

# Improvements being made to CTE Program

Madeline Klayer, *Online Editor*

For those with a desire to explore their post-secondary options beyond college, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at HR has plans to add new classes and grow current class options. A major focus is the implementation of three new programs in the 2019-2020 school year and adding a wider variety of options for those who don't choose the college path.

"CTE classes have been around for a long, long time, and funding has become a priority," said Keri Stuebinger, assistant principal and CTE director. "We're recognizing in the state that we need to provide career technical education opportunities for students, and not just AP and college-type options. We need to be able to diversify our options."

One of these options is Drone Science, taught by Kate Sagat. "It's a great way to get aviation experience without going into pilot classes," said Paige Chambers, senior.

Three major additions to the curriculum are the automotive, welding and biomedical classes, hopefully being added within the next school year. "We do it through a program called Z-Space, which is a computer that allows us to do a lot of 3D-type work and can prepare kids for today's industry," said Stuebinger.

There has also been considerable discussion on the possible



A group of students in Kate Sagat's CTE Drone Science class prepare their drone for takeoff on a clear day. *Photo by Madeline Klayer*

cosmetology wing that could be built. Stuebinger predicts that cosmetology may take another two years to complete.

One misconception is that all classes will result in a certification that you can go straight from high school into a career with. Stuebinger said, "It's truly program-specific because it's a focus on industry needs. For example, you can't become an engineer by leaving high school engineering classes and going straight to a job. There are some programs, however, that provide options to go straight from school to career."

These school to career classes can be a viable option for those who don't choose college. According to Melissa Muniz, post grad secretary, 76% of the 18-19 graduating class went on to pursue college. However, college is not for everyone. Kaitlynn Jackson, math teacher, said, "There's a ton of need in different trade industries, whether it's mechanics or cooking, and there is a demand for more of those non-traditional pathways."

Many students express a desire for there to be options beyond college. "All our lives, we've had the idea shoved down our throat that in order to be successful, you have to go to college," said Emma Kuvaas, senior. "But that is not always the case. Classes like these can make up for the gap in more useful, life-based skills."

Students should be aware that there is room for narrowing down options. Stuebinger said, "Know yourself, know what you're after, and know what your goals are. I hope that our community continues to acknowledge that not every kid has to go to college in order to have a successful life."



Kate Sagat shows a couple of students in her CTE Drone Science class how to stabilize their drones. *Photo by Madeline Klayer*