

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 18, 2016

For many students who choose to attend Pickaway-Ross, they have an idea of a career they want to pursue.



But for many others, the path to a career and adulthood isn't so clear. They may have experienced challenges that have taken them off that path.

Fortunately, those students have an opportunity to regain their footing thanks to Pickaway-Ross' Game Plan program, led by Debbie Wipert and operated out of Adult Education.

Game Plan serves young people ages 16 to 24 who are not in school and need help obtaining their high school diploma or GED and in finding career opportunities.

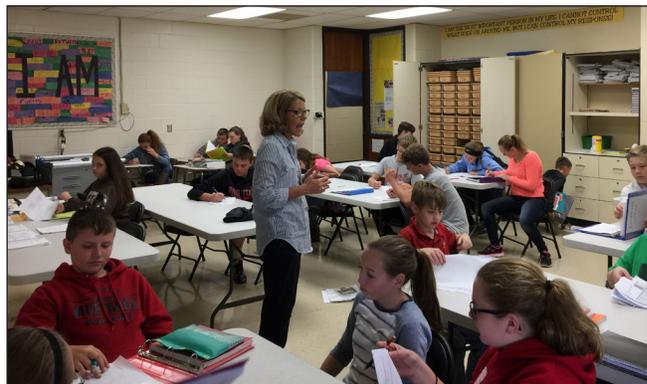
"In some cases, a student may have left high school with all of their academic credits met, but they couldn't pass one part of their OGT," Debbie said. "And now they are 18 and don't have a high school diploma."

For other students, home situations may have made focusing at school difficult and, after falling behind, they just gave up.

"My mom use to say, 'Hug the kids no one will hug. Love the kids no one will touch.' That's what we do," Debbie said.

There is a Game Plan classroom at Pickaway-Ross' Circleville campus and teachers also work with students at the career center as well as throughout schools in Pickaway and Ross counties.

At Westfall Middle School, Beth Cline teaches Game Plan Pathways to sixth- through eighth-graders. The class focuses on college and career readiness.



Beth Cline works with students in the Game Plan Pathways program offered at Westfall Middle School.

Nicholas Rediger, school counselor at the middle school, said requirements initiated by the Ohio Department of Education spurred the interest in offering a career-planning course.

"We thought offering the class would be a good way to get kids exposed to career options and education."

Beth said the nine-week format gives students time to explore options and open up about their backgrounds and what they think they might want to do.

"It's exciting to hear the questions they have about careers during the exploration process," Beth said.

In fact, I had the pleasure of being a guest speaker to Beth's students this year and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to talk with them about my job and our programming options.

It was refreshing to see the inquisitive nature of these kids and their excitement and eagerness in discussing their futures.

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