



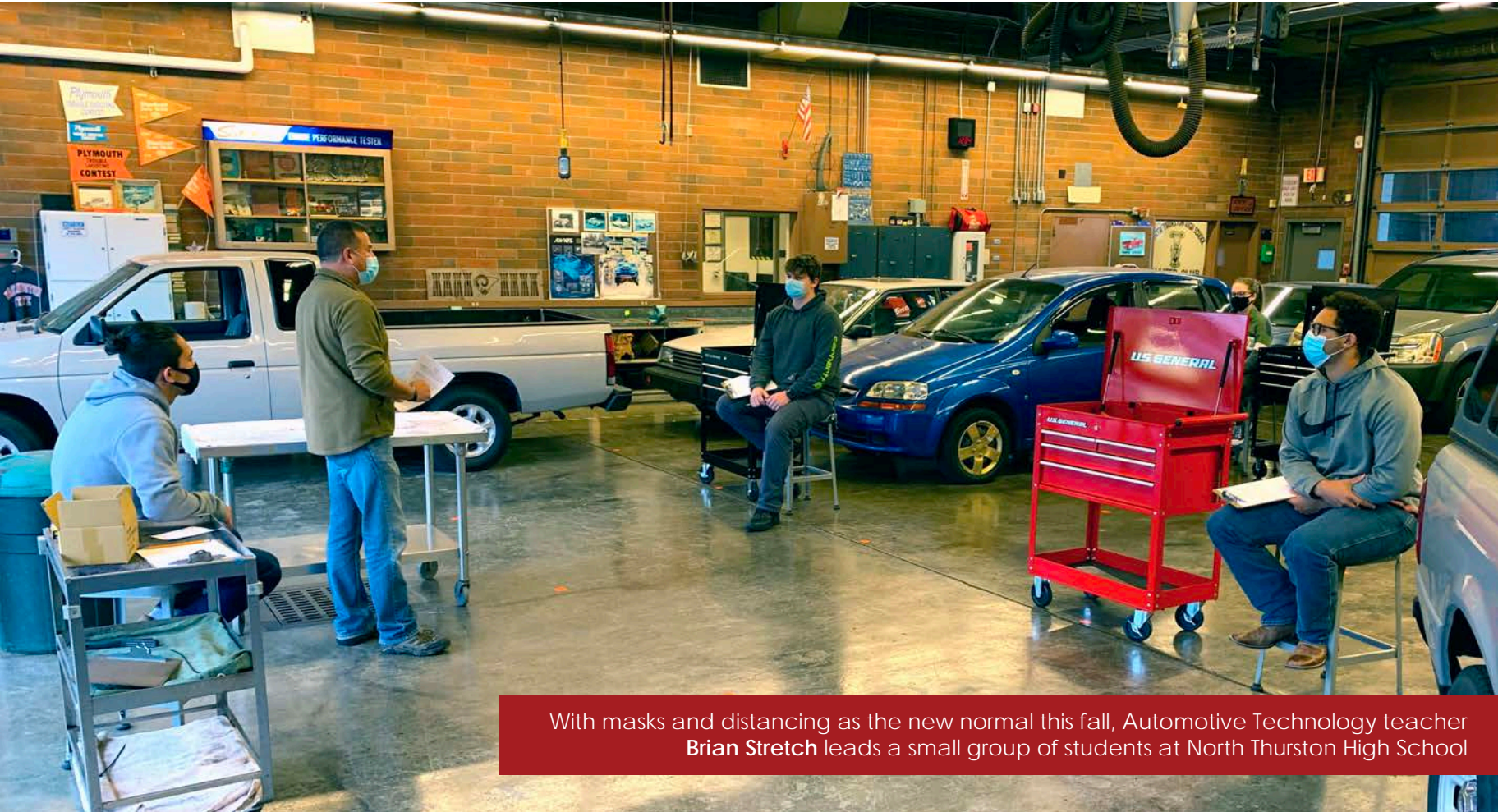
North Thurston Public Schools  
Career & Technical Education



A PUBLICATION OF THE NTPS  
CAREER & TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

# CUTTINGEDGE

NOVEMBER 2020



With masks and distancing as the new normal this fall, Automotive Technology teacher **Brian Stretch** leads a small group of students at North Thurston High School



