

CHS MEDICAL MAGNET PROGRAM

The Carroll High School Medical Program, begun under the direction of Dr. Louise W. Dunbar with Ms. Teicha Warner as instructor, was a five-year program that would begin at the 8th-grade level at Carroll Jr. High School with the teaching of Medical Terminology/Career Orientation. Students would then enroll in the following sequence of classes at Carroll High School: First Responder, EMT, Nursing Assistant I, and Nursing Assistant II. Those students who completed the EMT course could receive EMT certification when they reached the age of eighteen (18) and completed the required number of hours of ambulance work. Those students who completed Nursing Assistant I and Nursing Assistant II could receive a designation as CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) when they completed their clinical hours at a hospital, nursing home, or other pre-determined site.

When Ms. Warner (without medical certification) accepted a position elsewhere, she was replaced with Mr. Corey Denton (without medical certification but with some nursing coursework). In 2004-2005, Mr. Denton taught only medical courses. Because of his lack of credentials, he also was unable to teach the Nursing Assistant class; it was taught by an instructor who came on campus from Delta. Additionally, he did not teach the EMT class (for which he was not credentialed); rather, he taught Cooperative Health Occupations course.

When Mr. Denton left the employ of Monroe City Schools, he was replaced with Mrs. Norma Kay Gill, retired RN. Because of staffing cuts and the fact that Mrs. Gill was also certified to teach physical science, she was assigned only three medical courses. The remainder of her teaching assignment was in the area of physical science. During the 2006-2007 school year, the medical classes were also limited to three because of the need to cover required core subjects (physical science). During preliminary scheduling for the 2007-2008 school year, there were enough students to warrant two (2) medical terminology classes; however, we were only able to accommodate one section because of the need for physical science sections. There were students to take the First Responder class, the EMT class, and a small group who had met the requirements to take the Nursing Assistant course. Because Mrs. Gill had not renewed her nursing license, she was unable to teach this course, and the NAI students traveled to the Louisiana Technical College campus for their coursework. Upon the satisfactory completion of their clinical hours in June, they received their certificate as certified nursing assistants.

The 2008-2009 school year consisted of opening up more sections of medical terminology and continuing the sequence of courses for students to complete their EMT and CNA requirements. Additionally, Carroll High School hosted a three-day Medical Career/ Opportunities Fair that partnered with Carroll Jr. High School, Lincoln Elementary School and the community. The following persons/organizations assisted in making the Fair a success: Janet Davis (principal at Lincoln Elementary), Angela Manning (principal at Carroll Jr. High), Kenneth Green (Monroe Fire Department), Bernadine Adams (ULM Department of Nursing), Stalanda Butcher (CJHS/St. Francis Medical School-Based Clinic), Andrea Wright (LifeShare Blood Center), Darby Smith (Louisiana Technical College), Belinda Green (American Red Cross), Daniel Rice (Career Technical College), Ashley Frazier (North Louisiana Area Health Education Center-AHEC), and CHS Medical Magnet EMT/First Responder Students.

In November, 2009, Mrs. Georgia Jones (RN) replaced Mrs. Gill. From November, 2009, until March, 2010, Mrs. Jones worked to secure the proper paperwork to bring the medical program

into compliance with the Department of Health and Hospitals. In March, 2010, the program was determined to be in compliance, and the process of building the program and having on-site, certified instructors. Because the CNA program (according to DHH guidelines) limited instructors to a maximum of ten (10) clinical students, Mrs. Catherine Miller Johnson (RN) was hired to work with Mrs. Jones at the beginning of 2011-2012.

Shandra Naylor-Smith was hired to serve as the program coordinator and began the process of screening students who were desirous of participating in the medical magnet. After one year, Mrs. Smith left and was replaced by Mrs. Shandria Newton who had previously served as a counselor at Carroll High School. Under her leadership and the instruction of Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Johnson, and Ms. Nyoka Freeman, the program has moved forward with the offering of Introduction to Health Occupations, Medical Terminology, First Responder, Certified Nurse Assistant, and Pharmacy Tech. Sports Medicine I & II were projected for offering during the 2016-2017 school year.

For the last four years, the program has celebrated the success of students by hosting a pinning ceremony where students are recognized for their accomplishments. Community members and parents are invited to celebrate with the students. Upon graduation, many of the students have entered colleges and technical schools to pursue their LPN, and several have accepted jobs at the same facilities where they completed their clinicals.

An integral part of the medical program is the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) program which provides after-school tutoring, career planning, preparation for competition, and computer skills development for students interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. The Carroll chapter of HOSA has been very successful in state, regional and national competitions which runs the gamut of subject-specific examinations to mathematics, poster competitions, skits, and other means of showcasing student work and knowledge.



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