

Success Story



Marsha Chizek FACS Teacher

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Marsha Chizek
FACS Teacher
Fridley High School
Fridley, MN

Program Highlights

Goal:

- To educate high school health students about teen pregnancy prevention, parenting and infant development

Topics Covered:

- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Lifespan Development

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Minnesota FACS Teacher of the Year uses RealCare® Baby

Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teacher Marsha Chizek uses Realityworks' RealCare Baby infant simulators in her human development classes not only for the parenting experience, but for coursework on the first year of an infant's development.

This Fridley, Minnesota high school teacher sees value in several different teachable moments the infant simulators provide – and she's taken steps to integrate her courses into the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to ensure that all of her students can take advantage of this valuable experience.

"It's a wonderful way to teach them the value of human life," Chizek said. "The program also raises the rigor in our classrooms."

The realistic parenting experience provided by the simulators gives her students a hands-on lesson in the time and attention infants require, and Chizek consistently observes important changes in her students' attitudes after taking Baby home. She also believes infant simulators help young people develop empathy for infants, and that this additional perspective provides another important lesson that can last a lifetime.

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Chizek has been teaching FACS for the past 15 years and was named the 2010 Minnesota Family and Consumer

Sciences Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Her program was singled out not only for the outstanding work she has done over the years, but for her recent efforts to integrate all of her courses into the IB World School program. Fridley High School is one of the first in the nation to implement the program as a school-wide effort, rather than offering a selection of IB courses (referred to as a "pull-out" program).

Fridley offers the Middle Years Program at grades 5-10 and the Diploma Program for grades 10-11. The IB program allows learners from any country to move seamlessly into any IB program without falling behind. Chizek had to rewrite all of her course curriculum to meet IB standards and philosophy, and spent time writing a Perkins grant application to continue using Realityworks infant simulators as part of the curriculum.

"It's been a busy year, but it's worth it," Chizek stated. "I can see the benefit the kids get from the program."

