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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Helping Students to Reach Their Potential through Career and Technical Education

Kimberly, Wis. – February 28, 2019 – For Claire Twomey, a senior at Kimberly High School (KHS), a career in the health care field seemed like a natural path for her future. She was inspired to follow in the footsteps of her mother, a nurse practitioner, and her late grandmother, whose nursing career spanned four decades.

The 18 year old balances her school work with her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Youth Apprenticeship at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital. Through her apprenticeship, Claire is getting hands-on experience in a real-life health care setting along with classroom instruction to prepare for her future.

The opportunity to work at the hospital came through Andrea Buss, health sciences teacher and HOSA-Future Health Professionals advisor at KHS.

“Mrs. Buss knew I was taking my CNA course, and through the clinicals it persuaded me to work in a hospital because I liked the fast-paced type of job,” said Claire. “With the patient outturn (discharges), I get to meet more people and see different cases. That’s interesting to me.”

Pursuing a Youth Apprenticeship is one way students can maximize their Academic and Career Planning activities while in high school. Students receive both high school credit for their apprenticeship as well as wages from



Claire Twomey, a senior at Kimberly High School, is pursuing a Certified Nursing Assistant Youth Apprenticeship at Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital.

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their employer. In addition to valuable career and industry experiences, Youth Apprenticeship students learn employability skills that will benefit them in any career they choose.

Career and Technical Education Opportunities

Students at Kimberly High School have access to numerous opportunities to learn about careers and themselves in order to plan for their future. In addition to Youth Apprenticeships, which are available in many different career clusters, students at Kimberly High School can also get a jump start on their future through additional career and educational opportunities.

Certificates: There were a 107 students who earned certifications while at Kimberly High School last year. They received certificates in fields including child services, computer science, health sciences and technical education. Earning a certificate while still in high school provides students in-depth experience and prepares them for a career path.

Dual Credit: The Class of 2018 earned 1,069 dual credits through the Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (CAPP) and Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) credits. A new dual credit option this school year is an advanced welding class at KHS where students receive both a Basic GMAW Welder certificate along with five credits at FVTC.

Advanced Placement: KHS has a robust Advanced Placement offering. Last year, 556 students took 903 exams with over 80% receiving a 3 or higher on the exam. In order to receive credit, students must receive at least a 3 on the exam's 5-point scale. Students' AP exam success rate far surpasses the state average of 69%. Students completed AP coursework at KHS in a variety of subjects, such as Computer Science, Chemistry, English Literature and Composition, Calculus, Biology, Music Theory and Human Geography. By pursuing higher level coursework, these students will graduate better prepared for their future.

Architectural, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy: Called a school within-a-school, students who participate in the ACE Academy receive a comprehensive education in a collaborative learning environment that fosters a link between classroom learning and real-world experiences. By taking Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) coursework, students are also developing an interest in high-demand jobs.



The Building Construction 2 class, part of the ACE Academy, completed a new park shelter in Sunset Park in January.

Hands-On Experience in the Real World

For Claire Twomey, a typical shift at the hospital starts with a team huddle to get reports on their patients. Then she meets each patient and takes their vital signs. “I’m there to be a helping hand to the patients as well as getting them through their daily tasks,” said Claire. “I also get to work really closely with the nurses, which is like peering into my future.”

In addition to school and her apprenticeship, Claire serves as the vice president of the HOSA-Future Health Professionals chapter at Kimberly High School. Throughout the school year, HOSA organizes health care facility tours, guest speakers, fundraisers and a variety of hands-on learning activities to help students gain a better understanding of the variety of career paths in the health care industry.

“I would definitely recommend Youth Apprenticeship for anyone who has an interest in it because then you can decide early on whether it’s a career for you or if it’s not for you,” said Claire. She also recommends taking related school coursework, exploring opportunities in the field and getting involved in clubs at school.

“My favorite part is connecting with patients,” said Claire. “I’ve learned it’s super important to be personable when you are working with other people who are dealing with illnesses. It’s taught me to have a lot more compassion and patience with people. I’ve learned how to be a better person through that.”

After graduation, Claire hopes to continue working as a CNA at the hospital while she pursues a nursing degree. She plans on attending Bellin College, the school where both her mother and grandmother earned their degrees.

About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,100 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit www.kimberly.k12.wi.us.