



Gardner Edgerton High School Adds Emergency and Fire Program for the Fall

In the Fall of 2019, Gardner Edgerton High School is getting bigger and better. The career pathway, Emergency and Fire Management Services will be offered for seniors who want to become nationally certified. For the class of 2020, some are starting the conversation of what they are going to do post high school. For those who want to become a firefighter, this program is for them. Students will be attending class and learning at Fire District #1 of Johnson County, right here in Gardner. District #1 Firefighters, Battalion Chief Aaron Winker and Captain Chris Russell have been working hard to get the station ready to begin class. "We look forward to being there for the students and

help them prepare for the fire service", Winker said.

The program will focus on the prerequisites to getting hired. The goal is to prepare each student to take and pass the national firefighter exam along with obtaining their EMR certification. At the end of the program, students will obtain national certifications in Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, HazMat Awareness, HazMat Operations, and Emergency Medical Responder. "These certifications are necessary to get hired in the metro area and they will give them the advantage of obtaining them while still in high school," said Russell.

Certified firefighters will teach the students fire behavior, fire fighting

skills, personal protective equipment, EMS care, and much more. When the seniors graduate, they can choose to advance their EMS training at a local community college to make themselves more valuable to local departments.

The Gardner Edgerton School District is very excited to add this career pathway to the high school program. "This is a unique opportunity for our students and we are proud to partner with the fire department," said Melissa McIntire, Coordinator of Student Support Services. Winkler and Russell both said, "We all take great pride in our jobs and we hope to instill that pride in the next generation."