

BFA - A School of Choice

Green & Gold

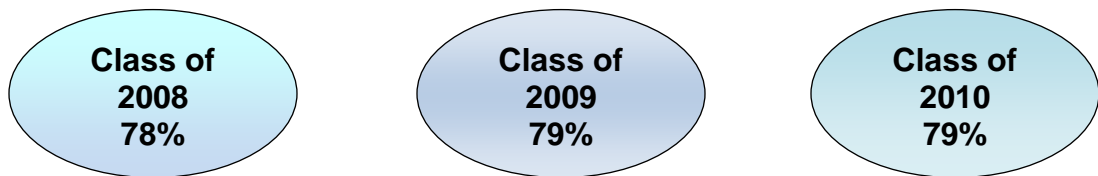
Great Things Happen Here

BFA/NWTC will be presenting a series of articles over the next several weeks about the proposed school budget to inform the community of our programs, initiatives, expenses and revenues that make up our spending plan for next year. It is our intention to provide a clear and complete presentation of the proposed school budget in preparation of the community voting by Australian ballot on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011**. Your comments or questions regarding budget are welcome and can be directed to your school board representatives or administration. Contact information may be found on our website: www.bfasta.net - click on General Information.

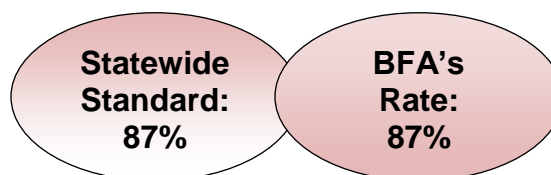
BFA – INDICATORS OF EXCELLENCE

BFA has enjoyed a long tradition of academic excellence. Listed below are some key indicators of BFA's continued student success over the past few school years.

STUDENTS WHO COMMITTED TO ATTEND COLLEGE OR POST SECONDARY EDUCATION:



GRADUATION RATES:



(The Graduation Rate is Preliminary Data from the DOE)

The Class of 2010 distinguished themselves with their accomplishments and are attending Harvard University of Pennsylvania, Tufts, Skidmore, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Rochester, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of New Hampshire, Endicott, Emerson, St. Olaf, Brigham Young, Boston University, and a large group to the Vermont State Colleges and University of Vermont.

The BFA Advanced Placement program started in 1996 with one course and twelve students. It is now integrated into five departments with over 232 students. BFA has expanded its Advanced Placement program to 11 courses and with this budget; we are planning to add Advanced Placement Psychology next fall. Students taking AP courses may earn college credit and/or have college course requirements waived.

BFA's academic program is now enhanced by providing 'on-line' learning opportunities through Virtual High School (VHS) and Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC). Virtual High School offers on-line discussion, private conferencing with teachers and the use of web 3.0 tools; in addition almost 400 courses (19 are AP level classes) ranging from Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate to Middle School Level Pre-Algebra are offered. Students may study Portuguese, Mandarin, Animation, Computer Science, to mention just a few.

Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative offers discussions with teachers through Skype, telephone and email using a correspondence method of delivery. This is a new program which offered 30 classes this year (24 were core classes and 6 were electives) is being expanded next year.

Three years ago, BFA formed a partnership with our local businesses and created our School-to-Work program designed to focus on those students not planning to attend post secondary education. Our goal was to show our students the many excellent employment opportunities in our area and give firsthand knowledge to students through job shadowing.

BFA's School to Work initiatives continues to grow and provide work experience for our students. We have expanded and coordinated over 150 completed job shadows with over 40 businesses visited last year. Work experiences were completed by 34 students. This was a 28% increase in job shadows from the previous year.

The BFA local community and local endowment scholarships reached a special milestone last year of providing over \$300,000 in scholarships to our graduating class of 2010. This is an incredible show of community support for BFA.

COLLINS PERLEY INDICATORS OF EXCELLENCE

Our Community Shines at the Collins Perley Campus of B.F.A.!

