

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Date: December 3, 2007
Subject: SHSM Launch at St. Francis Xavier
From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer
bob.perreault@cdsbeo.on.ca



Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206

Specialist High Skills Major Pilot Project: Transportation Technology Program Launched at St. Francis Xavier CHS

Hammond, ON – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is proud to announce the official launch of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM): Transportation Technology at St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond.

The Transportation Technology Program is a specialized program lead by St. Francis Xavier CHS teacher, Tom Dregely, in association with local employers and partners, offering experiential learning, cooperative education, and apprenticeship opportunities.

Mr. Dregely stated, "I am very proud to be a part of this program and even more proud of the effort put in by our students. They know that they have been given a wonderful opportunity to advance their knowledge and be better prepared for post-secondary education or the work place."

The specialized program is a community-partnered transportation initiative supported by the local business sector, St. Lawrence College (Cornwall Campus); Algonquin College (Ottawa Campus); and the University of Guelph (Kemptville Campus).

The transportation sector program is based on industry-identified preparatory knowledge, skills, certifications, reach-ahead, and on-the-job learning opportunities focused within the automotive service industry. Participating students will develop their Ontario Skills Passport, and have opportunities to explore the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and various School-College-Work initiatives. Students will also receive training and certification in several sector-specific requirements.

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, says the program is a wonderful idea. "We know that there is a shortage of qualified people in skilled trades right now. For this reason, we need programs such as the Specialist High Skills Major in our schools. We are so fortunate to have these students passionate about this program and we are grateful for the guidance provided by Mr. Dregely."

The program also meets the specific learning needs and interests of students, while preparing them for the work world. Grade 11 student, Jessica Wodarka said, “I’ve always enjoyed working with my hands and taking stuff apart. I took Mr. Dregely’s Transportation Technology class in grade 10 and really enjoyed it. Now I enjoy being a part of the Specialist High Skills Major and continuing down the path to becoming an automotive service technician in the future.”

Many community partners and employers have pledged their support of the SHSM at St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School, including: The Eastern Ontario Training Board, the Benson Group of Automotive Companies, Ottawa Truck Centre, Embrun Dodge Jeep Chrysler, Johnson Equipment, and Embrun Ford.

CDSBEO Director of Education, Bill Gartland, thanked the program’s partners. “We are grateful that the Specialist High Skills Major program has such fantastic support from our partners. These continued partnerships will help this program to be a success for many years, and help to strengthen it as it develops. This is an educational opportunity that serves all those who are involved.”

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

Attached Photos:

SHSM St FX 1 – Mr. Dregely’s Transportation Technology Class at St. Francis Xavier CHS in Hammond.



SHSM St FX 2 – St. Francis Xavier CHS Staff and CDSBEO officials are joined by partners in the Specialist High Skills Major Pilot Launch



SHSM St. FX 3 – St. Francis Xavier CHS Transportation Technology Teacher Tamas Dregely at the pilot program launch

