

Bob Evans Restaurants on Youngstown Road Recognizes Biotechnology Tech Prep Program



Biotechnology Tech Prep is a hot program at the TCTC. It is a pathway to promising hi-tech careers in the field of science. This sector of the economy is where the high paying jobs will be found in the future.

Biotechnology is a college preparatory program designed for students who will continue their education in college. Students learn advanced topics in the fields of biology and chemistry. Articulation agreements are in place with universities that allow students to earn college credits while enrolled in the program as high school students. Graduates of Biotech with further education will find employment as Biologists, Chemists, Pharmacists, Doctors, Forensic Scientists and a host of science related careers.

Students in the Biotech spend approximately two and one half hours in the program and the remainder of the day taking required academic courses necessary for graduation. Students can take these courses at the TCTC or return to their home schools for this purpose.

It is a tough world out there and the instructor, Mike Alvetro, prepares his students for the future. Each day, they complete a series of intricate lab activities where they are responsible for discovering solutions to the scientific problems that are posed. In Biotech, the name of the game is engagement. Alvetro says that down time is not an option because there is too much to learn. He stated, "Students want to be challenged in creative ways that expand their learning parameters. They know they will use the skills they are acquiring in college and later on the job."

Alvetro has received outstanding evaluations from administrators, but his students offer the most effusive praise. Dannielle Kowacich, a senior from Lordstown, said, "When Mr. Alvetro is teaching the information in a chapter; he goes into great depth and relates it to real life scenarios. He prepares very well for every lab activity and he can find humor in most situations. Usually in a class, there is a student who does not like the teacher, but not in Biotech. I can honestly say that everyone respects him. Our goal is to become scientists and he is showing us the way."

Mary Flint, program supervisor, said, "Any student who has a serious interest in science should explore the merits of Biotech. With the permission of their home school, we encourage them to visit during a school day. I guarantee they will come away very impressed."

The hard work demonstrated by the students in Biotech has reached the Bob Evans Restaurant on Youngstown Road. If you were to pass by their lab on Friday, November 6, you would see a sight as rare as the appearance of Haley's Comet. For a few minutes anyway, the students will not be conducting experiments or operating the state of the art equipment in the lab. Each of them will be enjoying a slice of their favorite pie supplied by the restaurant. As one of them was heard to say however, the rest will be short lived. "Mr. Alvetro will probably devise some type of scientific activity with the pie." He said this with a grin, but he was not alone. Everybody wears a smile in Biotech.

