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North High School Launches Microsoft Imagine Academy to Help Equip Students with 21st Century Skills for Success

Worcester, MA / June 7, 2017 / Worcester Public Schools today announced the launch of the Microsoft Imagine Academy program in North High School to provide students with real-world technology skills needed to thrive in the 21st century economy. North High School joins more than 16,000 Microsoft Imagine Academies around the world. Expanding upon their School of Technology and Business, North High School is currently pending Chapter 74 approval for their Business Technology program as a state-approved career/vocational technical education (CVTE) program, which is not currently offered within the Worcester Public Schools system.

"We're committed to providing our students with the most up-to-date knowledge and skills so they can pursue higher education and secure jobs that contribute to the economy and their communities," said April Kelly, Business Technology Instructor. "Our membership in the Microsoft Imagine Academy program enables us to provide a road map to technology proficiency and industry-recognized Microsoft Certification credentials keeping pace with what today's employers are looking for and setting our students up for future success."

Microsoft Imagine Academy is a comprehensive program that supports ongoing technology education for students, teachers and other education professionals spanning computer basics to high-level programming, along with cloud and infrastructure management using Microsoft technologies. The program's resources include access to online learning content, Official Microsoft Academic Courses, classroom curriculum, and instructor tools. Within the past month North High's Microsoft Imagine Academy has piloted their Microsoft Office Certification program, and 80% of the students tested (56 out of 70) passed certification as Microsoft Office Specialists in PowerPoint 2013. Students that did not pass will have additional future opportunities to retest for certification. This is just the beginning, as North is expanding their program to include Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook certification opportunities for students as well.

Microsoft Imagine Academy will provide a convenient and flexible learning environment where students can get hands-on experience with the latest technology to gain a competitive edge in today's job market or the next step in their academics. In addition to Microsoft Office program classes and certification opportunities, students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge as they broaden their skillset in business classes such as Accounting I and II, Business Technology and Communications, Financial Literacy, HTML web design, and Entrepreneurship.

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