INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?
The Internship Program is a course option open to senior students. Internships are opportunities for students to explore how their interests relate to possible careers. They are important learning experiences that can help students make more informed decisions about their career path by observing and becoming acquainted with careers in a more specific way, as well as open doors with potential future employers. As these internships are unpaid, students have the advantage of experiencing the entire scope of a career instead of just entry-level positions. Students also take a Career Exploration course along with the Internship Program that helps them meld their interests with their career plans.

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS INTERN?
Internships are a great way to learn about different careers, as well as gain experience that you can include on your resume and college applications. Great internships can teach students as much or more than many classes. Students learn what certain careers involve • gain hands-on experience and transferrable skills • work with professionals • make key contacts and increase future marketability • gain confidence in abilities • develop new skills and refine others • acquire job search skills • develop professionalism

WHAT ARE STUDENT INTERNS SAYING?
“I would recommend everyone to do this, because no matter how great your teacher is you just can get that experience in the classroom. If a student is on the borderline between a couple of things to do for their career, this would be perfect because it gives an open view to a whole new world.” – Cooper Bailey, Normal West Class of 2017, Intern at STL and Normal Gadgets.

“The internship program allowed you to do anything you wanted. For me it confirmed I wanted to do nursing and now I have an idea of what I would like to do before we do clinicals in college. But, some of my friends are starting to think ‘is this really what I want to do’ based on their internships.” – Kate Stephens, Normal West Class of 2017, Internship at OSF

“My mom is a teacher and that was what I thought I wanted to do. After going through my internships at Grove Elementary, Merrill Norman Cosmetics, and at an urgent care center in the wound clinic, I have decided I want to go into business or nursing. Every high school student should go through this program.” – Hannah Trask, NCHS Class of 2017

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INTERNSHIP DETAILS
• Students are allowed to take either a 1-hour or 2-hour internship
• 1-hour internships require 50-minutes per day, or 200-minutes per week. 2-hour internships 100-minutes per day, or 400-minutes per week.
• There is flexibility in terms of how this 200/400 minutes per week is split amongst days.
• Internships can be “job-shadowing” based or provide a wide variety of tasks for the student intern.
• Internships allow students to demonstrate ownership and initiative resulting in meaningful accomplishments to put on their resumes.
What are the benefits of hosting an intern?

Here are just some of the benefits of hosting a student intern:

- **Grow future workforce** by identifying potential future employees
- **Give feedback to educators** – Affords businesses/organizations the opportunity to give feedback to the program curriculum so skills that are important in the field may be taught in school.
- **Motivated Workers** – Student workers are enthusiastic and eager to learn.
- **Good exposure within the community** – Organizations who provide interns with opportunities may be seen in a positive light in that they are giving back to the community by preparing the future workforce.
- **Completion of special projects** – Internships offer employers the opportunity to work with schools and get real tasks accomplished with students/employees who have some skills and training. Hiring student interns may allow the company to complete special projects that may otherwise go undone. Student interns can:
  - Provide freedom for professional staff to pursue creative or more advanced projects
  - Assist in application of the latest strategies and techniques in the field
  - Establish and/or maintain connections with schools
  - Recruit other students and generate enthusiasm
  - Create awareness of the field for future hires
  - Promote community involvement – an excellent public relations tool
  - Give to the community by teaching the prospective work force.

What are employers saying about the Internship program?

"We have enjoyed having the students in the clinic and it has been a pleasure introducing them to the healthcare field." – Eric Glow, Regional Manager, Athletico Physical Therapy

“Not only did Carlos help me with everyday tasks like attendance, copies, and coralling the students, but he helped build and teach a few lessons. It was a great experience.” – Tara Loyer, Teacher, Olympia North Elementary School

“We have all thoroughly enjoyed our time with Cooper while he’s been here. He’s been helpful and has always shown an eagerness to learn. It has been a great experience.” – Todd Moody, IT Service Delivery Manager, STL

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Previous Internship Sites

Affordable Dentistry Today  
Athletico Physical Therapy  
BamBam Construction  
Barnes Dental  
BCAI School of Arts  
BJHS Summer School  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Cedar Ridge Elementary  
Cloud Quest Technologies  
Eastview Christian Church  
Eureka Meat Locker  
Gibson City Vet Clinic  
Grove Elementary School  
IL Cancer Care Center  
Jan Brandt Gallery  
J Spencer Construction  
Hawthorne Construction  
Katie’s Kids Learning Center  
McLean County Arts Center  
Meltdown Creative Works  
Olympia North Elementary  
Open Source Classroom  
OSF  
PC Guy  
Sikora CPA Firm  
SmartVet  
State Farm Insurance  
Stevenson Elementary  
STL  
The Daily Method  
Tomorrow’s Promise Learning Center  
Town of Normal  
Unit5 IT  
Unity Community Center  
Walgreens  
YWCA

Normal West student Cooper Bailey works on a changing an iPhone screen at Normal Gadgets. Cooper interned at STL and Normal Gadgets during the internship program.