School Visit Report

School Name: SWCA (South-Western Career Academy)
4750 Big Run South Road Grove City, Ohio 43123 (www.swcscareertech.com)
Date of observation : November 4, 2010
By : Bernardus S Wijanarka

School Profile

The South-Western Career Academy (SWCA) is a state-of-the-art career-technical school, serving eligible juniors and seniors from the South-Western School District. The South-Western City Schools Career-Technical Pathways prepare students for two-year, and even some four-year, colleges. Programs are available at the home high schools and South-Western Career Academy. Typically, two years in a single program are required to earn at least five credits, so students should choose carefully during their sophomore year for a two-year commitment to a program.

Physical space

Physical facilities owned by SWCA is:

- Classroom theory (academic)
- 11 Laboratories and workshops
- Locker for each student
- Library
- Cafeteria
- Practicum facility with the amount in accordance with capacity of 20 students per class or per laboratory
- Parking area for student and teacher
Teacher and Student Interaction
Studies conducted in the form of theory and practicum. Learning theory implemented in the classroom. Implementation classes are led by a teacher. Classroom capacity is 20 students. Interaction between teachers and students is very dynamic. The teacher explains the subject matter, students discuss with the group, do the tasks of teachers, and students working on the exam.

Practicum conducted in laboratory. Implementation of lessons using the principle of learning by doing. Students should do the job sheets that have been determined according to the curriculum. Teacher as a facilitator and instructor in the lab lesson.

Engagement with the Lesson
Efficiency and effectiveness of learning can be directly seen in the practice lessons in the laboratory. Some practical lesson activities and student involvement in learning activities can be seen in the picture below.

Figure 1. The students are cooking in the lab practices (Cluster Business and Management Cluster, Culinary Arts Programs)
Figure 2. Students are practicing a blueprint in pre-engineering class. Students practice drawing on a computer using AutoCAD Inventor software. Looks very serious students studying in accordance with instructions from the teacher. This class prepares students to be ready to continue his studies at technical college.

Figure 3. The result of the practice of students in the form of a house. Houses are made already equipped with electricity and water installations. Two students make this house within two weeks.
**Academic and work environment**

Academic climate at SWCA of learning is supported by the availability of facilities and infrastructure. In the classroom equipped with visual aids, projectors, and computers. Implementation is accomplished by using theory lesson discussion and problem solving methods. Students may express their opinions in accordance with capabilities. Student opinion is greatly appreciated.

In practical lessons with students performing work in accordance with work standards in the industry. Since SWCA train students to be ready to work, every student must obey the school rules agreed and posted in several places. Regulations regarding the use of clothing and uniforms should be implemented by each student.