

THROWING LADDERS

After seven years the fire science program has continued to grow in size. With a morning and afternoon class, these classes are teaching more students what it means to be a fire fighter.

By: Sam Keer & Hailey Wyneken

Bunk up! It's time to save some lives; this may seem out of the ordinary for high schoolers. But for the students in Fire Science it is an everyday reality.

SPICING UP THE SCHEDULE

This year, the Fire Science program has two classes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each of the classes take up around three hours a day. The morning class is from 7:30 to 10:30 and the afternoon class is from 11:45 to 2:45. This roughly takes up three periods out of the students' day.

"On Mondays and Wednesdays, we come in at 11:45 to about 2:20, 2:30ish. On Tuesday and Thursday we come in for seminar and the majority of Access and then we come back for Sixth for about an hour or so," Elijah Fisher '19 said. "On Friday we don't have Fire Science, so I have four off-periods."

The course teaches students what it is like to be a firefighter through workouts, working with the fire truck, and learning about medical field items.

"[We] show up in class, get a lecture from Chief Chapman real quick, hang around for a little bit. Then we'll go work out, come back to class and we'll either do some bunk up drills or go run some hose lays or we'll practice practical portions of the class; whether that be CPR, first aid, or just bunking up," Aron Bukary '19 said.

GOTTA GET A GRADE

The grading in this class is quite comparable to that of any regular class a student might take. The students have online and in-class workbooks that they complete and are later graded on.

"We're graded on our IFS book which is our online textbooks and we're also graded on our EMS chapter workbooks which we have in the class. Of course you're actually graded on the practical portion which of your evolutions that you actually do in the class," Bukary said.

Their other grades consist of participation in what takes place during class and how much they participate in the workouts that usually occur for 45 minutes on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"[We work out for] about forty-five minutes to an hour or an hour and a half. Around winter time, when it's too cold to do anything with hoses and water outside, we mostly do medical stuff, like watching First Aid and CPR videos," Fisher said.

CRANKING OUT CREDITS

Even though the class takes up three periods out of each students' schedule, they still have time to get all of their credits. The course gives students about three different credits that are needed to graduate. Most students have not taken an off-period to help stay on task and to help them graduate on time. However, on Fridays, Fire Science does not occur allowing the students to have unofficial off-periods.

"You get nine college credit hours through Red Rocks Community College so you come out of here with college credits already," Chief Allen Chapman said, "As far as here, I know you get a PE credit, a Practical Art credit, and a Science credit, I believe."

Students from other schools also take the course. All the Douglas County High Schools can be in the class, as well as all the Littleton Public High Schools.

"So we only have four classes a day at Castle View everyday and they're the same four classes. A lot of you guys' classes are my semester classes, which is really nice 'cause then I'm free to take different stuff at different times. So I come for my third and fourth period. This class takes two class periods out of my day, everyday," Castle View student Nano Tilton '19 said.

Even with a different schedule, students from other schools are still able to succeed and graduate on time.

"I do fine, I have two classes in the morning; I don't have to have those classes but its nice I want to graduate on time rather than early," Tilton '19 said.

GEAR UP

For the competitive people, there is a competition to see who can put their gear on the fastest. The gear consists of a helmet, jacket, pants, boots, and pack which is called an SCBA. Then they also have gloves, mask and a respirator, which is connected to the pack. Firefighters also never go anywhere without a tool, either an axe or a halligan or a sledgehammer. Together everything they wear is around 50 to 60 pounds.

"[Putting gear on fast] that's actually a big pride thing for the fire service. It is required by NAFSTA, that every firefighter has to be able to put on their gear in under two minutes, in order to keep their job. So it's a big pride thing of how fast firefighters can put it on. For us I think our fastest time was 56 seconds; the fastest I ever had was 56," Zander Robinett '19 said.

Fire Science student's gear sits on the side of the Fire Science classroom. The students gear consists of five pieces and sits behind the firetruck.
PC: S.Keer



EXCITING EVENTS

Many events take place throughout the school year to help further their education. On 9/11 they honor firefighters that were killed during 9/11 by participating in the annual Red Rocks Stair Climb. They also run the Bonfire during Homecoming week and they participate in tower days. For tower days they go to the Littleton Tower 18, which is a training ground that they use for the Littleton Fire Academy.

"[My favorite events that take place are] definitely the Bonfire and the parade. We also do Tower Days about once a month. We go down to Littleton's or Aurora's Burn Tower, and we do a whole bunch of practical stuff that we learn in class," Fisher '19 said.

During the Bonfire they are responsible for everything that happens, helping to give the student body a fun night.

"So we're responsible for making sure people are safe and that they are far enough away from the bonfire, that they aren't going to be in danger. We also suppress the fire, we keep it going, we build it and we also clean it up. So everything that the bonfire consists of, we have that handled," Tilton '19 said.

FIRE TRUCK FUN

They even have their own fire truck to use for learning purposes and activities.

"We use the firetruck for every tower day that we go on. We bring it with us so that we have our own equipment and gear," Robinett '19 said. "Then at school we use it for practicing hose lays usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Monday and Wednesdays, if we have time, [we'll] pull it over the fields and practice a couple hose lays."

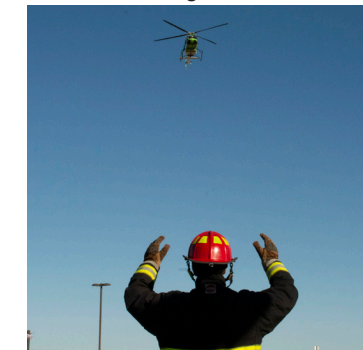
If you're interested in Fire Science, talk to your counselor and Chief Allen Chapman in room 4132.

LEARNING TO SAVE LIVES ON THE GROUND AND IN THE AIR

HELICOPTER LANDING ON OCT. 18, THE MEDICAL HELICOPTER FROM HEALTH ONE CAME TO TEACH THE FIRE SCIENCE STUDENTS WHAT THEIR PROFESSION IS LIKE. PCS: S. KEER



Mountain Vista Student Akos Kocsardi '19 watches as the helicopter begins to touch ground. Once it was on the ground the Fire Science students were able to move in and surround the helicopter to learn about being a medic.



Mountain Vista Student Akos Kocsardi '19 guides the helicopter to the ground. He helped direct the pilot of the helicopter to land safely.



The pilot of the helicopter answers question that the fire science students have. The pilot informed them of everything they do with the helicopter and what is like to work in the medical field and be apart of the air medical team.



Fire science students stand guard to wait and watch for the helicopter to land. The students waited for the helicopter to land and further instructions.