



The Hawk's Highlights

Dear Vinal Families,

The Holiday Season is upon us and there is much to celebrate at Vinal! Our Work-Based Learning Program continues to grow with 26 companies currently employing our students through workplace partnerships. The number of students accessing WBL placements is steadily increasing!

Over 150 students have been recognized by staff through our "We Have PRIDE In You!" postcard campaign. Faculty strive to celebrate students who represent and demonstrate our core PRIDE qualities of Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Engagement.

In December we will host dignitaries from across Connecticut as they join Vinal for our official opening of the Criminal Justice and Protective Services Technology. The students have settled into their new space and our Central Command station is now operational!

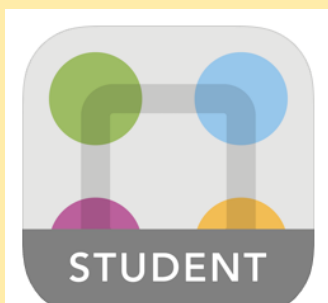
Our technology programs continue to empower students with opportunities to open doors for success beyond high school. Students should explore all opportunities Vinal has to offer: WBL, SkillsUSA, Trade credentials and certifications, college and career services, extra curricular activities and sports, and an advanced trade related College and Career Pathways program.

Sincerely,

Javette Giannelli-Allen
Principal

REMINDER

Students do you want direct notifications for school closings? Athletics? Dress Down days? School events? Download the StudentSquare App to get up to date school announcements.



Upcoming Events

December

- 12/2 Spirit Week: Grades 9 & 12
- 12/3 Field Trip: New England Air Museum & Bombardier Service Center
- 12/4 WTNH visits CJPS: "What's Right With Schools"
- 12/4 Shop Selection Night, *Mandatory for Freshmen* (snow date 12/5)
- 12/9 Ribbon Cutting: CJPS
- 12/11 "Diversity and the Workplace" Presentation
- 12/12 Field Trip: New England Air Museum & Bombardier Service Center
- 12/12 Field Trip: Stanley Black and Decker
- 12/13 Middlesex Chamber of Commerce Breakfast
- 12/13 IST & Cosmetology Senior Center
- 12/17 Rushford and Vinal's Teen Leadership Program
- 12/19 Field Trip to New England Air Museum & Bombardier Service Center
- 12/20 1/2 Day for Students and Faculty
- 12/23-01/01- Holiday Break

January

- 1/6 NHS Dress Down Day
- 1/7 NHS Dress Down Day
- 1/8 "Chasing the Dragon" Presentation for 9th grade
- 1/17 "Choices Matter" Presentation for 9th grade

THE TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

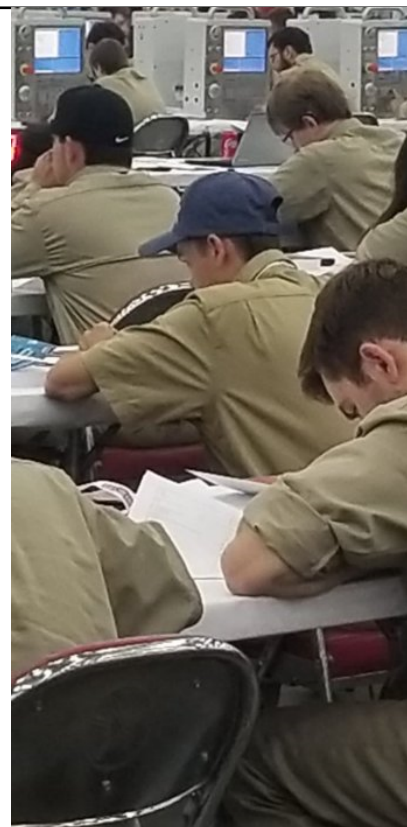
Criminal Justice and Protective Services

During phases 1 and 2 of freshman exploratory, the CJPS shop trained almost every freshman in CPR and almost half the freshman class in Stop the Bleed! We also had Margo in from the Middletown Fire Department helping us learn about what it takes to be a firefighter along with the importance of their equipment. Some students were able to go up and wave to Meriden from the tower truck! Looking forward to a GREAT year! In the past year, CJPS has trained 232 Vinal students in CPR, 93 in Stop the Bleed, 29 students are certified in Hazardous Materials, and 100 FEMA independent study classes have been completed, and there are over 700 volunteer hours! We have secured a partnership for Work Based Learning (WBL) with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services!



