

“It gives me a chance to get away from the high school and get ready for the real world.”
-junior Steven Creel

First Steps

Classrooms of a Different Sort

What did a hammer, wrench, stethoscope, and torch have to do with school supplies? They were replacing loose leaf paper, three ring binders, and erasers as necessary tools at the Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center.

The assumption that Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center was a school reserved for students enrolled in Tech Prep classes was no longer valid. Students were getting a headstart on their chosen careers, while they explored their futures by engaging in specialized courses.

Junior Gini Girardeau said, “I enrolled in health occupations, because I wanted to gain experience in the medical field and I thought it would look good on my college applications.” Gini was also the Vice President of Health Occupation Students of America.

These classrooms of a different sort were designed to give “on the job” training.

When it came to who could get this “on the job” training at TCTC, junior Andrew Heape stated, “It’s

for anybody who wants to come.”

Skills such as brick laying, carpentry, forestry, welding, auto mechanics, and health occupations were just a sample of the courses offered.

The best thing about the school was that while learning in a different environment, students also got a chance to have some fun. Junior A.J. Kittrell stated, “We get to chill a lot more in these classes.” Sophomore Sophia Lewis, exclaimed, “We have fun doing our work!”

Any casual observer could not help but notice that the atmosphere in these classrooms was different. Students enjoyed their work. When asked what made a good day at the vocational center, junior Shanta Williams replied, “Everyday is a good day!” What made this school different from the rest, was the fact that people were enjoying their work, while getting the chance to learn at the same time.

-Mark Plumlee

The Inside Story

