

## ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL (OHS) CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

### CTE Month: Celebrating the Power of Career and Technical Education

February is a special time to recognize and celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, a time to highlight the incredible opportunities and impact of CTE programs on students, schools, and communities. CTE fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation through hands-on learning, real-world applications, and industry partnerships.

During CTE Month, we celebrate the achievements of our students and educators, recognize the importance of these programs, and shine a light on the pathways they create for future success. Whether in a classroom, lab, or on-the-job experience, CTE is a bridge to a brighter, more fulfilling future for all students.

Join us in honoring CTE Month and the hard work and dedication of those who make career-ready education a reality!

## Naval NJROTC Area Managers Inspection

Orange High School recently held its NJROTC Area Managers Inspection, an annual event to assess our program and showcase our cadets' discipline, dedication, skill and leadership. The event brought together school, community leaders, families, and honored guests to witness the training and development of all cadets in our program.

Ms. Alcantara, Executive Director, and Mayor Warren brought greetings and encouraged cadets to continue being leaders in their school and community. Senior Chief Clemente was introduced to the Orange community, marking a new chapter of excellence for the program.

A special highlight of the event involved cadet Kenry Profit taking his oath of enlistment in the U. S. Navy, receiving a \$10,000 signing bonus, and recognition that he will receive fully funded college tuition, setting a powerful example for his fellow cadets.

The cadets honored their parents and guardians, presenting them with roses as a heartfelt token of appreciation. City of Orange Firefighters were recognized for their bravery and commitment to protecting the community.

A sincere thank you to Chief Spurduto, Senior Chief Clemente and the JROTC Command Staff for their leadership in planning and executing this inspection, highlighting the values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.



# Middle School Exploration Program

Orange High School's Career & Technical Education (CTE) program recently hosted its Middle School Exploration Program, which offered elementary and middle school students a hands-on introduction to Orange High School's CTE Programs and Programs of Study. Throughout the six-Saturday program, students engaged in interactive learning experiences in Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship, Filmmaking, and NJROTC. Student interns who are currently taking OHS CTE courses, in collaboration with our CTE teachers, led many aspects of the designed activities for these sessions, specifically in ROTC, Culinary Arts, and Filmmaking.

The program event culminated in an exciting showcase, where students demonstrated the skills they had developed:

- Culinary Arts students prepared and presented dishes in front of their families.
- Filmmaking students showcased and presented their creative projects.
- Entrepreneurship students shared their innovative business ideas.
- NJROTC cadets-in-training displayed their ability to complete drills with precision.

Additionally, parents and guardians had the opportunity to tour the CTE classrooms and lab spaces, gaining insight into the hands-on learning environments that prepare students for future careers.

The Middle School Exploration Program is a powerful introduction to diverse opportunities. It encourages students to pursue their passions and develop skills for lifelong success.



# OTH's Career and Technical Education Conference

Orange High School's Career & Technical Education (CTE) program recently hosted an inspiring Round Table Career Conversation. Industry professionals shared their experiences and insights with students enrolled in the second course of their CTE pathway, providing students with a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about career readiness, industry expectations, and future opportunities.

The event featured keynote speakers Mr. Duane Baker and Mr. Lawrence Namndi, who delivered powerful messages encouraging students to explore their passions and stay committed to their career goals. By connecting with professionals from various industries, students gained valuable real-world perspectives to help guide their educational and career choices. These conversations reinforced the importance of CTE programs in preparing students for high-demand careers, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed for future success.

A special thank you to all the industry professionals from Culinary Arts, Graphic Arts, Health Sciences, Entrepreneurship, and Filmmaking who participated and helped inspire the next generation of leaders and innovators!



# NJIT Campus Tour and Guest Speaker Presentations



On February 4, 2025, OHS students enrolled in our CISCO courses had the opportunity to visit the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). The trip aimed to offer students a firsthand experience, spark interest in the Cisco Networking Academy, and enhance the relevance of their education.

Senior University Lecturer Lori Watros-DeVersterre highlighted the significance of interdisciplinary learning and the integration of technology, emphasizing their roles in boosting student engagement and academic success.

