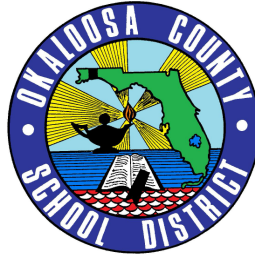


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NEWS RELEASE

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OCSD Build Math Program Connects Elementary Students to Construction Careers Through Hands-On Learning

The Okaloosa County School District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department is celebrating another successful year of its Build Math Program, an innovative initiative that helps elementary students connect classroom math skills to real-world careers in construction and the skilled trades. Now in its second year, the Build Math Program engaged students from Longwood Elementary School, Elliott Point Elementary School, and Wright Elementary School in hands-on activities designed to strengthen their understanding of fractions, measurements, problem-solving, teamwork, and basic construction concepts. By blending academic standards with career exploration, the program demonstrates how math is applied every day in high-demand careers while inspiring students to explore future opportunities in the skilled trades.

As a culminating experience, students from Elliott Point Elementary and Wright Elementary visited the Building Trades Program at Choctawhatchee High School, where they worked alongside high school students and instructors on hands-on building projects. During the visit, students constructed their own birdhouses and toolboxes, applying the measurement and math skills they developed throughout the year while gaining firsthand exposure to career and technical education pathways. "The Build Math Program gives students an opportunity to see learning come to life," said Superintendent Marcus Chambers. "By connecting math concepts to real-world applications and introducing students to career pathways at an early age, we are helping them build confidence, develop problem-solving skills, and discover new possibilities for their future."

The district extends its appreciation to Build Math instructor Mr. Greg Rynearson for his leadership and commitment to the program, as well as Mr. Lonny Robledo and the Building Trades students at Choctawhatchee High School for serving as mentors and role models throughout the experience. The program was made possible through the generous support of the Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation, which provided grant funding and lunch for participating students, and Florida Power & Light through NextEra Energy, whose investment helped expand hands-on career exploration opportunities for young learners. The Okaloosa County School District remains committed to providing students with engaging, real-world learning experiences that foster academic success, career awareness, and workforce readiness. The CTE Department looks forward to continuing and expanding the Build Math Program in the years ahead.



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