

CTE at HHS

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**Career Technical
Education**

**Hollywood
High School**

**Fonna Bishop
Principal**

**1521 North
Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
90028**

**CTE Advisor
Paul DeBonis**

**323 461 3891
x218**
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Something for Everyone, On Every Track

In a recent editorial in The Hollywood Crimson, Jose Marroquin alleges “trackism” at Hollywood High School- a fundamental inequity in resources available to students caused by the multi-track schedule. At first glance it is difficult to argue with some of Jose’s assertions. With a staff divided three ways, it is impossible for the school to offer all things to all students on every track. But to imply the existence of a conspiracy to defraud two-thirds of the student body is misguided. More on that later.

Career Technical Education feels stretched by the track system. The specialized nature of our program demands teachers with unique skills who are hard to come by. We are fortunate to have full-time auto, metal, culinary arts, and stage design teachers on staff, but each is dedicated to a single track. Numerous computer teachers make it possible to offer a wide range of technical electives from business computing and web design to programming and new media across all tracks. But even with the limitations of the track system, Hollywood offers one of the widest varieties of career-oriented courses in the district. Take a look:

Career Education at Hollywood High

A-Track

- Auto Mechanics- Mr. Cox
- Stage Lighting and Design- Mr. Sele
- Information Technology- Mr. Benainous

B-Track

- Business Computing- Mrs. Hambright
- The Teacher Career Academy- Ms. Glynn

C-Track

- Metal Shop- Mr. Chapple
- Chef’s Training- Mr. Papa
- The New Media Academy- Ms. Gordon

Beyond these track-specific programs, CTE sponsors after-school classes available to all students regardless of track. Resident tech expert, Sam Kabakchuzyan offers an ROP class in computer networking, administration and repair that meets after school, five days a week. Motivated students can earn fifteen technical or elective credits while learning marketable computer skills.



Oscar Velasquez gets some hands-on experience in Mr. Kabakchuzyan’s ROP computer class

Through Los Angeles City College, we also offer multiple, after-school classes on our campus. In addition to introductory and computer programming courses, students can now take stage sound taught by Kevin Morrissey. Hands-on experience is the norm in this class which requires students to work the sound board during live theatrical productions.

If you still feel that the track system is dragging you down, there is cause for hope. Hollywood High School will return to a traditional (single track) schedule in the Fall of 2008 featuring wall-to-wall small learning communities. CTE will figure prominently in the Culinary and Computer SLCs. Both communities have stated goals of preparing students for a variety of possible futures including work, further career training or post-secondary education. Which brings me back to the editorial in The Hollywood Crimson.

Noting that our college counselor’s schedule aligns with A-track, Jose concludes that only A-track students can hope to attend college. Thankfully, there is evidence that indicates otherwise. A recent survey of last year’s graduating class featured 68 CTE graduates from all tracks. 56 are currently enrolled in post-secondary education. Although clearly not his intention, Jose’s statement might discourage B and C-track students from pursuing college, even though it is a goal within their reach.

And to what do we credit these successful transitions from high school to college? The hard work of the students, their teachers, and our college counselor, Ms. Judy Campbell.