 The FACTS about ECAC

What is ECAC? = Early College Allegan County. 2 Years FREE college! You will be a college student and a high school student at the same time during 11th and 12th grade plus one additional year. You will earn either an Associate Degree = a 2-year degree = 62 college credits or a Certificate in Machining for FREE!

Why would I want to do this? = College is expensive, this is FREE! You will graduate from college one year earlier than other students in your class. That means you will start earning a salary one year sooner as well. **OR** after Year 3 in the program, you can go get a job if you choose to not continue at a 4-year college.

Three Tracks to Choose from:

1. **Associate of Arts** – choose this track if you want to continue after the program to earn a 4-year degree (bachelor degree).
2. **Business A.A.S**. (Associate in Applied Science) – choose this track if you want only a 2-year degree and plan to enter the workforce after the program
3. **Machine Tool Technology Certification** – choose this track if you want to enter the manufacturing and machining workforce and earn a Technical Certificate. This is an ‘in demand’ and high paying field!

What are you committing to?

11th grade – YEAR 1 – half day at ACATEC working on 6 college courses through Lake Michigan College. The other half of the day at FHS.

12th grade – YEAR 2 – half day at ACATEC working on 6 college courses through Lake Michigan College. The other half of the day at FHS.

YEAR 3 – All day at ACATEC, which is a new LMC campus site, working on 8 college courses. You will not be at FHS at all.

Will I graduate with my class? = YES! You will have a very normal senior year. The only difference is when you walk across the stage at your graduation with your class and you are handed your black diploma case, it will actually be empty! Why do we do this? So the funding is available for Dual Enrollment while you are still a high school student. So, yes, you will participate in your graduation with your class, but technically, you will not complete your high school diploma until the end of Year 3. You will not feel like a high school student during your 3rd year.

Do I qualify? = Students need a 2.2 GPA or higher with minimal attendance issues. Students must also take a college placement test and earn qualifying scores in Reading and Writing. Accuplacer test dates are coming soon in January at ACATEC. You need to sign up with Mrs. Coffindaffer.

How do I apply? = Any current 10th grader can apply. Applications are available after successful Accuplacer testing in January. Deadline will be at the end of February.

Steps in the application process =

1. Do you have a 2.2 GPA or higher?
2. If yes, sign up to take the Accuplacer test at ACATEC. Sign up with Mrs. Coffindaffer. You will be scheduled in either an AM or PM session. You will ride the tech bus to the tech center. You will start by taking the Writing test.
3. If you pass the Writing and Reading test, you may fill out the online application. You will receive information on how to complete the application after your tests are complete in January.
4. Applications will be due at the end of February. Stay tuned for the exact date.
5. In March, you will have a family interview at ACATEC.
6. The day before spring break, you will be notified at school if you have been accepted into the program.