Vinal Graduate Showcases Skills in Manufacturing at National Competition

2019 manufacturing graduate, Ian Mannings competed in the National SkillsUSA competition for CNC Milling Programming and placed 3rd in the nation. The competition consisted of having the students analyze a blueprint of a part and hand write a G+M code program that will be used on a CNC Milling machine to produce the part. The part has to meet all technical aspects of the drawing. SkillsUSA is a national organization that promotes career technical education and showcases students' skills at the annual competition held in Kentucky. Ian is currently working at Sirois Tool Co. in Berlin as a Precision Grinding/ Toolmaking Apprentice. Ian's company is paying for his college expenses as he pursues his degree in Meteorology and Industrial Management.



STUDENT COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Nick Morin, Eagle Scout



Congratulations to HVAC Senior, Nick Morin who received the rank of Eagle Scout on November 7, 2019. This high honor is only obtained by approximately 1 out of 6 Cub Scouts.

To complete the requirements of the rank, Nick dedicated 126 hours of his time and had to raise \$2,500 donated by Morin Landscaping, Inc. He was inspired to help the volunteers at the Durham Fair who

did not have shelter or a place to sit. He decided to create an information booth for the volunteers working at the Durham Fair. The blueprints used in his plan were created by MDET students here at Vinal Tech.

Nick stated that the most important skill that he has learned during his time in the Cub Scouts has been "Time management and Prioritizing." Congratulations Nick!



Hairdressing & Cosmetology Students Give Back to the Community

Hairdressing & Cosmetology students participated in the "Stand Down" event held in Rocky Hill at the Veterans Home on Friday, September 20. This event was a wonderful opportunity for our Senior Hairdressers to give back to our community Veterans in honor of their outstanding service and dedication to our country. Our students provided the Veterans with free haircuts and barbering services. The students were very excited and honored for this opportunity. We are very proud of our Vinal students as they are using their talents and skills to give back to the community!



Community Connections

Congratulations to the following SENIOR students who have secured employment experience through our pre-apprenticeship programs!

Jacob Alexander, Collision Repair & Refinishing

Nathan Alexander, Mechanical Design & Engineering Technology

Jason Balsamo, Mechanical Design & Engineering Technology

Christopher Barron, Precision Machining

Gina Battistini, Automotive Technology

Cyle Beyer, Mechatronics

Cameron Blasco, Collision Repair & Refinishing

Josh Coffren, Precision Machining

John DeGregorio, HVAC

David Fitsimmons, Precision Machining

Luis Guitierrez, Carpentry

Gabriel Kahn, Electrical

Szymon Kasjanski, Carpentry

Kort Lambrecht, Electrical

Merrick Lankarge, Precision Machining

Tyler Masterson, Collision Repair & Refinishing

Nicholas Morin, HVAC

D'Arco Patton, Automotive Technology

Demi Philippopoulos, Mechatronics

Dylan Rich, Collision Repair & Refinishing

Joseph Roberts, Automotive Technology

Frankie Romano; Collision Repair & Refinishing

John Sanchez-Menard, Carpentry

Erik Setterberg, Mechatronics

Leo Slight, Electrical

Nicholas Zaler, Mechanical Design & Engineering Technology

A special THANK YOU to the companies who support our students!

A & S Electrical Services, Accurate Oil Burner Services, Airex Rubber Products Corporation, Bergan Architectural Woodwork, Brothers Auto Body, Chapman Manufacturing, Cromwell Automotive, Dependable Hydraulics, DePercio Electric, Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health and Addiction Services, Durham Manufacturing, E-Tech, Grossman Chevrolet Nissan, Hobson & Motzer, Jarvis Airfoil, Inc., L & I Refrigeration, Inc., Middletown Toyota, New England Cabinets, R & B Refrigeration, Somerset Plastics, Superior Auto, The Lee Company, Tin Man Mechanical & Building Services, Victor Auto Body Works, Whelen Engineering, Wood 'n Excellence

GUIDANCE NEWS

PARENTS: If any of your contact information requires updating in regards to your child's Power School account such as: your phone number has changed, or if you have a new email address you would like for us to use, or any other changes, please let us know in writing so that we can be sure our records are up to date. During second quarter we are transitioning to **Paperless Report Cards**. Report cards will be sent via email (except for parents who have requested paper report cards be sent). Please make sure email addresses have been updated.

