On December 6, Maxwell’s Collision Repair program received a generous donation from AkzoNobel and LKQ Corporation of a Lesonal Paint mixing system and a color matching photo spectrometer, both valued at over $10,000. Maxwell’s Collision Repair instructors, Mr. Sam Melaragno and Mr. Paul Kable, received the donation from Mr. Joey Pape, Territory Manager at AkzoNobel; Mr. Glenn Dashiell, PBE Account Representative at LKQ; and Mr. Dana Westing, PBE Product Specialist at LKQ. AkzoNobel and LKQ Corporation have been long-time partners with Maxwell High School of Technology and were pleased to help continue this relationship with the equipment donation, which is the latest technology in digitally matching colors.

The support from industry makes it possible for Maxwell's collision program to stay current with industry standards, and it also helps industry recruit prospective employees. Mr. Pape stated, “The collision industry is in desperate need of technicians, and many of these technicians are born at the high school level. That is why it is so important to support Maxwell High School and introduce young adults to our industry. I myself was a student at Maxwell High School in the auto body program in the early 1980s and have had a great career in the industry with Akzo Nobel Coatings. I am excited to see the program still going! Thank you for allowing us to support this fantastic program.”
Calendar

Mon., Dec. 23 - Fri., Jan. 3
Winter Break

Mon., Jan. 6
1st Day, Second Semester

Jan. 13 - Feb. 19
High School Recruitment Visits

Mon., Jan. 20
No School
Martin Luther King Day

Fri., Feb. 14
Inclement Weather make-up Day

Mon., Feb. 17
Student Holiday/Teacher Planning

Thurs., February 20
Maxwell Open House
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Wed., March 11
Career and College Fair

Fri., March 13
Inclement Weather make-up Day

Fri., March 20
Maxwell Lottery
2020-2021 School Year

March 30 - April 3
Spring Break

April 8-10, 14-16
Work Ready Seminars
Business Dining Etiquette

Wed., May 20
Last Day of School

Applying to College

In November, Maxwell counselors held a Maxwell Apply to College Day in which they assisted Maxwell students with completing their college applications. Gwinnett Technical College Admission Representative, Mr. Seth Loree, also came to assist students in the main computer lab at Maxwell. Students completed or started approximately 97 applications, which included college, scholarship, financial aid and college entrance exam applications. Maxwell students worked hard and made this event a success!

Paying Respect on 9/11

The Fire Services and Law Enforcement classes participated in the 9/11 stair climb, along with Chiefs Fred Cephas, Angie Jugenheimer, Scott Lewis, and eight other firefighters from the Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services Department. The Fire and Law Enforcement students went up and down five flights of the GSMST stairwell eleven times to simulate the 110 stories that were in the World Trade Center Twin Towers on 9/11/2001. Medic 20 from Fire Station 20 was on stand-by to take care of any medical emergencies. The EMR students monitored the participants' vital signs at various times during the event and made sure the climbers stayed hydrated.
Hello from Maxwell! I invite you to enjoy Maxwell’s fall newsletter. It is hard to believe the busy semester is ending. This edition of our newsletter features our Maxwell Work Ready Advisement Program and the overall successes of our students. Our SkillsUSA organization is off to a great start with over 210 members. We feature two events our SkillsUSA students participated in this fall. Also, take a moment to read about our Fire Services program and their 9/11 stair climb event. You will read about our Construction program collaborating on a community service project for literacy. Learn about our Programming and Manufacturing students who worked together on a neat project. Flight Operations students visited the Delta Ops Center and heard from guest speakers about the field of aviation. We also highlight our Architecture program’s question and answer session. We feature our teacher of the year, Mark James, who is a great example of the wonderful educators we have on staff at Maxwell. Finally, we are excited to continue to be a part of the Quinn House service project. Each class selects a child in need and helps their child have a wonderful holiday season. As you see, we have many wonderful things happening at Maxwell that benefit our students and our community. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and, as always, our doors are open to you. Thanks for your support and go Navigators! —Dr. Jeff Hall

Collaboration at its Finest

The Computer Programming and Manufacturing classes collaborated on building Arduino mini-projects this semester. Arduinos are small circuit boards that can be wired and programmed to perform many electrically driven tasks with multiple output options. Mr. Myers' Manufacturing class contributed their expertise in the construction of the boards with their circuits and hardware, and Mr. James' Programming class was assigned the software code to produce blinking lights and ringing buzzers in sequential patterns. In addition, both classes learned about the other program’s industry and how their own skills fit into the bigger picture.

Shown above: Students collaborating on Arduino mini-projects.

The Maxwell Navigator newsletter is a publication designed to celebrate the accomplishments of students attending Maxwell High School of Technology and the teachers and staff who instruct them.

