

NCHS Helping Prepare Students for their Future

Did you know that in 1973 only 28% of the jobs in the United States required any training or degree beyond high school, and that there were only 91 million Americans in the workforce? It is projected that by 2020 there will be 164 million Americans in the workforce and 64% of the jobs in the United States will require training or a degree beyond high school?

Conversely, the cost of tuition at a four-year public institution in 1971 averaged \$428 per year. The average cost in 2012 was \$8,646 for a year of college tuition. Students who graduated in 2015 average \$35,000 in student loan debt. Not only are most students leaving post-secondary education with some sort of debt, students are now capped at how many semesters they can receive Federal student money. We no longer live in a world where students can afford to go to post-secondary education to “explore” what they want to do. They need to have a pretty good idea of their career path when they leave high school.

Beginning this year, Ness City teachers will also play the role of Advisor to a group of junior and senior high students. They will work with these students doing a variety of activities during our CAP period (Career Advisory Period), which is held once per week. Some of these activities include career interest and skill assessments, career and college exploration, goal setting, resume building, working on soft skills, as well as a variety of activities concerning social and emotional development. Information gathered from these activities will be gathered into an Individual Plan of Study which will be created for each individual student.

With the workforce increasingly requiring higher levels of education Ness City Junior/Senior High School wants to assist more students to complete a post-secondary credential and be competitive in the job market. Being able to utilize our weekly CAP period to better prepare our students will in turn help our students as they leave NCHS and spread their wings to find their own place in our world.

