class has also been doing a great amount of the body work and block sanding.

Over the past few months Auto Body II students have been working on their refinishing skills, in order to prepare vehicles for delivery, and practicing for the SkillsUSA district competition on March 17 at the Service King Collision Repair Center in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Autobody II has also learned about estimating and damage analysis, which is no easy task. We have been covering refinishing competencies so they can improve their skills in refinishing vehicles for customer delivery. Since January, we have delivered four vehicles. One of them was a large Ford Econ line van work vehicle and one was a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck. Currently in production are two vehicles ready for paint. One is a Ford pickup truck, which is going to be painted charcoal gray metallic, and the other is a S-10 pickup truck to be painted indigo blue.

Automotive Servicing News - Instructor William Mundie

The Automotive Technologies I class is finishing up Electude Electrical basics and starting on the brake repair system. Most of the students have passed the Workplace Readiness Skills test for the Commonwealth. The Automotive Technologies II class has been studying the Transmission and Driveline sections of Electude, as well as the HVAC section.

The SkillsUSA regional contest for Automotive Technologies and Auto Servicing will be held in March at the NOVA Community College in Manassas. Three of the students that went last year will be competing again this year. All of the students have had a chance to repair and maintain a variety of vehicles in the shop. It is so good to see them apply what they have learned in the classroom to actual vehicles.

Carpentry News - Instructor Michael Sisson

It is hard to believe that we are half-way through the school year at Northern Neck Technical Center. I am looking forward to the District 11 SkillsUSA competition, which the Northern Neck Technical Center will be hosting here on Saturday, March 10. I have one first year Carpentry student, Robert Curtin, competing in the project construction competition and one second year Carpentry student, Chris Lamm, on the SkillsUSA leadership team. Both students are from Colonial Beach High School. These students are ready to step up and represent us well, among four other schools coming here from our District. We have a lot of work to do to prepare our shop and be a great host!

We are busy working on the Tiny House, a small playhouse and a portable 6’ X 6’ chicken house, which we will have for sale when completed. These smaller projects give students real hands-on experience multiple times in framing, roofing, siding installation and window and door installation, inside of our shop.

Among many other certifications such as OSHA 10 and Workplace Readiness, students have the opportunity to earn a nationally recognized credential from the National Center for Construction Education and Research. The credentials will help them find quality employment and it is also beneficial if the student wishes to enroll in an Apprenticeship Program. The majority of my first-year students are well on their way to earning the NCCER Core Credential; the prerequisite for the Level 1 Carpentry Credential, which they will focus on earning when they come back for Carpentry 2.

NNTC Mission Statement

The mission of the Northern Neck Technical Center is to contribute to the economic, educational, and community development of the Northern Neck & Middle Peninsula by providing quality career and technical education, adult literacy education, customized business, and industry workforce training to the citizens of the region.
Cosmetology News – Instructors Valerie Shelton, Nettie Nash

We are looking forward to participating in the SkillsUSA District competition in March. There are several scheduled events for Cosmetology I coming up in the Spring. Guest speakers will observe and share valuable information about working in a real Salon Business, and students will be taking a field trip to CosmoProf to learn about the different industry products.

During the second year of the Cosmetology program student focus is geared toward the State Board Licensure Exam. Students are preparing to pass the State exam by incorporating online testing and comprehensive test. They are scoring no less than 100% on mock demonstrations and state board practice tests. Students will develop all the skills and work ethics they need to work in a salon by servicing the community in our program. They have organized several fundraisers to raise funds for NNTC Cosmetology T-shirts. We are looking forward to our SkillsUSA District Competition in March. Shown to the right is Principal Trey Davis getting his hair cut by Katelyn Ward (NHS)

Computer Systems News – Instructor Justin Hart

Students in Computer Maintenance Technology have been busy earning credentials this season. We had an excellent 98% pass rate on the Workplace Readiness test in the first-year program.

Our next step was to prepare for Microsoft Office Specialist Certifications. Studying for these exams are ongoing, with the Computer Maintenance Technology I class beginning with their expert and master level series exams. Students have the potential of carrying five total certifications with them either into college or a career, right out of high school.

The second-year students in Computer Maintenance Technology II began a new study program to prepare them for obtaining Microsoft Technology Associate Certification. They will take an assessment titled Windows Operating System Fundamentals first.

During these testing programs, students have engaged as an active SkillsUSA chapter by hosting meetings and participating in leadership activities. The Computer Maintenance Technology program will host both Information Systems and Prepared Speech in Leadership contests in March.

Culinary Arts News – Instructor Gary Whitecotton

The Culinary Arts students are having fun running a mini-catering service inside the technical center for the participating students. The Chicken Shack is open both the am and pm timeframes on certain Thursdays during the spring. Students can purchase items off of the menu during their break time.

