

# Tech Talk

Valley Vocational Technical Center  
Spring 2011 Newsletter

## SkillsUSA District Winners

Computer Maintenance:  
1st Place Josh Franklin

Residential Wiring  
1st Place (PS) Faun Painter  
1st Place (S) Marcus Moomaw

Crime Scene Investigation  
1st Place Stephanie Otero  
1st Place Sarah Stogdale  
1st Place Michael Stogdale  
2nd Place Amber Stewart  
2nd Place Randi Bullett  
2nd Place Tyler Maddox  
3rd Place Megan Parr  
3rd Austin Obst  
3rd Tyler Dameron

Food Prep Assistant  
1st Place (PS) Jessy Combs  
1st Place (S) Derek Dinkle

Culinary  
2nd Place Gabe Salinas

Commercial Baking  
2nd Place Alicia Simmons  
3rd Place Heidi Dunbar

Cosmetology  
3rd Place Courtney Berry

Diesel  
1st Place Travis Brooks  
3rd Place Hunter Puffenbarger

Carpentry  
2nd Place Keegan Knott  
3rd Place Dylan Dameron

Precision Machining  
1st Place Duane Roes

Welding  
2nd Place Jacob Wimer

Sheet Metal  
1st Place Cody Parr

HVACR  
2nd Place Chris Swathout  
3rd Place Pablo Aquirre



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## Program Spotlight: Welding

Jason Hall is a first year welding teacher who has worked as a welder in several areas. He is married with two sons 6 and 8 years old. He and his family moved from Texas to Virginia in 2004. Before becoming a welder he served for six years in the U.S. Army.



The welding program at Valley Tech encourages students to earn the American Welding Society (AWS) certifications. While enrolled at Valley Tech, students are able to have the welding tests given at a discount rate. The welding students have a great opportunity to walk out of the class with National Certifications that will help them

get a job anywhere in the country. Students not only learn how to weld, they also learn fabrication. Many employers are looking for welder/fabricators. Leaders in industry around our area are looking for employees who are flexible and can do a variety of jobs in the field. In March the welding classes will be touring (boiler/heating system) and the snow making facility. It is great way to connect what is done in class to real world jobs.

## Featured Student



Josh Pullin used the skills that he learned in his first year of electricity class at Valley Tech to help him fix a problem in his basement.



JoAnn Dunham, instructional aide in the Horticulture program, was recognized by the Garden Club of America for her expertise, hard work and creativity with the award Dairy Bar in Staunton. Marie Thomas of the Augusta Garden Club was quoted in the *News Leader* as a wonderful example of the use of a garden to buffer a busy owner, Kim Arehart and Ms. Dunham accepted the award.

## Geometry

The after school Geometry class has finished up its first semester of hands-on instruction and problem solving with a unit on Right Triangle Trigonometry. Topics for the spring will include polygons, three dimensional figures, coordinate geometry, and application of geometry to construction and manufacturing. Students who pass the course will complete the geometry graduation requirement, and students who pass the SOL exam in May will earn verified credit.



Future Business Leaders of America members have been participating in the following Competitive Events: Business Procedures, Business Communications, Business Calculations, Medical Terminology, Records Management, and Word Processing. Winners will be announced at the FBLA Spring Banquet on May 12. Outstanding business student for the 3rd six weeks is Ashley Graham. The FBLA A.M. class toured Ntelos corporate offices in January. An HR representative talked with them about Job Seeking Skills. Candy Tyree, a former WVTC business student, spoke to the Legal Systems Administration class about her job as a legal secretary for a bankruptcy lawyer. Ashley Robinson and Laura Matheny Talley, former WVTC business students, visited the Medical Systems Administration class for a round-table discussion about working in a medical environment. They are employees of Augusta Eye Associates

## Dental Assistant

A new and exciting information to learn!

Dental Assistant class is fast paced for the second semester. We are preparing four students to compete at the 31st Annual HOSA leadership conference. Kaitlyn Trent, Taylor Austin, Megan Swortzel, and Laura Greene were selected to represent Valley Vocational Technical Center.

We are also planning a trip to Baltimore, Maryland, to visit the National Dental Museum in April and students are busy doing fundraisers to help with the cost of a charter bus.

Students are learning instrument names, how to take impressions, and many other skills as well as keeping up with the skills they have already learned. We have a busy semester ahead of us with a lot of

## Practical Nursing

The nursing department is proud to announce that the 2011 LPN class will graduate on March 12. These students have worked very hard and are anxious to get to work serving our community's needs.

Entrance testing has begun for the 2013 class. Information is available on the WVTC web site.

## Nurse Aide

Eighteen high school juniors and seniors have nearly completed the classroom and clinical portions of the Nurse program. They will be taking their state certification exams soon!

## Carpentry



Construction is on schedule for the 2011 carpentry house which will be sold at public auction at the end of the school year.



## Employment Training Program

The second semester is off to a grand start and the students and staff at the Employment Training Program are looking forward to exciting things. The Employment Training Program provides pre vocational training to students in the eighth through twelfth grade. Areas of training include; culinary, building trades, small engine repair, picture framing, career investigations, health careers, masonry,

horticulture, building maintenance, small animal care, and auto servicing. The curriculum is based on Virginia Department of Education competencies for the individual trade areas. The course offerings are one semester long which allow for exploration in many career clusters. Community services that are provided by programs at ETP include car detailing, rotating and balancing of tires, oil changes, picture

framing, and small engine maintenance and sharpening lawnmower and chainsaw blades. We also will be featuring our greenhouse bedding and vegetable plants beginning in April. Lots of exciting things are happening in the ETP program. Feel free to come by and visit. Hours of operation are 8:30-11:00 and 12:15-2:30. Please call to inquire regarding services offered 245-5006

## National Technical Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) is a nationwide organization which seeks to identify and pay tribute to deserving Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school students. Students who are nominated by their teacher for academic achievement, student organization participation and meet the eligibility standards are invited to join the Society.



Juniors or Seniors who have an overall GPA of 3.0, a Valley Tech GPA of 3.25, and have participated in their student organization (SkillsUSA, FBLA, or HOSA) are eligible to be nominated. Nomination forms will be available to teachers after March 4.

## Tech Tip

Brought to you by the Automotive Servicing Department

### TIRE MAINTENANCE

The Office of Energy Efficiency reports that each tire that is under inflated by as little as two pounds per square inch causes a one percent increase in fuel consumption. Check the tire pressure regularly at least once a month. If you do not have a tire pressure gauge, it is really worth it to get one.



You can find the recommended tire pressure on the tire pressure placard, which might be located somewhere on the vehicle (usually in the driver's side door jamb or glove box).

The maximum pressure listed on tires is NOT the proper pressure!



# Horticulture Department 2011 Spring Plant Sale

Stop by and see what plants the students have been growing for your garden. We are open every school day from 9:30:00 am and from 12:30:30 pm.

We will be closed for Spring Break Friday, April 22, and Monday, April 25th

There are a few days that we will be open extra hours for your convenience:

Wednesday, April 6, until 5:30

Thursday, April 14, until 5:30 Geraniums!

Wednesday, April 27, until 5:30

Saturday, May 7, 8:30:00on

Wednesday, May 11, until 5:30

The Augusta County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or gender in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

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