## CTE Calendar

**November 9-13, 2020**

**DECA**  
- Western Region Leadership Conference

**November 13, 2020**

**SkillsUSA**  
- Virtual Fall Leadership Training  
- Last Day for Regional Competitions

**November 17, 2020**

**FBLA**  
- Fall Leadership Experience

### What's inside?



#### Keep pressing forward

*Salish Middle School teacher Evan Furtick doesn't let the remote setting slow down his robotics and tech arts programs*



#### Finding the right ingredients

*In her Nutrition and Sports Medicine classes, Timberline High School's Carlye Parascand focuses on what she can do for student learning and career preparation*



# CTE Connect



This school year has brought many new challenges, but our entrepreneurial focus in CTE at NTPS has, nonetheless, provided dynamic learning opportunities for students this fall. This first issue of *Cutting Edge* highlights a few of the staff and students behind some of these engaging and meaningful opportunities.

Everything we do in CTE is designed to provide students with multiple pathways to multiple types of careers and give students authentic opportunities to gain entrepreneurial skills. We believe that no pathway is inherently better than another and, in that light, we provide a large palette of classes for students to find their pathway. This year, we have 93 CTE classes in six program areas spread across our nine secondary schools in the district.

Despite the challenges associated with remote learning this fall, our CTE staff is highly experienced, connected, and teaches with that entrepreneurial spirit that has translated into engaging lessons and activities, expanded community partner connections, continued student club and student-run business operation, and program growth across the district.

- Brad Hooper, CTE Director

## CTE Department Staff

**Brad Hooper**  
Director

**Amy Rye**  
Administrative Assistant

**Chris Groen**  
Instructional Specialist



## Envision Career Academy launches as district's CTE-focused choice high school

On the first day of the 2020-21 school year, NTPS launched Envision Career Academy (ECA), a CTE-based innovative choice high school, to 9th and 10th grade students. Using a project-based approach, six-week classes, and team-teaching methods, ECA offers students five CTE pathways to graduation:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Business, Management, & Administration
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)



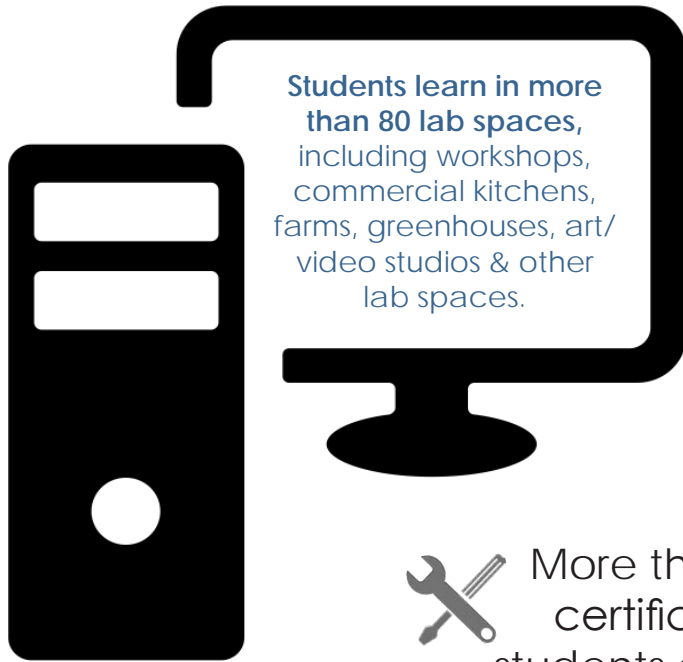
Preparing students for careers and developing workplace skills are at the forefront of the ECA experience as teachers go by their first names and traditional classroom spaces have been replaced with purposeful labs to facilitate hands-on learning, including specialized spaces for manufacturing (laser/metal fabrication), business & marketing (coffee shop & t-shirt presses), agriculture (garden & greenhouse), and a planned biomedicine lab.

Business & Marketing teacher **Matt Monnastes** sees the ECA's CTE focus as a way to reach career-focused students who find a better fit in a smaller and hands-on setting. "Business and management skills are transferable to a variety of career pathways. This pathway has an emphasis in guiding students through an entrepreneurial process, building communication skills, and navigating how to collaborate effectively with their peers. ECA has a growing FBLA Chapter and will be a recognizable force in the upcoming regional and state competitions, with the goal of making it to the National FBLA conference."



