Whether students plan to further their education in colleges, technical schools or pursue careers in the military, Career & Technical Education (CTE) can be the first step on a pathway toward productive employment.

CTE programs offered by Questar III BOCES offer students career exploration opportunities before graduation. Students acquire professional skills and training to help prepare for a successful career.

Students have the opportunity to explore a variety of course offerings that include Aviation, Automotive Technology, Business Information Systems, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Engineering, Licensed Practical Nursing and Welding among many other program opportunities.

There are 53 Cairo Durham 11th and 12th grade students currently enrolled in CTE programs. These students spend half of their day at high school, while the other half is spent at a Questar III BOCES CTE learning facility.

Virginia Ambrose, High School Counselor believes these students learn professional skills that will last a lifetime. “Career & Technical Education is a big commitment,” said Ambrose. “These kids sacrifice a lot, but in return they get valuable professional experience.”

“Vocational training is very important for our students, as well as our local community,” said Linda Wistar, Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Wistar, also recognizes the value of professional training, but views the CTE program as an opportunity for more personal development.

“These students not only gain professional skills, but personal skills, such as self-confidence, self-awareness, good work habits, practical problem solving skills, punctuality, and reliability. All essential attributes in any career.”

To learn more about the Career & Technical Education program please call the High School at 622-8543.
CTE Student Spotlights

Kyle Faverio

In the Academy for Information Technology (AIT) program, students learn to configure computers, hubs, routers and switches – and learn skills in scripting, HTML, game development, FLASH, Windows administration, network security and programming in C++ on Java. It also prepares students to achieve industry standard CISCO Networking Certification.

In his second year of AIT study, High School senior, Kyle Faverio now aspires to be a video game designer.

“I really like this program,” said Faverio, who spent two weeks validating his career path by attending a two-week video game design camp at RPI. “My background with AIT helped me with this camp.” Faverio along with other area students designed two video games while at this summer camp. “It took me three hours to solve my own video game, said a laughing Faverio. “I love design.”

“Kyle is a very talented young man,” said Michael Knichel, AIT teacher at Greenville High School. “He has great skill and he is extremely motivated.”

Faverio has recently been accepted to Hudson Valley Community College and ultimately hopes to attend RPI.

Russell Jennings

Russell Jennings always wanted to be a pilot. “When I was a little kid, I could identify the type of plane that was flying above me,” said Jennings. With his enthusiasm for planes and his desire to be a pilot, the CTE Aviation program became a natural fit for Jennings.

The Aviation program is a two-year program offered at Questar III’s Columbia-Greene Educational Center in Hudson and is the only high school flight training program in the Capital District. The Aviation program prepares students to take the Federal Aviation Administration flight test for their private license.

Last June, Jennings received Questar III’s Achievement Award for his strong academic performance and for his aptitude to quickly learn how to fly a Cessna 172, a four-seat, single-engine airplane. This year, Jennings is learning about flight plans and he is learning to fly a Diamond Katana DA-20, a two-seat aircraft designed for flight trainings.

“Russell is going to be a great pilot,” said Aviation instructor, John Mahony. His passion for flying is contagious.”

With the U.S. Air Force paying for college, Jennings has been accepted to Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University at Daytona Beach, Florida. Over the next four years, Jennings will continue to learn more about flying. Jennings is eager to complete his education at Embrey-Riddle. “I always wanted to be an Air Force pilot,” said Jennings. “They fly the best planes.”

Breakfast Fundraiser

Members of the Cairo Durham-Central School Administrative Team cooked breakfast in order to raise money and awareness for a Cairo-Durham High School sophomore who is battling Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.

Reading for Fun

Cairo Elementary 2nd grade teacher, Ms. Larsen, reads to children during Family Reading Night. Visit us online to read more about family reading night!
Robotics Club
On December 7, 2008 at the Rensselaer Tech Park in North Greenbush, the High School Robotics Club will be competing against high school teams throughout upstate New York, and RPI students enrolled in the first year of Introduction to Engineering Design.

The competition requires each team to build a robot that retrieves trash (empty soda cans, bottles and plastic garbage bags) to be placed in a scoring container. Each robot can do this multiple times in order to accumulate more points than their opponent.

“I am excited about the competition,” said 10th grade student Justin White, “but I am more excited to just build a robot.”

Marc Phillips, club advisor and High School math teacher, sees both short and long term benefits for the students involved. “I want these kids to build a successful robot for December’s competition, but this experience will better prepare them for life beyond High School.”

