

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Throughout January, ninth grade students will have the opportunity to learn about Worcester Public School's Innovation Pathway Program. **Please be on the lookout for emails and phone calls regarding information sessions to further introduce Innovation Pathways as well as a virtual Open House February 11th to help students determine which programs they would like to apply to.** Please also visit: <https://worcesterschools.org/academics/career-pathways/innovation-pathways-program/>.

The Innovation Pathways Program was developed to help expand career exploration through technical education within Worcester Public Schools. Students participating in the program will experience an in depth look at a career field of their interest, gain industry recognized credentials in that area, engage in college and career planning activities, take college-level classes in preparation for career advancement, and enhance their experience through internships or a capstone project. Worcester Public Schools has worked with many local organizations and businesses to develop a program that meets the needs and interests of students as well as future labor market demands.

The Innovation Pathway Program is open to current 9th and 10th grade students (preference given to 9th graders) that attend Burncoat, Claremont, Doherty, North, South and University Park. **An invitation link for the February 11th Virtual Open House** (as well as smaller information sessions before then) **will go to all students via email in the beginning of February.**

Students interested in careers in one of the following sectors should consider applying to the Innovation Pathway Program:

Advanced Manufacturing – Computer models, product development, 3-D printing, machine operation

Business and Marketing – Business and finance skills, entrepreneurship, marketing to target audiences

Computer Science – Computer Programming and Website Development

Construction and Related Engineering – Construction documents, study and visit commercial building design and construction, computer-aided design, carpentry and other building skills

Health Care – Basic patient care, medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, research variety of health care careers, train to become a certified nursing assistant

Information Technology – Operating systems, computer hardware, networking, cyber security

Life Sciences – Biological research, laboratory skills, drug/medicine development and manufacturing

Innovation Pathway Program details:

- All components of this program are a part of their regular credits as they work towards graduation and will appear on their transcripts
 - Two years of classes in the chosen career sector at Worcester Technical High School
 - 1:30pm-5:15pm two days a week (typically from November-March)

- Students are dismissed and transported by bus at 1:00 from their school to Worcester Tech to participate on class days
- Classes run Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but typically only meet on two of those days
- Enrollment in Career and Academic Planning classes at their home high school
 - Study future colleges and careers, learn and practice employability skills, enhance technical and communication skills, and ensure their success in school and in the Innovation Pathways Program
- A 100-hour internship (typically in the summer) or a senior-year capstone project
- Completion two college-level classes during high school

Applications will be available starting February 22, 2021 (after February break) both online and through guidance. Good candidates are passing their classes at this point in the year, have good attendance and commitment to school (even during remote instruction), complete assignments on-time, and have no safety related concerns during high school.

Please consider if your student has the time and the interest to complete this program. If students apply and are accepted, the commitment to this program supersedes all other commitments during the scheduled hours. This is an exciting chance to merge academic and career planning for your student. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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