Employability Skills

Employability Skills is a weekly course taken from all grade levels from grade six to grade twelve. The courses offer students a variety of different soft-skill training such as balancing a checkbook, budgeting, resume writing, and interview skills. These skills will not only help the student to navigate college, or a job but the real world as well.

What is Dual Credit and STEM Core?

Dual credit classes are those classes offered through a partnership with participating Universities and schools here in the various communities and across the country. Dual credit offers both high school credit as well as college credit with one course. Dual credit classes can be taken as a capstone course or on its own. In previous years GMCS students have been given the opportunity to take courses with Stanford University and Arizona State University. University of New Mexico – Gallup and Navajo Technical University offer other dual credit options through GMCS.

STEM Core is a program of study that involves Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. STEM core offers a varying degree of advanced opportunities, such as dual credit classes and internships. During the 2020-21 school year STEM students from Miyamura and Gallup High Schools had the opportunity to work in a paid internship with Los Alamos National Labs, Sandia Labs and Livermore Labs as part of their capstone course. Students in this group also took a dual credit in pre-calculus through NTU. STEM offers many opportunities in a wide variety of career fields.

McKinley Academy

McKinley Academy is GMCS’ early college program. This program offers a dual credit course load. Many students that attend McKinley Academy earn a high school diploma and an associate degree or sometimes two. The McKinley Academy program is a wonderful option for those that are ready for the college experience.

Our goal at GMCS is to give our students more than just a diploma. We want them to leave high school with knowledge, experience, skills and confidence to help them navigate the work force, school or any of the other many intricacies of life.

What are Career Pathways?

A pathway is a New Mexico Public Education Department approved program of study. It involves a three-course sequence, or classes that are taken in succession and a capstone or focused course. These courses include a foundational course and concentrator courses. The capstone course can include a dual credit course, or an internship. An approved program of study must meet other criteria as well. Economic need, gainful employability, community involvement and other opportunities are all factored in developing a pathway. Career pathways are smaller groups of what is called a career cluster. The career cluster, as described by the NMPED, are a classification system that group careers together based on foundational knowledge and skill set.

In the 2019-20 school year a gateway/pathway system was implemented at Miyamura High School. This system was implemented during a high school redesign with four pathways, including Health, Engineering, Business and Computer Science. They have expanded to eight pathways with the inaugural class taking their first capstone course. The development and implementation of the pathway system in the other eight high schools has been much more systematic and in line with guidance from the NMPED. All nine GMCS high schools and two middle schools have implemented a pathway program to date.

The career pathway programs offer a variety of different career paths. A student that chooses the Bio Medical Pathway can go into several different career fields including, nursing, dentistry or radiology. They have the option to choose a professional career that requires further college or to choose a career with that has less training involved, or they could go out and get a job right out of high school. The student will have a foundation in whatever career pathway they choose giving them a better advantage to become successful.

College and Career Readiness

College and Career Readiness is at the forefront of the Gallup McKinley County Schools agenda. The goal is not just to educate the student but to send them out post-graduation with tools, opportunity, experiences and purpose that will better prepare them for adulthood and all the responsibilities that come along with it. The larger objective is to help our students to have more of an advantage than with previous generations in both college preparedness and general employability. GMCS has taken the giant leap in creating a focused path to attaining a more successful future with the implementation of college and career pathways into our high schools. With this guided system, students can get a better feel for what interests them and what career paths may be awaiting.

What is Dual Credit and STEM Core?