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Career Tech Writers Studio

## **Health Services Provides Hands-On Learning for Middle School Students**

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Career Tech courses are helpful in getting students a job, sometimes even as soon as they finish high school. Middle school students can also be helpful. These students are far enough away from college that they don't typically think about professional fields. Health Science instructor Gwen Tafelsky works primarily with high school students here at Career Tech. . However, she also works with middle school students at Greenspire school, which uses project-based learning to help middle schoolers prepare for careers.

Health Services is a great hands-on class for any age. Tafelsky shared with us that Greenspire asked her to trial a lab with a few of their middle school students. These students were used as extra hands in a blood typing lab. Tafelsky said, "I feel this is a great experience to share with students as early as middle school. Not only did students learn about different blood types, but they learned problem-solving skills by deciphering which blood types are compatible. The students were very engaged and excited to participate."

Unfortunately, some of the hands-on experience isn't easy for students. According to Tafelsky, "One difficulty experienced with the lab was the ability of the students to poke their own finger in order to obtain a small blood sample." In this lab, the school focused on the goal of learning more about blood types. But what is Greenspire's goal for the school as a whole? Their goal is to create an environment for students in which they can thrive when the desired goals are achieved.

Do you think your child should attend this type of school? Tafelsky is keen on getting people to join. She said, "This lab was a great opportunity for students to learn about different blood types, the importance of understanding which blood types are compatible, and learning about their own blood type." The Greenspire lab was an excellent way to get kids active in the world. It's important to emphasize to students that hands-on experience is great for the future.