

# DISTRICT **214** SPOTLIGHT

BUFFALO GROVE HIGH SCHOOL | ELK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL | JOHN HERSEY HIGH SCHOOL | NEWCOMER CENTER | PROSPECT HIGH SCHOOL  
ROLLING MEADOWS HIGH SCHOOL | THE ACADEMY AT FOREST VIEW | VANGUARD SCHOOL | WHEELING HIGH SCHOOL

## IT pathway helps Prospect student discover his future

**Like many of his peers, Zach Burke started high school unsure of what he might do with the rest of his life.**

Today, the Prospect High School senior has a clear picture of his future career path – computer science – after spending his entire high school career in District 214’s IT pathway.

The IT pathway is one of 44 in District 214’s Career Pathways program, which provides students with rigorous academic courses, access to early college credits and industry certifications, and personalized and career-specific learning experiences.

The goal is to help all District 214 students discover their futures so they can decide what they want – or do not want – to pursue after high school. Business Management, IT, Culinary Arts, Journalism, Engineering, Visual Arts and Aviation are just some of the pathways to choose from.

At Prospect, Zach’s passion for coding began his freshman year in the iOS mobile app development course. He quickly discovered how coding combines creativity and problem-solving.

In his next IT course, Prospect staff members pitched students several app ideas to help solve real-world problems. Working with the school’s college counselor, Zach designed an app to make the college application process easier and more organized for students.



District 214’s Career Pathways program not only gives students the academic skills to make them college and career ready but also instills grit, perseverance and resiliency so they can tackle and achieve their goals.

To learn more about District 214’s Career Pathways, speak to your student’s counselor and visit [www.d214.org/discover214](http://www.d214.org/discover214).

**“High school is supposed to help prepare us for college and what we want to do during (college) and after. Not a lot of high schools have an amazing computer science program like Prospect does.” – Zach Burke**

The app, called OCP, helps students keep track of the universities they are interested in applying to, and manage logins, passwords and application requirements. Zach entered OCP in the 2016 Congressional App Challenge and won, giving him the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. and present his app to members of Congress and national tech leaders.

Now a senior, Zach plans to study computer science in college. He has also taken two Advanced Placement courses in the IT pathway that focus on his career interests.