



HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES & PROGRAMS

- ▶ Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- ▶ Education for the Arts (EFA)
- ▶ Early / Middle College (EMC)



KALAMAZOO RESA

Career Connect

Explore | Engage | Experience

2024-25



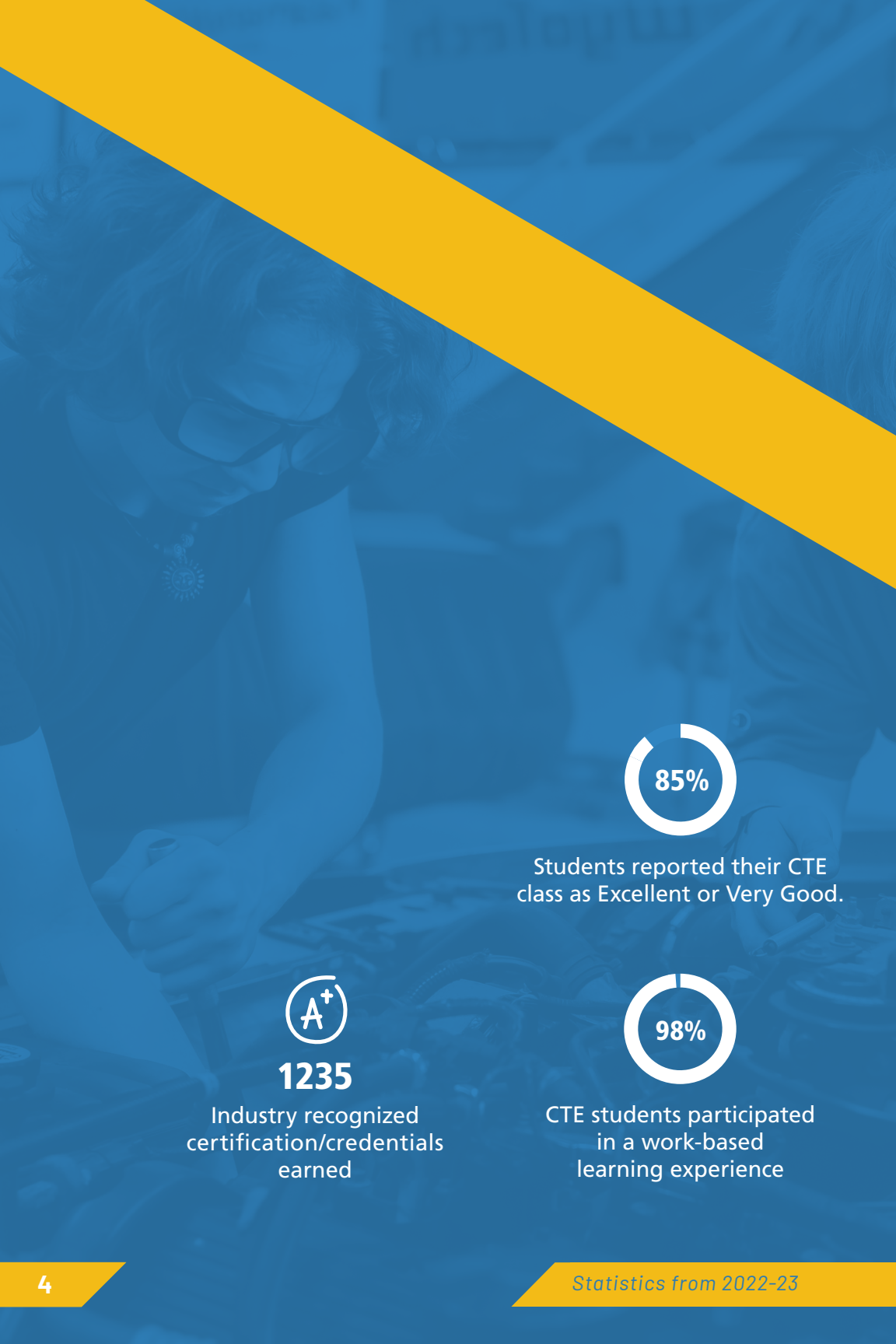
CAREER CONNECT

Kalamazoo RESA's Career Connect department is part of a new, innovative approach to providing Kalamazoo County students with a robust continuum of world-class K-12+ career preparation services, with experiences ranging from career exploration to work-based learning to hands-on training at a soon-to-be constructed centrally located career campus.

