February is CTE Month:

Career Technical Education is the focus for the month of February! Our economy is demanding CTE professionals, & that demand is outpacing students who are acquiring those skills.

1:2:7 ECONOMY
That means for every 1 occupation that requires a master’s degree or more, there are 2 professional jobs that require a 4-year degree, and 7 that require a 1 year certificate or 2 year degree. Many of the jobs represented by that 7 require middle and highly skilled professionals.

Examples of Middle Skilled Jobs:
- Computer Network Support Specialists
- Dental Assistants
- Electrical Engineering Technicians
- Heating, AC, and Refrigeration Mechanics/Installers
- Medical Lab Technicians
- Surgical Technologists
- Telecommunications Equipment Installers/Repairers
- Web Developers

The key to finding a high-paying career you like is not to just go to college, its earning the right type of degree or certificate that meets your goals.

TIP: Regardless of your path, consider developing technical skills along the way.
Choosing your College:

Many of you are busy comparing award letters and determining what school will be your perfect fit. There are several factors you should consider when making this decision.

- You are unlikely to find the perfect school. All schools will be a series of trade offs. You want to select the school that gives YOU (not your friends, but you) the greatest benefit.
- What’s the likelihood that you’ll graduate in 4 years (saving yourself time and money)?
- What will your estimated monthly loan payment be when you graduate? Are you choosing a career that will give you the opportunity to pay that amount back on a monthly basis?
- Does your number one school have programs to support your 2nd and 3rd choice of careers?

Are you ready to start your career?

Overwhelmingly, employers are looking for employees with professional skills. Basic punctuality, reliability, accountability, self-motivation, and problem solving skills are prized in the workplace. Many employers believe they can teach you anything as long as you come in with professional skills.

Consider:
Are you always on time?
Are you prepared to work hard?
When faced with a challenge, do you problem solve?
Do you take initiative?
What type of impression are you making?
Still no post-secondary plan?

It’s not too late to get on track for the future you want. Plus, you’re fortunate that our economy is creating many great opportunities right now... many that don’t necessarily require you to begin school in the fall. However, you do need to begin a plan. Stop by to see Mrs. Bonnett if you need help getting started. **Avoid** dead end jobs!

Rejection- What to do now?

Although difficult, use the rejection as an opportunity to reassess your goals. If you feel that you are still committed to the goal and/or institution, appeal the decision.

Successful appeals usually present new information (improved grades, better ACT, etc.), include a personal statement, and a letter of recommendation.

Sometimes we are forced to remember that things do happen for a reason.

Resources:

For Parents & Students: [10 Best Middle Class Jobs in the U.S. for the Next Decade](#)
- [Student Loan Calculator](#)
- [Success in the New Economy](#)
- [December Senior Newsletter](#)

For Parents: [Taming the Admissions Anxiety](#)
- [U.S. News Facebook Live: Parents Borrowing for College](#)