

Alphabitty Program

DHS's finest class.

by Lily Peterson

DeKalb High School isn't just for high schoolers anymore! Two days a week, Child Care Occupations teaches and plays with preschool aged kids.

Child Care Occupations is described by the student handbook as "A course designed to acquaint students with pre-school children, their growth, development and behavior and prepare students for employment in a variety of child care facilities. Students will apply their knowledge about children through participation and observation in a pre-school which meets at the high school two days a week."

Alphabitty is unlike any other class offered at DHS or early child care center in DeKalb. The class, which is run by 48 high school students per year, is taught by Mrs. Holtz. The lessons and activities are completely planned and executed by the students.

When asked how this class is unlike any other offered at DHS, Mrs. Holtz said, "I always tell my students that they cannot blow off their projects in here because their projects involve real live human beings."

Students have no choice but to be prepared in child care occupations. Their projects are not just a power point or a paper, but they involve teaching and aiding in the development of pre-school aged children.

In order to become eligible for an internship, like junior Chloe Lucas and junior Emily Reese, you first must successfully complete child care occupations and child development. There is a competitive application process if you want to be considered for one of the four internships available.

There are currently four interns, and they alternate between going to ELDC (Early Learning Development Center) for two, six week experiences and keeping Alphabitty running smoothly at DHS. While at ELDC they work with both high risk preschoolers and preschoolers with disabilities.

Lucas said, "For me and Emily [Re-

ese], since we're the interns, it's to help us realize what we want to do. If we want to further our education in education. We are mentors to the students in the other class [child care occupations]. We help them interact with the kids."

The children are aged three to five years old. They attend Alphabitty twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays during 2nd and 3rd hours.

When asked her favorite part of the program, sophomore Hailey Ramirez said, "My favorite part would be getting to interact with the kids and learning something new about them each and every week."

If you love kids, working hands on, and are looking to further your education in child care, then child care occupations is the class for you!



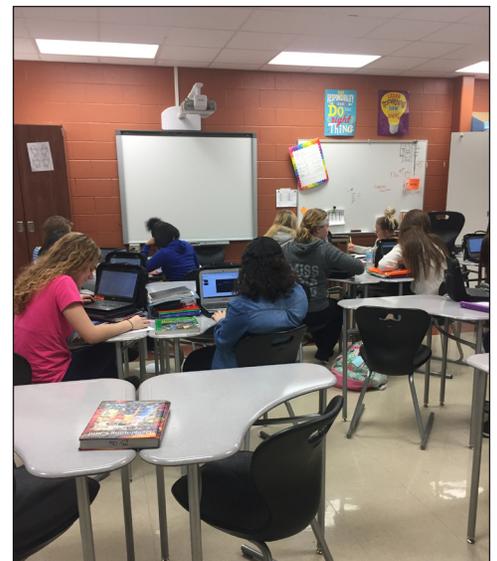
*Junior Chloe Lucas prepares for class.
Photo by Bethany Billips.*



Rebecca Lara and Terri Wheeler work with a preschool student. Photo by Lily Peterson



Students play with the preschoolers involved in Alphabitty. Photo By Lily Peterson.



Students work in class. Photo by Lily Peterson.