

March 9, 2007

1st, 2nd, 3rd in the state for Opportunities in Emergency Care students

Academic teams representing Spring Lake Park High School's Opportunities in Emergency Care (OEC) program accomplished a feat on March 3, 2007 that will be tough for any high school to duplicate. They captured the top three spots in the Minnesota State Youth EMS Competition.

The state competition featured completion of three medical scenarios by each team, such as an overturned canoe and an accident victim hanging from a climber's harness. Participants were also required to complete a written exam.

Students come from throughout the metropolitan area to attend Spring Lake Park High School's rigorous medical magnet program. The list of participants on the top-three placing teams in the state confirms this.

1st place team: Brian Kasel (Totino-Grace), Grace Meyer (Totino-Grace), Andrew Stoesz (Spring Lake Park), Maddison Zikmund (Spring Lake Park).

2nd Place: Sarah Becker (Totino-Grace), Molly Chandler (Totino-Grace), Brandon Fettig (Centennial), Christine Kuspa (Totino-Grace).

3rd Place: Angela Breitbach (Spring Lake Park), Rob Danielson (Spring Lake Park), Nate Turner (Spring Lake Park), Wil Thwing (Elk River).

The OEC experience offers high school students more than a series of classes. For many, it can be a life-altering experience with an award-winning program. OEC is a multiple state and international competition winner.

There are in-class activities and a heavy course load, but this just



Above: First Row: Molly Chandler (2nd, Totino-Grace), Rob Danielson (3rd, Spring Lake Park), Brandon Fettig (2nd, Centennial), Christine Kuspa (2nd, Totino-Grace), Angela Brietbach (3rd, Spring Lake Park), Sarah Becker (2nd, Totino-Grace) Second Row: Andrew Stoesz (1st place, Spring Lake Park), Wil Thwing (3rd, Elk River), Maddison Zikmund (1st, Spring Lake Park), Brian Kasel (1st place, Totino-Grace), Nate Turner (3rd, Spring Lake Park), Grace Meyer (1st, Totino-Grace). **Left:** An OEC practice session after the school day.

scratches the surface. Students participate in a multitude of activities including taking blood pressures, teaching first aid and CPR, police and ambulance ridealongs, emergency department clinicals, and providing medical coverage for events for local and state-wide events. The staff includes a physician, registered nurses, critical care nurses, cardiovascular perfusionists, paramedics, firefighters, police officers, EMT's, and more.

The range of activities is more than just *learning* CPR and First Aid. The students become certified to *teach* these skills. Learning is done in a wide range of areas from Self-Defense and IV Therapy to Rappelling, Moulage and Professional Conduct.

In addition to the emergency medical part of the program, the department also offers the Firefighter I program, with classroom and hands-on training. Activities include structure evaluation, venting, hose and ladder handling and rescue.

Practice is done in a variety of scenarios including water rescues and high-level rescues. OEC even has its own ambulance for realistic training.

For more information on OEC, call program director Bill Neiss 763-785-5556 or go to www.springlakeparkschools.org, then to Spring Lake Park High School, Activities, OEC.