



Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

Star of Innovation Award Application Form

School Name Perham High School Grade Levels 2-20-2024

Name of School District District 549 Perham-Dent Public Schools

Name of Principal Mr. Ehren Zimmerman

Application Submitted By Mr. Ehren Zimmerman

School Street Address 800 Coney Street

City, Zip Perham, MN 56573

Telephone Number 218 - 346 - 6500

MASSP Division Western Division

Name of Program YELLOWJACKET CERTIFICATION - DIPLOMA PLUS 1 PROGRAM

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet/s of paper.

- Description of the program.
- How has it impacted your school?
- What difficulties did you encounter in its implementation?
- What issue/s might another school encounter in replicating this program?
- Do you have any data to show the impact of this program? If so, please share it with us.

Applications must be submitted to MASSP offices by March 1.

PHONE: 612-361-1510 • FAX: 612-361-6340
MASSP • 2 Pine Tree Drive • Suite 380 • Arden Hills, MN 55112

Questions? Please contact:
Dave Adney, Executive Director
612-361-6159



DIPLOMA PLUS - YELLOWJACKET CERTIFICATION

The Perham High School certification program was developed to provide students with practical learning opportunities and to be certified in career fields of their interest. One of the goals of our Perham High School staff is to have our students graduate from PHS by meeting all state and local graduation requirements, but also having the additional **DIPLOMA PLUS CERTIFICATIONS** which includes: Work Based Learning Experience, Internships, and Professional Certifications. Our professional certifications include: CNA, Early Childhood, CDL, Welding, and Powersports. The added value and focus in the **DIPLOMA PLUS** program is designed to support students who are focused on working in **Career and Technical Educational** fields following graduation.

HOW HAS IT IMPACTED YOUR SCHOOL?

This program is an extension to the school culture that we have worked hard to promote for years at Perham High School. Every student has added value to the education process at PHS and it is our goal as a team to have our students not only meet the education requirements, but to leave with tangibles that put them a step ahead as they pursue their next steps in adult life. This program has brought added value by:

- Our students are workforce ready upon graduation.
- Certifications provide students with skills that support work force ready along with two and four year high education programs in the field of their choice.
- The **DIPLOMA PLUS** Program also provides added value to our educational **PATHWAYS** program that helps steer students into fields of study that motivate them.
- This program has provided students with professional skills that make them career ready.

The greatest impact for our students and staff is the continued development of community and regional business partnerships that supports the education in our schools. The more real life, hands-on experiences we can provide students which will give them a step up in their future.

WHAT DIFFICULTIES DID YOU ENCOUNTER IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION?

The work to develop accredit certifications that are aligned with industry and higher education standards takes a fair amount of collaboration. There are also hurdles within staff to support the scheduling and what is practical for a student to receive the certification for credit. Working to have staff understand that the certification courses don't have to live on our term schedules. Lastly, staffing and financing of these certifications programs is oftentimes changing so the ability to continue certification programs is a hands on program throughout the year administrative staff and counselors.

Overall there were very few if any difficulties to implement the **DIPLOMA PLUS PROGRAM**, but **FLEXIBILITY** is key for success.

WHAT ISSUE/S MIGHT ANOTHER SCHOOL ENCOUNTER REPLICATING THIS PROGRAM?

The **Diploma Plus Program** that we have instituted should not have any hurdles for implementation in any other schools. This program is designed to open the mindset of all students and staff in our schools and celebrate the added value that will last a lifetime.

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO SHOW THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM?

<i>DIPLOMA PLUS PROGRAM</i>	<i>STUDENTS</i>	<i>COMMUNITY PARTNERS & COLLEGE PARTNERS</i>
CNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 students (2023-2024) all certified • Average 20+ students a year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Partnership with local hospital Perham Health, Perham Health pays for the cost of each student for the 12 week course. Students are responsible for the cost of the Certification test. • Certified student CNA move into our WBL program and are employed at 2 regional hospitals and nursing homes in Perham. • CNA Certification and instruction is done through the MSTATE.
EARLY CHILDHOOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 students(2023-2024) • Average 12+ annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students complete 3 courses that takes 36 weeks (1 school year) • Completion of the courses provides students with: Certification for Home Daycare, Licensed to work in a center, and 3 credits towards K-3 education if they choose to be a teacher.
CDL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 students (Year 1) 9 of the 12 have successfully completed the Theory Course. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We partner with MSTATE in which the students take the CDL Theory course in an online format that is self paced. Upon completion students have simulator hours and preparation for permit tests. • Students are responsible for the CDL behind the wheel course which is approximately \$4500. • IMPORTANT: our <i>Business Partners</i> (several) have written contracts with 9 of these students to offset the costs if they come to work for them. (Added Value Education)
WELDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 students (Year 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The industry welding certification is supported by MSTATE and industry partners. • This is a work in progress as we feel we have a lot of room to grow in the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. • Generating more Business Partners in this field is the growth area to help finance the certification and provide career opportunities for students.
POWERSPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program is a work in progress with Industry Partners, but we have secured two trainers and three dealers to work with us in this program for the 2024-2025 school year. • Yamaha and Mercruiser Certification (Marine) • General Motor Sports Certification with local Marine and UTV dealers.







