McKinley High School offers a world-class educational experience for students who are interested in pursuing a career in the Building Trades. The Building Trades program includes carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and heating, ventilation & air conditioning. The program offers a fully integrated academic course load, as well as college credits and industry recognized credentials. Curriculum development is a collaborative process among education professionals and industry leaders and is designed to meet the demands of industry with adherence to New York State Learning Standards. State-of-the-art program facilities reflect current industry standards and practices.

The community connections are strong within the Building Trades program, with multiple business partners, college articulation agreements, and a mission-driven capstone project that provides students the opportunity to witness their learned skills transform the lives of families within their own community.

Each year the students construct a home that is donated to Habitat for Humanity. This project serves as the capstone to the Building Trades program. The project offers students the opportunity to work in a hands-on environment, while recognizing that the audience for their efforts extends beyond the classroom. Smaller projects throughout the year are designed to build students’ knowledge and skills using the specialized tools of their specific trade area. As students develop trade-specific skills, side-by-side instruction provides them the opportunity to demonstrate progress on small projects and showcase their preparation for the house-building project. The ambitious capstone project assists students to identify individual interests while working toward mastery in their trade area.
INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS
Students have the opportunity to gain the OSHA 10 Certification and/or the Solar Panel Installation Certification.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS
The Building Trades program has articulation agreements with Erie Community College and Alfred State – SUNY College of Technology. Additionally, through its P-TECH 2 grant, students are eligible for dual enrollment at Alfred State College. The courses are offered at the high school, and students earn college credit at the same time. These partnerships give students the opportunity to experience college-level coursework, visit collegiate facilities, and meet with post-secondary instructors. The articulations and dual enrollments represent a total of 72 credits over 21 courses!

PARTNERSHIPS
The Building Trades program maintains many valuable business and community partnerships. Partners include: Montante Solar, Construction Exchange of Buffalo & WNY, Blue Sky Student Mentoring, HSBC Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Tri-R Mechanical, Lamparelli Construction, WNY Construction Users Council, Philips Bros Supply, Construction Industry Education Foundation, SLR Contracting & Serv Co, MKS Plumbing Corp, Danforth Plumbing, H&M Plumbing & Mechanical, L&D Johnson Plumbing & Heating Inc., Matthew Kandefer Plumbing, MLP Plumbing & Mechanical, WNY Plumbing, Aurora Plumbing & Excavation, #41 IBEW Laborers Union, Frey Electric, Buffalo Control Systems, Bison Electrical Services, Paint of WNY, and Deltex Electric. These partnerships provide support in the areas of curriculum development, equipment purchasing, and community engagement, as well as work-based learning opportunities for students.

Representatives of the business and community partners also serve on the Advisory Committee for the Building Trades program. In this role, they assist in developing curriculum and aligning it to cutting-edge changes in the industry. These relationships also help promote the program in the community, as students participate in on-site activities across the city. Furthermore, students can work with industry professionals and secure internships, thus establishing connections that will be vital to their future careers.

RECOGNITIONS
Students enrolled in the Building Trades program compete every month for the title of “Craftsman of the Month.” This award is given by the Western New York Construction Exchange and based on technical and career readiness skills outlined in the employability profile. Winners receive a cash award and trade equipment. All winners are also entered into a competition at the end of the program that awards a truck or the cash equivalent. This recognition assists students in building relationships with business partners and securing professional connections.

About CTE TAC of NY
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