

CENTRAL CAMPUS Greenhouse

By: Abby Henry and Staff

If you have been looking to start your perfect spring garden but don't know how to begin; The Central Campus Greenhouse is a great match for you. The greenhouse is almost entirely run by students ranging from ninth to twelfth grade, who come from various Des Moines Public High Schools. The greenhouse is open through the month of May and is located just next to McCombs Middle School. This wonderful establishment provides its students with hands on activities, real world experiences, and has amazing plants available for purchase! There are many different

plants to choose from flowers all the way to vegetable plants. The profits made go back into the greenhouse to help continue it in the years to come. The students who partake in the greenhouse are in Central Campus' Animal Science and Horticulture class and have nothing but good things to say about it.

Throughout this course students get to learn and have hands on activities with animals and plants. Students spend half of their class time learning everything about plants and the other half is spent learning about the other aspects of the course. Many of the students enjoy the class and recommend it to others. Students who take this course are provided with several advantages and benefits.

"We do most of the potting and stuff so it's nice not being in a classroom and getting out into the greenhouse and actually doing hands on work instead of like at normal school" said Ivy Lawson, a junior. The Animal Science and Horticulture course is a very non-traditional class that is not commonly advertised.

"We work with both DMAAC, ISU, and Kirkwood CC to align our curriculum and college credits awarded to our students. We also offer an internship or apprenticeship program working closely with government agencies and private family owned business. We have about 10 sites that are willing to hire from our student body for the summer," said Libby Becker, Greenhouse manager and Long-Term Horticulture sub

The Central Campus Greenhouse also partners with Central Campus' pottery students. If you find the perfect plant but still need a pot, Central Campus Pottery is available for sale right at the greenhouse. Pottery students create their pieces, then sell them to give their pieces a new home. The students who experience the Animal Science and Horticulture class have more than a few career opportunities that they can pursue with their knowledge learned during the course. Careers that can be obtained with knowledge of plants can include Landscape Architect, Biologist, horticulturist, Arborist, Naturalist, Forester, Landscape Designer, Nursery Industry, Park Ranger, Landscape Installation and/or Maintenance. Pursuing activities that involve horticulture can open many doors to the future. ("minoring in horticulture has) increased knowledge of plant communities, characteristics of plant species, and integration of plant materials into the landscape."

said Scott Crawford, Principal, Chief Marketing Officer, Landscape Architect RDG planning and Design The Animal Science and Horticulture class information can be found on the Central Campus website and talking with a counselor to submit a request to enter the course is a great place to start if you are interested in doing things like the greenhouse. Along with the greenhouse, Animal Science and Horticulture students work on their own Central Market which replicates a real store and are registered as members of the FFA.

