

Child Development

Teachers adjust to state change; Cadets gain in-class experience

Katie Abdilla
Lakeview High School

In high school, it is often thought that few students receive the opportunity to “try out” their desired career path. Lakeview’s Early Childhood Education program, which gives students the opportunity to get an early start toward a career in childcare, has recently begun to shift its curriculum to provide students with a greater deal of one-on-one experience in their chosen field.

This recent, yet gradual transformation came about through a state mandate to switch all child care programs within the state of Michigan to “teacher cadet” programs. The program, along with shifting course work to “college preparatory,” involves the creation of a wider scope of destinations to send students to gain field experience.

Lakeview teacher Candace Mazurek feels that her class, composed of students from Lakeview, South Lake, Lake Shore and Harper Woods, has received a surplus of preparation for the switch, giving Lakeview cadets a 1-year lead on surrounding schools also implementing the program.

“We anticipated the switch before it took place, and gradually implemented it before they made the change at the state level,” Mazurek said.

The school has begun introducing the program over a three-year period, first teaching the class as what Mazurek calls a “hybrid” between Early Childhood Education and Teacher Cadet. By the third year, the program will consist of complete Teacher Cadet material and be certified as such.

The program aims to implement a new class curriculum called P-16, which allows students to gain field experience to become a teacher from virtually preschool-age children to college students pursuing bachelor’s degrees.

This means that this year’s cadets, rather than continuing to travel to only Greenwood Elementary every other week to



Lakeview junior Amanda Akers shows pictures of body parts to kindergartners at Harmon Elementary during the paper pals lesson.

act as “teacher helpers” like in previous years, venture out to all four elementary schools, as well as Jefferson Middle School, four times a week. The class reconvenes together as a whole every Wednesday to discuss their experiences and go about regular coursework.

Within the field experience, cadets are required to go on at least one job shadow, as well as teach lesson plans which they write themselves in a similar manner to which a student teacher would. They must also teach kindergartners about “paper pals,” a health-based program led by Macomb County’s Community Assessment Referral and Education Board to teach anti-drug and alcohol concepts to young children.

In order to participate in said actions, all cadets receive the same training as Lakeview’s teaching staff when it

pertains to bullying, sexual harassment, and Michigan law.

Combined with the recent upgrade in curriculum, the students will hopefully receive articulation credits through Macomb Community College, Oakland University, Wayne State, and the University of Michigan in the near future.

The cadet program also requires a change from the educators’ standpoint; Early Childhood teachers must pursue certification to teach the revised class. Currently, Wayne State University is the only university in Michigan which offers the classes necessary for certification, and has only offered the certification courses for a few years.

The newly endorsed teachers have formed a group within themselves in order to put together exams and lesson plans and work toward common assessments for the program.

Despite the increased effort, Mazurek feels that the work has already begun paying off in her own class.

“From a teaching aspect, it’s a lot of prep work,” Mazurek said. “It’s a challenging class to teach, but it’s the most rewarding for me.”

Though many changes have taken place through the program, many aspects of the class have remained the same, including a prerequisite of Parent and Childhood Development.

Mazurek claims that her class also tackles the same concepts she has always made sure to cover, including media effects and differentiated learning amongst a class.

“We do a lot of looking at real-life situations in the news, as well as social media and how it affects students,” Mazurek said. “And I’m teaching my students to look at a class of kids and be able to teach every student.”

Mazurek’s high expectations of her students also proves that although the class itself has changed, students are still expected to possess the same dedication.

“It’s exciting for me to see who will become a teacher, and point out where they will fit best,” Mazurek said.

The same range of excitement about the new program has reached Mazurek’s students as well.

“I like being able to work with the elementary age kids regularly,” senior cadet Angelina Salamone said. “It helps me work harder to get early experience to become an elementary school teacher.”

Mazurek hopes to get the word out about the new program as much as she can. If enough students show interest within the following year, she will look forward to teaching both morning and afternoon cadet sessions.



Lakeview’s team proudly displays their hard work.

First Lakeview team enters Rube Goldberg contest

Hannah Sells
Lakeview Student

Lakeview drafting students Evan Makowski, Ben Wallace, Max Hoisington and Alex Bayer entered the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest, taking fourth in the 23rd regional competition at Ferris State University.

The contest is held annually to celebrate the spirit of Pulitzer-awarded political cartoonist Rube Goldberg, whose cartoons criticized the application of technology, which he considered “a symbol of man’s capacity for exerting maximum effort to achieve minimal results. His cartoons ridicule this “capacity” by displaying a complicated series of steps to achieve something as simple as sharpening a pencil or cleaning a window. Said Gary Gingras, drafting teacher and sponsor to the Lakeview team, “A Rube Goldberg [machine] is basically a whole bunch of wacky steps between starting and finishing.” These “wacky” steps are useless, only belaboring the simple task, attesting to Golderberg’s beliefs about machines.

This year’s competition challenged students to water a plant in no fewer than 20 steps. To ensure they would meet the minimum number of steps, Makowski, Wallace Hoisington and Bayer designed their machine with 23 steps, including spinning horseshoes, rolling ball bearings down a hose and tilting a teeter-totter.

As Lakeview’s first team to enter the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest, the boys and Gingras were satisfied with their finishing in fourth place. Considering the other teams’ experience, Gingras said, “I felt good that we looked good against them.”

Auto externships offer real-life practice

Abby Lampron
Lakeview Student

Students at Lakeview High School, who have taken at least three years of auto class and are currently enrolled in auto, are given the opportunity to leave school early to work in actual auto shops.

“They’re working at an automotive shop and they’re gaining high school credit and experience, while also earning money,” said Automotive Tech-

nology teacher Jim Schneider.

“I work and make money. It’s like my regular job,” said Dalton Cooper. “I leave school every day after third hour and fix bikes,” said Cooper.

While one benefit of the program is the money, the externship provides a great experience, especially for someone looking for a career in fixing cars and bikes.

“The experience is huge,” said Schneider. “Before, they were experiencing things in the

class, but now they work with people in their desired field.”

“It’s actually really nice [working with professionals] and you learn a lot more that way,” said Gary Partyka.

Learning from more experienced individuals is a tremendous learning experience that facilitates the process of getting a job down the road. In other words, the externship proves to be beneficial for someone who looks in the direction of fixing vehicles for a career.



Lakeview senior Dalton Cooper sharpens his skills by disassembling a bike.

MAKING THE
Connection

Macomb Community College
Education • Enrichment • Economic Development
Ed Stanton 586/445-7640
email stantone@macomb.edu

MISD
Macomb Intermediate School District
Karen Johnston 586/228-3469
email kjohnston@misd.net

For more information about CTE at the high school level contact the Macomb Intermediate School District. Contact Macomb Community College for college level programs. See contact information above.

MCTEAA
Macomb Career and Technical Education Administrators Association

TECH PREP
Cutting Edge to the Future
Macomb County/St. Clair County

It is the policy of the MISD that no person on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which the MISD is responsible.