The Kalamazoo RESA Career Connect Campus is currently under construction and is opening in Fall 2025!

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Students reported their CTE class as Excellent or Very Good.



1235

Industry recognized certification/credentials earned



CTE students participated in a work-based learning experience

Statistics from 2022-23



Career & Technical Education

CTE is an award-winning program that offers a wide range of hands-on career preparation programs to students in grades 9-12. Programs are held in multiple locations: high school buildings, college campuses and business and industry work sites. CTE courses reflect real-world application and maintain the rigorous requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum, as well as state, national and industry technical standards. Students have the opportunity to earn marketable, industry-recognized credentials.

ARTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Are you creative, innovative and original?

Do you like drawing, writing or taking photos?

Art & Design Career Skills

Develop and perfect skills in various media arts, learn to use professional quality art materials, attend trips to art exhibitions and performances.

Media Production

Create media content for the internet, podcasting, television, and film. Broaden experience in skills such as video composition and editing, audio production, graphic design and more. Enter competitions and have your work aired on Public Media Network stations.

BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, MARKETING & TECHNOLOGY

Do you enjoy being a leader, organizing people and planning activities? Do you like to work with numbers and ideas?

Accounting & Finance

Investigate the field of accounting, how it is impacted by industry standards as well as economic, technological, social, legal and ethical factors. Engage in the process of recording, classifying, analyzing and communicating financial information. Students have the opportunity to earn the following credentials: Microsoft Office Excel Associate, Intuit Quickbooks Certification.

Banking & Finance

Gain knowledge in customer service, personal finance, budgeting, investment planning and business financial management. Students have the opportunity to earn the following credentials: Microsoft Office Excel Associate, Intuit Quickbooks Certification.

Business Administration Management & Operations

Utilize software applications to complete business projects and share ideas. Learn to solve business problems that occur in the business environment. Students have the opportunity to earn credentials in MS Excel, MS Powerpoint, MS Word, Communication Skills for Business, and Entrepreneurship and Small Business.

AP Computer Science Principles

Cultivate an understanding of computer science by working with data, collaborating to solve problems and developing computer programs. Explore concepts such as creative approaches to data, information and the internet, as well as the global impact of computing. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP Computer Science A Java Exam.

Computer Science / Software Engineering

Train on industry standard software applications used by professional developers. Install Linux and Windows operating systems in a virtual environment for testing and installing software. Program drones, robots and microprocessors using industry standard techniques. Students have the opportunity to earn credentials in C++, PC Pro, Java Script and Python.

Culinary Arts

Practice the fundamentals of cooking and baking, food safety, food preparation and service, sanitation and equipment operation in preparation for working in a commercial kitchen. Students have the opportunity to earn credentials in ServSafe Allergen, Handler, and Manager.

Information Technology

Establish a hands-on foundation covering all areas of IT in the first year. Students have the opportunity to earn credentials in IT Fundamentals and CompTIA Network+. Second-year students dive deeper into areas of choice such as networking, cybersecurity, servers, Linux and more.

Marketing & Entrepreneurship

Strengthen an understanding of advertising, sales, merchandising, economics and marketing in the global economy. Practice techniques used by businesses to influence consumers to purchase products and services. Students have the opportunity to earn the following credentials: Communication Skills for Business, Entrepreneurship and Small Business, Microsoft Office Certifications.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Do you enjoy caring for others?

Are you curious about how the human body works?

Certified Nursing Assistant

Develop skills to care for patients in a thoughtful and compassionate manner. Practice patient care techniques in a simulated lab environment, followed by a clinical rotation at a long-term care facility. Students have the opportunity to earn their CNA certificate.

Dental Assisting

Apply aspects of dental anatomy, physiology, terminology, sterilization, radiology and clinical procedures. Participate in an internship with local dental offices during second semester. Students have the opportunity to earn their radiography certification as well as the American Heart Association's Safety, First Aid and Basic Life Support (BLS) certification.

