



SPARK ACADEMY

SPARKING PATHWAYS
AND REAL-WORLD
KNOWLEDGE



A hands-on CTE career discovery summer academy for rising 7th and 8th grade students. Try real tools, meet real professionals, and discover where your future could take you.



BCIT SPARK Academy gives middle school students a front-row seat to the career and technical education programs at Burlington County Institute of Technology – before high school. Over four days, students work alongside BCIT instructors in real labs and shops, getting their hands on the tools, technology, and skills that power some of the most in-demand careers in New Jersey. Choose one course per session, or sign up for both sessions to explore even more pathways.

Daily Hours 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Open To Rising 7th & 8th Graders

Westampton & Medford Campuses

Session 1

July 6 – 9, 2026

Session 2

July 13 – 16, 2026



SESSION 1

July 6-9, 2026



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

UNDER THE HOOD: REAL AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS

Ever wonder what actually happens when a mechanic works on a car? In this course you will get under the hood for real — checking fluids, changing oil, and getting hands-on with brake components using the same jacks and tools professional technicians use every day.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Complete a real oil change and basic brake inspection on an actual vehicle — skills most adults don't know how to do.

CAREER CONNECTION

Automotive technicians are among the most in-demand workers in NJ, earning \$50,000–\$90,000+ with certifications.

 **LOCATED AT THE WESTAMPTON CAMPUS**



★ WELDING TECHNOLOGY

HOT SPARKS: INTRO TO REAL WELDING

Welding is one of the hottest careers in the country — and it's part of everything around you. Put on your face shield, step into the shop, and try three different welding processes including hands-on arc welding and oxy-fuel. You'll even get time in our virtual reality weld simulator before hitting the real equipment.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Create your own metal sculpture using scrap nuts, bolts, and metal — a one-of-a-kind project you built with your own hands.

CAREER CONNECTION

Certified welders can earn \$60,000–\$100,000+/year. Welding skills are needed in construction, aerospace, manufacturing, and more.

 **LOCATED AT THE MEDFORD CAMPUS**

****Courses marked with ★ are offered in both sessions. Students registering for both sessions may repeat a course for deeper practice or choose something new.**



★ ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

BUILD IT: DESIGN YOUR OWN COOLING FAN

Combine circuits, code, and 3D printing to design and build your very own handheld personal cooling fan from scratch. You'll solder a real circuit, model your fan body in TinkerCAD, load filament into a 3D printer, and watch your design come to life — all in four days.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Take home a working handheld cooling fan you designed, soldered, and 3D printed yourself. Yes — it actually works.

CAREER CONNECTION

Engineers design everything around us. Entry-level engineers in NJ earn \$65,000–\$90,000/year, with demand growing in every industry.

 **LOCATED AT THE MEDFORD CAMPUS**

SESSION 1

July 6-9, 2026



★ ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION POWER UP: WIRE A REAL HOUSE CIRCUIT

Trade textbooks for wire strippers and multimeters. In this course you will learn to read circuit blueprints, install real outlets and switches, wire a GFCI outlet, and tackle advanced 3-way switch wiring — the same skills licensed electricians use every day on the job.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Complete a fully wired mini house panel — switches, outlets, and lights — on your own practice wall. Diagnose and fix real wiring faults on the final day.

CAREER CONNECTION

Licensed electricians in NJ earn \$70,000–\$100,000+/year. Electrical jobs are among the fastest-growing trades in the state.

 **LOCATED AT THE MEDFORD CAMPUS**



CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY BLUEPRINT TO BUILD: CARPENTRY BASICS

From reading a blueprint to swinging a hammer, this course is all about making something real with your hands. You will learn to safely use hand and power tools, measure and cut materials, and follow a real project plan from start to finish — just like a professional builder on a job site.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Build a complete woodworking project — a birdhouse or tool caddy — using real lumber, tools, and construction techniques. Take it home on Day 4.

CAREER CONNECTION

Carpenters and construction trades professionals are in extremely high demand across NJ, earning \$55,000–\$85,000/year.

