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Childhood education courses teach lessons in learning

Mood swings, temper tantrums, outside voices inside and art project cleanups are all part of an elementary school teacher's day. How can a student know if they can cut the mustard leading the classroom? The Early Childhood Education Course.

Lakeview High School offers a multitude of opportunities to students who want to experience a career while still in high school. The Early Childhood Education Course takes place Greenwood Elementary School, one of the district's four elementary schools.

Course instructor Linnaea Licavoli said, "This particular course definitely helps with the career decisions that students have to make. Students get to learn whether or not they are cut out to do the work that's required of a teacher."

The first year of the course is divided into two parts. The first is classroom time, which entails bookwork, covering career options, principles of child development, principles of learning, positive guidance, employability skills, art activities, gross motor activities, math activities, children's literature and designing bulletin boards.

The second semester, the class addresses dramatic play, principles of healthy nutrition, child care licensing rules, safety issues, health issues, first aid, CPR and choking rescue, caring for infants, toddlers and children with special needs, and education options.

Senior Krystina Gatton, said, "I really enjoy the child care course. The only part I don't like is the class work. My favorite part is definitely when we get to work with the children because they are some of the sweetest I have ever met."

The second part of the first year is lab work, involving students working in classrooms with preschool, kindergarten, first grade and hearing-impaired classes.

"In the lab part of the course, the students get to work directly with the children and assist them with different activities. They can offer a one-on-one assistance for the children that need the extra help. Other things they do in the lab work include setting up bulletin boards, running copies, doing folders and any other necessary



leg work for the teacher," said Licavoli.

Senior Sarah Chonkich said, "I like working with the children so much. I believe that this course is a good building block to start a career as a teacher."

After students take the first year of this course, they can become part of the Child Care Externship Program. Lakeview has three seniors involved in the program.

Senior Jaclyn Marino said, "This is a wonderful experience for me. I'm planning on going to college to work with children, and this is just the first step in the right direction. I think that doing the first year and now going through the externship program will really help me in the future."

Students in the externship program work in pre-school classes. They are paid \$5.90 an hour and roughly \$188 every two weeks.

"I love working with the children every day because this is the field I want to get into. I want to open up my own day care. Being here really improves my day because the children just make you so happy and they are so eager to show you what they have accomplished that you just can't help feel good," said senior Kendall Habrowski.

Pre-school teacher Janet Brady said, "The students add an extra dimension to our classrooms when they come over to our school. It is unique because the children have a chance to interact with more than just their teacher, and that makes a big difference. I enjoy having the students come in, and I know that what they are doing now will definitely benefit them in

the future."

Senior Joe Borkowski, the only male from Lakeview in the program, said, "I really enjoy working with the different groups of kids. I want to go into teaching, probably in the physical education area. I believe that this course was a good way to go because it has made me learn a lot and realize that I still want to be a teacher."

First grade teacher Mrs. Burnside, said, "The students coming in and taking class are a big help in the classrooms. They get to experience hands-on activities that are a great way to learn. I did a program similar to this when I was in high school. It was great experience on how to manage a classroom, and I'm glad that I got to do it."

Junior Amanda Stark said, "I enjoy working with the kids so much. You learn something new about them every day. It is just a real joy to come and see them; they brighten up your day."

First grade teacher Sonja Dammann said, "I like having the high school students come in. They are very helpful and the children enjoy the additional help. The kids do a great job with the young children and develop attachments while they are here."

Junior Ashley Smith said, "Working with the kids is a great experience. Something new happens every day, and it's just fun to be around the kids for a little while each day, especially if you want to go into child care as a career."

Kristem Miklusak, a teacher in the hearing-impaired department, said, "This is an excellent program that Lakeview offers every year. I believe there is nothing better than hands-on programs. Seeing

Career and technical consortium through Lakeview

- Business Services**
 - Business Management Technology I
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- Health and Human Services**
 - Dental Assisting I
 - Dental Assistant II
 - Dental Assistant Externship
 - Medical Careers
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Child Care Externship
- Marketing's/Sales/Retailing**
 - Hospitality Services I
 - Hospitality Services II
- Applied & Informational Technology**
 - Cisco Computer Networking I
 - Cisco Computer Networking II
 - Auto Technology I
 - Auto Technology II
 - Auto Technology III
 - Vocational Electronics I
 - Vocational Electronics 2
 - Graphic Arts I & II
 - Machine Trades I
 - Machine Trade II
 - Advanced Building Trades I
 - Advanced Building Trades II
 - T & I Drafting Technology I
 - T & I Drafting Technology II
 - Architectural Drafting I, II, & III
 - Engineering Drafting I, II, & III
 - Networking Tech I & II
 - Trade & Industry (Externship)
- Student Service Electives**
 - Library Science

the growth of the high school student from the beginning to the end is a great experience. They have a unique opportunity to work with special needs children, and I can't say how important that is."

Licavoli said, "The kids who decide that Early Childhood is in fact the area they want to enter already have a head start with two colleges."

The course has articulation agreements with Baker College and Macomb Community College. If a student meets all the requirements of these agreements, she may receive select credit in the Early Childhood associate's degree program.

"I believe that there will continue to be a high demand for child care workers and educators as long as there are those willing to learn," Licavoli said.

Electronics program offers career connections in competitive world

"People look down on the trades," said electronics teacher Trevor Trelfa, "but really, the sky's the limit for someone who can work their way up through the apprenticeship levels and start their own business."