Overall, the visit proved to be an enriching experience for the students, providing them with meaningful insights that will support their academic paths and future pursuits.



## **Alicia Mattis:**

"I learned a lot during the tour. It is not just about technology; there are clubs and various classes too. I discovered virtual reality and ways to succeed in life. I realized that my upbringing does not define my future, and I can strive for better paths. Additionally, I learned about scholarships and that my focus should be on the effort I put in, not just my GPA."

## **Bryan Vargas Bustos:**

"NJIT (New Jersey Institute of Technology) ranks as the second-best college in New Jersey. I was amazed by the innovative materials, like machines creating objects from imagination. Our tour guide was wonderful, and I enjoyed meeting new people from around the world who shared insights about college life. NJIT offers many opportunities for students to pursue their degrees affordably while connecting with talented individuals."

# Alumni Spotlight Page



## **Tino Stephens (Class of 2019)**

Tino Stephens participated in our Accounting CTE program and completed two college courses at Seton Hall and Syracuse University. He successfully transferred the credits from both schools to his undergraduate degree in Political Science with a minor in Business at George Washington University. Additionally, he serves on the Orange High School Entrepreneurship Advisory Board, where he helps develop a modern, career-focused curriculum for our CTE students.

In May 2026, Tino will complete his Master of Business Administration degree, along with a certificate in Public Administration. He currently works as an Equal Opportunity Specialist-Investigator at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), after interning in the Assistant Secretary's Office for Multifamily Housing. Before joining HUD, Tino interned at Bryson Gillette, a political consulting firm founded by President Obama's Deputy Press Secretary. He has also held internships at firms such as Broadridge Financial Solutions and served on Cory Booker's 2020 Presidential Campaign.

Tino is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Gamma Alpha Phi chapter), and plans to pursue his Juris Doctorate after completing his master's program.

## **Omenma Abengowe (Class of 2022)**

Omenma Abengowe was proud to serve as the Commanding Officer of the OHS Navy ROTC program as well as participate in the OHS Health Science dual enrollment courses. Through ROTC, she embraced the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and carried these principles with her into the United States Air Force, where she completed military training and enlisted in 2023. Her time in ROTC set the foundation for her success in the military and beyond, and she continues to be grateful for the lessons learned.

As a junior in college, Omenma looks back with appreciation for the Health Science program, which helped her confidently pursue a degree in Chemistry and Educational Studies at Harvard University and earn her EMT national certification.

Omenma is incredibly grateful for the amazing opportunities she had through OHS CTE programs, and she can't wait to see how they continue to help shape her future



# CTE Student of the Month - January 2025

## Cisco



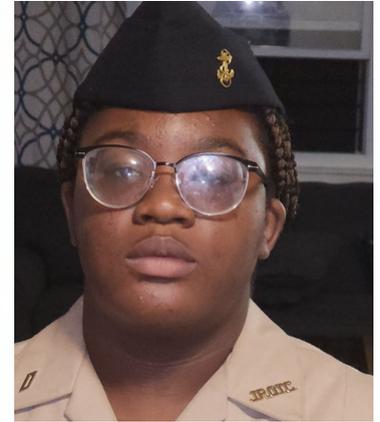
J. Fardjaika is hardworking, motivated, and supportive of her peers

## Cosmetology



S. Curtis is determined to succeed in Cosmetology

## Culinary Arts



G. Williams is a delight to have in Culinary Arts.

## Entrepreneurship



S. Noel is a great example of kindness, hard work, and excellent participation in class.

## Filmmaking



E. Simeon is a leader among his filmmaking classmates and he always has a positive attitude.

## Graphic Arts



Y. Adam is an excellent designer with a strong eye for detail

## Health Science



G. Avalo is a dedicated student and a pleasure to have in Health Science

## Naval JROTC



N. Charles demonstrates the core values of ROTC: HONOR, COURAGE, and COMMITMENT

## Week-Based Learning & Community Service



K. Gualan is engaged in her work and she wants to become an occupational therapist