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Fitzgerald High School expands career-tech options

State approves accounting class for CTE certification in business

WARREN, Mich. — **Fitzgerald High School** today announced it has expanded its career-technical certification offerings by adding Accounting to the list of state-approved career training classes.

“Fitzgerald has a long history of offering high-quality career technical programming, and this course is a natural extension of our strong programs,” said **Kathleen Szuminski, director of the Southwest Macomb Technical Education Consortium**. “We picked this course for certification because the Michigan Hot Jobs Outlook for finance and accounting is high growth and high paying.”

The certification means that Fitzgerald’s accounting course is now officially part of the **Business, Management, and Marketing Pathway** of state-approved CTE (Career and Technical Education) certification. The pathway gives students the opportunity to learn foundational skills in marketing, management and accounting in high school. Students completing the marketing and accounting pathway will be prepared for bachelor’s degree programs and entry-level jobs in the field.

CTE programs overall rely on two essentials: strong instruction in the classroom and strong partnerships with area businesses willing to give students real-world experience while they take the courses. In this case, the business and marketing pathway relies on work-based learning opportunities with partners such as the Detroit Economic Club, Somerset Mall, and the Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union.

Students and families can look for more options to be added in the years ahead, as Fitzgerald and SMTEC are firmly committed to bringing more real-world career and technical experience into academic programming so every graduate is college and career ready.

“We are here to prepare students for the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow, and we are constantly cultivating opportunities to do that,” Superintendent **Barbara VanSweden** said. “This program is deeply important because the options are endless. Students can use the skills right out of school or they can go on for bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Business and marketing skills will always be needed.”

In addition to the business and marketing pathway, Fitzgerald offers an automotive technician certification and pharmacy and physical therapy technician certification programs.

SMTEC is a career technical partnership between Fitzgerald, Center Line, Van Dyke, and Warren Woods school districts. To learn more, visit smteccte.org or fitz.k12.mi.us or contact the Fitzgerald High School office at [\(586\)757-7070](tel:5867577070).

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