

## Bourne High School Offers Career Readiness Class

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Students at Bourne High School are getting hands-on experience when it comes to preparing for their lives and careers after graduation through a new class called Career Readiness.

The class was introduced this year and is being taken by students in grades 10 through 12, but Curriculum Director Kelly Cook said moving forward it will be a mandatory half-year course for all sophomores.

Students are taught by History Department Team Leader Ann-Marie Strode, who also proposed the class. Ms. Cook said a large number of students had registered to take the course last winter, but the pandemic impacted scheduling, which is why it is being offered to three grades right now.

“What is exciting at the moment is that even in these crazy times of remote and hybrid learning, the students who participated in the course first semester are currently planning for mock interviews to be held in the next two weeks,” Ms. Cook said.

She said Ms. Strode has been working with the students to prepare cover letters and resumes and to prepare to sit for a formal interview. The mock interviews were conducted by professionals from around the community.

“This opportunity will provide students with the chance to get formal constructive feedback on the interview process,” Ms. Cook said. “I am so excited to see such an authentic learning experience happening not only because of COVID but also because it is such a valuable opportunity for our students well beyond high school.”

Additionally, Ms. Cook said the class is tied into a new curriculum through the guidance department, which will soon include a class to teach 11th grade students about personal finance. The department has found a no-cost curriculum through the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority that will be used for these courses.

Ms. Cook said the guidance department will be working with all high school students to create a digital postsecondary planning portfolio through MEFA Pathways. This will kick

into full force with the Class of 2024, this year's freshmen. These students will register for this in the spring and will be continuing the pathway throughout their remaining high school careers.

Students in the higher grades will have the opportunity to create this portfolio as well, if they wish to.

Guidance counselor Janake Christensen said MEFA offers curriculum for grades 6 through 12, so she and fellow guidance counselor Kim Iannucci hope to work the curriculum into classes at Bourne Middle School at some point, too.

"We're excited to take the steps ahead," Ms. Christensen said. "I think we have a lot to look forward to."

Ms. Strobe said the Career Readiness class has helped give her students confidence in themselves and their abilities. The course helps the students to explore what their own personal strengths are and to develop a plan for their lives after high school.

"Not everyone's path is college," she said. "We have to be mindful of that."

[https://www.capenews.net/bourne/news/bourne-high-school-offers-career-readiness-class/article\\_0e140a43-63f8-58d8-8968-cd9186ee4890.html](https://www.capenews.net/bourne/news/bourne-high-school-offers-career-readiness-class/article_0e140a43-63f8-58d8-8968-cd9186ee4890.html)