Jessica Stallings
Newsletter Editor

Dr. Jeff Hall
Principal

Maxwell High School of Technology
990 McElvaney Lane
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770.963.6838
Carpentry Collaborates with Community

Maxwell’s carpentry students collaborated on a community literacy project with the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services and GREAT (Gwinnett Reading Exchange & Art Transforms) Little Minds. The project aimed to spread the importance of literacy and early learning.

The Gwinnett Coalition and GREAT Little Minds partnered with Gwinnett County Public Schools to help produce small cabinets for book exchanges that will be placed in Gwinnett County locations such as parks, churches, schools, early learning centers, health care facilities, and homeless shelters. The book exchange cabinets operate with a take-one, leave-one policy where local families can share children’s books for free. Students in Maxwell’s carpentry program produced around 150 cabinet pieces, which members of various community organizations then assembled. The partnership provided a real-life project for Maxwell students, and they will be able to admire the results of their work in the community afterward.

Architecture Hosts 2nd Annual Q&A Event

Students in the Architecture Drawing and Design classes invited 46 professionals to their 2nd annual Career Question and Answer event, which was part of a project embedded into the career unit that not only covered learning about careers and professional organizations, but also helped students improve their employability, research, and literacy skills. Students mailed invitations, RSVP cards, and hand-addressed envelopes under the direction of Mrs. Dee Tillman, Architecture instructor. Each professional was hand selected from the student, who researched architecture firms, biographies, and portfolios of work that they liked to determine who they would like to meet.

Out of the 46 professionals who were invited, ten outstanding individuals from the architecture industry participated in the Q&A event. The AM guest panel included Ms. Ina Bachmann from Nelson/Wakefield Beasley, Mr. Mike Clifford from BCA, Ms. Zoe Cullen from Habachy Design, Mr. John Elvin from Stevens and Wilkinson, and Ms. Bevin Wallace from Anne Architecture. The PM guest panel included Ms. Stephanie Andrews from Balance Design, Ms. Megan Fagge from Cooper Carry, Mr. Bryan Jones from Jones Pierce Architects, Ms. Morgan Neal from HOK, and Mr. Kenji Tillman from LPB and Associates Architecture. Each student (in professional dress) asked his or her own thoughtful question to the panel, which helped them see the profession from a variety of viewpoints. The students appreciated the honest and genuine feedback from the guests.
SkillsUSA Events

Champions Rally

Maxwell's SkillsUSA chapter kicked off the school year by taking 118 members to the SkillsUSA Georgia Champions Rally at the Georgia National Fairgrounds on Friday, October 4. High school chapters from around the state gathered for inspiration, competition, and fun. Students had a grand time meeting other new members while enjoying all the fun rides and good food at the fair. Maxwell’s chapter also won 2nd Place for both Chapter Banner and Chapter Recruitment Poster contests.

SkillsUSA is a national, nonprofit student organization for students enrolled in technical education programs. Maxwell currently has 213 members. Students have until the end of January to join SkillsUSA. The $25 membership dues are payable through MyPaymentsPlus.

Fall Leadership Conference

SkillsUSA Georgia held its annual Fall Leadership Conference October 29-30 at a new location this year: the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington. Students were engaged in hands-on team sessions where they cultivated chapter experiences, explored the SkillsUSA Framework, and formulated a successful chapter plan. Maxwell had six of its SkillsUSA Class Representatives attend the Fall Leadership Conference along with chapter advisors, John Sorah and Jessica Stallings. One of the class reps, Jocelyn Royal, earned the SkillsUSA Statesman Award, which is presented to members who demonstrate SkillsUSA knowledge and civic awareness, along with an understanding of the SkillsUSA Framework and how to articulate their personal experience in career and technical education (CTE).

Quinn House Service Project

This holiday season, Maxwell sponsored 80 children for the Quinn House service project: students provided toys and clothes for children in need. Maxwell has been helping Quinn House children for the past 23 years, providing gifts to over 2,000 children. The Quinn House is a non-profit corporation established to offer an alternative to the homeless and those in need, operating solely on donations from the public. It is a full-service group home in Gwinnett County and offers a variety of programs that assist adults as they transition back into society as productive citizens.
Registration

Maxwell is gearing up for the 2020-2021 school year! Our online application will be available at maxwellhigh.com beginning Monday, January 13, 2020. Visit our website for detailed program descriptions.

2020 Home School Recruitment Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smilow</td>
<td>1/13/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berksman</td>
<td>1/14/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery</td>
<td>1/15/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>1/16/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duluth</td>
<td>1/17/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookwood</td>
<td>1/21/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkview</td>
<td>1/22/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grayson</td>
<td>1/23/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archer</td>
<td>1/24/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>1/27/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norcross</td>
<td>1/28/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Creek</td>
<td>1/29/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>1/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>1/31/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peachtree Ridge</td>
<td>2/3/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Green</td>
<td>2/14/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins Hill</td>
<td>2/20/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacula</td>
<td>2/26/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanier</td>
<td>2/28/20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visits will be held in the high school cafeterias during all lunch periods. Maxwell teachers will be present to help students apply.

