

Teaching Academy introduced to KMC

BY ANNIE NGUYEN, staff writer

The newly established Teaching Academy is a program for seniors who are thinking about a career in teaching. In this program, the students are given the opportunity to take classes at Newman University and shadow at diocesan feeder schools and Little Early Childhood Center to gain insight on teaching. Counselor Tom Angelo, who manages the program, said that this is a good way to see if teaching is the right fit for them.

"The idea is that it's sort of like a period of discernment so that before they go to college and see teaching through that lens," Angelo said. "They can see it in high school and learn what it is to be a teacher."

The program runs five days a week for one semester. Currently, there are five students enrolled in the program. Each day, the students attend their first and second blocks, before leaving for the rest of the afternoon to their designated schools for the day. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, the students go to either Blessed Sacrament or St. Thomas Aquinas to shadow any grade of their choosing. This gives them an opportunity to focus on the age group they plan to teach in the future.

Senior Braden Barr said that shadowing is essentially learning how to run a classroom.

"Classroom management, teaching styles and learning styles are all put into use in different ways," Barr said. "It is interesting to see how each grade level and each teacher implements them into their own classroom."

On Wednesdays, the students

alternate every week between staying at Kapaun Mt. Carmel and going to Newman. At Newman, they have a class with Dr. Cameron Carlson, a former administrator at KMC, where they occasionally have guest speakers as well. The other option is to stay at KMC for a class with Mr. Angelo.

"They learn a little bit about teaching theory and learning styles and all sorts of different facets of education that students might not otherwise know about," Angelo said.

On Fridays, the students go to Little Early Childhood Center, where they work with children who have difficult home lives or special needs. Senior Katie Chisholm believes it's a helpful experience to see what it is like to work with kids in different types of classrooms.

"It's really beneficial because I get to work with lots of different types of children who struggle in many different ways but also thrive in many different ways," Chisholm said. "It's just really eye-opening to figure out how you have to work with different kids and how not every kid is the same."

Barr said the program is an "amazing" discernment tool for the profession.

"There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into teaching that this program helps bring to light," Barr said.



INSTRUCTING THE STUDENTS, senior Will Woodburn participates in Teaching Academy at St. Thomas Aquinas Oct. 22. Seniors can participate in the semester program to learn more about the teaching field. photo by John Biehler

"IT IS A PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT BEFORE COLLEGE."

Counselor Tom Angelo



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