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Charlotte Public Schools Introduces the Charlotte Early Middle College

Charlotte Public Schools is pleased to announce the formation of the Charlotte Early Middle College. Designed to provide all students opportunities to prepare for college and careers, this unique educational program significantly enhances the district's commitment to academic excellence and success for all students. The Charlotte Early Middle College is built around the idea that all students can thrive in post-secondary institutions, and that with the right guidance and training, every kid can and should leave Charlotte Public Schools with an eye to the future and a clear pathway to success.



The Charlotte Early Middle College has been built to match students' interests with clearly defined pathways. The first of these pathways, which will launch for the 2015-2016 school year, is called CHS C.A.R.E.S. (Collegiate Academic Responsive Education System). It is designed for students who want to focus on career skills, and it is built around a partnership with Lansing Community College and the Eaton RESA's Career Tech Center at LCC. The first cohort of students is already in place, and they have chosen career programs that interest them. They will maximize opportunities over the next two years to earn college credits and technical certificates through the Career Tech Center, and then enroll in LCC full time to finish their credentials in the final year of the program. Thus, upon successful completion, they will graduate from high school with a diploma and additional college credits, technical certificates, or degrees, all at no cost to them or their families.

A second pathway in the Charlotte Early Middle College allows students to partner with the newly formed Capital Region Middle College, which also pairs students with career and technical opportunities at Eaton RESA's Career Tech Center at LCC. However, this program allows for additional opportunities in areas like business, and matches students with post-secondary institutions, including LCC and others, to further their education in specific pursuits.

The third pathway, which is in the planning stages and is tentatively set to launch for the 2016-2017 school year, takes the work that Charlotte has done with Ferris State University and builds it into a system geared towards the students who want to attend a four year college after high school. Currently, CHS offers multiple Ferris classes during the school day, including Political Science 121, English 150, and the Woodbridge College Promise program. By building these courses into a system, which will also include a first year of college through Ferris State after the students' senior years, the Charlotte Early Middle College will create an opportunity for students to start their college careers off on the right foot with up to 60 college credits, an associate's degree, or technical and other certificates, along with the high school diploma, again, with little or no cost to families.

With this pathway design, the sky is the limit on future partnerships between colleges and universities and the Charlotte Early Middle College. The unique offerings and opportunities make Charlotte Public Schools a leader in the area of college and career readiness, and the strength of the district's ability to prepare kids will only increase as the pathways become realized and new ones are added. CPS is proud of the work that it has done, and is excited for the opportunities that will be afforded to its students in the future. In today's high paced and ever changing economy, it will be those students with the right training and education that will find the most success, and by launching the Charlotte Early Middle College, Charlotte Public Schools is working hard to ensure that its students are at the head of the pack.