



CareerTEC Chronicle

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

From the Director ...

Time to Talk CTE

Consortium Member Districts

- Dakota#201
- Durand #322
- Freeport #145 (including Aquin)
- Orangeville #203
- Pearl City #200
- Pecatonica #321

CareerTEC Programs

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CareerTEC

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See us at:
www.careertec-il.org

S ACC. SAVTES. CareerTEC. We have changed our name a few times over the past 50-plus years, but we are still “Partnering to prepare students for tomorrow’s careers.”

Despite our lengthy history of providing career and technical education (CTE) to area high school juniors and seniors, few seem to know who we are and what we do. Frankly, it’s a common issue with CTE centers in Illinois.

It’s about time people learn more about the good things we do at CareerTEC. It’s about time people understand the importance of CTE in our country and across the world.

Some of our nation’s most desired jobs fall within CTE. Careers in healthcare, construction, technology, business and culinary are included in Indeed.com’s Oct. 6, 2021, article entitled, “Top 25 In-Demand Careers in 2021.”



Brian Greene,
CareerTEC
Director

In fact, 19 of the 25 listed are CTE careers.

This year at CareerTEC, we offer 14 programs, including programs in healthcare, construction, technology, business and culinary.

We offer hands-on education that incorporates English, math, and science. In most of our classes, students earn college credit, industry certifications and/or work-based learning.

In an effort to better share what we are doing in our classrooms, CareerTEC in-house instructors are publishing monthly articles on our website (www.careertec-il.org).

Please take a few minutes to discover what your son or daughter is (or could be) learning. Enjoy the pictures we capture, as well.

If you have not read the monthly articles through November, they are combined and shared in this newsletter. December articles are on our site now.

When students register for classes in the spring, we want parents and students alike to know about us. We plan to do more activities to promote CareerTEC, such as informational meetings for parents in January and/or February. We are sharing information with our local school boards. We are planning a day for students to visit our classrooms.

CareerTEC should not be a secret. It’s time to talk out of school!

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Dec. 8:** Final day before Winter Break for Industrial Tech
- **DEC. 9:** CareerTEC Board meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Final day before Winter Break for Early Childhood Education
- **DEC. 10:** Final day before break for Cosmetology & Nail Tech
- **DEC. 17:** Final day before break for non-HCC classes
- **JAN. 3, 2022:** Classes at St. John’s, FHS & Construction resume
- **JAN. 18, 2022:** Classes at Highland Community College resume

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Program Updates at St. John's ...

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CIS)

August/September

CIS students have set up the business program on the network over the past two weeks, helped them to log on, and reset passwords for them, as needed. Year-two students have assisted year-one students, as needed, and have begun configuring switches and routers. Year-two student Paul Guiffre passed his second exam 220-1002. He is fully certified A+ and ready to take on his first networking certification.

The next couple weeks students will continue to disassemble and reassemble PCs, configure network devices, and take their first exam covering chapters 1-3.

Students also will be building their résumés.

October

CIS 1 students have started working on their résumés and preparing for their industry certification testing. They have performed break fixes on several computers and have been focusing on the workings of the CPU and main memory. CIS 2 students have taken the knowledge they have been learning to set up routers and switches in Cisco Packet Tracer and have started setting up their own network with Cisco Routers and Switches. They have begun preparing for the Network + certification. In October students will be visiting Tri-Rivers Data Center.

November

Last month the students toured the Tri-Rivers Data



Center (above) and sat down and spoke with three of their systems engineers. This month they will be meeting with FHN IT staff. Both CIS1 and CIS2 continue to troubleshoot. CIS1 will be focusing on motherboards

and power supplies. CIS2 will be focusing on TCP/IP and routing protocols.

— Doug Meyers,
Computer Information
Systems instructor

CAREERS IN BUSINESS

August/September

During the first several days of CIB I, 14 students from four school districts spent time getting to know one another through different games, ice breakers, and conversation. September will be focused on personal money management, such as creating a financial plan; banking; checking; checkbook reconciliation; savings and comparing financial institutions; advantages and disadvantages of credit; and, finally, financial reports, including balance sheets and cash flow statements. It's a lot to learn but each is a necessary life skill regardless of what career path is chosen and one of my favorite subjects to teach. October will hopefully bring the start of job shadowing.

