

# A hands-on look at what it's like to be a police officer



Photo by Josh Beckman  
Law enforcement students Chris McEachern and Kurtis Heathcott secure Tommy Geen in the squad car as they practice an arrest as part of a class activity.

By Brandon Suwinski

Center Line High School offers a law enforcement course that teaches students the basic skills needed to be a police officer. The class even has its own squad car; students drive around campus to practice traffic stops. The program gives students a realistic look at what it is like to be a law officer.

The course instructor, Mr. Robert Plotzke, is a retired Center Line police officer. He helps students achieve their goals and provides them

with the same materials and training used at colleges in the area. For example, the class uses the same textbooks as the criminal justice program at Macomb Community College.

"Law enforcement is evolving to meet the needs of the students and give them the opportunity for preparation for a life-long career," Mr. Plotzke said.

Mr. Plotzke shares his personal experiences from his years on the force, and introduces different kinds of activities and scenarios that law enforcement students

need to know.

"Law Enforcement is a great class," Brittany Wisniewski said. "You get to do a lot of hands-on activities such as handcuffing, fingerprinting and even some CSI work."

Mr. Plotzke brings in guest speakers to give students exposure to other types of jobs in the field of law enforcement. Some of the guest speakers include representatives from The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service, the Macomb County Prosecutor, Warren Police De-

partment, the Macomb County Sheriff, Warren S.W.A.T. Team and the Center Line Department of Public Safety. This gives the class a different look at the many opportunities available in the law enforcement field.

"This class gives you a great look at what being a police officer is like," Hassan Javid said.

With the training and instructions this class gives to you, students have the tools to make their dreams of a career in law enforcement come true.



Photo by Josh Beckman  
EMS students Hassan Javid, from left, Chelsea Jump, Katelyn Sand, and Jenna Mowinski place "accident victim" Brad Scott in a neck brace and on a backboard.



Photo by Katelyn Kortright  
Samantha Wojonowski from left, and Miranda Osborne watch as Center Line Visual Imaging instructor Donna Giacona shows them how to apply a graphic on a t-shirt.

## Visual Imaging class lets students experience many different career options

By Genna Lee

Visual Imaging is one of the three Career Technical Education classes offered at Center Line High School. It is a year-long course where students learn about graphic design and printmaking.

The Visual Imaging program underwent an overhaul prior to the 2010-2011 school year to bring it in line with what is being used in the printing industry today. Within the classroom, students are now using Adobe CS4 programs to create their designs.

Students in Visual Imaging learn skills necessary to design ads, brochures, logos, and T-shirts. The class prepares them for future careers in the graphic design and printmaking industry.

Chris Boggus, a senior at Center Line, is quite interested in becoming a graphic artist. "As a graphic artist, you can design anything you want," said Boggus. "I have the choice to create shirts, business logos, or billboards. With programs like Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, I can make my ideas come to life. There are so many options; that's why being a graphic designer is such a great career."

Mrs. Donna Giacona, the course instructor, loves teaching at Center Line High School. What she likes most is that her class is an elective class where the students can show their creativity as well as working one-on-one with students, since class sizes are not as large as most. Mrs. Giacona never thought she'd end up being a Visual Imaging teacher.

When asked about why she chose to teach at Center Line, she said, "Originally I planned on only

working in the printing industry. Over time, I changed my mind after completing my bachelor's degree and working in the industry.

My former high school, Cass Technical, attempted to recruit me to take over their Visual Imaging program, but I chose to teach at Center Line and I am very happy with my decision," Mrs. Giacona said.

Her favorite thing about the printing industry is that there are many areas of study, from design, to planning, to production.

The industry offers many different types of careers. "I'd love to also have a printing press in the classroom, so students would have a hands-on opportunity with that area of the industry as I did," Giacona said.

Many students like, Amanda Damico, take the Visual Imaging course to have fun. This is Damico's second year taking the class and she now works independently.

When asked why she took Visual Imaging for the second time, she responded, "It's a really fun class! We're not only on the computer, but we're also doing hands-on activities such as making our T-shirts. Visual Imaging is a great course to take whether you're interested in being a graphic artist or just looking for some fun."

To finish off her senior year, Damico hopes to enjoy all her classes, especially Visual Imaging.

Students who wish to continue to develop their skills, and possibly engage in graphic design and/or printmaking as a career, can sign up for their second year of the Visual Imaging course, where they will learn more advanced techniques and participate in hands-on projects.

# Learning to save lives

By Hassan Javid

Center Line High School offers an Emergency Medical Service program for students who are interested in the medical field or who want to work for EMS agencies. This program actually gives students the opportunity to work in hospitals, and EMS agencies. EMS students experience situations that an average classroom does not provide. The scene they arrive at could be dangerous or hazardous. Students also put in hours at emergency rooms of local hospitals.

The course instructors are Mr. Dominic Calderone, a retired fire

fighter and paramedic, with assistance from Ms. Lauren Percy, a para-professional. They help students achieve their goals and earn their EMT licenses. Using their wealth of experience, they are able to explain situations and answer questions about everything a student needs to know.

"Students have fun but work hard, and can become certified if they want at the end of the year," Ms. Percy said.

This program is only available for juniors and seniors. "I'm glad I have the two best instructors to teach me about CPR and how to react to an emergency situation," senior Alina Florez said.

"I learned a lot of skills I need to

know to be a nurse from this class," senior Marissa Franz added.

Center Line High School gives the opportunity to students from other schools to come over to CLHS and take this program. This course also teaches first aid skills, "You will use First Aid skills for the rest of your life," Mr. Calderone said. This program offers students the chance to take the National registry exam.

The EMS program gives student a look at the medical field, and then it is up to them if they want to stick with EMS or another medical field. If students apply to medical school, it is impressive to have an EMS course on their resume.

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