

## **1.) Automotive Technology**

### *Accomplishments:*

During the past year, we accomplished a great deal in our efforts to become an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) high school through the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF).

Throughout the last year, we spent many hours completing a self-evaluation document/application which included detailed information about all aspects of our automotive program including the curriculum, instructional materials, student training plans, administrative support, advisory committee, graduate follow-up, shop safety standards, equipment, tools, and articulation with an ASE/NATEF certified post-secondary institution. We recently received a letter from NATEF confirming that our application for an on-site evaluation of our automotive technician program has been approved. Because they were not able to assign an Evaluation Team Leader to us before the end of the school year, our site visit will take place in September, 2011.

Our NATEF/ASE Advisory Committee (made up of local employers, community members, students, parents, as well as ETHS faculty and staff) has continued to meet and provide direction as we make decisions about student recruitment, job placement, and ways to work with the business community to procure donations (both financial and in-kind) and mentor students.

### *Challenges:*

Our original target date for on-site evaluation of our program was October, 2010. Unfortunately, we found that obtaining an articulation agreement with a NATEF/ASE certified post-secondary institution took much longer than anticipated. This was due in part to the fact that our local community college (Oakton) does not have a certified program. While we were finally able to work out a special agreement with Triton College in River Grove, Illinois this was not finalized until February, 2011.

### *Next Steps:*

During the summer of 2011, we will complete our new Automotive Technology webpage, continue to develop the curriculum tied to NATEF/ASE standards, put the finishing touches on the shop, and meet with our advisory committee in preparation for the on-site evaluation.

## **2.) Early Childhood Education**

We revised our curriculum and purchased instructional materials so that students who successfully complete the ETHS Introduction to Child Development course are able

to earn the Level 1 Credential through the Illinois Early Care & Education Professional Development Network. This credential signifies a student's attainment of the basic level of knowledge and skills across the early childhood competency areas. The credential is recognized by the State of Illinois and valued by employers, such as day care centers and pre-schools.

In order to enhance the curriculum for the Introduction to Child Development course, we purchased six RealCare® Baby infant simulators. Every student in the class is required to care for one of the "infants" for a 24 hour period (feeding, diapering, soothing, etc.). A report is then generated which shows exactly how the baby was cared for. The teachers have found the babies to be an excellent learning tool, adding a "real life" experience to the curriculum. Students have been surprised by the difficulty of caring for their "baby."

During the 2010/2011 school year, 94 students were enrolled in the Introduction to Child Development course.

*Next Steps:*

The teachers of the Introduction to Child Development and Advanced Child Development course have determined that in order to fully teach the certification curriculum, we will now spread the units over two courses rather than just one. This will mean a drop in the number of students earning the certification, but we will be able to cover the material more fully and provide more opportunities for guided practice and demonstration of knowledge. We plan to purchase a new textbook that is designed specifically to help students prepare for early childhood educator professional certification.

**3. National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS)**

*Accomplishments:*

During the 2011/2012 school year, we will be adding the option of pursuing the Machining Level 1 certification offered by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) for students enrolled in 1 or 2 Manufacturing. NIMS was formed in 1995 by the metalworking trade associations to develop and maintain a globally competitive American workforce. NIMS sets skills standards for the industry, certifies individual skills against the standards in 52 different areas. The Level 1 certification requires students to demonstrate knowledge of measurement, materials, and safety; job planning; benchwork and layout; manual milling skills; turning operations; chucking and grinding skills; drill press skills, CNC milling; and CNC programming. We will be purchasing a textbook that is aligned with the Machining Level 1 standards. We believe this will be an attractive option for a small number of students who have an aptitude and interest in metalworking skills.

#### **4. Plans for Other Industry-Recognized Certifications**

As stated in previous reports, we have found the pursuit of industry-recognized certifications to be a complex and time-consuming process, involving teachers, administrators, industry experts and community members. Choosing certifications that will best meet the needs of our students in the most cost-effective manner continues to be important due to the fact that the 2010-2012 ETHS District goals include the following High School Post-Secondary Planning goal:

*Increase by 15% the number of students enrolled in courses that lead to dual credit or industry-recognized certification*

- *Explore additional dual credit and industry-recognized certification options for students.... and select at least one new program for implementation each year*

During the 2011/2012 school year, we hope to select at least one additional certification program to make available to our students. Possibilities include the Pro-Start School-to-Careers program (culinary arts) or Visual Communication using Adobe Photoshop CS3 (graphic arts).

We also plan to explore ways to increase student participation in all of the certification programs we currently offer: Microsoft Office (Word and Excel), Pharmacy Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Early Childhood Level 1, and NIMS Level 1.