

Tomahawk Work Based Learning Highlights

The School District of Tomahawk operates multiple work based learning programs. Work Based Learning is a core component of Career & Technical Education. Students seek a clear connection between their future career(s) and their class work. The opportunity to explore and experience a world of work is beneficial to career decision-making. Experiencing the workplace provides a firsthand look at what skills are needed to be a successful employee and how knowledge learned in school is put into action in the workplace. Work based learning also informs the student about career choices. Work-based learning is the key to a successful 21st century. Career readiness and employability skills are the foundation of each program.

THS Work Based Learning Programs:

Teacher Aide - Students are placed in various educational settings within Tomahawk Elementary and Middle Schools. The most common placement for students is in the classroom where they work directly under the supervision of classroom teachers aiding in all aspects of education. Students learn from cooperating teachers about various aspects of teaching and learning through first hand experience. Teacher Aides work directly with students, as well as planning, preparing and checking for understanding. Students are also placed in other educational settings such as the LMC and offices. These students learn from professionals about the logistics and processes that are involved in the daily operation of a school. Mentors ask students to learn and implement the knowledge and skills needed to accomplish the tasks of their position. All students are evaluated using an employability skills rubric. Teacher Aide is viewed as a job experience focused on working with children and the educational setting.

School To Work - Students are placed in various businesses in the Tomahawk community. Students are paid employees of the business. Students are asked to complete a minimum of 180 work hours over the course of the school year. The employer agrees to mentor the student through the process. Students are evaluated several times per semester using an employability skills rubric. Employers use this tool as a way to help students improve weaknesses and become better employees. Students must also complete THS curriculum in a blended delivery method of classroom and electronic mediums. Students have the option of utilizing release time from school to attend work.

Youth Apprenticeship - Students are placed in various businesses in the Tomahawk community. Students are paid employees of the business. Youth Apprenticeship is a one or two year program, which requires a total of 450 work hours per year. Employer mentors provide experiences within their business that allow students to accomplish tasks required to earn the Youth Apprenticeship Certificate. Youth Apprenticeship is offered in conjunction with Northcentral Technical College. Students are evaluated using the Youth Apprenticeship rubric. Students have the option of completing YA requirements throughout the summer as well as utilizing release time from school. YA is funded through Northcentral Technical College Consortium.

Work Based Learning Enrollments 2014-15

Teacher Aide Enrollments: 1st Semester (29) 2nd Semester (40)		
School To Work (6)	Youth Apprenticeship (16 confirmed, 12 processing, 2 interviewing)	
	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Processing/Interviewing</u>
McDonald's-1	River Valley Bank-1	Nelson's County Market-2
Chuck's Sport Shop-1	Edgewater Country Club-1	McDonald's-6
Nelson's County Market-1	Harley Davidson-1	Rivers Edge-2
Subway-2	Dave's County Market-1	Shopko Hometown-3
Bambinos-1	River's Edge-1	Northland Stainless-2
Park City Credit Union-2	Tomahawk Family Restaurant-1	
Century 21-1	Macki Trucking-1	
Tomahawk Community Bank-1	Steigerwaldt's Land Services-1	
Tomahawk Fire Department-1	Tomahawk Leader-1	
Lincoln County Cycles-1		

Efforts are being made to build each component of the Tomahawk Work Based Learning Program. Examples include but are not limited to: expanded Teacher Aide placements in classroom and specialists settings, increase business participation and placement opportunities for STW and YA, adapt and register STW program in Wisconsin DPI Employability Skills Certificate Program, create local business agreements that add value to earning Employability Skills and YA Certificates, expand STW placements within the school district, create opportunities to earn industry recognized certificates, increase involvement of at risk students, etc.