Trelfa's electronics class at Lakeview High School is in its sixth year and the turnout for the class increases annually. After taking over the electronics program a few years ago, he now receives students from other districts, like South Lake and Roseville, and the class is becoming quite popular.

"I take anyone that comes to my door," said Trelfa, when asked about prerequisites. "But I tend to find that the students who do well in my class are the students that excel at math and the students that don't do too well are the ones with lower math grades."

The electronics class requires students to be a sophomore and also to have taken the first electronics class freshman year.

Various equipment is used in Trelfa's classes, some more advanced than others, including electronic trainers, circuit kits, project kits, soldering kits, computer software and computer programs (programs like "Circuit Maker" with simulation technology), multimeters, oscilloscopes, electrical house wiring equipment and tools.

The projects in Trelfa's class require the use of many of these instruments, including building circuits, soldering, and electronic labs and simulations. One or two large projects are usually assigned each semester.

Trelfa has an Articulation Agreement with Macomb Community College that allows students who finish his class with a "B" or higher to receive credit in Macomb's electronic engineering technology program. The credits are given to students with intent for them to advance to the next level.

Trelfa wants the best of his students, and works hard to ensure their success. He still takes classes in applied technology to keep up his knowledge of new material and to also keep his authorization to teach the class. Trelfa's most exceptional students are nominated for a county-wide vocational award.

Chris Allport, a senior in Trelfa's Vocational Electronics II class, said, "To succeed in this class, you need to motivate yourself because it is much more self-taught than Electronics I. In Electronics I, there is much more individual attention. But if you want to succeed in Electronics II, you have to work hard to get a good grade."

Students who attend Macomb have the opportunity to get paid to work. Employers will sometimes pay for classes, and instructors commonly sign time sheets so students are paid to take classes.

"Lots of people making good money are getting into apprenticeship programs and skilled trades," Trelfa said. "Parents and most people are biased toward college and receiving a 4-year degree when a respectable job is available in the trades."

Trelfa received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. He has two science majors; one in physics, which includes electronics classes through the physics major. Trelfa also received a master's degree in education from Eastern Michigan University. He has also had extra course work in skilled trades and applied technology.

"Everything now is getting outsourced," Trelfa said. "Jobs and technology getting outsourced is leading to the death of manufacturing in the United States. To bring that back, students will have to get skills in technology. Schools will have to make that commitment."

Lakeview's drafting courses expand ideas into reality

What was once known as Lakeview High School's "drafting" program has expanded into a much larger series of classes designed to reflect the current job market. There are now two choices for students to pursue: architectural or engineering drafting.

Both series of classes are taught by Gary Gingras, who at one time was a registered architect and is now teaching at Oakland Community College. The classes are made up of a series of four classes each, ranging from the introduction classes to the most advanced (level four) classes.

"In the intro-engineering classes, students begin with drawing two-dimensional designs, such as small gears or brackets and as they increase in classes they gradually progress to designing com-

plete assemblies such as model cars, working completely in three-dimension," Gingras said. "By the end of the series of architecture classes students are designing commercial buildings such as music studios or performance theaters."

Advanced level four engineering student, senior Rick Phillips, who won first in the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society contest his sophomore year for a project he completed, explained, "Much more accuracy is needed as you continue to go on further in the classes. In intro we use a book for examples, but in level four real parts are used."

Technology is a major feature of the classes. Several textbooks are used, however; along with

these books students have their own workstations complete with drawing boards and a computer with Internet connection.

In intro classes everything is drawn by hand. Later, students begin each project by sketching their design by hand, and then design it on computer using the AutoCAD program.

Student interest in these classes has remained consistent. "As of right now the classes are not too large or too small," Gingras said. "Over the past couple years about half of my intro students return for level two and three classes."

Students can enter contests in the architecture and engineering programs as well. "I believe the highest award Lakeview has received would be sixth in state

since I've taken over the program," Gingras said. "It takes a while to get a student good enough to actually win an outstanding award because it's like coaching anything — you have to rebuild the program first."

Besides winning awards, these classes can also gain students college credit. If a student is able to complete all four classes with a "B" average or better, they can go to Macomb Community College and take a performance test, and then possibly place out of either two architecture classes, equal to about \$550, or three engineering classes. One Lakeview student managed to do that last year.

"Both of these courses, engineering and architecture, can lead to wonderful careers. How-

ever, you need to be very skilled if you want a job in southeast Michigan because there is much competition," explained Gingras.

Several colleges in Michigan excel in engineering and architecture, including Lawrence Tech, University of Detroit Mercy and the University of Michigan. Michigan State University, Western Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University are all recommended for engineering programs.

Students who plan to go into one of the fields should begin in high school. "A student is fooling himself if he doesn't take physics in high school and plans to be an engineer. They should also take as much math in high school as they can, at least com-

pleting pre-calculus. Also, students should take the electronics class offered here as well," Gingras said.


The architecture and engineering classes offered at Lakeview are extremely helpful, especially to those wanting to pursue a career in one of these fields, and the courses are enjoyed by many students.

"Yes, I want to go into architecture in college, because I really enjoyed this class because I got to use my imagination," said freshman Ashley Thomas.


Phillips said, "I learned a lot in the engineering classes, and I would definitely recommend this class to other students, as long as they have considerable levels of concentration, because it is definitely needed."

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