

Fall 2021

# EFE #330 Updates

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## Member Districts

Bement CUSD #5  
Champaign CUSD #4  
Fisher CUSD #1  
Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley CUSD #5  
Heritage CUSD #8  
Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3  
Monticello CUSD #25  
Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUSD #10  
Rantoul Township High School #193  
St. Joseph-Ogden CUSD #305  
Tolono CUSD #7  
Tuscola CUSD #301  
Urbana CUSD #116  
Villa Grove District #302

## Education for Employment System #330

Parkland College, Room A113  
2400 West Bradley Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61821

Check out our web page: [www.efe330.org](http://www.efe330.org)

Follow us on Twitter: [@EFE330](https://twitter.com/EFE330)

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EFE330](https://www.facebook.com/EFE330)

## Newsletter Update/New EFE Employee

As part of this newsletter, you will notice the addition of a section devoted solely to the career and technical education (CTE) programs at Rantoul Township High School. In future newsletters, we will highlight the great work being done at our other member district CTE programs. Mr. Dave Johnson (retired Unit 4 teacher) is helping with the EFE newsletter. He visited RTHS to view the impact

their CTE programs have on the student population. Thank you to RTHS for opening their doors and to Dave Johnson for helping put this newsletter together!

### New EFE Employee

Mr. Ken Buenting recently joined the EFE where he will serve in a part-time role. His primary responsibilities will include working with educators and students to make them

aware of the career pathway options available in our area, including the Early College and Career Academy dual credit program. Ken recently retired from the University of Illinois Facilities and Services division, after a successful career. He is a member of Sheet Metal Local 218 and has previously been involved with EFE initiatives including the career conference and summer construction.

## New ECCA Construction Trades

The EFE is excited to partner with Parkland College and East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council on a new Construction Trades option offered through the Early College and Career Academy. This pathway is for high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in the construction trades and includes classroom and hands-on instruction.

The 21-22 school year is the first year for this program. We currently have 14 high school juniors and seniors participating. The on-campus component of the program includes an intro to the construction industry, safety, professional tool usage, and an opportunity for students to earn their 30-hour OSHA safety certification. Through a partnership with local trades,

students also participate in a comprehensive off-campus hands-on component. Students have the opportunity to visit local trade union halls and learn from experts. Students will participate in hands-on learning with Bricklayers, Electricians, Plumbers/Pipefitters, Ironworkers, Carpenters, Sheetmetal Workers, Painters, Roofers, Operators, Insulators, and more. University of Illinois F+S is also providing on-site tours and instruction for students.

## Summer Construction Program Recap

The 2021 Summer Construction Education Program was a success. 35 students from nine area high schools participated in the program.

Based on student interest, we were able to offer two sections. One section was held at Unity High School in Tolono. A second section was located at Centennial High School in Champaign. The Unity section was taught by two local industrial

technology teachers, Brad Curry from Monticello High School and Ryan Anderson, from Unity High School. The Centennial section was led by Stephen Lowe, Unit 4 teacher.

The Unity group earned their OSHA 10 safety certification and constructed a shed. The Centennial section completed a renovation of the Centennial High School courtyard. All students visited Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 149 and U of I

facilities and services, where they participated in hands-on projects, such as soldering, metalworking, and electrical wiring.

Each student was awarded high school credit and an educational stipend.

This group of students demonstrated excellent employability skills and represented EFE #330 and their home districts very well.

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## Early College and Career Academy

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*Summer Construction students participate in hands-on activities at at Unity High School and Centennial High School. The Centennial HS crew completed a renovation of the school courtyard!!*

ECCA is a partnership between Parkland College and EFE #330 to offer dual credit career pathway programs for high school juniors and seniors.

There are currently 192 students from 15 high schools participating in a variety of programs, including:

- Automotive
- CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)
- Computer Networking
- Computer Programming
- Construction Trades
- Criminal Justice

- Education Pathway (Future Teachers)
- Emergency Medical (EMS)
- Industrial Technology

As this is a dual credit opportunity, all students are earning both high school and Parkland College credit for the coursework they complete at ECCA.

For the 22-23 school year, a new Precision Agriculture option will be added. This program is for students interested in the application of UAV (drone) technology. Students will complete coursework to prepare for the FAA Commercial Drone

Pilot exam, while learning about the implementation of GPS, GIS and other technologies within the precision agriculture industry. We are looking forward to the fall 2022 launch of this new program. There will be great opportunities for the participating students!