# What does **CTE** **look** like at NTPS?

Advisory Committees are comprised of local industry leaders who help guide and support the work and learning that happens in district CTE classes.



**93**

CTE classes across nine schools



More than **500** industry certificates are earned by students **every** school year in across all 6 program areas

Examples of student-run entrepreneurial businesses in the district

Student Stores  
Shirt & Banner Printing  
Welding Fabrication  
Tiny Home Building  
Laser Cutting  
Turf Farm

Plant Sales  
Coffee Stands  
Auto Maintenance  
Catering  
Poster Printing  
3-D Design

**25**

Active student-run businesses in the district

**293**

Students who earned Dual Credit in 2019-20

**23**

Percent increase in CTE enrollment over last 2 years

## CTE Advisory Committees

Agriculture / Horticulture  
American Sign Language  
Automotive Technology  
Broadcasting & Video  
Business/Career-Choices  
Construction & Applied Technology  
Drafting  
Family & Consumer Science  
Marketing  
Commercial Art  
Material Sciences  
Technical Theatre  
Welding  
Electronics  
Robotics  
Sports Medicine

To get more information and/or to get involved in an Advisory Committee, contact  
CTE Director Brad Hooper:

[bhooper@nthurston.k12.wa.us](mailto:bhooper@nthurston.k12.wa.us)



# Mixing it up with...

# Carlye Parascand

Sports Medicine & Nutrition teacher at Timberline High School

As she pours cups of fruit & yogurt into a blender during a virtual demonstration for her nutrition class at Timberline High, **Carlye Parascand** is in problem-solving mode.

Like most CTE teachers, Parascand has spent the past couple months finding and developing creative and effective methods to teach her classes remotely due to the pandemic. "I've been very focused on the adaptation part," said Parascand.


Parascand's nutrition and sports medicine classes are, in a normal year, a mix of theory and practical application and that hasn't changed. However, it all looks different this school year. "We are just now starting our food safety unit which allows us to be able to go start cooking at home," said Parascand.

Until the recent option of hosting small group food labs in-person that she will start next week, Parascand has spent much of her time planning & arranging take-home ingredient kits for students to conduct food labs at home.

In her sports medicine classes, Parascand is working to adapt hands-on activities such as athletic taping labs and posture screenings for students to complete at home, as well.

Despite not being able to meet with students in person, Parascand is leveraging the ability to invite guest speakers to her live meetings and connecting her students with members of the athletic training and local business communities. "I really want them to be excited about pursuing [sports medicine] as a profession," said Parascand. "That connection piece I hope that students just see and hear my desire to connect with them on that level."

Despite the challenges she is facing with not seeing students in-person daily, Parascand is staying positive. "I really am trying not to focus on what we are missing; I am trying to focus on what we get to do," said Parascand. "I hope that passion comes through in some of the lessons and how they are designed."

A photograph of Carlye Parascand, a woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a black top. She is in a kitchen or classroom setting, pouring red raspberries from a white bag into a clear blender jar. On the counter in front of her are various ingredients: a bag of organic raspberries, a bag of mango chunks, a bag of organic blueberries, a white tub of yogurt, two whole oranges, and a small glass bowl of chia seeds. The background shows a blurred classroom or kitchen environment with orange cabinets and a bulletin board.

*"I hope that students just see and hear my desire to connect with them..."*

*- Carlye Parascand*



A blueprint for  
hands-on  
learning with...

# Evan Furtick

Tech Arts & Robotics teacher  
at Salish Middle School

**Q: How would you describe what happens in your middle school Tech Arts class?**

A: Tech Arts is a class that focuses on different systems of manufacturing. Students learn how to do 2-D design (using Adobe Illustrator and Gravit) for fabrication on a laser cutter and they learn 3-D design (using Sketchup and TinkerCAD) for design on our 3-D printers. They learn a lot about additive manufacturing as well. The third area is what a lot of [people] would recognize as shop class where they learn to use more of the traditional power tools. A fourth area has been some graphic design and the kids have been doing some one-off custom t-shirt designs (for the program's t-shirt presses) to hopefully turn it into a small-scale business.

