



"Together We Learn"

School District No. 23
(Central Okanagan)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

September 25, 2007

Distribute to: News Media, Trustees, Partner Groups

Emergency Medical Responder Program Available to Students of School District No. 23

Saving lives and enjoying a dynamic career in the health care industry will soon be an option for students in School District No.23. Beginning in February 2008, a select group of Grade 12 students will be the first participants in the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) program.

The EMR program is designed to meet the needs of WorkSafeBC (occupational first-aid attendant) and Fire Departments (first responder attendants). The EMR program is an entry qualification for the British Columbia Ambulance Service and the Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program. In addition to these careers, the program provides excellent experience for students interested in a range of health care pursuits, including working as a nurse or doctor.

The course will be taught by Aaron Volk, a School District science teacher and a qualified paramedic with the BC Ambulance Service. "This course is an incredible opportunity for students to learn science that has very concrete applications in the real world," said Volk. "It is also a chance to discover what it is really like to work in emergency health care while earning credits for graduation." The course is being offered in partnership with the Justice Institute's Paramedic Academy, which has provided expertise as well as equipment and classroom space for the pilot program.

The EMR program will teach topics such as: scene safety, patient assessment, CPR, Automatic External Defibrillation (AED), major and minor trauma care, treatment of common medical emergencies and emergency vehicle operation. Graduates will be eligible to take an exam to obtain their Emergency Medical Assistance license. Students will also be given credit towards graduation for a senior science elective. Space is limited to 12 students. Applications are available from school counselling departments.

The Justice Institute has created a demonstration video: <http://www.jibc.ca/paramedic/video.htm>

EMR is one of three new dual-credit career programs offered by School District No. 23 in cooperation with the Justice Institute, Okanagan College and the Automotive Industry Training Association.

Further information: Moyra Baxter, Chairperson, Board of School Trustees. 767-6153
Mike Roberts, Superintendent of Schools, 470-3256
Aaron Volk avolk@sd23.bc.ca 769-7343
Lisa Harrison, Communications Officer, 470-3284, lharriso@sd23.bc.ca