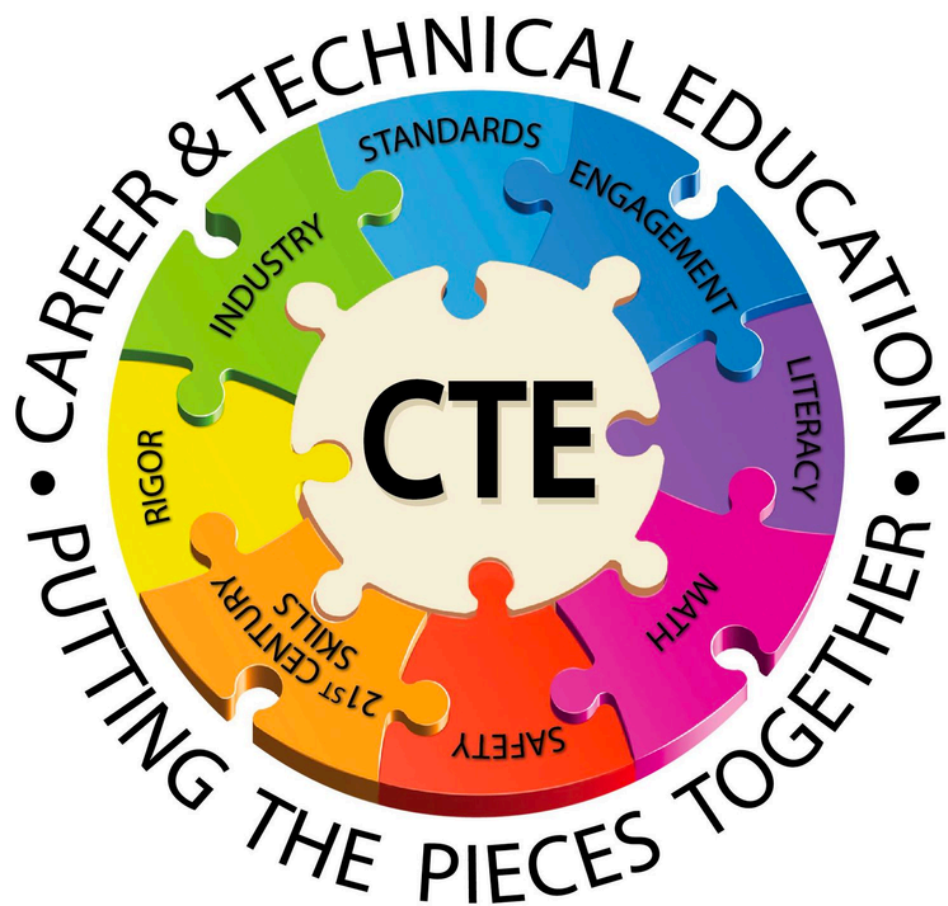


VISTA IS INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION GIVES STUDENTS REAL-WORLD SKILLS FOR FUTURE CAREERS



Career Technical Education is a program designed to reach beyond the core curriculum and set students on a pathway to their careers. Across Vista’s own campus, you’ll find a variety of CTE courses offered as electives. With animation, biotechnology, child development, and more, this department offers something for students of all passions.

In the face of career pressures and increasing global competitiveness, CTE is a nationwide initiative integrating

career-specific skills into secondary education. The hands-on experience and preparatory knowledge provide students an advantage in their pursuit of future success. “CTE courses are a great way to have students test out different possible career choices,” said Brittney Valtierra,

head of Vista’s CTE department, “[students] start building and learning skills now that will help them get college-ready in the future.”

Depending on the area of study, students are required to take anywhere from two to four CTE

courses in the same subject to complete a pathway. This accomplishment is rewarded with graduation cords. “It shows your dedication and your interest to that career path,” said Mindy Nardinelli, the child development teacher at Vista.

