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Deer Park Schools Brings Real World Project Management Into High School

December 16, 2015

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Deer Park Schools Brings Real World Project



One of the Deer Park Jr./Sr. High School Career Academies Classrooms

Management Into High School

Deer Park Jr./Sr. High School, a Deer Park Community City School, offers its students a Project Management Academy, an elective part of the Deer Park Career Academies. Deer Park Career Academies provides a series of multi-course curricula consisting of classes that give unique, real-world experience to its students.

“In the Project Management Academy, my junior high and high school students learn about the world of professional project management through an entire semester long project—from simulation to application—with help from visiting professional project managers from the Project Management Institute Southwest Ohio chapter,” said Adam Gergen, Deer Park Jr./Sr. High School Career Academies Educator.



This semester, students in Gergen’s class are working on a project they call “Beautify Deer Park” where they spent the first six weeks simulating the project and learning how to plan, execute, and manage a project aimed at bettering the community. The last four weeks will be spent working with outside groups to develop the students’ projects as well as their own time management, teamwork, and team management skills.

“The purpose of our Career Academies is to provide students opportunities to learn skills associated with in-demand careers and re-engage students in the learning process through high-level, project based learning experiences,” said Jay Phillips, Assistant Superintendent at Deer Park Community City Schools. “In the Project Management Academy, it’s amazing to see every student develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills while also working in class with licensed project managers on actual projects. Students aren’t only learning the skills, but they are applying them and really feeling what it’s like to be a project manager.”

Embedded in the Project Management Academy are 21st century skills. The curriculum is designed to develop critical thinking skills through a hands-on approach to learning. The students work together, propose project ideas and budget, and then present to teachers, administrators, and outside business leaders.

“It’s been an amazing first semester teaching the Project Management Academy because I get to see the students handle the transition from traditional classroom learning to project based learning. It’s not easy to work in groups, but the students are giving it their best effort and finding success—and for that they deserve so much credit,” concluded Gergen.



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Pictured (L-R): Daniel Dailey and Austin Osborne

Pictured (L-R): Taylor Spivey, Shane Coriell, Alexis Butler

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