Emergency Medical Technology

Attain and practice the skills to make lifesaving interventions and stabilize patients during transport to a medical facility. Complete clinical hours with a local ambulance service and health care agencies. Students have the opportunity to earn their Medical First Responder (MFR) and Basic EMT certifications.

Health Science

Develop an in-depth understanding of human physiology and anatomy, medical terminology, basic care skills and CPR through hands-on practical applications. Students have the opportunity to earn the American Heart Association's Safety, First Aid and Basic Life Support (BLS) certification.

Professional Health Science

Train in the areas of phlebotomy, electrocardiography and patient care assistance. Participate in hands-on internship experiences. Students have the opportunity to earn their Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT) credential.

HUMAN SERVICES

Are you compassionate, friendly, understanding and cooperative? Do you care about improving the lives of others?

Barbering

Develop skills in hair cutting and facial hair design techniques from master instructors and apply infectious disease control practices. Students have the opportunity to earn their State of Michigan Barbering License.

Cosmetology

Attain the skills and practice the latest techniques in hair cutting and color, facials, styling and sculptured nails from master instructors. Strengthen an understanding in chemistry and apply infectious disease control practices. Students have the opportunity to earn their State of Michigan Cosmetology License.

Law Enforcement

Prepare for a career in criminal justice in this innovative and hands-on course. Participate in physical training exercises aligned with MCOLES (Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards). Gain insight into the criminal justice system and reflect on its impacts at both the local and national levels. Students have the opportunity to earn their National Law Enforcement Certification.

Teacher Academy

Prepare for a career in education by gaining knowledge of child development and the principles of effective teaching. Gain hands-on classroom experience through an internship. Students have the opportunity to earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, as well as a Michigan Youth Development Associate (MiYDA) credential.

"It feels a little unreal being a business owner at 20 years old, but I'm making it happen. I'm just glad that I was blessed with the mindset and opportunity to create and run a business."

— Andre Lockett

CTE Barbering Program Graduate

ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Do you enjoy reading diagrams and blueprints, or drawing structures? Are you curious about the way things work?

Automotive Technology

Repair and maintain automotive systems such as engines, electrical systems, steering and suspension, as well as automatic and manual transmissions. Students have the opportunity to earn credentials in Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Entry-Level Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR), ASE Entry-Level Brakes, and ASE Entry-Level Steering and Suspension.

Aviation Technology

Develop a broad understanding of the aviation industry including private, commercial and business aviation, flight operations, navigation, airspace and weather. Students have the opportunity to earn their Remote Pilot Certificate.

Computerized Manufacturing

Develop the skills to work on mills, lathes, surface grinders and other equipment. Learn to use hand tools, precision measurement instruments such as micrometers and indicators, as well as computer numerical control (CNC) machines. Blueprint reading, technical math and problem-solving skills are enhanced through a project-based learning approach. Students have the opportunity to earn their National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Level 1 certification.

Construction Trades

Remodel and build a new home while exploring the many aspects of the construction industry including site layout, plumbing, HVAC and safety. Students have the opportunity to earn the United Brotherhood Career Connections (CITF) Credential.

Electrical Technology

Experience hands-on training in the areas of applied electricity, residential wiring and code, as well as safety and first aid.

Electronics & Robotics

Design and assemble electronics, robotics, equipment controls and sensors, and programming used in electro-mechanical systems.

Engineering in Wood Technology

Design and construct with wood using the basic techniques of woodworking and cabinetmaking through training with laser engraving and 3D printing technology, as well as traditional hand tools. Students have the opportunity to earn their United Brotherhood Career Connections CTIF certification.

Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

Examine the areas of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, as well as the design, installation and servicing of these systems.

Mechatronics

Design, build, program and troubleshoot a variety of systems using the principles of mechanics, electronics and computer science. Learn about hydraulics, pneumatics, CAD/CAM, basic machining and computer numerical control (CNC). Students have the opportunity to earn the following credentials: SACA 4.0 Basic Level, FANUC Robot.

