

# Mohonasen CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mohonasen High School Draper Middle School Pinewood Intermediate School Bract Primary School

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## News

### Mohonasen leaders welcome Young Entrepreneurs Academy into classrooms

Sept. 9, 2010

This fall, a group of Mohonasen High School students are taking part in an innovative new program that will guide them through the process of starting their own, real business.

The program, called The Young Entrepreneurs Academy – or YEA! – was originally developed by the University of Rochester with support from the Marion Kauffman Foundation. By the end of the class, students will own and operate a fully-formed and functioning business, which may be carried on after they graduate from the program. The YEA! program can currently be found in colleges and high schools across the country.

"We are excited about the expansion of our program and specifically chose Mohonasen because of its dedication to college-preparatory programs," said Gayle Jagel, the CEO and founder of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. Jagel developed the YEA! program in 2004, while serving as the Director of the Office of Special Programs at the University of Rochester. In 2008, YEA! "spun-off" from the University to create its own not-for-profit corporation, YEA! Inc.



"This program is a great opportunity to advance our students' business education," Academic Administrator for Guidance Christopher Ruberti said. "Our goal is to eventually provide a unique and challenging experience for all students who are interested in participating."

At Mohonasen High School, the program will be taught by business education teacher Latefa Lang.

Throughout the next nine months, the "young executives" will brainstorm and form their enterprises with the help of community business leaders. They will then work to obtain funding and register their companies with governmental agencies—and then actually launch their own company.

Program mentors and investors are currently being sought. Community members/local business leaders who are interested in getting involved should contact Mr. Ruberti at 356-8221.

In addition, the program needs graphic designers and web developers to help create websites for the student-run businesses next spring.

"One of the best components of the program is the actual behind the scenes knowledge that the students receive from local business leaders, who were at one time standing in their shoes," Ruberti said. "This experience is something they will be able to apply to whatever field they choose to enter, thereby giving them necessary skills to become future leaders of industry."

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