HART CAREER CENTER

Chris Denham, Director

September 2026

CTE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Personal Finance
We are learning about how our brains view money. We started off with the popular Bean Game. Students had budget categories where they could place their beans. Life happens, so the amount of their beans fluctuated with the life event. It gets them thinking about what categories on a budget are important or not important for them.

Teaching Professions
The Teaching Professions program is off to an excellent start! This year we have 10 students from 4 school districts: MMA, Community R-6, Van-Far and Mexico. These aspiring educators are eager to experience firsthand the outstanding opportunities available within our district and the Hart Career Center. Representing diverse career interests within education, these students are eager to experience the high-quality training offered by the Mexico School District. Next week, the cohort will begin onsite tours of the elementary and middle school buildings. Meanwhile, students are completing their FERPA certifications with the goal of beginning classroom observations by late September.

Mexico Agriculture
- Grant Wilt attending HYPE Leadership Academy this summer for the Top 30 Junior FFA Members in Missouri in Jefferson City
- Kaitlyn Deimeke attended HYMAX Leadership Academy at the Lake of the Ozarks for the top 100 freshman FFA members
- 8 students went on a summer agricultural tour to the south where they explored ag industries in the south
- Sophie Easley showed at the Missouri State fair where she won Grand Champion Purebred Cow/calf pair in the FFA Show
- Sara Jenkins won reserve champion canned good at the Northeast District Expo.

Engineering
Project Lead the Way Engineering is off to a strong start this year. We have once again increased enrollment over the previous year! This year we have the most sending school students in the past 4 years (maybe more). We have over 40 students ranging from freshman to seniors participating in 6 different engineering courses.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION (CTSO) ACTIVITIES

FFA

- Mexico FFA is hosting Area IV Leadership Conference on September 9 at 4:30 p.m.
- Mexico FFA is putting on an agricultural education event called Food for America where 2nd and 3rd graders are invited from St. Brendan's, Southside Christian Academy, Hawthrone, Eugene Field and the local homeschool group at the Audrain County Fairgrounds on September 18, 2026.

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA membership kickoff was held on August 31. We have over 50 students signed up so far with several interested in Chapter or District officer positions. All members in good standing will be eligible to attend a St. Louis Cardinals game on September 16 for Career Day at Busch Stadium. Students interested in District officer positions will attend SPARK, the SkillsUSA Missouri District Officer Training Institute, in Columbia in October.

FCCLA

DESE has made a recent push to require specific CTSO participation for certain program areas. For this reason, we have affiliated a new FCCLA chapter for our Teaching Professions program. Students will have the opportunity to participate in FCCLA as well as SkillsUSA.