Students are required to work as a team in order to build a mobile ground robot. Students are allowed to figure out what works and what does not work without interference. “Ultimately, these kids develop problem solving skills as they work together to build a robot,” said Phillips.

The Robotics Club is building their robot from Innovation First, Inc. VEX Robotics Design System. The VEX System includes metal construction pieces, wheels, sensors and motors. The robots are controlled by a remote control transmitter. The VEX Robotics Design System is a design to nurture creative advancement in robotics and knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math education.

For more information on the Robotics Club, please email Marc Phillips at mPhillips@cairodurham.org.

Students Against Destructive Decisions
Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) provides students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, impaired driving and other destructive decisions.

“I am thrilled the students here have embraced SADD,” said Colleen Wilkinson, SADD Advisor and High School Health Teacher. “This club will have a positive behavioral influence on all of our students.”

SADD has planned numerous school activities throughout the year to help create awareness concerning the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

SADD President and High School senior, Dakota Armstrong would like all students at Cairo-Durham to participate with the SADD commitment to a safe, healthy and drug-free lifestyle. “We can’t just have members of this club involved; we need to get the whole school involved.”

To learn more about SADD at Cairo-Durham, please email Colleen Wilkinson at cwilkinson@cairodurham.org and visit www.sadd.org

SADD Officers:
From left to right: Treasurer Amanda Villafana, Secretary Lindsey Antonich, President Dakota Armstrong, and Vice President Matt Marquez.

Register Tapes for Education
The PTA at both elementary schools has organized participation with the Register Tapes for Education program through Slater’s Great American. Parents, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to collect register tapes (receipts) from Slater’s Great American and contribute them to either elementary until March 31, 2009. Each school can then redeem the value of the register tapes for free educational equipment.

“This is a great way for us to give back to the community and to support our schools,” said Ellsworth “Unk” Slater of Slater’s Great American.

Last year, Cairo Elementary redeemed over 100,000 points for several learning centers and Durham Elementary redeemed over 17,000 points for a percussion set to be used by the music department. “In these tough economic times, this program provides much needed relief for our schools in obtaining supplies at no cost to the district,” said Beth Phillips, of the Durham Elementary PTA.

To learn more, please call Cairo Elementary at 622-3231 and/or Durham Elementary at 239-8412.
“Corey is a great all around kid!” said Kathy Williams, fifth grade teacher at Durham Elementary. Corey Winegard, a fifth grade student received the September Character Award at Durham Elementary. Corey has established himself as a good role model for all students at Durham Elementary.

“Corey is an outstanding person,” said Barbara Kuhn, Corey’s fourth grade teacher from last year. “When someone was sad, Corey would quietly go talk to them. When someone was hurt, Corey would stand up for them. He is everyones friend,” said Kuhn.

Before entering the fourth grade, Corey struggled with his reading. Reading was not viewed as something fun and Corey always found distractions. Corey’s mom, Jeneen Winegard, believes the dedication of the Durham Elementary staff has inspired and motivated Corey to read more independently and helped him to overcome his struggles with reading.

“Last year, Ms. Kuhn and Ms. Strohsahl helped Corey change his attitude towards reading. Corey reads all the time now and he is continuing on the same path in Ms. William’s class this year.”

Corey’s success also extends beyond the classroom. Along with helping to care for the animals on his family farm, Corey is also a member of two 4H Clubs (Flora & Fauna and Greene County Wyandottes). In both 4H Clubs, Corey helps with a variety of tasks ranging from preparation for animal shows to woodworking. Recently, Corey carved a detailed farm sign with his family name in cedar wood. “I was just amazed,” said Corey’s mom. “The sign was absolutely beautiful.”

Corey is a hard worker both inside and outside the classroom. He always strives to do his best. “You will never hear him say I can’t do this,” said Corey’s mom. Corey will continue to find success this year and beyond and he will continue to make friends along the way.

---

We are close to our goal! We have raised a total of $10,500 for a new piano to replace our current piano built in 1923. Over the years, many Cairo-Durham students have had the pleasure of playing this piano, but it has become worn and it is not holding up well with age.

The music department has established a Buy-a-Key Fundraiser to help reach our total goal of $12,500. We are selling piano keys for $20 each. Each individual who makes a contribution will receive a certificate of appreciation — noting your key of purchase.

The music department along with current and future music students will thank you for your contribution to a quality music experience at Cairo-Durham.

For more information on the Buy-a-Key Piano Fundraiser or to find out how you can make a contribution, please email Mr. David Spring at dspring@cairodurham.org.