Community use of the Collins Perley Campus has increased dramatically over the past several years. This year, with the completion of renovations, use has exploded. Use of the newly refurbished courts has increased by approximately 50% in court hours and 200% in people hours when compared with pre-refurbishing use. Diversity has been a major factor. More people are using the tennis court room for everything from basketball to Zumba. We added two volleyball courts and two basketball backboard set-ups outdoors for free community use.

In our efforts to increase fitness opportunities for adults who don't like the hum-drum of exercise gyms we have introduced adult programs for team wallyball, adult tennis and tennis clinics, fitness boot camp, adult dodge ball, and even Adult Phys Ed (a takeoff on school Phys Ed classes).

More businesses are taking advantage of our combination Fitness and Team Building packages. Each package is custom designed to meet the needs of local business.

We were thrilled with the return of the Relay for Life fundraiser for the Cancer Society and equally pleased to pick up new community events including a football scrimmage between Castleton College and the UVM Club Team.

Caretakers of an Excellent Environment

We consider the grounds of Collins Perley to be divided into three classifications. They are Parks, Forests, and Streams. The Sports Fields are our Parks. As such, we work hard to make them available for the community while protecting them from overuse. We use the most ecologically friendly turf treatments to insure their health while protecting the rest of the eco system. Trees at Collins Perley are starting to reach significant levels of maturity. Most have been planted just within the last ten years. Already we are seeing the canopies we envisioned along some of the walking paths. A shaded rest stop can now serve as a miniature oasis. While some might see the water passing through the property as drainage ditches, we see them as stream systems. We respect them by surrounding them with as much buffer as possible. We are particularly anxious to see plans finalized for a pilot project with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Clean and Clear Office. This project will introduce a number of test sites designed to improve water quality. Work will be completed this summer.

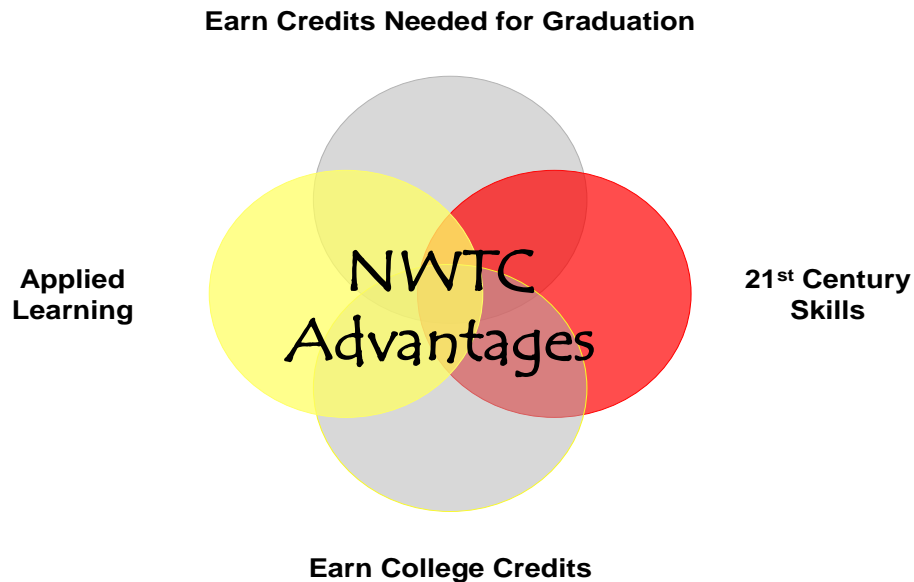
At BFA We Measure Excellence with the Colors Green and Gold

The Green and Gold Great Campaign at BFA builds awareness and encourages our school community to strive to do better, be better, and feel better. The campaign recognizes that a good performance by some people's standards may be great for others. We don't judge good, better and best... we acknowledge great efforts and great deeds and we call them Green and Gold Great. The goals of the campaign are;

- 1) Search to find greatness where it exists.
- 2) Acknowledge greatness where it is found.
- 3) Spread greatness to others.
- 4) Help all students to find the greatness within them.
- 5) Promote our greatness so as to instill pride in the student body, the staff, and the community.