“It gives the students a realistic catering opportunity as they have to take orders, collect funds, and make the orders in a timely manner,” States Chef Gary Whitecotton.

The second-year students are studying for their end of course certifications. The students are also looking forward to graduating from Rappahannock Community College with a certificate in Culinary Arts.

Electricity News – Instructor Westley Woolard

This winter has been as busy as usual, students have been hitting the books hard and working on their credentials. The first-year students have successfully passed their Workplace Readiness Test and are now finishing up with their Core Curriculum Credential. They are also spending a lot of time in the shop now working on their hands-on part of the curriculum.

The second-year students are also close to finishing up their Electricity Level 1 Certifications as well. They have been busy working on projects around the school and helping out with organizing the Skills USA competition that we are hosting this year. We have two students who are competing in the competition.

Engineering News – Instructors Scott Syster & Erich Cosby

Robotics is preparing for two SkillsUSA competitions, the Mobile Robotics Competition and the Search and Rescue Competition. We have two teams for each of the competitions. One of the Mobile Robotics teams already has a robot being tested on the competition practice field. The others are making good progress.

Principles of Engineering (PoE), recent work has centered around analysis of forces acting on structures. Students learned to break forces down into perpendicular components, and then combine components to get the total of the combined forces. An example of this is the analysis of the bridge truss project. Students are able to calculate the forces in each truss member when given the static load forces and the truss mounting definition.

Introduction to Engineering Design — The students have been studying various aspects of Engineering to help them gain an understanding of the Design Process through different instant challenges. Students from Lancaster and Westmoreland counties recently designed an “Automata Box.”

Civil Engineering and Architecture — The students spent a portion of the semester designing a Habitat for Humanity House given certain restraints and guidelines. Students studied site planning, electrical systems, concrete estimation, plumbing, and more.
Horticulture & Landscaping News – Instructor Tammy Cole
The Northern Neck FFA Chapter conducted a successful Annual Citrus Fruit and Nut sale, enabling FFA members to participate in activities that enrich their educational experience. Members sold and delivered over 200 cases of citrus fruit to our kind supporters all over the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

The Northern Neck FFA Chapter sent Chapter President, Dalton Jewell, as a representative to the State FFA Leadership Summit held in Weyers Cave, Virginia, on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College. FFA leaders from across the state joined together to further develop their skills in leadership, inspiring others and in development of service learning projects to be implemented within their respective communities. Dalton came away from the conference with new friends and contacts from across the state and a renewed spirit and passion for FFA.

Maritime News – Instructor Michael Cullen
I am very happy with the progress that the Marine Service Technology class has made! We have all gotten OSHA certified and are currently working on our Workplace Readiness Certifications. In addition to that, we have worked on repairing and servicing outside customer's boats and trailers. Recently both years have been focusing on fiberglass, fiberglass repair, and refinishing. First year students are preparing for the boaters’ safety course. Both classes are preparing for the SkillsUSA district competition.

We had a lot of fun and got to see some of the new products at the Richmond Boat Show, where both years got to collaborate, and report on new Marine trends, styles, and products for the upcoming boating season. Our Marine Trades program is the only program in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Nurse Aide News – Instructors Kimberly Moore & Brian Sydnor
Over the past few months Nurse Aide has been preparing to start our clinical rotation at The Orchard in Warsaw, Virginia. This has included becoming certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and completing Riverside Health System’s Net Learning safety training and starting orientation at the facility. We are now preparing for our Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) state leadership conference. It will be held in Williamsburg, VA on March 16-18, 2018. The students that will be competing this year are as follows: Devinity Ashton, Andrea Alvarez, Morgan Wilkins (RHS), Taylor Charles (W&L), Myasia Kelly and Tenyia Smith (EHS).

Career Director Corner
Do you know the top 50 employers of the Northern Neck? How about the region’s industries with the most new hires? These are the topics I have been exploring and sharing with students, especially seniors getting ready to venture out into the workforce. The Virginia Employment Commission publishes labor market information for each county on its website under Labor Market Information. This information is important for students choosing career pathways; especially if they are not considering moving away from the Northern Neck area. About one-half of our seniors are considering going right into the workforce or apprenticeship program.

Seniors considering college have already completed applications and most have completed the FAFSA. I have visited classrooms to announce scholarships and remind them of upcoming deadlines. The most recent scholarships announced are the Community Foundation Scholarships, The Bowie Scholarship (W&L Students), and the Antique Automobile Club of America Scholarship.

Workplace Readiness Skills testing is almost complete with 90% of students passing the test. We will have one more retest in March after some remediation on workplace skills. Workshops on resume writing were held in January and February. Students are becoming aware of the importance of communicating their skills to potential employers. This is building a great foundation for our next workshop on interviewing.

I am available to meet with students as well as parents who have questions or concerns about student success and future options. I can be reached at jandrews@northernnecktech.org or 804-333-4940 to make an appointment.