

# MEDFORD AREA SENIOR HIGH

MEDFORD, WISCONSIN

## DESTINATIONS CAREER ACADEMY

POWERED BY K12

Medford Area Senior High, known as **MASH**, is a public school located in the blue-collar community of Medford in north-central Wisconsin. MASH is the only high school in the Medford Area Public School District, serving 676 students. The Medford Raiders strive toward their school motto, "Ordinary is a given. Greatness is achieved."



### IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH CHOICE

For students enrolled in the Wisconsin Destinations Career Academy (WIDCA) program at MASH, the path to greatness begins with a sense of choice.

"One of the greatest ways Destinations Career Academy serves my students is by showing them what is out there for their future," says Technical Education Instructor Davey Sapinski. "Often, kids are not aware of the career options that are available to them. WIDCA opens doors to career pathways and opportunities."

### IGNITING INTEREST IN LOCAL SKILLED TRADES

At MASH, Sapinski teaches career and technical education programs focusing on metals and machine tools, automotive technology, and small engines. In a blended learning model, his students complete the WIDCA online curriculum and gain hands-on experience in welding, braking systems, maintenance, and repair. They also engage in project-based learning and team-building by constructing their own super-mileage vehicles from the ground up.

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE THROUGH LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

WIDCA students find support from the strong work ethic of the community, and through their association with the **International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139**. The union hopes to recruit more skilled laborers to the high-demand road construction industry in the area. "The program shows students they don't have to move to the city to make money. They can work locally in skilled trades and be very successful," says Sapinski.

### SCHOOL

**Type of school:**

Public secondary

**Grades:**

9 through 12

**School enrollment:**

676

**Program opened:**

School Year 2017–2018

**Collaboration:**

Part-time enrollment in Wisconsin Destinations Career Academy

**Students served:**

5 seniors in SY 2017–2018  
11 juniors and seniors in SY 2018–2019

**Pathway of focus:**

Heavy Equipment Operations

**Staff:**

Davey Sapinski,  
Tech Ed Instructor

**Instructional Model:**

Blended model before regular school hours, M–F. Online curriculum paired with hands-on, project-based learning experiences.

## MEASURING SUCCESS BY SELF-MOTIVATION AND GRADUATION

Success in the program is measured initially by students' motivation to attend a "zero hour" block from 6:45–7:45 AM every weekday morning, before the first bell rings. Zero hour allows them to participate in WIDCA without having to drop another course.

Course passing rates and acceptance into an apprenticeship program also indicate success. At the end of 2017–2018, four DCA students were accepted into IUOE Local 139's apprenticeship program.

Additionally, WIDCA students can earn up to four semesters of college credit at Fox Valley Technical College while also satisfying high school credit requirements.

### "I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH"

"When I enrolled in the Operating Engineer's course, I did not realize the depth of skill and knowledge that operators have, or how much goes into building roads and bridges. I've learned so much—from basic terms and procedures, to engine function, hydraulics, cooling systems, and how to properly maintain equipment.

Everything that you need for your coursework is found online. The curriculum takes you through the units step-by-step. You have to be willing to put in work outside of school, but it's worth it when you finally get to tour the Local 139 training facility and see the scale of the heavy equipment on-site."

—Brady Tlusty, Senior at MASH

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Collaboration with IUOE Local 139

Wisconsin Heavy Machine Operators union provides on-site training and simulation experiences.

### Apprenticeship Opportunities

IUOE Local 139 accepted four DCA students into their apprenticeship program in 2017–2018. The apprenticeship offers a total of 6,000 hours of on-the-job training for the entry-level operator.

### Dual Credit for High School and College

DCA students can earn up to four semesters of college credit at FVTC while also satisfying high school credit requirements.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

Destinations Career Academies offer a variety of full-time and part-time program options. We'll work with you to create a program that provides your students with multiple pathways in five high-interest career fields:

- AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES
- HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
- BUSINESS
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- MANUFACTURING & THE TRADES

**Learn how you can make sure your students are prepared for the future with career readiness education**

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