Career calling?

ATMS students participate in Healthcare Day

By Debbie Hightower

Students at Archdale-Trinity Middle School recently had an up-close opportunity to connect with medical careers during a field trip to Randolph Community College.

An opportunity to check a medical mannequin’s heart rate and listen to its breath was most memorable for Courtney Cromer, one of 19 ATMS eighth-graders who spent a day on the RCC campus to participate in EMT training, Medical office work, healthcare management, medical assisting, nursing, radiography and hand/germ demo.

“The students were given a scenario of a real patient at the beginning of the day and at the end had to figure out how each of the sessions could be applied as they were working with that patient,” said ATMS Student Advocate Heather Sheffield.

Students from Archdale-Trinity Middle School spent a day participating in hands-on activities designed to highlight healthcare professions at RCC’s Healthcare Day. Pictured here, Hallah Arnold checks the “vital signs” of a healthcare mannequin.

As they donned a sterile gown, mask and gloves for one exercise, ATMS students learned the importance of sterile practices in the healthcare world.

During this demonstration by a Randolph County emergency medical technician, ATMS students learned the equipment that’s inside an ambulance, how it’s used to maintain patient safety on the way to an emergency care facility and what education and experience is required to become an EMT.

**CAREER FROM THE FRONT PAGE**

Healthcare Day is a field trip put together by Randolph County Community College for Randolph County eighth-grade students who are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. The event was designed to highlight courses and programs that RCC has to offer.

After the trip, Zoey Cromer said, “I really liked the field trip because I got to learn about so many new careers, some I had never even thought of or considered. There are more options than just being a doctor or a nurse.”

“I liked the hands-on activities because it really gave me a chance to see what the careers were actually like,” said Carley Long. “It also taught me what I will need to be ready for the workforce.”

“Our students enjoy this field trip each year. It really gives them a better understanding of the medical field and all the different components,” Sheffield said.

Eighth-graders who are interested in healthcare professions may choose to get their feet wet in healthcare professions when they enter area high schools next year. Trinity High School offers Biomedical Technology I and II, Health Sciences I and II, Pharmacy Technology, and a Certified Nursing Assistant program.

“I enjoyed learning about what it takes to be an EMT,” said Reba Ben-David. “They really have to work as a team and communicate.”

“It was cool to learn there is an entire career dedicated to working with X-rays,” said Alyssa Smith. “This field trip helped me learn that I think I would really enjoy doing that as a career.”

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