



PHOTO BY ASHTON MCCOY
Rhonda Handby of the Kiwanis Club Interviews Jaboree Dooley.



PHOTO BY ASHTON MCCOY
Culinary arts student, Miracle Samson sautes chicken as part of her skills lab.



PHOTO BY HAILEE SPRADLING
Marrianna Timmons answers questions from Bethany Bonner of the ICC Admissions office during the spring round of mock interviews.

Ready for College & Career



PHOTO BY HAILEE SPRADLING
Career coach, Erica Golden enjoys conversing with students. Golden and Missy Lunceford are available to help students with many of their career related questions as part of the program from the CREATE Foundation.



PHOTO BY HAILEE SPRADLING
Local barber, Aaron Washington interviews junior Tanner Swan.

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Preparing for your future after high school can be stressful. It is hard to fully grasp where to go to college, what careers to pursue, or simply how to reach any level of success. Luckily one of Tupelo High School's newest required courses, College and Career Readiness, helps with just that problem.

To be able to provide real-life scenarios and speakers that are coming from those careers in different fields, provides a great opportunity for [students to] connect and learn from them."

CCR Teacher Mr. Koon

In this class, students learn a variety of skills to help them in the future. Some of these include: writing a resume, applying for academic aid, interviewing for jobs, and even doing your taxes.

"I thought the class was somewhat

unimportant at first, but I do see some benefits and I gained from things like the mock interview and resume practice." Junior Matthew Butler said.

In short, College and Career Readiness is a class meant to prepare students for their future endeavors in college and within the workforce.

Mississippi Department of Education says, "The Mississippi College and Career Readiness course (CCR) was developed to support the vision and mission of the Mississippi Department of Education that all students who graduate from high school are prepared for college, career, and active citizenship."

Speakers will often join the class to talk about their career choice, offer students advice, and answer any questions students may have.

"I think it's interesting when there are speakers because you get to hear different jobs and how

people got to where they are." Junior Carlea Crayton said.

These speakers also include college and military recruiters who come speak to the students and explain why they should consider applying for their college or branch of the military after graduating high school.

"Obviously, we can sit there and talk about the different units and topics that we're discussing week in and week out. But to be able to provide real-life scenarios and speakers that are coming from those careers in different fields, I think provides a great opportunity for you guys connect and learn from them" College and Career Readiness Teacher Joseph Koon said.

College and Career Readiness is a class meant to reflect what is available to someone after high

school and teachers make a point to show their students just how many options they have.

"You get some that are not quite sure what to do and are wondering, Hey, do I need to go to college or do I need to enter the workforce? Or go to the military? You know, it's okay to not know right now. And that's kind of the big picture point of our class is to show you guys the options you have" Koon said.

Like any other class, planning out the curriculum is important, but this especially applies to College and Career Readiness so that each aspect of life after high school can be taught.

"All five college and career readiness teachers to work through our curriculum and our pacing guide to plan out our weekly lessons and really hit the high points of focusing on the college aspect, the career aspect, and then the financial literacy unit." Mr. Koon said.

When compared to other required courses, College and Career Readiness is relatively young, but it has already separated itself as one of the most valuable classes at Tupelo High School.



PHOTO BY HAILEE SPRADLING
Dee Coleman, Career Coach at Shannon High School, interviews Teresita Amador.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER

It is a good idea to be prepared for a host of questions. But often interviewers will ask questions like these below. How would you answer these?

- 1. Tell me a little about yourself.** Interviewers want to get to know you as an employee not a friend. It's good to have a prepared statement that is geared to highlight the strengths that will make you a good candidate for whatever you are interviewing for. Programs like YOU-Science can help you figure out your strengths and weaknesses.
- 2. What is one of your strengths and how will it help you in your job?** It is important to know a little about the job that you are interviewing for. That will help you know how you can bring something productive to the job.
- 3. What a weak area that you're wanting to improve? What are you doing to work on that weak spot?** You don't have to tell on yourself here. Instead focus on how you are improving in this area. Focus on the positive.
- 4. Tell me about a stressful situation or obstacle you've had to overcome. How did you handle that?** It's sometimes hard to think on your feet. Be sure to have a situation in mind can help you focus the conversation on all the ways you are awesome!
- 5. Do you have any questions for me?** Interviewers want to see that you are invested and interested. Asking appropriate questions about the workplace or duties is a good way to show the interviewer you care.

Do you have honest answers that will showcase your most positive attributes. See any of the career coaches for help in coming up with answers that are sure to impress your interviewer.