Welding

Develop the skills of welding with the most advanced processes available. Gain an understanding of basic operations, cutting and brazing systems and equipment setup.

***"I learned a ton about the world of construction,
and it prepared me to go into a Union HVAC
apprenticeship as soon as I graduated."***

— Eric McCallum

CTE Construction Trades Graduate

NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE

Do you love nature? Are you curious about the world?

Do you care about protecting the environment?

Agriscience: Animals & Plants

Train in biology, animal anatomy, physiology, animal health and reproduction. Study plant classification, cell structure, plant nutrition and soils, as well as plant relationships to people. Students have the opportunity to earn the following credentials: Fundamentals of Animal Science certificate, BASF Plant Science certificate, Youth Quality Care of Animals.

Conservation Biology

Examine ecological science, animal and plant studies through classroom, lab and field work outdoors. Students have the opportunity to earn a Ducks Unlimited Ecology, Conservation and Management Certificate, as well as a Leave No Trace Certificate.

Horticulture

Learn about plant biology, classification and nutrition, as well as soil and water quality through work in a greenhouse, school garden and local food forest. Students have the opportunity to earn a BASF Plant Science Certification.

Veterinary Science

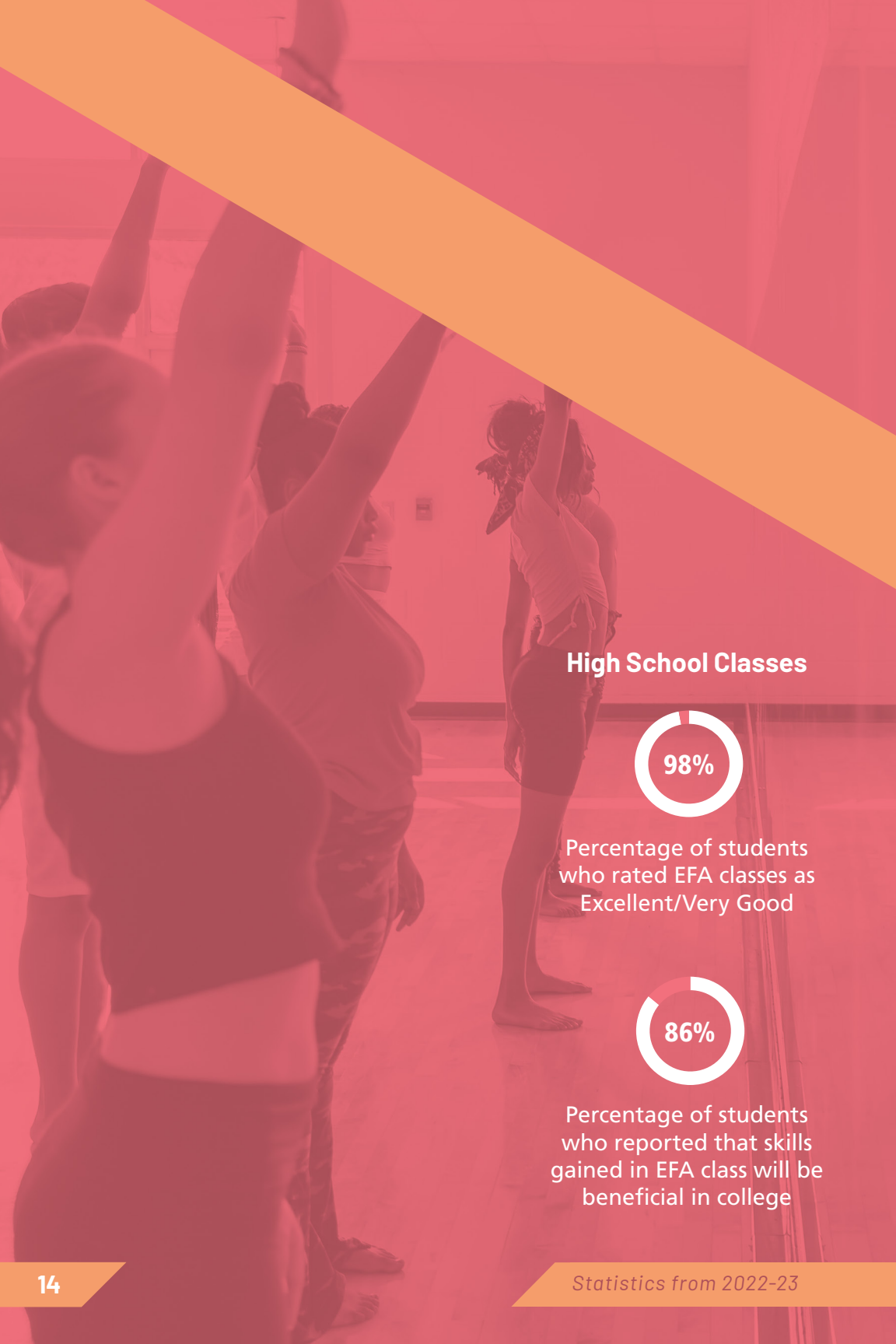
Strengthen an understanding in animal anatomy, medical terminology, hematology, health care and parasitology. Participate in an internship with local veterinary clinics during the second semester. Students have the opportunity to earn the Certified Veterinary Assistant credential.



