

L.B. Pearson High School and Mohawk College Early Childhood Education Program: A Dual Credit Success Story

When I entered the classroom, Sydney was beaming. She could barely contain her excitement. When I asked her what was going on, she proudly announced, “I got in to Mohawk College. I’m going to go live on residence.” And for those who know Sydney, this news couldn’t come to a harder working student. Sydney’s journey is one that still leaves us in awe at how the School College Work Initiative can help students who have the potential to succeed but are at risk of not graduating.



For Sydney Chilwell, the Early Childhood Education Dual credit program has changed her life. When Sydney entered grade 9 at Robert Bateman High School, she was placed in the Life Skills program. Her early years were spent taking courses to teach her basic skills and eventually progressed to essential level courses. The one area that she excelled and really enjoyed was her Parenting class. After hearing about the program from a guest speaker, Sydney decided that she would take a college level English course so that she would have the prerequisite to enter the E.C.E Dual Credit Program. From that point on Sydney never looked back.

Her mother was one of the first to notice the transformation in her daughter. Gone was the quiet, uncertain, shy girl. Now Sydney is a confident, knowledgeable and driven student. When you ask Sydney about her journey she is very humble. In fact, unless asked, Sydney shies away from mentioning that along with completing her weekly placement at a local child care center and balancing two college courses, she also works part time and trains three to five days a week with the Golden Horse Shoe Aquatic Club. She is in training to compete in the Provincial and Canada Games, with the hope of qualifying for the Special Olympics. When you ask her how she is able to balance it all, Sydney quietly states “I love learning about children, so it makes me want to read and do my work”.

Eventually, Sydney’s hope is to own her own daycare and if this last year is any indication of what she can accomplish, her dream is within reach. Sydney’s ability to surpass expectations is an inspiration for all of us to never give up on our dreams no matter what obstacles come our way.