Any students interested in an ECCA program should contact their high school counselor. Students, parents, and interested community members can also contact Nick Elder at 217-355-1382 or [nelder@efe.k12.il.us](mailto:nelder@efe.k12.il.us) for more information.

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## Financial Update

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### FY-22 CTEI Grant

We are currently in receipt of our July – October state CTEI payments. The EFE Board approved a 75% distribution of CTEI subgrant funds at the December 15 board meeting. Districts will receive checks in the mail. CTE departments should be in the process of planning and processing expenditures. Remember to maintain adequate documentation for our audit requirements.

### FY-22 Perkins Grant

Official notices were mailed in September and all districts are in the process of submitting their fall Perkins requests. Many supplies and equipment requests have been delivered and others will be arriving in the coming days and weeks. Thank you to Shelly Dunn for working with each individual school on finalizing and processing these requests.

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### [Links to EFE Social Media](#)



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## Important Upcoming Dates

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### December 2021

December 20 – 31: Winter Break

### January 2022

January 10: First Day of ECCA Spring Classes

January 12: Perkins PDR/LNA Regional Meeting

January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No ECCA Classes

January 19: EFE Executive Committee Meeting

# RANTOUL TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



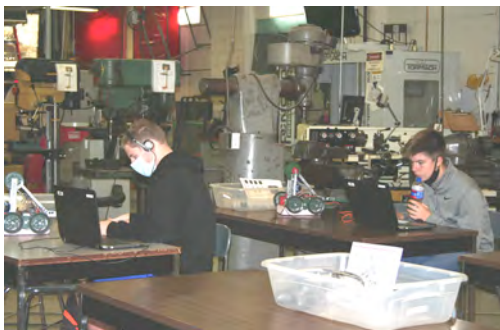
## *Second Quarter gets under way*



Mr. Root has students using Vex2 Clawbots in his **Electronics Technology 2-Robotics** class as a way to understand the design and programming of these rudimentary robots. This course develops and expands students' skills and knowledge so that they can design and develop robotic devices. Topics covered in the course include

mechanics, electrical and motor controls, pneumatics, computer basics, and programmable logic controllers.

This course is available for grades 10-12 and is a one semester class.



## FALL 2021

### Inside:



Inside Mrs. Porter's **Horticulture 2** classroom as students continue in their second quarter.

2 - 4



Mr. Cotter's **Natural Resources Management and Conservation** class begins another interesting class discussion.

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Mr. Crites adds another interesting concept to financial literacy in his **Introduction to Business** course.

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FFA is a very active organization for the students in CTE at Rantoul Township High School.

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Career and technical education can provide:

technical skills, academic skills and

employability skills.



**Horticulture (1)** course topics include lawn care and development, tree planting and care, landscaping, gardening (vegetables, fruits, and flowers), plant growth, plant propagation, managing the growing environment, and flower arranging. This applied agriculture science class gives students such experiences as seeding a lawn, sodding a lawn, drawing landscape plans, planting trees, fertilizing trees, using herbicides and insecticides, testing soil, planting a garden, rooting cuttings, forcing bulbs, grafting woody plants, breaking seed dormancy, sterilizing soil, mixing growing media, arranging flowers, and making corsages.

## Mrs. Porter-Horticulture 1 & 2



Above-Paige working on cutting back her flower.

Right-Mrs. Porter instructing on where to cut.



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## Horticulture 2 students in the greenhouse



Left-Mrs. Porter demonstrating today's lesson. Above-Mrs. Porter and Christian discussing today's goals.

Right-Caya getting her hands dirty working with plants.



## What the Students are saying....

Yaire - Class of 2022

I am a junior at Rantoul Township High School. I have taken Introduction to Agriculture, Horticulture 1 and Horticulture 2. I have also been in FFA for three years and when I was making the decision of joining or not, I am so glad I did. It has been nothing but amazing. There is something for everyone, no one is left out, and always feels included. It's one, big, happy family.