CTE WORK-BASED LEARNING

An experience for 11th and 12th grade students who have successfully completed a trimester or semester of a CTE course, students can earn credit and receive a grade while they learn through a paid or unpaid related work experience at an approved employer.





High School Classes



Percentage of students who rated EFA classes as Excellent/Very Good



Percentage of students who reported that skills gained in EFA class will be beneficial in college

Statistics from 2022-23



Education for the Arts

Education for the Arts (EFA) enhances art education for all K-12 students through artist residencies, student scholarships, grants, visual exhibits, professional development opportunities, high school arts classes and performances by professional artists.

CTE ARTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Art & Design Career Skills

Develop and perfect skills in various media arts, learn to use professional quality art materials, attend trips to art exhibitions and performances.

Media Production

Create media content for the internet, podcasting, television and film. Broaden experience in skills such as video composition and editing, audio production, graphic design and more. Enter competitions and have your work aired on Public Media Network stations.

LITERARY ARTS

Creative Writing Online

Read and write pieces from multiple genres of creative writing. Publish online and develop a digital portfolio of the work you create.

Comics, Manga and Graphic Novel Arts

Write and produce compelling, artistic and inventive comics, Manga and graphic novels. Research the history of comics, study the elements of story, plot and character development, as well as the productive use of imagery, layout and composition. Develop projects through manipulation and editing of media and open-source graphics.



MEDIA ARTS

Film & Video Arts

Discover your filmmaking talents while learning to use professional editing programs. Study and practice narrative, documentary and experimental film. Enter film festivals and build a strong portfolio.

KVCC Media Arts

Learn about digital media, computer animation and more. Explore design, photography, photo manipulation and composition. Experiment with a wide range of techniques while building a strong portfolio in this dually enrolled or Early/Middle College eligible course.

Digital Studio Art

Utilize design software to create and enhance illustrations. Learn the fundamentals of creating art with technology and use these skills to produce your own comics, cartoons and digital works of art.

Digital Photo Art

Enhance your photography skills through projects in framing, composition and the use of communication through images. Explore the functions of professional-grade digital cameras, learn the art of lighting and create dynamic portraits.

3D Computer Animation and Game Design

Introduction to the technical and creative fundamentals of 3D software. Learn core concepts and create original computer animation and game design.

“EFA was a huge part for me in high school. It helped me be more social and it helped better my skills.”

— David Kuras
Massage Therapist, Portage, MI

PERFORMING ARTS

Beginning Dance & Intermediate Dance

Beginning: 1 trimester/semester

Intermediate: Full year

Explore a variety of dance styles and techniques, including Modern, Jazz and Hip Hop. Learn to choreograph and perform your own dances and experience guest dance teachers/choreographers. See live professional dance performances. EFA Dance fulfills graduation requirements for Visual, Performing & Applied Arts and Physical Education.

Advanced Musical Theater

Sing, dance and act! Participate in duet, small and large ensemble performances. Create harmony, choreography and work with professional artists.

