



>>> "War Eagles Soaring to Build a Healthy Community"

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October 2008

Welcome to the first edition of the Wakulla High School Medical Academy newsletter! We at WHS are proud of our academy and we're beginning to make real progress in our goal to establish a vibrant, viable academy in our first year. Teachers and administrators in all disciplines have united to establish a multi-disciplinary approach for Medical Academy students. In addition to the "core" medical courses of Health Science I and II, Allied Health Assisting III, and the newest, Biomedical Research, WHS teachers have added Biology, Chemistry, Algebra, Geometry, World History, Psychology, and Physical Science to the mix. Over 200 students are currently enrolled in the academy with another 80 participating in classes!

Background

- The WHS Medical Academy had its beginnings at the start of the 2007/2008 school year when a small group of administrators and teachers met to determine how to grow the existing Health Science program into a high school medical academy.***
- In January and February of 2008, a group of WHS educators visited the successful medical academy programs at New Smyrna Beach and Seminole County High Schools. The visits were aimed at enhancing the learnings of how to establish a model academy.***
- In the spring of 2008, the Health Sciences program was awarded a \$130,000 WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant to implement a medical academy beginning in August, 2008. Beth O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Sarabeth Jones, WHS Career Specialist, wrote the grant for WHS and received valuable assistance from Workforce Plus CEO Kimberly Moore and many others.***
- Bob Wallace, Biology teacher at WHS, spent two weeks during the past summer immersed 24/7 in a Biomedical Science and Technology training course for educators as a part of "Project Lead the Way". The new course, Biomedical Research, is now being taught to all 9th graders enrolled in the WHS Medical Academy (4 full sections!)***



- *In early August of this year, the entire team for the WHS Medical Academy was assembled for a week-long curriculum development session. All current teachers in the academy as well as administrators attended. Beth O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent, Sarabeth Jones, WHS Career Specialist, and Diane Cook, RN and Health Science teacher, led the development sessions. In addition, Mike Crouch, WHS Principal, and Sunny Chancy, WHS Assistant Principal, were also driving forces during the session. The following academy teachers participated:*
- *Angie Williams - Biology*
- *Bob Wallace - Biomedical Research & Biology*
- *Shelby Williams - World History*
- *Suzanne Camp - Chemistry*
- *Don White - Physical Science*
- *Davis Seitz - Psychology*
- *Brooke Roland - Algebra & Geometry*

An added bonus to the development sessions was the first meeting of the Medical Academy's Advisory Board on August 6th. The Advisory Board incorporates professionals from the area's medical community to work in a true partnership with Wakulla High and the school district to optimize the success of our students with "real-life" direction and opportunities. Advisory Board members include:

- *Pamela Allbritton, Community Resources Coordinator, Big Bend Hospice*
- *Jerry Evans, Community Relations Officer, Wakulla Bank*
- *Rhonda Harvey, Pharmacist, CVS Crawfordville*
- *Portia Huston, RN Recruiter, Capital Regional Medical Center*
- *Lori Lawhon, RN School Health Coordinator, Wakulla County Health Department*
- *Kimberly Moore, CEO, Workforce Plus*
- *Tracy Tully, Staff Development Specialist, Capital Regional Medical Center*

Current Events

Medical Academy Open House -- *An Open House was held by the academy at WHS on September 4th . Parents, students, and other visitors were provided an overview of the program, enrollment contracts for the students, and the opportunity to tour the classrooms involved with the academy. The event was a rousing success as at least 400 were in attendance!*



Mobile Laptop Laboratory -- The 15-unit mobile laptop laboratory arrived in early September. These laptop computers represent an interconnected laboratory that is an integral part of the Biomedical Research course for 9th graders taught by Bob Wallace. Along with the laptops, additional equipment such as 10 new microscopes, digital camera, etc. began use within the academy.

Mentors -- Some members of Diane Cook's Allied Health III class have volunteered to be mentors for rising students in the Medical Academy. These seniors can provide invaluable assistance and direction for those new to the academy and to the high school.

Certification Update -- Currently, the Medical Academy provides opportunities for certification in the following areas:

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- CPR/AED for healthcare providers
- First Responder
- Basic Arrhythmia
- HIPPA training

Diane Cook, RN and Health Science teacher, is also pursuing the option of EMT certifications for upcoming years.

Wakulla Fire Department -- Brandon Alyea and Justin Duggan of the Wakulla Fire Department did a presentation on the Firefighter Explorer Program for the Medical Academy on September 5th. Brandon and Justin also shared some of their experiences as firefighters and paramedics.

Employment Skills Seminars -- Jerry Evans, Community Relations Officer with Wakulla Bank, provided students with an actual real-life approach to employment with his Employment Skills Seminars.

Wakulla County Healthcare Task Force -- Diane Cook and Sarabeth Jones along with students Ryan Smith and Regan Franckhauser provided an overview of our Medical Academy program to the task force on September 23rd. Representatives from the Wakulla Health Department, Capital Regional Medical Center, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and other task force members attended.

Wakulla Health Department Partnership -- A contract between the Wakulla County School Board and the Health Department has been executed for Allied Health students to work with the mobile dental lab and other programs offered through the health department. The first experience this year occurred on September 24th with the mobile dental lab.



Medical Academy Advisory Board -- The second meeting of the WHS Medical Academy Advisory Board took place on October 17th. All members were given updates on the academy's progress and we received input from the board on how best to use their members. Other topics discussed included marketing ideas, shadowing and internship opportunities, guest speakers, field trips, etc. A calendar of events for upcoming months was also formalized. The next meeting of the board is tentatively scheduled for January 5, 2009.

On The Horizon

11/5/2008 -- Visit by Jay High School, Santa Rosa County

11/10/2008 -- Medical Academy team meeting

11/13/2008 -- Allied Health Assisting III students to TCC for health programs tour

11/19/2008 -- Medical Academy team development workshop for integrated curriculum planning

11/24/2008 -- Medical Academy team meeting; plans for Community Open House due

***** 1st Responder Certifications continue through January.***

12/8/2008 -- Medical Academy team meeting

1/5/2009 -- Advisory Board Meeting (9:00 - 11:00 a.m)



1/12/2009 -- Community Open House for Medical Academy

1/19/2009 -- Medical Academy team meeting

"Bodies Exhibit" visit in Tallahassee in April.

Questions, comments, concerns, volunteering, etc? Please contact Sarabeth Jones at Wakulla High School at 926-7125.