



BRIAN GARVERICK, SUPERINTENDENT

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## SENIOR HIGH CAREER TECH

Developing more connections with community business and industry partners is a key goal of Mansfield Senior High's Career Technical Education program through its new membership in SkillsUSA. The new SkillsUSA chapter at Senior High is up and running. All 241 juniors and seniors in the Career Tech program are chapter members automatically.

Kevin Williams, SkillsUSA Ohio director, has described the organization as "a partnership of students, teachers and business and industry working together to ensure Ohio has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA also provides its members with the opportunity to display their technical and leadership skills through the SkillsUSA Championships Program."

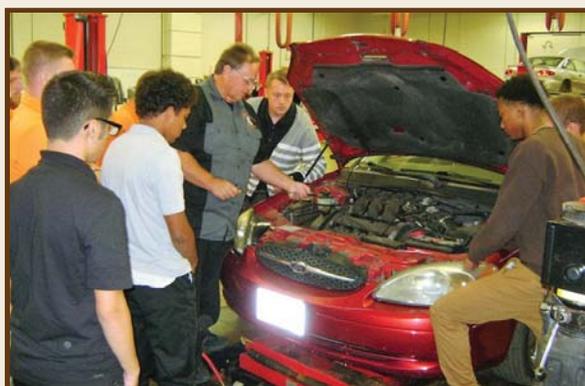
Senior High's Career Tech program includes auto tech, construction tech, health tech, performing arts, networking/gaming design, culinary arts, cosmetology, interactive/digital media, machine tech and computer-aided drafting and design. Students in several of the programs have the opportunity to earn state licenses or certifications in their area of study by the time they graduate.

Dirk Eachus, Director of the Performing Arts, is the SkillsUSA chapter adviser. "We will create our own service projects and develop close ties with our community partners within business and industry. Our overall goal is to build professionalism."

Quaniejk Norris, a computer-aided drafting and design student, is the chapter president. "I take my role as president very seriously," he said. "I think a lot of people will take notice of what we are doing. I think most will participate and help make the chapter successful."

Eachus, Norris and the other chapter officers participated in the SkillsUSA Ohio Fall Leadership Conference Oct. 30-31 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

SkillsUSA membership was a priority of Senior High Assistant Principal Scott Musser, who directs the Career Tech program. "Our officers have learned how to run an effective club. They will now be responsible for moving us forward," Musser said. "One of my goals is that we will have students in each Career Tech study area competing one-on-one against students from other districts through SkillsUSA."



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# GARY FEAGIN AND GLOBAL TRADE

Local businessman Gary Feagin, a member of the Mansfield City Schools Board of Education, was back in the classroom again this fall, helping Mansfield Middle School students understand global economic issues.

Feagin, owner of an insurance agency, met with Todd Hoover's seventh-grade social studies honors class six times in October and November to help lead the Junior Achievement Global Marketplace curriculum.

"Mr. Feagin has been in my classroom several times over the years to lead discussions on international trade and other global marketplace issues," Hoover said. "It has been a pleasure to have him involved in our discussions."

Feagin said his reward for the time spent in Hoover's class was the reaction of students. "I get such excellent responses from this class. They are engaged. I am pumped when I leave here. They create such enthusiasm in me."

On his final visit this fall Feagin led a trade specialization exercise in which groups of three students competed to see which could make the most profit on the mythical production and sale of 1,000 T-shirts – all without leaving their desks or computer screens.

The class learned the definition of specialization is "a process in which businesses and people focus on producing one or a few parts of an entire product."

They also learned that interdependence "is when businesses or people rely on each other for certain resources, products or services."

Feagin asked if one person could create a motion picture. The class quickly agreed that it requires many people – producers, a director, actors, costume designers and a host of other specialists.

The discussion moved on to how different areas – either domestically or globally – find it more advantageous to trade for what they need rather than produce the products themselves. "Can they grow oranges in Alaska?" Feagin asked.

Several students said no, but others said it would be possible in a controlled environment, such as a greenhouse.

"But would it be more profitable to grow oranges like that or bring them in from Florida?" Feagin asked.

Students acknowledged that it would be cheaper for Alaska to import oranges.

"What could Alaska trade for them?" Feagin asked.

"Fish. Cod fish," some said.

Hoover said the Global Marketplace curriculum and Feagin's experience and perspective as a business owner add an extra dimension to the class's study. "We have been studying trading, which is buying or selling goods and services. Today it's about the benefits of trade specialization," he said.

The class ended with the computer-based exercise of producing and selling 1,000 T-shirts. Seven teams of three students each used the Global Marketplace site on their computers to decide where they should buy the materials for their shirts – foreign or domestic markets -- and where to have them produced. Finally, they determined how much to charge for the shirts.

The winning team concluded they could produce each shirt for 79 cents and generate a profit of \$9,020 on the sale of 1,000.



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