Hip-Hop 180

Activate your voice and amplify your vision through the power of performance rap and poetry, music and movement. Dig into the history of hip-hop culture and social justice leadership to build skills, decipher contexts and determine truths. Merge your artistic and activist knowledge and techniques to enact meaningful, positive social change in our community.

Theater Improv & Scriptwriting

Create your own unique theater experience. Study different forms of playwriting, including performance poetry, hip-hop theater and theater graffiti. Work with professional artists to find and develop your voice as an artist. Expand your knowledge and learn the basic techniques of acting, playwriting and directing.

“Attending EFA was the best decision I made in high school.”

— Chelsea Graham

Communications Officer,
UN World Food Program, Rome, Italy

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts Exploration

Wednesday Evenings. One Semester.

Explore creating sculpture, photography, jewelry, painting and more at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Work alongside practicing professional artists as they share their knowledge and expertise in art making.

Advanced Visual Arts Studio

School Day. Full-year.

Deepen your creativity and visual arts skills at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Take advantage of the professional facilities, equipment and master guest artists. This studio class offers advanced study in sculpture, oil painting, jewelry, photography, welding, printmaking, ceramics and more. Develop a Visual Arts Portfolio and learn presentation skills to apply for college scholarships and student art shows.





Early / Middle College

Students who participate in the Early/Middle College (EMC) program have the opportunity to simultaneously earn both an associate degree and a high school diploma. Students enroll in a focused program of study at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC), with their school district covering tuition and fees up to a designated amount, and graduate after an additional year of high school.



3.13

Average GPA



277

Students enrolled countywide



52

EMC Completers



2,950

Credits earned by students

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Degrees in Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

AAS degrees are occupational in orientation and are designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment. They require successful completion of a minimum of 62 credit hours. **Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Options:**

- Accounting
- Administrative Assistant
- Automotive Undercar Systems
- Business Administration
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food Systems
- Emergency Medical Services
- General Marketing
- Graphic Design
- IT Support Specialist
- Machine Tool Technology

Certificates (CERT)

Certificate programs prepare graduates for a specialized occupation. They require successful completion of 30 credit hours or more. **Certificate (CERT) Options:**

- Administrative Support
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food Systems
- General Automotive Service
- Graphic Design
- Machinist
- Office Management

“I would say to all 9th graders considering EMC to do it! It is an incredible opportunity to learn about yourself and what you would like to do further on in life. You get to take different classes and explore the college and career world, before worrying about the costs of college.”

— EMC Student

Certificates of Achievement (COA)

Certificate of Achievement programs requires fewer courses than a regular certificate program providing training in a specific set of skills for employment in a specific occupation. They require successful completion of more than three but less than 30 hours of credit. **Certificate of Achievement (COA) Options:**

- Auto Brake Systems
- Auto Steering & Suspension
- CNC Operator
- Desk Side Support
- Dietary Manager
- Emergency Medical Technology – Basic
- Machine Tool Operator
- Network Manager
- Office Support Specialist
- PC Support Technician
- Software Specialist
- Welding Constant Current (CC) Processes
- Welding Constant Voltage (CV) Processes
- Word Processing Specialist

Transfer Degrees in Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS)

AA or AS degrees are for students planning to transfer to a four-year university. They require successful completion of a minimum of 62 credit hours.

The options listed below transfer to WMU. If you are considering another four-year university, please discuss this with a KVCC Advisor to see if a transfer agreement is in place for your program of interest. If you are planning to go to a four-year university out of state, the Early/Middle College program may not be in your best interest due to transferability of coursework.

Associate of Arts (AA) Options:

- Business Administration
- Computer Info Systems
- Criminal Justice
- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education – Students will follow the degree plan for the subject area they want to teach
- Social Work
- Studio Art

Associate of Science (AS) Options:

- Aviation Technology
- Biological Sciences
- Computer Science
- Engineering

WHY EARLY/MIDDLE COLLEGE? WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER IT?

- EMC provides a supported transition from high school to college
- EMC allows a student to complete their credential earlier than a 12th-year graduate and to start their career path sooner
- Education beyond high school is more important than ever—many careers require one to two years of continued education after high school
- College costs continue to rise

WHAT ARE THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS IN EMC?