CIB II has four seniors from three districts who will kick off the year designing our CareerTEC career gear. In addition, these students are placed in internships, which include personal



finance, real estate, and entrepreneurship. It's going to be a fantastic year of on-the-job training for them!

October

September has flown by and the business students have conquered personal money management; I'm so proud of their hard work! October is split into a few main areas, such as the details surrounding home ownership, mortgages, and real estate; an introduction to interpersonal communication skills (credibility,

honestly, self-awareness, self-management, and business messages); and job shadowing. The second-year students have a new CareerTEC shirt design and orders will be taken soon.

November

October ended with a test on many important introductory skills and a pizza party for their hard work and Halloween (left). Communication is the most important skill in any business. Therefore, during November, students will be learning how to construct business messages, business proposals, design and learn about formal and informal emails and texting in the workplace, and brush up on their punctuation and grammar. Students typically embrace this because we make it relevant to them and their college, trade, and/or career path. I'm looking forward to seeing their growth.

— Elizabeth Hazzard,
Careers in Business instructor

Program Updates at Construction & St. John's ...

CONSTRUCTION

August/September

Our Construction Trades students look to be a promising group based on what I have witnessed the first three weeks of school. We started the first four days of school working at the present construction site on Factory St. in Freeport. The students built four work horses we will be needing for our future work. I was very impressed at the quality of their work and how well they all worked together in various groups. Year 2 students assembled the new mechanical bed for the HOYA lab.

For the last week and a half, we have been in the classroom at St. John's working on OSHA 10, "training (which) teaches basic safety and health information to entry-level workers in construction and general industry." The students should all be ready for their final test the end of next week. We all look forward to getting back to work over at Factory Street.

October

We have been back on the job site after completing OSHA training. The last few weeks we've been drywalling, taping, mudding and sanding in preparation for painting the garage, upstairs addition, and front porch area.

The students continue to do a good job in their drywall and taping skills. This is tedious work and a bit messy and tough

to master, but the boys have had great attitudes and show a great effort to learn. I break them up into groups and give them as much hands on as possible.

The class is looking forward to the upcoming framing job (see right for completed job). This will give the boys a chance to see the fun part of construction and starting from the "bones" of a project. This will give them the beginning skills of measuring, cutting, reading and following plans.

November

The students were excited to start a new project on Walnut Ave in Freeport. We are in the process of framing a structural roof over a 16 x40 foot patio.

The students got to see the project start from the beginning, seeing all the materials that are needed, and now participating in its creation.

They are learning to use lasers, levels, skill saws, hammer drills, chalk lines, framing squares, etc. The boys are learning to lay out and cut a template rafter for each of the five sections of roof. They have learned placement lay out for the installation of the rafters. It is



great to see them use the tools and learn something from the beginning and see their work in progress. They have made great strides!

We are on the final section of roof framing and should start sheeting the roof this week.

I appreciate the student's good attitude and hard work.

— Dan Harrington,
Construction Trades instructor

CULINARY OCCUPATIONS

August/September

Culinary Occupations is in the process of preparing students for the nationally recognized Certified Professional Food Manager exam, an accreditation which opens many doors within the food service industry and beyond. Students are also practicing and developing their knife skills. Next week, students will begin learning about cooking methods, including sauté, roast, grill, braise, and deep fry.

October

This month, Culinary Occupations students have been developing their skill set by learning about and practicing cooking methods and baking principles. To attain these skills, students have



completed daily cooking lab activities. They learned how to roast by preparing roast chicken and breaded pork chops, how to sauté by preparing foods such as chicken sofrito and breakfast burritos, and how to bake by preparing snickerdoodles and biscuits, to name a few. Students are in the kitchen nearly

every day learning how to cook through hands-on lessons.

November

During the month of October, Culinary Occupations students expanded upon their culinary skills in a variety of ways. Through daily cooking lab activities, students have learned about protein cookery and vegetable cookery. To gain proficiency in these areas, students prepared a wide range of dishes, including chicken pot pie, sweet potato chicken curry, steamed Japanese dumplings, and ham and cheddar stuffed biscuits. Students also practiced baking techniques by preparing pumpkin bars with cream cheese frosting and peanut butter cookies.

