

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Date: November 27, 2007
Subject: Specialist High Skills Major Pilot Project
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

CDSBEO to Launch Transportation Sector Specialist High Skills Major Pilot Project at St. Joseph's CSS, Cornwall

Kemptville, ON – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is inviting the St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School community and media to attend the official launch of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM).

When: Thursday, November 29 at 11 a.m.

Where: St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School, 1500 Cumberland St. Cornwall

The Transportation sector pilot project is a Specialized Automotive Service program lead by St. Joseph's CSS teacher Steve Armstrong, in association with local employers and partners offering experiential learning, cooperative education, and apprenticeship opportunities.

The SHSM is an exciting new learning opportunity for secondary students. The specialized program is a community-partnered transportation initiative supported by the local business sector, St. Lawrence College (Cornwall Campus), and the University of Guelph (Kemptville Campus). The Automotive Service program is based on industry-identified preparatory knowledge, skills, certifications, "reach-ahead", and "on the job" learning opportunities. Participating students develop their Ontario Skills Passport, and have the opportunity 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 including: Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), Standard First Aid, CPR, Health and Safety, Ozone Depletion, Air Brake and Service Excellence.

The program meets the specific learning needs and interests of individual students. It allows them to "reach-ahead" to post-secondary education and training, and prepares them for further education and training and ultimately, the work world.

Scott Barnhart, a parent of a student in the pilot program stated, “Our son Colin always thought he wanted to become a mechanic growing up. Tech classes and co-op showed he had some skills and now he knows exactly what he wants to do. Thanks to school and OYAP, he’s at Kemptville College completing block one of his apprenticeship training as a truck and coach mechanic while still being a full time high school student.”

Program partner Art Soper with the Ottawa Truck Center says the program responds to an identified community and sector need. “We need to work very hard to attract young men and women to the skilled trades in order to ensure the survival of our industry. We look forward to a long partnership with St. Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School and the students from their Specialist High Skills Major program.”

Many local community partners and employers have pledged their support to the SHSM at St. Joseph’s CSS. The program launch will be attended by CDSBEO officials and partners including representatives from: The Benson Group of Automotive Companies, Cornwall Truck Centre, Total Collision, C & B Quality Engine Rebuilding, the Eastern Ontario Training Board, Cornwall Motor Sales, Miller Hughes Ford, Seaway Hyundai, Car Star, Cornwall Tire, Brookshell Pontiac Buick GMC, Unitech, Fern Leroux Service Centre, Direct Muffler, Page Automotive, Minute Auto Wash, Blue Beacon Truck Wash and Ryder Truck Rental.

Participants will be available for interviews.

A light lunch will be served.

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.