



Health Careers

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact



Senior HC students visit Portage County DD for a picnic at the beginning of the school year

Students visited Portage County DD to learn about potential internship opportunities

WHAT'S A DSP

DSPs assist individuals with I/DD to live their best lives and to realize their full potential. DSPs provide people with individualized support, based on unique needs and distinctive preferences, so they can fully participate in their respective communities.



Credentials give students a competitive advantage

Health Careers students work toward earning several industry credentials throughout the program to jumpstart their careers. The 12-point National Credential of Certification of Initial Proficiency as Direct Support Professionals (DSP) provides students with access to high-wage, entry-level positions upon graduation. DSP positions not only provide great experience, but oftentimes they are flexible, allowing students to be enrolled in post-secondary education while they are working.

In order to obtain this DSP credential of certification, students meet for 60 classroom hours for hybrid online/on-site classes. These courses are provided as a coordinated effort between the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) and

the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The courses teach students about Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), the history of serving this population, and expose students to a variety of career opportunities through guest speakers. In Level I, students earn their certification in American Heart CPR and First Aid and their Stop the Bleed certification in Level II. This DSP certification requires the completion of an internship to be completed in Level II. These internships include shadowing and hands-on experiences at facilities such as *Hattie Larlham, Independence of Portage, Home to You Ravenna, Hiram Farm, SUMMA Hospital Project Search, Portage Industries*, and home care.



Students demonstrate service

Health Careers students engage with the community and commit to different service projects within the program. This school year, students are teaming up with LoveLight Inc, a local organization that serves children and youth who are economically or otherwise disadvantaged, with the focus on family centered programming. **Dr. Lilabet Justice, PhD**, is a social worker and professor of Psychology at Kent State University, and spoke to students about LoveLight. Students connected with their mission statement that guides their foundation: Respect and care for self; Respect and care for others; Respect and care for the world around you. LoveLight is raising money to create an inter-generational facility and wellness center and HC students raised money at concession stands this fall to donate. In the past, students have also completed service projects for Be the Match.





What students are saying:

“ Health Careers is an amazing opportunity. It has taught me that it is important to not only take care of patients physically, but to also understand your patient to provide the best care possible. I have met great friends in this program!

Reese Tatgenhorst (Tallmadge)

“ I love Health Careers and I’m very grateful for all the new things I’m learning. I really like how well the teachers explain things and how we all work together to learn new things. I can’t wait to demonstrate what I’ve learned in the real world!

Chloe Yanoff (Hudson)

Students gain skills through hands-on learning

Students in Health Careers are preparing for a variety of different professional pathways in the health care field. Students study rigorous coursework and are able to show what they know by engaging in hands-on activities in the classroom lab where they can practice their skills. Some examples include:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) usage
- Proper handwashing techniques
- Donning and doffing the N95 respirator
- Transmission-Based Isolation Unit simulation
- Opening sterile objects and setting up a sterile field
- Accurately measuring vital signs
- Phlebotomy
- Physical therapy techniques
- Sonography
- Dental techniques



HOSA

Health Careers students are members of the student-led health professionals organization, HOSA. Through conferences, competitions and service projects, HOSA provides unique leadership opportunities integrated within the curriculum.

Success Story

Paige Lever is a 2020 graduate of Stow-Munroe Falls High School and completer of Health Careers. She is currently in pharmacy school and has shared her educational and professional journey with current students. Paige shared that the program enhanced her patient care skills but also clarified her career goals in pharmacy. Prior to entering the program, Paige knew she had an interest in the healthcare field, but was overwhelmed by all of the different career pathways in the field. The exposure to a variety of different fields in the program led Paige to find interest in the pharmacy field and she completed a job shadowing experience that solidified this interest. Paige feels that the wealth of medical knowledge that she gained from Health Careers made her transition to pharmacy school a smooth one!