— Steve Konefes,
Culinary Occupations instructor

Program Updates at St. John's ...

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS I

August/September

Welcome to HOYA! We have hit the ground running! With two weeks down, we have been busy getting to know each other, learning some health care basics, setting goals, studying the history of medicine through our first group presentations, and doing our first volunteer project! Our students were AWESOME and assisted with "Paint the Port."

"Paint the Port" is an annual event downtown Freeport. The streets get painted with individual creativity. The event raises money for the Freeport Art Museum and the new plaza downtown by the post office. The students worked in the heat, stuffing 500 bags, marking and painting lines and getting to know each other better through play!

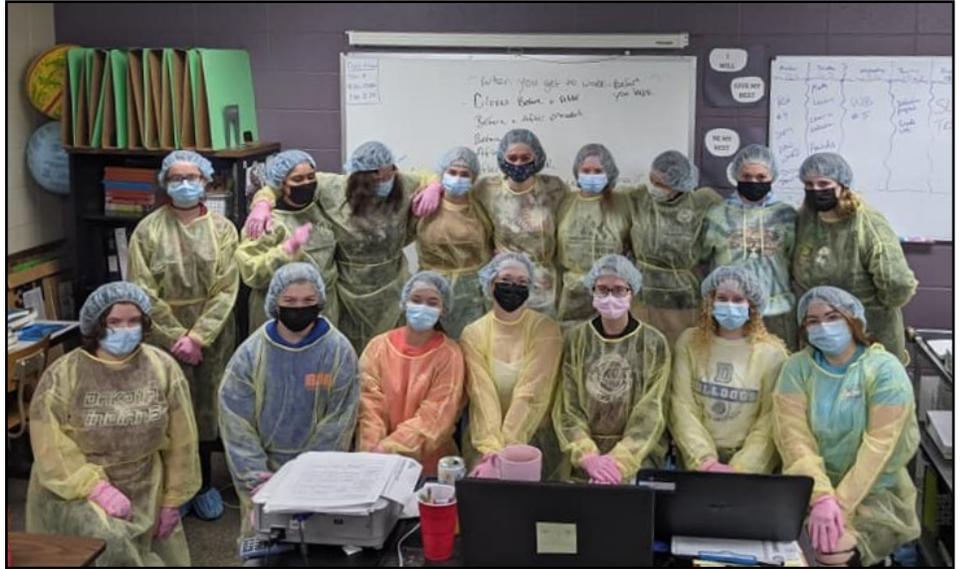
We learned a few valuable life lessons in the first two weeks. One lesson was that no one owes us anything. Ask your student about their blank piece of paper journal entry. Secondly, we learned the importance of knowing our strengths and weaknesses. Lastly, we learned to be THANKFUL even if our circumstances are not fantastic!

I am excited for the great year ahead as we begin Chapter 1 next week. Our first skill that we will learn will be handwashing. TIME WILL FLY, but WE WILL ENJOY THE RIDE! Thanks for allowing these students to join me for a short time in their life journey!

October

The study of bioethical topics can lead to great discussions! This past month each student had to research a bioethical topic, educate us on the topic, and then present their for or against regarding the topic. We tackled some pretty heavy topics such as medical marijuana, assisted suicide, abortion, birth control, gene therapy, and so much more.

We have been working on how to study, since some students struggle with ditching the cram study habit for intentional study habits. The challenge



remains a work in progress!

Abuse and the many types of abuse were the focus of our Chapter 3. Abuse is no laughing matter but, to help the many terms stick, we used skits to portray the different types of abuse. Dress-up and creativity made for some interesting skits.

Over the next month communication, the foreign language of medicine through abbreviations, military time and infection control will be our areas of focus. We will learn how to communicate more effectively, what are barriers to communication, and all about germs.

Exciting things have been happening in our lab, as well. Recently stacks of cardboard boxes filled our lab because we received a generous amount of grant money from the Northeast Illinois Area Health Education Center. AHEC is part of the National AHEC Organization developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations. With this money we have been able to add some great equipment to our lab.