**Q: What are the top skills that you want your students to walk away from your classes with?**

A: Precision and measurement. When we go out and do tours of jobsites and factories locally, the two things [businesses] are looking for are 'can they put the cell phone away?' and 'can they read a tape measure?'. So, the ability to be precise when you're working with measurement. So, whether it is 2-D or 3-D design, we focus a lot on units of measurement and making sure everything is scaled correctly and has the correct measurements because, as it is a manufacturing class, the ability to have things to be reproducible and consistent across whatever platform they are working on. I also want them to know the difference between a standard and Phillips screwdriver (said with a smile).

**Q: What is one of your favorite parts about teaching a class like Tech Arts?**

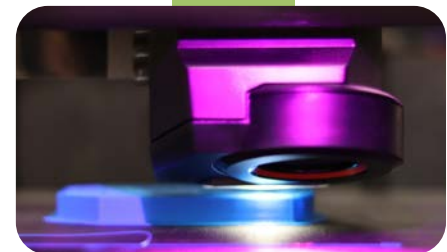
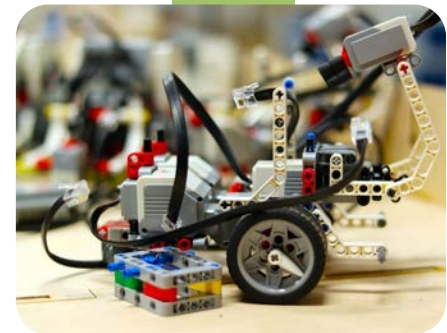
A: I want to see students take the skills that they learn in class and come up with their own ideas. That's my favorite thing. What I always tell them is that 'if you have another idea that sounds cooler than the one I am throwing at you, please let me know because my favorite thing is when I get to learn new stuff from you.' I've created new projects with ideas that kids have come up with and let's roll that into class. That's the 'arts' part of the tech arts name. It's not just 'here's a thing we're making, everyone's making the same thing, reproduce, go.'

**Q: What adaptations have you made to adjust to remote learning?**

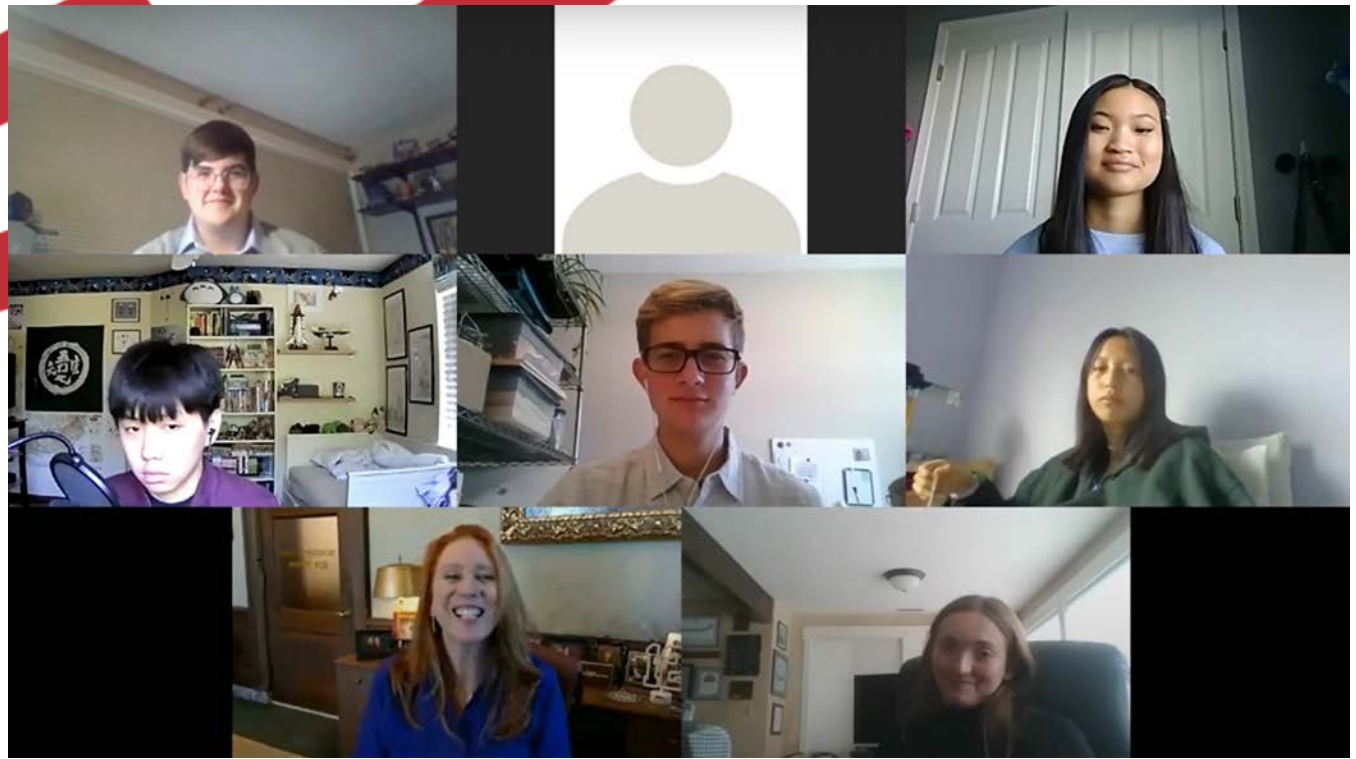
A: We've spent longer in the design phase than normal. But, they can design [at home] and I can print their designs [in the shop]. Also, I have worked up [shop and tool] safety and demonstration videos. Students can access all of them now through a Google Slides page. I saw everybody with their Bitmoji class and I was like 'I can do that, but with the shop. I can make that useful.'