Hundreds of school students, staff, and groups have been acknowledged for some type of greatness. Through the contribution of the Boosters, those who are acknowledged are given a free ice cream sundae. A weekly Green and Gold Newsletter sent to the BFA Community identifies those awards so further recognition can be given.

What makes the Northwest Technical Center an Excellent School?



Northwest Technical Center--Advantages

Earn High School **Credits Needed for Graduation** in a Tech Center Course:

- Students earn ½ credit in Math each year they are in the Tech Center in four of our programs.
- Students earn ½ credit in Science each year they are in the Tech Center in eight of our programs.
- Participation in a Tech Center course meets the Career Exploration graduation requirement and NWTC students can test out of the Computer Applications graduation requirement.
- Students in the Human Services and Medical Professions Academy earn a BFA English Seminar credit.

Students in the Tech Center **Apply Skills** Learned in Class:

- Marketing students operate *PassTime*, the school store, as part of their educational experience.
- Culinary Arts students operate the *Hideaway*, the school restaurant, as part of their educational experience.
- *Curiosity Corners* preschool is a lab site for the Human Services program. Students work with the certified preschool teacher to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
- Medical Professions have shadowing experiences at Northwestern Medical Center.
- Emergency & Fire Services students have shadowing opportunities at Northwestern Medical Center, St. Albans City Fire Department, and Fairfax Rescue.
- Automotive Technology students perform live work on vehicles in the NATEF certified facility.
- Building Trades students often complete community construction projects off campus.
- All students are eligible to participate in Co-op and placement opportunities as part of their program.

Earn College Credits in High School

Many of our programs allow students to earn college credit while they are in high school.

| NWTC Program | College | College Course/Credits |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Human Services | CCV | Intro to Early Childhood Education (3 credits) |
| Human Services | CCV | Comm. in the Early Childhood Workplace (3 credits) |
| Human Services | CCV | Infant and Child Development (3 credits) |
| Human Services | CCV | Fostering Creative Learning for Children (3 credits) |
| Medical Professions | VTC | Anatomy & Physiology (4 credits) |
| Medical Professions | CCV | Medical Terminology (3 credits) |
| Medical Professions | CCV | Human Biology (3 credits) |
| Digital Arts | CCV | Digital Photography (3 credits) |
| Digital Arts | CCV | Graphic Design (3 credits) |
| Digital Arts | CCV | Website Design (3 credits) |
| Video Production | CCV | Intro to Film Making (3 credits) |
| Engineering Tech | VTC | CADD (3 credits) |
| Engineering Tech | VTC | Design Communication (3 credits) |
| Engineering Tech | VTC | PC Hardware (3 credits) |

21st Century Skills

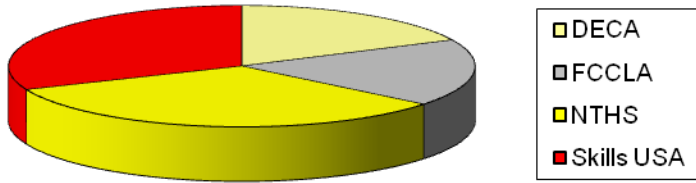
Employers in the 21st Century insist on employees who possess expert competencies in technical knowledge as well as skills such as teamwork, critical thinking and working independently. Northwest Technical Center provides education and training to succeed in today's most demanding careers.