The year continues to move forward at a fast pace. I would encourage you to have your student show you their Planbook account so you can see their current grades and please encourage them to study for our every Friday tests!

November

Time flies when you are having fun. Some exciting moments were when the students received their scrubs and they loved them. To see the excitement as they opened their packages was a highlight of my week. One student said it was like Christmas!

Skills, skills, and more skills are the focus this month. We have learned proper handwashing and assessed how many germs we carry on our hands (next page).

Walking a resident or patient properly is key to helping prevent falls so each student learned how to use a gait belt and then walk another student down the hall. How you get from one place to another was the next task. Students learned how to safely transfer a patient from one place to another while using their gait belts. Please don't restrain me! Restraints have become off limits in most facilities due to the risk of harm and even death. Proper restraint technique was taught as well as restraint alternatives to avoid the use of restraints.

Suit up for protection. Personal Protective Equipment was our last skill this month (above). Who does not like playing dress-up? Students learned to suit up properly for the many infectious illnesses or super bugs in which they may come in contact.

Program Updates at St. John's ...

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS II

August/September

We were so excited to have had a few moments relief from the wonderful hot weather on our first day of class. Believe it or not, we had a great snowball fight. Each student wrote two or three interesting facts about himself or herself on a piece of paper and made "snowballs" by crumpling them together. After everyone threw the snowballs for several minutes in the classroom, we then had to guess which person the snowball belonged to. We learned a lot about each other.

Students also put their first "donation" to our Positivity Treasure Bin. This is the polar opposite of a swear jar. Students will add something positive that happened during their day at least bi-monthly, and we will review these at the end of each semester. In the past few years, especially, it is too easy to emphasize the negatives in the daily grind and this is a way to "choose your attitude" and find goodness in our lives.

Every month beginning the first week of October, students will be working on educating others about different disease processes and health concerns by researching and presenting their chosen topics via a physical bulletin board and via a Google slides presentation. The group project will enhance teamwork, communication, and time management. Breast Cancer Awareness is the first topic.



In the next two weeks we will focus on some health and wellness, self-care activities to help minimize the stress of a chaotic senior year. There will be a personalized self-care challenge. The tactics they learn will be things that the students will be able to utilize throughout their lives.

October

HOYA II students have been working on self-awareness and some of their personal conflict triggers; things in their daily personal and work life that cause emotions to intensify. If we are aware of those triggers, we can formulate tactics to prevent these conflicts from escalating out of control with the goal of keeping lines of communication open as they move throughout their careers.

Students also began to look at their goals for this year, the next five years as well as 10-year goals. Students will be working on creating and adjusting their SMART goals: Specific,

Measurable, Achievable, Realistic/ Relevant, Time Bound. They had to explore why the goal was important to themselves and what would they need to accomplish the goal.

We also compared our current pandemic with pandemics throughout history.

In the next two weeks we will be exploring other infections and infection control measures. We will be looking at the potential for infections in our daily life. We will also be having a friendly contest between students regarding the process of conducting a disease outbreak investigation by utilizing the CDC Solving the Outbreak activity. This will require students to practice their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

November

HOYA II students were astonished by some of the results of our infection control exploration this past month. Students swabbed a variety of everyday items to see how clean or potentially infected the items were (above). These items included their cell phones, computer keyboards, bottoms of their shoes, water faucet, toilet handle, car keys, exit door handle, light switch, as well as other items. The swabs were placed on petri dishes and allowed to "grow" for 5 days at room temperature.

— Lori Steele,
Health Occupations II instructor and
HOYA Coordinator

(HOYA I continued from page 4)

Next up is human growth and development. How we grow and mature is always a great topic and comes with a group project to teach each stage of growth.

Who is who? Students will bring in baby and junior high pictures for a contest to see who can guess the most babies correctly (for a prize, of course).

Students of the month for

September were Laine Rosenstiel, Piper Swiss, Briana Sanchez, Clara Wislon, Maria Ortiz, and Nakia Jackson. The words of the month were "Positive Attitude." Each student votes for three students at the end of every month. Then the top two students in each class are awarded a treat of their choice. They also receive a nice certificate for their future portfolios or to use for a job

interview.

