

CAREER: Fair urges students to consider health care opportunities

FROM A6

what they're good at, what they like, and, if they know anyone in the medical or any other field, to talk to that person to see what is involved and what kind of commitment in terms of time, effort and money is required.

"Every day is different," he said, adding, "It is a myth that you must pick one career to last for your lifetime. Things change. Businesses close. Be flexible and open to new possibilities."

The students then played "Healthcare bingo," where all answers were related to health career opportunities, and toured the exhibitors hall where they were encouraged to ask questions.

Exhibitors handed out information, brochures, candy and props associated with the medical field including face masks, similar to those worn in operating rooms and adhesive strips that stick to a patient's forehead and tell his or her temperature.

"Our goal," Jaworski-Rapone said, "is to get students to start thinking early about what they want to do and what interests them — the earlier the better. This way they can start planning what classes to

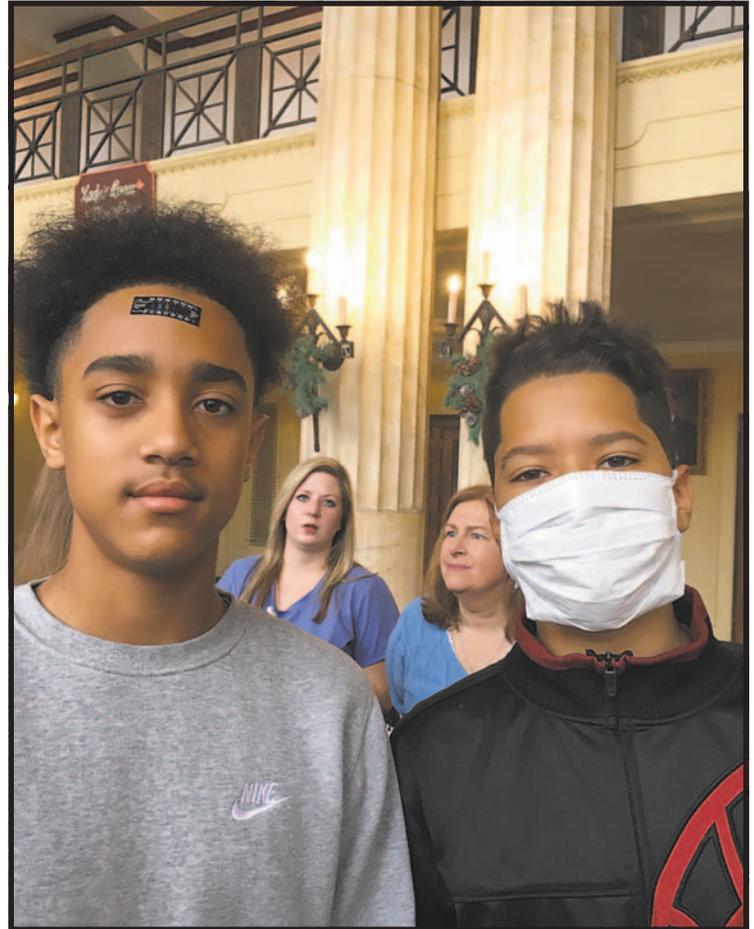
take, what kind of education they will need beyond that and what salaries are associated with these careers.

"There are many careers in the medical field, maybe things they'd never thought about."

Jaworski-Rapone said Thursday's career fair is one of many School-to-Work will hold this school year.

Last month, she said, the program focused on industrial and manufacturing jobs, opportunities in the building trades, and utility companies. December's program will focus on Girls Engaging in Mentors. She said school districts will select female students who are interested in STEM — Science Technology Engineering and Math — or girls who should be interested in those fields, and introduce them to women who hold "non-traditional" jobs as engineers, scientists, chemists and related fields. Another program, Jaworski-Rapone said, is "boot camp" for counselors, which gets them into industrial and manufacturing settings and a program in March focuses on careers in engineering.

"These programs take a lot of planning and cooperation from schools and the businesses that provide the professionals who participate. But it's important to



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New Castle eighth graders Sea Scott, left, and Julius Tipper model some of the healthcare-related samples given out by exhibitors at Thursday's School-to-Work Career Fair held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Sean models an adhesive thermometer stuck to his forehead and displaying his temperature. Julius models a surgical mask.

hold these career fairs to let the students know that there are opportunities. The students need to have their

eyes opened to what jobs are here."

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