Shop Selection Night: On December 4th, Vinal will be sponsoring the Shop Selection Night for all ninth-grade students and their parents from 4:00pm-6:00pm. During the night, you will have the opportunity to hear presentations from your child's top three technology areas. The purpose is to provide as much information as possible in order to assist students in making a more informed career choice. Both parents and students will visit the top three shops of interest for about twenty minutes. We encourage you to ask questions about starting careers, starting salaries, and Work-Based Learning opportunities. At the end of your last shop visit the technology instructor will provide you with the Trade Selection Form. This form should be filled out and handed to the technology instructor prior to leaving for the evening. **Shop Selection night is mandatory for freshmen students and their parents/guardians.**

UConn Announces: Lower-Income Connecticut Students to get Free UConn tuition under New Initiative:



Lower-income Connecticut residents admitted to UConn as undergraduates will receive free tuition starting with the fall 2020 entering class. The tuition initiative, known as the **Connecticut Commitment**, allows for a family in Connecticut with a household income of \$50,000 or below annually, for their child to be able to attend UConn tuition-free under the plan. To learn more, access:

<https://today.uconn.edu/2019/10/lower-income-connecticut-students-get-free-uconn-tuition-new-initiative/>

AP Course Added for IT Students

New in 2019, the senior students in Information Technology will be taking the Advanced Placement Computer Science Exam. The exam takes place in May with two projects submitted throughout the school year.

GUIDANCE NEWS CONTINUED

School Counselor Assignments

Mrs. Goldstein

Automotive/Collision Repair/Precision Machining/Electrical/Criminal Justice and Protective Services/MDET/Freshmen A-K

Mr. Pereira:

Culinary/Information Systems Technology/Hairdressing/Carpentry/Heating, Ventilation, and A/C/Mechatronics/Freshmen L-Z

The freshman assignments are until the next term begins on December 11 when they will begin their chosen technology and then will have the assigned counselor by technology listed above.

Important Information for Your Grade

Freshmen

December 4th – 4:00pm-6:00pm – Shop Selection Night for Freshmen & Parents/Guardians

December 11th – FRESHMEN START IN THEIR PERMANENT SHOP

Sophomores/Juniors:

December 9th – PSAT scores will be accessible to all 10th and 11th grade students

January 2020, school counselors will be linking College Board and Khan Academy account so that juniors and seniors can practice for the SATs

Seniors

- Seniors attending college should be on their way with the common application, please seek out your counselor for help.
- Remember to give teachers at least two weeks to write a recommendation letter for college applications or scholarships.
- Most scholarships will be coming out in January, please stop by the school counseling office to pick up applications. Help on college applications (Common App, mock interviews, essay revisions).
- Upcoming SAT Dates:
 - Saturday, March 14, need to register by February 14, 2020
 - Saturday, May 2, need to register by April 3, 2020
 - Saturday, June 6, need to register by May 8, 2020

Community Service: Community Service or Volunteering enables students to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. Here at Vinal Tech, students are required to complete 40 hours of community service work by the end of their senior year. We recommend 20 hours of outside community work and 20 hours of service within the school. Some of the ways students can earn community service hours are through our night events. Students should speak with their counselor if they are in need of community service hours.

Congratulations to Vinal Tech's Quarter 1 Honor Roll Students!

FRESHMEN

Ebin Beltran
 Logan Cahill**
 Chase Caporossi**
 Lanaiyah Cauley
 Jessica Chadd**
 Joshua Chittenden
 De'Valis Coffield**
 Matthew Doherty**
 Amelia Giordano**
 Kevin Glen
 Daneja Haynes**
 Nicholas Irish
 Darius Jack
 Dylan Jensen**
 Kamilla Justiniano-Otero
 Matthew Kowalski
 Richard LaBree
 Alyssa Lopez**
 Jordan McDonald**
 Krista Meehan**
 Kyle Miller**
 Justin Morneau**
 Frank Morrill
 Jalena Murdock
 Christopher Nemeth**
 Brianna Nowakowski**
 Emma Ostrander**
 Audria-marie Outlaw
 Bernard Russo**
 Marc Setterberg**
 Aaron Sicignano**
 Matthew Smith**
 Marco Sorrentino**
 Daniel Tigner
 Gabriella Williams**
 David Wimler
 Davia Wright**
 Thomas Wysocki**
 Carter Yost