Busy we remain and the students are doing fantastic! Just a reminder that students can show you their grades on Planbook, and they must have an 80% by early January to remain in the CNA portion of the class. May the passion continue to grow as they learn more each day!

— Stacey Vock,
Health Occupations I
instructor



Program Updates at Highland College ...

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Criminal Justice I

This semester, students in the first year of the program are learning foundational content encompassing the courts, corrections, and law enforcement. In the program, we explore current events that impact the criminal justice system and society. In addition, we took an in-depth look at the causes of violence in communities and explore ways to lower incidences.

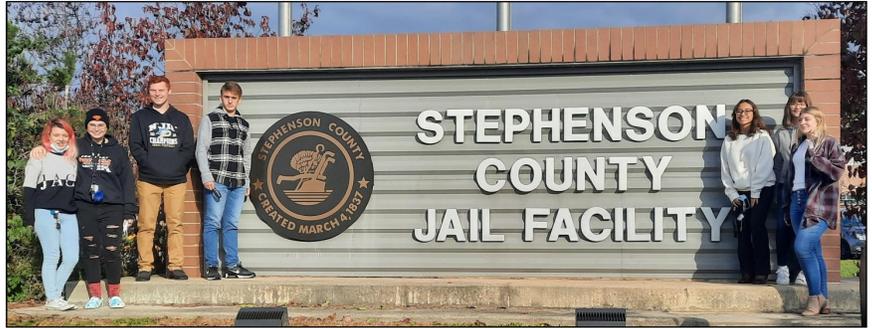
Students are also learning foundational concepts in information systems, which advances them to next semester's course on cybersecurity. Next

semester, we also will be exploring the American correctional system.

This semester we were able to take our field trip to the County Coroner's Office and tour the Stephenson County Jail (right). Finally, students were able to complete some hands-on learning tasks, utilized the Use of Force Simulator, and listened to some guest speakers from the field.

Criminal Justice II

Dual credit students in the second year of Criminal Justice are examining criminology. Criminology is the subfield of sociology that focuses upon crime, law, and social



control within the context of social organization and culture. Students study legal definitions of wrongful acts and explore the sociological analysis beyond the social context, which gives rise to law/deviance. This course explores some of the reasons why people engage or do not engage in illegal behavior.

Students have been exploring and applying criminological theories to cases of street crime, violent crime, serial killers, hate crimes, organized crimes, illicit substance use, and terrorism. Additionally, students in the second year of the program were able to go on the field trip to the Coroner's Office and Stephenson County Jail, as the pandemic

impacted our ability to go last year. Second-year students were able to listen to guest speakers, participate in hands-on activities, and discuss current events. Next semester, students will explore criminal law and juvenile delinquency.

— Jennifer Roser, Criminal Justice instructor

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES

Students have been working on their final CAD projects of the semester. For the fall semester, we learned to use AutoCAD software to complete basic 2-D drawings. Students transitioned from 1-view drawings to multi-view drawings after midterms. From there, we learned proper dimension mechanics.

Finally, the final CAD project was assigned incorporating all we had learned. This project requires students to translate 3D isometric models to multi-view, 2D views complete with proper line types and dimensioning mechanics. We will begin 3D CAD modeling software in the spring and build upon these drafting skills.

— Aaron Sargent, Industrial Technologies instructor



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The CareerTEC ECE program has been active this semester. After an academic year of little contact with children due to COVID restrictions, our community partners were excited to have our ECE students back in the classroom. We have four programs that are housing our students this academic year: YMCA Child Care Center, Amity Learning Center, Open Bible Learning Center and Dakota Learn and Play Child Care Center. Our program would not be able to operate without the support and willingness of our community partners to host our students as volunteers in their classrooms.

Early Childhood Education I

Students in Year 1 of the program have been taking



Introduction to ECE. They meet with the instructor on Mondays and Wednesdays, and they are assigned to different early childhood classrooms on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The ages of children in the different settings range from 6 weeks to 5 years old. Students are being placed in different age groups from the fall to spring semesters so that they get to experience different age groups.

(EARLY CHILDHOOD continued on page 7)

Program Updates at Freeport H.S. ...

NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

It's been a busy semester for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program. Getting back into the normal classroom routine, practicing and competing with all seven of our extra-curricular teams, supporting community events with the color guard, and performing over 400 hours of community service have kept us hopping.