**Q: What's one last thing that you'd like people to know about your classes?**

A: I try to expose the students to as many technologies and styles as I can. I want to give them a taste of a bunch of different things and show them there are a lot of opportunities in high school and in their careers.







## River Ridge FBLA hosts webinar with Secretary of State

by Sarah Mercado, River Ridge High School

Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman (R) spoke in an informational webinar hosted by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter of River Ridge High School to discuss major issues regarding this year's election on Wednesday, October 14.

There was a large turnout of students and staff from the middle to high school level across the district.

Secretary Wyman has served a total of 40 years in public service, 12 spent as a county auditor. Wyman was serving her second term as Secretary of State of Washington and was re-elected this year for a third term.

Wyman began with a presentation explaining the purpose of her office and what she contributes to the state government. Her office is in charge of the state's initiative and referendum processes, training elected officials, and overseeing general elections.

The Secretary of State office includes departments, such as the Corporations and Charity Division, the state's Address Confidentiality Program, the Washington State Library, and State Archives. Wyman states that the Corporations Division helps provide Washington residents with "government transparency".

Her office is also in charge of the VoteWA organization, the state's online voter registration system. Residents with a driver's license, 16-years-old and up, can pre-register or register to vote in elections every other year.

Wyman shared some insight on this year's election and how her office efficiently processes voter information and ballots using the country's first Elections Cybersecurity Unit.

She states that the purpose of the program is "to protect our VoteWA system but also protect the counties... [and] provide cybersecurity support and technical

perspective for those counties to be able to secure their environments."

The Secretary of State office partners with the State National Guard for cybersecurity assistance and monitoring to protect the state and provide technical support for other states in the country. These individuals work part-time in the military and part-time at places like Microsoft, Google, or Amazon.

"These are some of the brightest cybersecurity minds in the country," Wyman said.

Throughout the past few months, absentee voting has been a major topic when discussing this year's election. Wyman discussed the benefits and a brief history of absentee voting in Washington state and the rest of the country.

"The further east you go, the more foreign this concept is," Wyman said. "but here in Washington, we've been voting by mail for quite some time."

Additionally, she discussed the importance of voting for young adults. She noted that there was generally the least voter turnout for the ages 18-25 up until the 2008 presidential election.

"People turn out in an election when, one, they think their vote is going to matter... [and two,] the candidates and issues on the ballot." Wyman said.

Wyman talked about how motivation to vote in younger generations comes from the races and issues on the ballot and events that are going on in the country at the time.

Wyman concluded the webinar with some advice for students to "get involved with public service or campaigns and elections because even if you are not old enough to vote, you can still get involved and it's a lot of fun."

*"Even if you are not old enough to vote, you can still get involved and it's a lot of fun"*

**- Kim Wyman  
Secretary of State**