



Advisory committees guide CTE curriculum and development

By Allie Domanski

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are a vital aspect of Warren Woods-Tower (WWT) course offerings. The Southwest Macomb Technical Education Consortium (SMTEC) is a partnership between Center Line, Fitzgerald, Van Dyke, and Warren Woods school districts. This partnership allows these districts to share their CTE offerings. These programs are beneficial to the advancement of education by giving students the opportunity to experience life in the work place.

At WWT, students learn hands-on career-centered skills in the areas of cosmetology, health science, market-



ing and hospitality/foods. Students that participate in cosmetology work in the school salon and welcome customers Wednesday-Friday. Health science classes focus on learning to work with patients, and the proper use of medical equipment and terminology. Marketing students oper-

ate the school store, The Campus Corner. Students that join hospitality/foods aren't just learning how to cook, but how to run a business as well. The school restaurant, The Titan Terrace, gives students the opportunity to experience all aspects of restaurant work.

In order to ensure that these courses demonstrate rigor and relevance, each program has an advisory committee made up of professionals from business and education. According to SMTEC literature, members of the committees are responsible for advising and assisting in the planning, development, and evaluation of the CTE program so that the educational experience more closely reflects and

prepares for the realities of the workplace.

Ms. Domenica Rutkowski and Mrs. Marie VanHuyse, the health science teachers at WWT, meet twice a year with an advisory committee composed of medical professionals from Henry Ford and St. John Macomb. Educators, parents, alumni and present students round out the committee.

"Our primary objective is to keep our health care curriculum current and our students marketable," Rutkowski said.

The hospitality/foods program faculty also meets twice a year with their advisory committee.

Instructors Mr. Nick Silwanowicz and Mrs. Sandra Adams, take an

active role in the process. "I've been part of CTE for two years now," Mr. Silwanowicz said. "Mrs. Adams and I get together twice a year for these formal meetings to figure out ways in which we can better simulate the work place."

The marketing and business program also has an active advisory committee. "It is great for learning the latest information about trends in consumer behavior, changes in technology, and business in general," Mrs. Winstanley said. "The committee is made up of business partners, such as Credit Union One as well as parents and even former students who are now entrepreneurs themselves or active members of the business community."

Nursing class incorporates science into curriculum for high school credit

By Tonya Civiello

The Warren Woods-Tower (WWT) nursing class allows students to make science relevant to a future career and earn a third year of science credit as well. Mrs. Marie VanHuyse and Ms. Domenica Rutkowski teach the Health Science education courses at Woods-Tower.

"In order for the Nursing class to receive a science credit at Woods-Tower, the course needs a highly qualified teacher that has at least a bachelor's degree in the science of nursing," VanHuyse said. VanHuyse has a masters degree in the science of nursing while Rutkowski has her bachelor's degree in the science of nursing and a minor in human biology.

Additionally, the Nursing curriculum had to be aligned with the state science benchmarks. All of the human anatomy and physiology that is taught in the nursing class aligns with a large amount of the biology benchmarks. Aspects of physical science are taught in lessons pertaining to blood pressure, ergonomics, fire, electrical, and radiation safety. When learning about the function of electrolytes, and how the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide occurs in the body, students are also learning chemistry. Pathophysiology, the study of disease, is integrated throughout the entire course.

"Nursing isn't just a career. Everything we do is based on science," Rutkowski explained. "We are the data collectors and the practitioners." Nurses apply their knowledge of science in the care of patients when making a nursing diagnosis and also in performing and evaluating treatments and procedures.

"A lot of people think that nurses are basic skill providers and that's not what we are," Rutkowski said. "Any college nursing student will tell you how comprehensive and intense the curriculum is to finish your bachelor's in the science of nursing."

Students are also offered the chance to learn more through a health-science externship. Student externs put the skills they learned in the classroom into authentic situations.