We started the year with 101 cadets, seven of them are CareerTEC students (four from Durand, two from Pecatonica, and one from Aquin). We're always looking for talent at Orangeville, Pearl City, and Dakota. If you're not sure if you might want to try the class, see your counselor to schedule a day to preview NJROTC to see if it's something you like.

The Air Rifle Marksmanship Team (above right) is nationally ranked and has competed in four air rifle meets this year, placing in the top five at all of them. This team has traveled out of state a lot. Three of the meets required overnight travel to compete (Nashville, TN, and two at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, OH).

Our drill team finally got to compete for the first time in almost two years at the Zion-Benton Township H.S. "Stinger" drill meet on Oct. 30. We only competed in two events, but it was good to get our team back.

We hosted an orienteering meet at Lake Le Aqua Na State recreational area



on Oct. 16. Orienteering is a sport that requires you to be able to read a topographic map and use a magnetic compass to navigate to 10 points on the map. The person who completes the course the fastest wins. It's a thinking man's cross country race; it's a lot of fun.

Our color guard team is rebuilding following the graduation of many of our most experienced members. Fortunately, cadets have stepped up to the plate (including our Durand CareerTEC students) and been able to meet all the community requests for color guard services. You may have seen them perform at the Veterans' Day ceremonies at Pearl City, Durand and Highland Community College, the honoring of First Responders at Center School in Freeport, or the Hero Tree lighting as part of the downtown Freeport mistletoe walk. It's always an honor to present the nation's colors at community events.

We're excited to announce that we have an aerial drone team this year. The plan for the NJROTC program at large is to start competing in races before the end of this school year. We're still becoming proficient in flying but having a lot of fun figuring it out. If this goes as well as we think it will, there may be an opportunity in the future to start a program that will lead to FAA certification for a commercial drone pilot's license.

Another initiative for the coming year is the starting of an NJROTC esports team. Details are still being worked out, but we believe we'll be starting that team second semester of this year. We'll be sure to keep you updated.

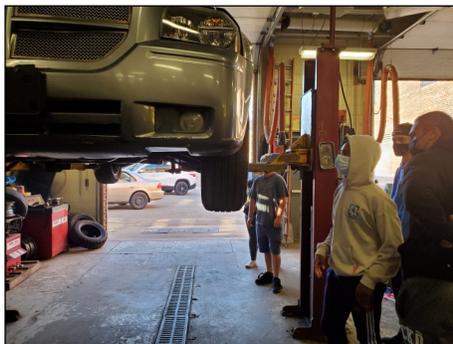
NJROTC is a citizenship development program. Nothing builds a feeling of community more than community service. We've accumulated over 500 hours of service over the summer and into this school year. Events included helping distribute food through the Northern IL Food Bank, helping with the Stephenson County/City of Freeport electronics recycling collection, assisting with the parking of cars at the recent air show, keeping the trash under control at the Freeport Cruise Night, City of Freeport beautification events, and supporting various civic organizations such as the Lincoln/Douglas Society. We have fun doing it and nothing makes you feel better than helping out your neighbors.

— Barry Boettcher, NJROTC instructor

CAREERS IN AUTO TECHNOLOGIES & SERVICE

This year is going much smoother than last year. We started to run our class shop more like a real shop again. With that said, we recovered a lot of things that we went over last year such as brakes, suspension, starting and charging systems and fuel-related systems. We have put all of these things to use by repairing teachers', students' and outside customers' cars and trucks.

We will be starting air conditioning in the next week or so and, after we come back from Christmas break, we will be disassembling car engines and



reassembling them, plus any side work that comes in to get students the most hands-on as possible to make up for the past year.

— Jeff Doescher, Careers in Auto Technologies & Service instructor

(EARLY CHILDHOOD continued from page 6)

Early Childhood Education II

Students in Year 2 of the program have been taking Child Growth and Development and planning activities to carry out in their classrooms. Year 2 students meet with the instructor on Tuesdays, and they are assigned to different early childhood classrooms on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. ECE Year 2 students are given the opportunity to choose the age group for which they are assigned.

— Melissa Johnson, Early Childhood Education instructor

