An Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Sharing Good Food and New Ideas Among Teachers

Culinary Arts students at Fredericton High School review a recipe

Harrison Trimble High School is working on beefing up their Culinary Arts courses. After re-modeling their work-space, Culinary teachers, Kimberly Sinclair and Doug Stewart are reaching out to Fredericton High School's Amy Wood for some savory tips on how to embellish their current program.

Aiming to create a multi-project collaboration between classes, Ms. Sinclair and Mr. Stewart, alongside colleagues Gerard Reinders (Entrepreneurship), Anie Langis (Broad Based Technology), and Danie Martin (Post Intensive French), received funding from iHub to see how Ms. Wood manages her facility and the synergistic partnerships she has developed.

In an industrially equipped kitchen, Ms. Wood teaches grade 11 and 12 students Culinary Arts and also offers a two-credit block class which works on larger projects. The classes run a coffee and baked goods cart, and fulfill lunch orders for teachers.

The Future Chefs' Café is a professionally maintained space where teachers can dine in during lunch and the public may rent for special events. A television is mounted on the wall to accommodate PowerPoint presentations and the walls boast beautiful student artwork staged on shelves built by the school's shop class. Currently underway is a café logo design competition in the graphic design class to use for marketing initiatives. After seeing this, The Harrison Trimble staff begin brainstorming how they may involve their Marketing and Hospitality and Tourism classes in a potential café venture at their school.

"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration, our growth is limited to our own perspectives"
- Robert John Meehan

The cross-subject collaborations begin at FHS prior to the café's atmosphere though, with the sourcing of ingredients. Biology students tend to a sustainable farming project which supplies produce, and a group of Shri Lankan students who are struggling to forge connections with the school and community are now venturing out each morning to purchase groceries for the classes. As preparations get underway, special needs students help by slicing carrots and celery for vegetable trays and laundering aprons and towels.

Students attending these classes are learning that this is a viable career path. Ms. Wood knows that theory can only go so far; it is the skillset which impresses employers. Therefore, she is establishing a rubric of skills which students can include in their resume to clarify their competencies to potential employers or colleges. On top of this, "employability" marks are included to foster professional behavior.

Harrison Trimble still has a way to go before establishing the variety of projects FHS has underway, but this visit isn't about comparing who has a more

A student prepares pastries for the coffee cart

robust program. This visit is about sharing ideas, seeing what can be achieved and striving to provide students with the bests posible opportunity to learn and prepare for the future.

After reviewing Ms. Wood's program and facility, Ms. Sinclair remarks, "I love what they are doing here, and this is the direction I see things going for us. Our approach will be incremental." Though her school's vision differs with the intention of bringing their Culinary Arts class to the cafeteria, they now have a much clearer vision of how that can be achieved.

School-to-school networking and collaboration is an integral facet of teacher development. It is inspiring to see the sharing of ideas, failures, and goals among peers. Harrison Trimble now has many new possibilities to consider and turn into their own. Thanks to the communication and candor of fellow teachers, Harrison Trimble's Culinary Arts overhaul has even more potential for growth and success in the coming school year.■

Future Chefs' Café at Fredericton High School

Contact Information

CONTACT	INSTITUTION	EMAIL
Kim Sinclaire	Harrison Trimble High School	Kimberly.Sinclair@nbed.nb.ca
Amy Wood	Fredericton High School	Amy.Wood2@nbed.nb.ca