

CAREER CORNER

New Elementary School Program Introduces Students and Parents to Local Careers

Danville District 118 introduced a new program aimed at providing students with tools, strategies and the courage to be college and career ready by the end of high school. Rather than solely focusing on older students, the local AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) team decided to begin the program with younger students.

“We have adopted this program at the elementary level to start exposing our students at a younger age to these tools and strategies,” explains Laurie Lattanzio, ESL Teacher at Mark Denman Elementary School. “The hope is that we can continue to provide new strategies as they move through the district and by the end of high

school they have a ‘toolbox’ ready to help them be successful in college.”

The team hosted its first College and Career night for elementary students and their parents on April 19th. “We had a wonderful group of colleges and companies join us,” says Lattanzio. The schools included Eastern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, Danville Area Community College, Lakeview College of Nursing, and Tricoci University.

Businesses and local professionals who participated included: McDonalds, Aqua Illinois, United Way of Danville, Genpact, City of Danville, along with D.A.R.E. Officer Miller and local musician Dustin

Danger. Students from the D118 middle school talked about AVID and how it is helping them. The Custard Cup, Applebee’s, Monicals, Buffalo Wild Wings and other businesses supported the event by donating raffle items.

“This is the first year of the event and I really hope we can continue to build on the relationships we are forming with these local colleges and companies,” says Lattanzio. “This is a great event for our students to see what is available, and for family members who are seeking employment to see which local companies are hiring.”