Nardinelli calls it her “lucky privilege” to witness the personal growth of her students as they dedicate themselves to one pathway. “Not only do I see growth and development maturity-wise, but I also see their interest and passion grow for the curriculum,” she says, “and then they come back once they’ve graduated to tell me how valuable their experience was.”



Our rich CTE program guides students as they explore subjects of interest and decide if related career paths are suitable for them. Valtierra describes the foundational CTE courses as a “test-run” for students to experiment with career options. “Then we have additional courses that dive deeper down that rabbit hole that can really get you involved,” said Valtierra.

For instance, some CTE courses will engage students in real career experiences. The child development pathway sends

advanced students to local elementary schools where they apply their knowledge of youth development to real world situations as a classroom assistant. Similarly, the video production curriculum instructs foundational knowledge for several career settings, such as moviemaking, television, and marketing. In any case, our CTE department offers introductory opportunities for a diverse range of careers.

Though high school is a time filled with college and career related anxieties, CTE can be a



platform for students to investigate, explore, and build confidence in future applications of their interests. “I took it because I’m interested in going somewhere in the medical field,” said sophomore Kailey Deweese about her Medical Biotechnology class. Deweese hopes the foundational knowledge found in this CTE

course will help her achieve a stable career and future.

**By Alessandra Seghesiol
Oct 22, 2023**



KEATON’S CHILD CANCER ALLIANCE

VISTA STUDENTS UPLIFTING FAMILIES

In June of 1997, Sacramento-area residents Robyn and Kyle Raphael witnessed their son Keaton battle cancer. Neuroblastoma, the name of the disease, was a tumor-like growth in his nervous system. It was a growth that persisted through months of chemotherapy. A growth that took Keaton Raphael’s life in February of 1998. With that, the Raphaels created Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance. The mission: To uplift families battling cancer with financial aid, emotional

resources and to further fund cancer research. Now, years later, freshman Nora Yarlagadda and Anoushka Rajeshkumar, alongside other officers, integrated this program into our school. Both co-presidents have volunteered at Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance for over a year and want to take action within their community.

Currently, the club is composed of mainly freshman officers. Sarayu Pasumarthi is the vice president, Abhignya Sudam serves as secretary, and Saishruthi Lakshminarayanan is the webmaster. The club has already gone into full swing, meeting every Tuesday from



3:45 to 4:15 p.m. in room H-209.

Co-president Rajeshkumar explained that although the organization is present in the Roseville area, she wanted to expand it to Folsom in hopes of reaching more citizens. “Keaton’s Child Cancer Alliance provides family-centered support services to address the emotional, financial, and educational impacts of a pediatric cancer diagnosis,” Rajeshkumar said, “we offer hope and strength through a child’s treatment along with paths toward wellness and healing beyond cancer.”

Vice President Pasumarthi elaborated on this topic. She said the members hoped to spread awareness and increase funding by hosting events. “Because of major treatment advances in recent decades, 85% of children with cancer now survive five years or more... We want to support families in treatment and close that 15% gap,” said Pasumarthi.

The club has already gathered 10 to 15 committed members and hopes to expand their team. The KCCA booth was run at Club



Rush by presidents and vice presidents, all three of whom recently visited the organization’s office to get a closer look at operations.

One of the newest additions to the group, Jia Adhlaka, talks about her motivation to join this club. “I joined the club for cancer patients. It breaks me to see anyone who is fighting a disease like this and I feel equally as bad for the people who love the patient. I hope I can bring a smile to the patients who can just hope for the best,” Adhlaka said.

Although it has been a month since the club commenced, the members are confident that they’ll make a “powerful” team. “When we visited the Keaton

offices, we noticed that there were a lot of staff that each specialized in one thing but created a huge impact together, and we wanted to mimic that,” said Pasumarthi.

There’s a lot left to be done, but the team is confident that they will make a difference.

**By Nandika Tiwari
Nov 8, 2023**