- Self-discipline
- Growth mindset
- Proactive, takes initiative
- Time management
- Organizational skills
- Communication skills
- Good attendance
- Ability to utilize supports and ask for help when needed



WHAT TYPES OF SUPPORTS ARE IN PLACE FOR STUDENTS?

College Success Strategies Course

- Students take this course in 10th grade
- Provides students with academic support skills, college survival techniques and guided access to Xello, an online career development platform

Early/Middle College Student Support Meetings

- EMC students entering 11th grade in the fall attend EMC Kickoff event in August
- EMC students entering 12th grade in the fall attend EMC Refresh event in August
- EMC students entering 13th grade in the fall will attend EMC Rising 5th Year in April

Early/Middle College Career Coach

- Meets with the student on a regular basis
- Goals of the meetings include discussing academic progress, developing success strategies, connecting students with resources and assisting students with their transition from high school student to college student

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Resources

Limited transportation is available for classes at KVCC through the KRESA Bus Hub for participating schools

"It has given me confidence to follow my dreams. I used to be unsure of myself, but I know where I am headed now."

— EMC Student



KALAMAZOO RESA

Career Connect

Explore | Engage | Experience

VISION

A community transformed by empowered learners building fulfilling careers.

MISSION

To provide learners with transformative experiences, skills, relationships, and resources needed to support lifelong career development.

BELIEFS

We believe transformative career development requires us to center equity and take a whole-person approach to education.

- ▶ Centering equity means that we ensure each learner receives what they need to realize their potential
- ▶ Whole-person education means that we recognize each learner's unique perspectives, identities, interests, challenges, and talents while providing services that include wraparound supports, family engagement, and community integration

WAYS TO CONNECT



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@kalamazoo-resa

KRESA Career Connect: Explore, Learn and Grow with K-12+ Career Education

Kalamazoo RESA (KRESA) Career Connect is a continuum of career education programs that empowers the next generation of learners to explore career pathways and develop real-world skills. Whether you are interested in arts, automotive, technology, health, business, or anything in between, Career Connect has something for you.

Career Connect offers a variety of classroom-based and out-of-school programs that are designed to complement academic preparation and help young people achieve their career goals. Learners can start their career exploration journey as early as kindergarten and continue until they graduate from high school and into young adulthood.

Career Connect's programs include:

- ▶ **Career Awareness & Exploration (CAE):** Programs, tools, and experiences that help you learn about yourself and potential career pathways.
- ▶ **Career & Technical Education (CTE):** Hands-on career preparation courses that develop professional skills and offer industry experience. Career Connect Campus Opening Fall 2025.
- ▶ **Education for the Arts (EFA):** Arts exploration for students of all ages, with hands-on arts classes at the high school level.
- ▶ **Early/Middle College (EMC):** Dual-enrollment with KVCC to simultaneously complete a high school diploma and an associate's degree.
- ▶ **Out-of-School-Time Career Learning:** A continuum of services supporting targeted skill development, paid internships, supportive coaching relationships and wraparound supports needed to cultivate lifelong career development skills.

To learn more about Career Connect and how to enroll in these programs, visit our website at kresa.org/careerconnect.

You can also follow us on Facebook to stay updated on the latest news and events.

Career Connect is a program of the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA), which serves nine local school districts in Kalamazoo County. KRESA exists to transform lives by inspiring educational excellence. We provide a continuum of educational services and support to students, families, school districts and communities.



Kalamazoo RESA Career Connect

Career & Technical Education (CTE)
Education for the Arts (EFA)
Early / Middle College (EMC)

www.kresa.org/apply



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Notice of Non-discrimination: It is the policy of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency that no discriminating practices based on gender/sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, height, weight, color, age, national origin, disability, genetic information or any other status covered by federal, state or local law be allowed during any program, activity, service or in employment. The following positions at Kalamazoo RESA have been designed to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy: Assistant Superintendent Mindy Miller.
Contact information: (269) 250-9200, 1819 E. Milham Ave. Portage, MI 49002.