 **LOCATED AT THE MEDFORD CAMPUS**



COSMETOLOGY STYLE LAB: HAIR, NAILS & THE BEAUTY INDUSTRY

Step into a real cosmetology lab and explore the art and science behind the beauty industry. You will practice braiding techniques, nail art, skincare basics, and professional hairstyling on mannequins — discovering how creativity, precision, and business skills come together in this exciting career field.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Complete professional-style techniques on mannequins including braiding, styling, and nail art — and present your finished work on Day 4.

CAREER CONNECTION

A NJ cosmetology license opens the door to salon ownership, editorial styling, and flexible career opportunities across the beauty industry.

 **LOCATED AT THE WESTAMPTON CAMPUS**

SESSION 1

July 6-9, 2026



★ VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

ANIMAL CARE/VET HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE

Do you love animals? Find out what it's really like to work in a veterinary hospital. You will meet live animals, practice professional bandaging techniques, learn animal CPR and first aid, and discover the many career paths inside veterinary medicine — from vet tech to practice manager.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Practice real bandaging and first aid techniques on animal manikins and meet live animals including a guinea pig and tortoise. Day 4 includes a hands-on small animal care experience.

CAREER CONNECTION

Veterinary careers span vet techs, practice managers, researchers, and more. Vet techs in NJ earn \$40,000–\$60,000/year with strong job growth.

📍 **LOCATED AT THE WESTAMPTON CAMPUS**



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRACK THE CASE: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Think you have what it takes to solve a crime? In this course you will learn the science behind fingerprint analysis, dust and lift prints from real surfaces, process evidence at a mock crime scene, and work as a team to identify a suspect — just like a real forensic investigator.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Solve a complete mock crime scene investigation — collecting evidence, analyzing fingerprints, and presenting your findings and conclusions on Day 4.

CAREER CONNECTION

Criminal justice careers span forensic science, law enforcement, law, cybercrime, and social work — with paths for every kind of thinker.

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SESSION 2

July 13-16, 2026



★ WELDING TECHNOLOGY

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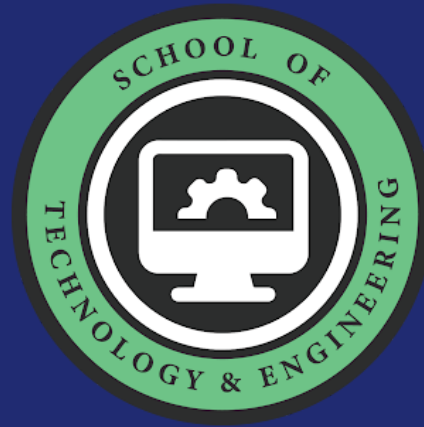
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SESSION 2

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HVAC TRADES ALIVE: CARPENTRY, PLUMBING & MORE

In this course you won't just learn about the trades — you'll live them. Over four days you'll get your hands on real carpentry, plumbing, and electrical projects, moving from skill to skill just like a multi-trade professional. Every day you'll build something new and walk away with confidence in your hands-on abilities.

YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

Build a custom BCIT-themed project that incorporates soldering, brazing, steel threading, and electrical skills — showcasing real trade techniques across multiple disciplines.

CAREER CONNECTION

HVAC and multi-trade technicians are among the most in-demand workers in NJ, earning \$55,000–\$85,000/year with strong job security.

 **LOCATED AT THE
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★ VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ANIMAL CARE ACADEMY/VET HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE

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YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH

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CAREER CONNECTION

Vet techs in NJ earn \$40,000–\$60,000/year with strong growth across vet hospitals, research labs, and animal care facilities.

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HOW TO REGISTER

Registration opens once all course details are confirmed. Students may enroll in Session 1, Session 2, or both — each at \$100. Spots are limited — each course has a maximum enrollment to ensure every student gets a true hands-on experience.



Registration Fee
\$100
per session



Reduced Fee
\$50 per session
*for families eligible for
Free and Reduced
Lunch*



Eligibility
Rising 7th & 8th
Graders **only**



Transportation
Provided by family



Food Not Provided
Eat before arrival.
You can bring a
snack.



Questions?
Email us



sparkacademy@burlcoschools.org

REGISTER TO SPARK ACADEMY TODAY!

<https://bit.ly/BCITSPARK26>