SOPHOMORES

James Ahern
 Hunter Barone
 Erin Beach**
 Alexander Becker**
 Matthew Bish
 Hunter Brothers
 Damon Buganski**
 Caylisse Carrero**
 Olivia Coffren**
 Jaden Colon
 Joshua Comfort**
 Gina Conte**
 Sabrina Czapiga**
 Patrick Davoren
 Isabella DePaolo**
 Salvatore DeRenzo
 Michael Felgate**
 Madison Ferrara
 Damariya Fountain
 Luke Gagnon
 Guy Garofalo**
 Hunter Harris**
 Aiden Hoyt
 Christopher Knight
 Joseph Koontz
 Alexander Makein**
 Wyatt Malone**
 Ryan Martin
 Dominic McElroy**
 Logan Palmer
 Ledario Ramirez
 Savonnah Regnier**
 Gianna Romano**
 Benjamin Rowe**
 Jacob Sergi**
 Nikolas Solsky
 Ashley Urena**
 Bryan Vargas**
 Jonathan Vasso
 Matthew Vasso
 Sheraud Wilder
 Joseph Williams

JUNIORS

Nathan Botting**
 Lila Cartwright**
 Hailey Dickson**
 Connor Douglas**
 Jada Gonzalez**
 Zachary Jahn**
 Michael Lee**
 Janiyah Miller**
 James Ortiz
 Stevie Ricci**
 Calvin Sanchez
 Oliver Santiago**
 Tyler Schloss**
 Jakob Slight
 Daisy Mae Smith
 Robert Walling**
 Sean Walsh**
 Devin Worrall**
 Jacob Zuber**

SENIORS

Jacob Alexander
 Christopher Barron**
 Gina Battistini
 Laura Battistini
 Jacob Beatty
 Ryan Becker
 Angelo Bonamico
 Arielle Boudah
 Hayden Brant
 Imane Chiby
 Joshua Coffren
 Lisette Curillo-Farez**
 Steven Davis
 Emmily De Leon**
 Lily DesJardins**
 Starr Dixon
 Richard Gotta
 TyAsia Harper**
 Zachary Harris**
 Alexandra Henderson**
 Tiara Herring
 Ariana Johnson**
 Eric Johnston**
 Gabriel Kahn
 Szymon Kasjanski
 Corbin Kattermann
 Kort Lambrecht
 Merrick Lankarge
 Destiny Luna**
 Aden Malone
 Rachel Markovics
 Nayelis Melendez-Roman
 Shayna Pandolfo
 Hunter Rogala
 Frankie Romano**
 Leo Slight**
 Jessie Smith**
 Emily Stano**
 Alexander Thisdale
 Angelica Watson
 Amaya White
 Hannah Yitchinski



**High Honors

Activity and Advisory Board

A Message from Our Student Council Adviser ~ Mrs. Cassella

Congratulations to **Imane Chiby** for being voted Vice-President and **Shayna Pandolfo** for being voted Parliamentarian. Good luck in your new positions.

Seniors Class Dues are DUE

Student dues at Vinal are \$200.00. This money assists seniors with graduation, a cap and gown purchase, diploma purchase, a senior yearbook, and senior trip. Seniors should have their dues paid in full as we have recommended \$50.00 per year. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to Senior Class Adviser, Jennifer.Cassella@ct.gov

National Honor Society

The HAWKS NHS is sponsoring "Button Up Connecticut" and Connecticut Children's Medical Center's Coat and Toy Drive. Help the HAWKS help Connecticut by collecting gently used coats and new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. The gift of giving brings joy to our students and Connecticut residents who are less fortunate than us. Donations can be dropped off in the administrative office December 2-December 10. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

2019 Coat & Toy Drive to Benefit



A Note from our School Based Health Center (SBHC): The SBHC has provided medical care, behavioral health services and oral health services for over 1600 students since 2011. **Our Health Center is open daily during the school hours functioning as a walk-in clinic for minor health illnesses and emergencies.** Our goal has been to keep our students in school. We have been able to decrease absenteeism due to early diagnosis and treatment. This service has been especially useful for students not from the Middletown area. On site evaluations have saved parents from having to leave home or work while trying to make same day appointments with regular providers. Our goal is to work with your regular provider, not take their place.