My favorite part of Agriculture classes and FFA are the amazing people that are involved and that I surround myself with these classes and clubs. I learned how to come out of my comfort zone and get my voice heard and to be the best version of myself through the events and great opportunities Agriculture brings me and FFA. My favorite thing in Hort class is learning about the different kinds of species and how to help them to live a long life.

-Caya F.  
Class of 2023

Yaire (right) working on her plant, being as careful as possible.

If you have ever thought about doing anything with plants or a greenhouse you should. I'm a senior at Rantoul Township High School and I am a horticultural student and in FFA. One thing we did in Horticulture this year is grow poinsettias. We also propagate more plants that we get from teachers, buy seeds or plugs for other plant sales, etc.. There is a lot of fun hands-on activity and it is all dealing with plants, watching them grow, watering, potting, etc.. I would highly recommend this class to anyone who is interested in plants or not sure of what to take in high school.

FFA is a great way to be involved in an activity for school. At the beginning of the school year there is always a welcome back cook-out for FFA. The cook-out is a great way to know if you want to be a part of the club. If you're not sure, you could always ask an FFA officer or one of the FFA advisors. Every month we have



a FFA monthly meeting where we have a business meeting and get up to date with any important event coming up. There are good benefits and a lot of opportunities to be involved and you could also help farmers in some ways. One of the ways that we help the local farmers is providing them lunch and bringing

it to them. Every year we also make baskets for some local nursing homes. This is a great experience for anyone that wants to try something new or wants to be a part of some club.



## More of What the Students are saying....

Christian C.  
Class of 2022

I'm a senior and I've taken three agricultural classes. They were introduction to Agriculture, Horticulture 1 and 2. I've enjoyed all of these classes and it wasn't just the material. The teachers' that we have makes it much better. They both have encouraged growth in all of their students which is a very good action to take towards improving the students overall mood in the classes. I've always liked to learn about plants and animals and that is why I chose these classes. I learned how to care for plants and how to identify parts of them. These plants can be used to make more and even different flowers. I learned how to properly terminology animals and identify them.

When we go out into the greenhouse we take care of all of our plants. We also get plants from other teachers that we can take cuttings from or just rejuvenate them back to health. We learned how to properly propagate the plants that we care for in our greenhouse. We also learned how to move a plant from an old pot to a new one. We also had to separate one plant into smaller ones. I just like caring for the plants since I have liked nature since I was younger. We also will water and fertilize the plants. These agricultural classes have been a joy and I recommend more people to join the party.



Paige W.  
Class of 2023

Taking Horticulture 1 last year has prepared me for Horticulture 2 this year in the way that I already know how to work in the greenhouse and I am knowledgeable on the topics we go over. I love being able to work hands-on in the greenhouse and in my classes, testing nutrient levels in different types of soil and working in a fun environment with my teacher and friends. My favorite part of my Horticulture class is propagating plants.

I have learned how to set up a hydroponics system in the greenhouse, determining the amount of nutrients that plants need to grow, and how to take proper care of plants to make them last longer. Learning about this material has helped me prepare for my future for what career I may go into, such as Horticulture Therapy or just how to take care of plants at home!





## Mr. Cotter's Natural Resources Management and Conservation class gets underway.

Left-Mr. Cotter hands out informative supplements for the day's discussion.

Below-students getting busy on the day's activities.

The **Natural Resources Management and Conservation** course develops management and conservation skills in understanding the connection between agriculture and natural resources. Student knowledge and skills are developed in: understanding natural resources and its importance; fish, wildlife, and forestry management & conservation; and exploring outdoor recreational enterprises. Hunting and fishing as a sport, growing and managing tree forests, and outdoor safety education will be featured.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture  
Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12  
Credit: 1 unit - two semesters



## Mr. Crites -Introduction to Business



This course takes students on a journey towards life outside of high school. Students will learn about careers and how to create a path toward the career of their interest and skills. Students will also examine the basic concepts of financial literacy, specifically budgeting, banking, and credit. All of this is done while focusing on employability skills. This course fulfills the Consumer Education graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: None  
Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, or 12  
Credit: 1/2 unit - one semester



## RTHS FFA Organization (is for Everyone)



Above-RTHS students competing at the state FFA competition.

Below-FFA members at the beginning of the year FFA cookout.



Bottom Left-the FFA float for the homecoming parade.

Bottom Right-Anna Crites helping with a farm safety day for elementary school students.

