Beaumont nurse provides valuable health occupation lessons

By Holland Wilson
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This year Eastpointe Community Schools welcomed back the field of health occupations into our family of Career and Technical Education course offerings. Some may see this as a normal thing for most high school and college vocational education programs that are seeking to continue to offer our youth the greatest education experience.

The health occupations cluster is designed to provide students with a foundation of knowledge to enter the health service industry. This includes education that includes health sciences theory, medical terminology, anatomical, and surgical procedures in health science and other related fields.

This course field also allows Eastpointe High School students the ability to earn college credits through articulation agreements with Macomb Community College. In a basic form you take a high school class, earn college credits.

However, Eastpointe High School students didn’t know how lucky they were to be getting course selections at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Eastpointe hired Brianna Dechy, an actively employed registered nurse from Beaumont Health Systems with ties to the Macomb County area as well as Eastpointe High School. Mrs. Dechy (Schaefer) is a 2007 graduate of both Fraser High School and a nursing graduate of Macomb Community College. As she has stated many times, “I love teaching my students, and I am lucky enough to work with my mother (Bernadette Quinn) also an educator at Eastpointe) every day.”

Her teaching career started out rocky, when Mrs. Dechy found herself a patient, hospitalized, and later put on bed rest. It was at this point that our community started to see the toughness in this new educator, as she was literally teaching from her hospital bed with the assistance of a long-term substitute.

Thankfully Mrs. Dechy was able to return to her career just after Thanksgiving, and she hit the ground running. Mrs. Dechy has had an immensurate impact on our student’s education, but also their own Junior student. Kaela Martin who will be attending Saginaw State University studying sports medicine had this to say about her experience studying under Mrs. Dechy. “This is has been my most enjoyable class, Mrs. Dechy makes learning fun and she is just an amazing person to be around.”

This article had a different direction prior to March 12, when the author and our community learned schools would be ordered closed until April 13 due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has since ordered schools to close the rest of the school year. Mrs. Dechy had realized her troops to a leadership role within our building hosting a blind drive, scheduled for Friday, March 13. Mrs. Dechy for the first annual Health Occupations blood reached into her own pocket and had shirts printed for the students to embrace the events significance to the community. Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to the mandated school shutdown.

It is the time between March 12 and this writing that our students, our community, nation, and world are receiving an eye-opening Health Occupations education. You see our students now have been receiving on-line education from a “Nursing Crusader!”

In a matter of three days, educators were asked to create an entirely new platform to deliver enriching and an educational experience, a feat for the average teacher, a miracle for a women already fighting a war at the same time. Mrs. Dechy has been communing with her lessons plans and enrichment of her students while working on the frontlines of this pandemic in a full COVID-19 ward. Treating, caring for, and even standing in for family of her patients at those most trying of times. Mrs. Dechy is sharing her student’s the true-life reality of what is facing our current Health Care professionals and enlightening them to situations that would face them if they chose this pathway in the future.

We as a high school and as a community are extremely blessed to have Mrs. Brianna Dechy as not only a high-quality educator, but as a living hero!