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Phoenix High School, Mercy Flights offering EMS class

By: Luke Doten
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PHOENIX, Ore. – This school year, Phoenix High School is offering a brand new class with hands-on experience. They are partnering with Mercy Flights to teach emergency medical skills in the course Intro to EMS.

The course will be taught by two Mercy Flight EMTs. One has two decades of experience with Mercy Flights and the other started more recently. Carolena Campbell, the teacher for Intro to EMS, is excited to have two different perspectives to share with her students.

“They're bringing in their expertise for the field, I'm bringing my teacher's side in my relationship with the students that we already have here on campus,” Campbell said. “We're just going to build this really awesome program.”

There were similar classes taught at Phoenix High School before this, but they weren't as hands-on or in-depth. Students who complete the course will earn four college credits from Rogue Community College. Besides the headstart on their college careers,

Campbell is excited for her students to make connections to people currently working in the Emergency Medical field.

“It gets them directly connected with a business in our valley that is going to be looking to hire people in these positions,” Campbell said.

Because of the Rogue Community College curriculum, students will also learn from local emergency responders like Jackson County Fire District #5. By the end of the course students will be able to give several emergency medical procedures like CPR and learn what several careers look like.

“Maybe they’re not really sure if EMT, paramedic or anything emergency related is what they were thinking of (doing),” Campbell said. “They might leave here really excited and find something they’re passionate about.”

Campbell is excited to see what the course can do for students in its first year. Besides getting hands-on experience and guidance from local professionals, students will also get to go on field trips to see things like Mercy Flight’s ambulances and vehicles.

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