

My CTE journey started when I was younger. My brother attended CTE for 3 years of his high school career. I remember him talking about all the different things that he got to do at CTE, like build a lamp, and go on cool field trips. From that point on I was determined to get the good grades my freshman year of high school and be accepted into the Pre Tech Program.

My Sophomore year I was very excited to go into the Pre Tech class that let me explore several different tech programs that were offered at CTE. In Pre Tech 4 we were taught things that would apply to Dental Assisting, Culinary, Health Informatics, Cosmetology and Early Childhood Education and Human Services. When I went into this year I was determined to go into Cosmetology by the end of the year I had chosen to go into Early Childhood Education. As a sophomore I took advantage of the opportunity to take my first college class. This year was the foundation that my CTE career would build on.

My Junior year went off with a bang I got into Early Childhood Education and was excited to learn and have another year at CTE. During this year of school we learned about the development of young children. Also during this year we were assigned to daycare centers near the school to spend time observing and learning. We got first hand experience learning how to take care of infants to preschool age children. Along with this we spent time teaching and observing in our Licensed preschool where we got to teach lessons and teach the preschool class.

My senior year was the year that prepared me for what was to come in college. During this year I spent a majority of my time at my Co- op. There was a small group of second year students that I had been with since my sophomore year at CTE. We met as a small group to go over assignments and do work on Mondays and Wednesdays. The rest of the time we spent getting paid at our co-ops. Getting paid to go to school! This was the year that I learned what real time management was. I had to juggle being a senior, working 25 plus hours at my co-op plus, doing college classes at CCV, SKillsUSA and keeping my grades up to later be inducted into the National Technical Honor society.

CTE prepared me for being a successful college student. The experience that CTE allowed me to have, benefited me immensely. I became a better public speaker due to being asked to speak at open houses, Vermont Educational Board meetings and even introducing Senator Bernie Sanders to our school. The CTE staff often pushed me out of my comfort zone. One of my Pre Tech teachers introduced me to SkillsUSA, a competition that is a state and national competition for Technical schools. I competed at state level my sophomore, junior and senior year and won gold medals with my team and went to compete at nationals in Louisville, Kentucky my junior year and senior year. I took advantage of the opportunity to take as many college classes as I could. I graduated high school with 18 college credits that would be transferred over to my college. Due to having these credits I was recognized as a freshman to be inducted into the National Leadership and Success Society.

My years at CTE were some of my favorite years of my schooling journey. I was giving

so many opportunities and was consistently pushed to be the best version of myself. The teachers are there to guide you in the career path that you want to achieve. There are always teachers that you connect with in school who become your favorite teachers. Mrs. Sorrel was one of my pretech teachers who got me to do so many activities that I never would have considered doing due to being a very reserved student. You could say she broke me out of my shell. She encouraged me to do SkillsUSA, get involved in college classes and be the best student that I could be. There aren't enough words to describe how much CTE has impacted my life. My message to other students would be that CTE gave me the self confidence to try new experiences and let yourself grow into the successful person you want to be. I'm currently a Junior at Northern Vermont University studying to become an Elementary School teacher or a Special Education teacher. Thank you CTE I couldn't have done it without you!

“ Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you're doing you will be successful.” - Albert Schweitzer

Parents View

There is no perfect education model but CTE allows for flexibility for students to succeed. Both of our kids went to CTE from sophomore thru senior year and they took very different career paths. Our son Tyler went into pre-tech, then went on to automotive, and his senior year he was in Natural Resources Mechanical. During his senior year he met with the career counselor and came up with some interests. Tyler had a full time job when he graduated at the Town of Essex Water Department. CTE helped him be prepared for the interview and prepare a resume. He has been there for 5 years and is climbing the ladder in the ranks.

Jessica on the other hand went into pre-tech not really knowing what she wanted to do. At first she thought she wanted to go into cosmetology, or maybe dental assisting, and finally decided that early childhood education was what she wanted to do. Our quiet reserved daughter was embracing the CTE experience. She also was told about a college class that she could take for free through CTE. She took it and that was just the start, as she took advantage of all she could. She ended up graduating with 18 college credits (that were transferable to NVU). What parent does not convert this into a cash value.

One of her teachers encouraged her to try SkillsUSA, where she would be the first sophomore to compete as it was open to any tech student. She did compete, and although she did not place, she did very well for her first time. She loved it and went on to compete the next 2 years with a team, won gold for the state competition, and went to Kentucky to the Nationals.

As parents, we were most proud of Jessica's senior year. Her grades were high enough to qualify her to be inducted into National Technical Honor Society, and she did public speaking for a number of different CTE events. All of this on top of working at her co-op through school, doing her school work, and taking college classes at CCV. Jessica had to learn time management to get everything done in a timely fashion. She did it with the help and support of CTE. She is now a junior at Northern Vermont University- Johnson on the Dean's List, and is well on her way to being an elementary school teacher and/or a special educator.

CTE helped both of our kids, two totally different learning styles, with two totally different career paths, achieve success. We can't say enough good things about this school, its teachers, and support staff. Thank You.

Lisa and Seth Bortz