WWT student Lauren Barnhart currently works at Henry Ford Hospital as a nursing assistant. She is able to improve her scientific experience through hands-on training with nurses and nursing assistants to help patients. She takes vital signs, blood sugar counts, and charts intake and output of food and urine. Lauren is reinforcing her basic



Kayla Franklin checks the heartbeat of Carlos Grunow in the newly science-related medical assisting classes for an assignment.

assessment and data collection skills.

"I enjoy working with my patients. I've learned so much and nursing is really what I hope to do in the future, or at least something in the medical field," Barnhart stated. "Through the nursing classes and the hospital, I have learned so many new skills that will really help me with science in the future."

In the nursing class, students are taught about the eleven different body systems along with fire, electrical, and radiation safety. Anatomy and physiology is combined into a semester of material focusing on the importance of the human body system and how it could be affected by different diseases or natural disasters.

"Nursing has helped me pass biology because we learned so much about the body systems and the way that cells work," Barnhart added.

Erika Zwolinski, also a WWT student, was given the opportunity to do a nursing externship at Comfort Dental. She is currently being trained to become a dental assistant.

"When I'm working, I normally end up

prepping for dental procedures," Zwolinski explained. With the help of a trained dental assistant, she is able to watch and learn how to mix necessary proportions to make crowns and set up for root canals.

"To make an impression of a tooth, I have to mix a certain amount of powder with a certain amount of water before I am able to make the impression of the tooth," Erika said. "We also have to shine a curing light on the tooth after placing a crown in order to harden the tooth."

Although Zwolinski may not be doing the physical part of nursing unique to a hospital, she is still learning and reinforcing science skills by mixing components and balancing out the correct amount of ingredients for dental procedures as well as practicing patient care.

"I really enjoyed taking the nursing class at Woods-Tower because it showed me that I really do want to go into some form of health care," Zwolinski said. "It helped me learn all of the basic necessities of science and the externship really gave me the chance to use my knowledge of science in real-life situations."



Mike Weber scans a hoodie for Victoria Guzowski while Angelo Papale helps Brad Couture at the Campus Corner.

Math takes center stage in career-focused courses

By Damon Turner

WWT students have an opportunity to earn their fourth year of math credit through select CTE classes which are now math-related classes. These electives include but are not limited to nursing, medical office administrative assistant, marketing, accounting, and hospitality/foods.

"These classes offer opportunities for students to have an alternative way to earn their last math credit," said WWT counselor Mrs. Romaya. "It is also good for students depending on their aspirations and goals for after school. There are also students taking both the traditional math classes and a math-related class," Romaya added.

The math-related courses are another way for students to meet the state-mandated curriculum and be able to graduate on time with the full requirements. Each of the teachers for the CTE math-related classes had to create a proposal to demonstrate that their course met math benchmarks. These CTE classes required approval by the Warren Woods School Board.

One of the CTE math related classes is marketing, taught by Mrs. Jo Winstanley. Students use math skills when writing sales transactions, ordering, determining markup and markdowns and probability of projected sales. They also use geometry in designing store layout and displays. Students use their math skills for inventory management and control. Probability plays a big role in figuring out consumer demand. Students track profit in order to cover order prices, gasoline surcharges and shipping expenses. "Anyone wanting to get business math skills should take this class," Winstanley said.

Accounting is also a math-related course taught by Winstanley. This class presents an exciting opportunity for students considering a business or finance career path.

Hospitality/foods is another math-related course dealing with the applied use of math in the kitchen. Students perform math skills dealing with fractions and temperature conversions or representations and relationships. In the kitchen, students deal with charts that monitor the temperature of the freezers, refrigerators, ovens and other appliances.

Students in the Hospitality/foods program also use reasoning to calculate the probability of which menu items will be sold and project the number of sales of that item. Students also have an opportunity to use math skills at the cash register and when taking orders.

"These classes are just like continual math projects done every day," Mrs. Adams, one of the WWT Foods teachers, said.

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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.

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