



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Memo

To: Governing Board for the Collegiate High School
From: Mel Ponder, President
Date: February 18, 2025
Re: Collegiate High School Updates

In January 2025, CHS held four parent and student informational sessions for enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. Sessions were held at the NWFSC campuses in Niceville, Crestview, and Fort Walton. This year, CHS has added live virtual information sessions to increase outreach and meet the needs of parents, and CHS has conducted four sessions to date. A CHS brochure was mailed to every current 8th, 9th, and 10th grade student in the Okaloosa and Walton County schools. Informational sessions were also held at the Okaloosa STEMM Academy and Liza Jackson Preparatory School. The first application window opened from February 1-28, 2025. The second application window is March 1-31, 2025.

The CHS Robotics Team, “The Radical Raiders,” participated in a meet on Saturday, February 1, and qualified for the state meet. This state event will be held at the Advent Fieldhouse in Winter Haven, Florida, on February 28 and March 1. The event will require the team to participate in eight qualification matches. These matches will determine which teams make it to the final rounds. Keep up the magnificent work, Radical Raiders!

According to Florida Statutes § 1003.451, each school district and charter school shall provide students in grades 11 and 12 an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and consult with a military recruiter if the student selects. To optimize student participation, the ASVAB must be scheduled during normal school hours. In November 2024, fourteen Collegiate High School students took advantage of a school-day ASVAB exam. Three of these students indicated an interest in joining the military after graduating from Collegiate High School. The ASVAB is a great indicator for students to demonstrate their skills. It allows students without interest in the military to use these scores to map out possible career choices in the future. CHS students scored in the top 75% or higher of all 11th graders who took the test nationally.

CHS A.S. students completed the first round of SACA (Smart Automation Certifications) with a 75% pass rate. According to Director of Advanced Technology and Applied Sciences Shera Gill, “This is a hard certification, and we are very proud of these students.” We also had a successful day of MSSC (Manufacturing Skill Standards Council) exams. All sixty CHS A.S. students took the MSSC certifications. For safety, twenty-eight out of thirty passed their certification and in Total Quality Tools, twenty-seven out of thirty passed. These CHS students will be career ready in highly competitive fields upon graduation from NWFSC.