Flight Ops Takes Off!

It has been a busy and rewarding first semester for the Flight Operations students at Maxwell High School of Technology. On October 24, students took a field trip to the Delta Technical Operations Center. Delta Tech Ops is a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) provider and an industry-leading airline service provider with more than 90 years of experience in aviation mechanics. Students toured parts of the 63+ acre center and witnessed aviation professionals in action.

In November, the Flight Operations class listened to speaker, Wesley Sewell. Mr. Sewell is one of the admissions recruiters for Middle Georgia State University. He gave an overview of the college then focused on the aviation majors. He answered questions from students who are going to apply and students who have already been accepted. His presentation included tuition, scholarships, and career outlook along with the Delta Airlines Propel Program.
Becoming Work Ready

Work Ready is the advisement program at Maxwell High School of Technology that ensures graduates of Maxwell have the essential soft skills needed to successfully enter the workforce and/or post-secondary education. This program is coordinated by Maxwell counselors, Dr. LaVonna Groce and Mrs. Emily Latone.

Maxwell’s Work Ready program started the school year with Dr. Jon Valentine, GCPS Director of Foreign Language, as the keynote speaker for the Dress for Success seminar. He led a riveting session in which he discussed how to be workforce ready. In his speech, he encouraged students to look their best and discussed the importance of punctuality, the steps of interviewing, and how to give a good first impression. All Maxwell classes attended this seminar, and students were very engaged. Dr. Valentine’s pointers and speech were very informative and always a great way to kick off the Work Ready season!

Getting Along with Other People

For the third year in a row, Maxwell counselors, Dr. LaVonna Groce and Mrs. Emily Latone, facilitated the Work Ready session Empathy and

Personality in the Workplace. All students were required to attend this session and learn about personality types and discuss the importance of displaying empathy when relating to other people at work. In this session, students took a personality assessment and analyzed their personality type as well as the personality types of their classmates. Students were assessed and given a color: blue, orange, green, or gold. Maxwell students presented their color (i.e. personality), their likes, dislikes, and how other people should communicate with them. This is always an enlightening session for students and teachers. They learn about themselves and the differences of their peers and students.
Mr. James chosen Maxwell TOTY

Maxwell High School Programming instructor, Mark James, has been chosen the 2019-2020 Maxwell Teacher of the Year. Mr. James has taught at Maxwell for the past 16 years. In addition, he is a part-time adjunct instructor at Georgia Gwinnett College where he is currently teaching a digital media course. Mr. James earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Tennessee in Graphic Communications. He also attended the University of Georgia, where he received a master's degree in Internet Technology, and Valdosta State University, where he earned a specialist's degree in Instructional Technology.

Mr. James believes in having high expectations of his students. “When I convince my students that I have their best interest at heart, the battle is half won. Having a high expectation for their future, they’ll go further, try harder, do more and give their best to live up to what they think I think of them. I basically teach software development. The techniques we use in class benefit our students as many of them move on to college programs and jobs in the field. I want to create a classroom that builds independently capable, self-starting, self-monitoring young adults. As I prepare these young people for the next level of becoming a software developer, one of the main things they learn is to think through problems and solutions independently. The software development field can be very well paying but is difficult and requires a real commitment to be successful. One of my goals is to give students a very effective foundation to allow them to handle the challenges of pursuing their career development as they go to college. Having taught at various colleges and being around the professors at different levels gives me a good perspective of what my students will encounter when in that environment. This allows me to prepare them to do well by implementing techniques in class that they will see in the next few years. This includes project based learning, career research, and extensive use of D2L or Black Board, which are similar to our school system’s e-class online tool.”

In addition, it is very important to Mr. James to stay current with the latest technology trends, tools, and techniques so that his teaching is relevant and rigorous. In order to accomplish this, Mr. James attends many technology conferences throughout the year where he gains ideas that he can bring back to his classroom and implement in projects and assignments for students. He also has been heavily involved in technology user groups across Atlanta in order to discuss specific technologies like JavaScript and other programming tools. Mr. James stated, “I have met with the Atlanta JavaScript users group, the JS Node user group, the Interactive Web user group, and the Unity 3D user group. These all pertain to things my students will need to be able to use as they progress in their future careers.”

Teaching at a local college has allowed Mr. James to stay in contact with some of his former high school students. “I teach at various local colleges and have sometimes seen my former students at the technical and four year college levels as they are preparing for careers in software development. Having been through my class, they are ready for the rigors of college and to continue building their understanding and expertise in this field. Our class is in a strategic position to route well-trained students exactly where they need to go to enter this career. With preparation here, students are well positioned to take advantage of and succeed in the advanced training that technical and four year colleges offer.”