NWTC Students Recently Accepted at:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Castleton State College | Plymouth State University |
| Champlain College | Professional Salon Academy |
| Clarkson University | Quinnipiac University |
| Colby Sawyer College | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute |
| College of St. Joseph | Rivier College |
| Community College of Vermont | Saint Michael's College |
| Culinary Institute of America | SUNY Plattsburg |
| Indiana University at Purdue | U Mass Amherst |
| Johnson & Wales | Universal Technical Institute |
| Johnson State College | University of Maine |
| Keene State College | University of New Hampshire |
| Keuka College | University of Northwest Ohio |
| Lyndon State College | University of Rhode Island |
| New England Culinary Institute | University of Southern Maine |
| New England School of Communications | University of Vermont |
| Northeastern University | University of Wyoming |
| O'Briens Training Center | Vermont Technical College |
| Paul Smith's College | Wheelock College |

**Northwest Technical Center programs prepare students
for both COLLEGE and CAREERS.**

NWTC Membership in Youth Leadership Organizations Representing 134 Students in 2010



Youth Leadership Organizations:

Many students who enroll in the Northwest Technical Center become involved in interschool, state and national activities—and we encourage them to do so. Through membership in the Tech Center, students develop technical skills as well as leadership skills while they participate in program, youth leadership, and community activities. The Tech Center is affiliated with the following youth leadership groups: DECA, SkillsUSA, FCCLA, and NTHS.

National Technical Honor Society:

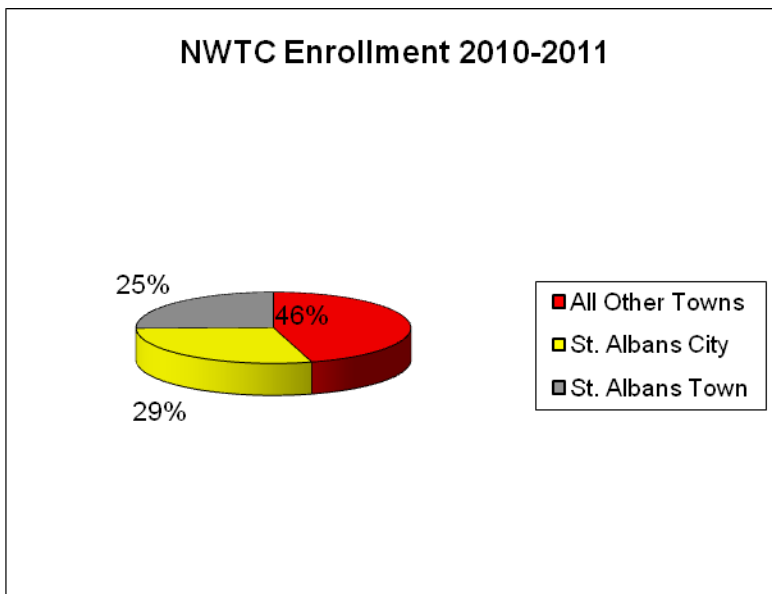
In addition to our student leadership organizations, the Northwest Technical Center hosts a chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. This honor society recognizes excellence in career and technical education.

Statewide Indicators:

The state of Vermont has developed a series of indicators to measure performance of regional technical centers. These indicators set a performance target for each category, and based on local reporting, rank the center on its progress toward reaching the target. Statewide indicators support career and technical students in: mastering knowledge and skills in industry validated technical standards, attaining secondary (high school) diploma, successfully transitioning to post-secondary education or employment, and gaining an industry recognized credential.

| Indicator | State Target | NWTC Actual |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Secondary Completion | 95% | 100% |
| Placement | 95% | 99% |
| IRC's* | 20% | 38% |
| College Credits Earned | 2% | 3% |
| Technical Skills Assessment | 60% | 81% |

*Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC's): The NWTC offers training for the following credentials: ServSafe, ProStart, Associated General Contractors Certification, Automotive Service Excellence, Licensed Nurses Assistant, Childcare Apprentice Certificate, CPR, Heartsaver AED, First Responder, Fire Fighter 1, Wildland Fire Control, Community First Aid, and Comp TIA A+ Computer Certification.



Northwest Technical Center is one of only sixteen regional technical centers in the state. BFA St. Albans and MVU are both sending schools. Students represented as “all other towns” in the chart above are from Alburgh, Bakersfield, Berkshire, Fairfield, Franklin, Georgia, Highgate, Isle La Motte, Sheldon, and Swanton.