Please consider enrolling your son/daughter in the School Based Health Center. You can enroll online at www.sbhcl.com. Paper enrollment forms are also available for pick up at the health center. Do not hesitate to contact the SBHC for more information regarding this no cost to you service. Please reach out to:

Tara Fagan, APRN or Laura Giles, MA

860 344-7100 ext. 452, or ext. 453

Soaring Around

Vinal Students Attend the Middlesex Chamber Breakfast with UCONN President, Thomas Katsouleas.



Sophomore in Culinary Arts is selling his Family's Sauce on Store Shelves!



Joseph Koontz and his father have always loved their grandfathers' marinara sauce, and last March they came up with the idea to bottle and sell it. They put their names together to come up with "Giuseppe Miguels" and Joseph had control of the label design. Fast forward six months and their product is in 31 stores across Connecticut. They now produce 92 cases every three months at Onofrio's Ultimate Foods in New Haven. They are currently in all IGA stores and later this year they will appear in larger stores such as Big Y, Stop & Shop and Shoprite. Look It is also available online on their website: giusepemiguels.com for "Giussepe Miguels" marinara or meat sauce today!

Carpentry Students take on Production

Vinal's junior carpentry students were making the most of the sunny weather in Cheshire. They were putting the finishing touches on a two-story detached garage built from the foundation up. They are nearing the end of the production job started last year. The future carpenters were using mathematics and thoughtful problem-solving to correctly add siding to the exterior walls and soffits. The day's lesson was one of many for students to learn the complex intricacies of wind and water-proofing a structure while allowing air circulation. Teams of two and three students worked continuously under the guidance of Mr. Landry.



Vinal Students Sing at CCSU

On Wednesday, October 16th, 2019, Central Connecticut State University celebrated the accomplishments of six outstanding humanitarians during their Ebenezer D. Bassett Humanitarian Award Ceremony.

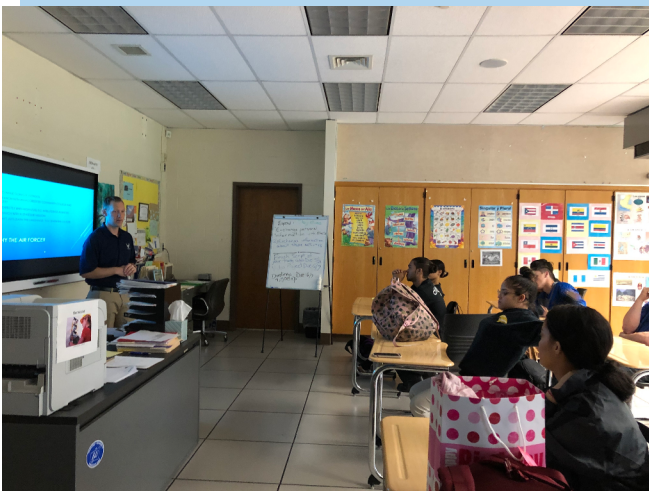
The event was held in Founders Hall on the campus of CCSU. The organizer of the event, Dr. William Fothergill, reached out to Vinal with the hopes that a student would contribute to the ceremony by performing a tribute to one the recipients.

Seniors William Malave and Nayelis Melendez-Roman were honored with the opportunity. Will sang "A Change is Gonna Come" by Sam Cooke in honor of Dr. William A. Howe, a civil rights activist and multi-cultural educator and Nayelis read the poem "True Teacher" written by Dr. Fothergill in honor of Dr. David S. Fearon, a lifetime educator at CCSU.

Both students did a magnificent job with their performances and represented Vinal Tech with professionalism and class.



Air Force Linguist Speaks to Students



Sgt. Thomas Burkhart visited Vinal to help students understand how languages and cultures are part of our military forces. Sgt. Burkhart talked about DLPT and DLAB tests and scores required, different languages taught, The Defense Language Institute (where you learn the language), different linguist jobs that the Air Force have available, and careers after the Air Force. He shared his experiences on out-of-state missions and the importance of understanding cultural differences. The students were very engaged in the discussion. They asked questions about languages taught in the Air Force, benefits, civilian

jobs, travel opportunities, etc. They were very respectful and want to get more information about the other careers offered in the Air Force.

PFO Message Center

Keep up with the Vinal Tech PFO by liking us on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/VinalTechPFO>

Our Current Fundraiser is BOON Supply. All orders must be in by December 13!

You can access order forms at:

<https://www.boonsupply.com/collections/606121-vinal-technical-high-school>

Have any questions, comments or concerns for the PFO? Please feel free to contact us via email at: vinaltechpfo@gmail.com