

Lakeview student is **earning college credits** while in high school

By Lori Hansen

Last year, David Swartzfager decided on a whim to try out some dual enrollment classes at Montcalm Community College.

After completing three college classes in one semester while a junior at Lakeview High School, Swartzfager began to look more seriously at dual enrollment.

"Miss (Emily) Dimet came to our high school and talked about it, and it sounded like it would help with college, so I decided to try it," Swartzfager said. "After that first semester, I had three college classes completed. The high school pays for it, and I realized it would not only be a great way to help keep college costs down, but it would also help me get a head start on my college."

Dual enrollment at MCC allows students in the ninth- through twelfth-grades to take college-level courses while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit. Through dual enrollment, students can take up to 10 college classes, and their high school helps pay tuition and fees up to an approved dollar amount.

Swartzfager takes high school classes in the morning, then his college courses in the afternoon.

"The nice thing is my high school is really good about helping me succeed. If I'm all done with my high school work, they let me work on my college assignments while I'm there," he said.

This semester, 520 high school students are taking dual-enrollment courses and attend in person or virtually. Some of the MCC courses count as both high school and college courses, while others are strictly for college credit.

With Swartzfager's success in his first semester, he researched more closely and realized if he could continue to take three classes for the second semester of his junior year and both semesters of his senior year, he would fulfill the requirements for the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA).

The MTA allows students to complete general education requirements at one college or university, then transfer those courses to meet general education requirements at another

college or university, without any special exceptions. To fulfill the MTA, students must successfully complete at least 30 credits.

With a goal of becoming a history teacher, Swartzfager plans to complete his general education requirements at MCC and transfer to a university.

"I'm undecided right now of exactly where I want to go, maybe U of M, or Ferris or CMU. I'm not sure yet," Swartzfager said.

Along with taking both high school and college classes, Swartzfager is also involved in National Honor Society and Student Council at Lakeview High School.

"I'd strongly encourage anyone to look into dual enrollment. If they are willing to make the effort, if they have a good work ethic and good time management skills, they can do it," Swartzfager said. ■

For more information:

Visit montcalm.edu/dual-enroll

Call **989-328-1277**

Email studentservices@montcalm.edu

