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MAYLAND EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
“Welcome to our new School”

Students and staff at the Mayland Early College High School (MECHS) were excited and inspired when they came to school on August 6, 2010. This year, rather than sharing two classrooms and a small conference room, MECHS bloomed into a full-fledged school with its own building, filled with freshmen and sophomores!

Students at the Early College High School on the Mayland Community College campus have completed the first weeks of classes and the feedback has been very positive. When asked what they liked most about the MECHS program and new facility, the students had many different views.

“I love our teachers best,” said sophomore Tamara Clawson. “I’m really enjoying our newest teacher, Ms. Robinson, in Civics class.” Tamara went on to say she was happy to have her younger sister at MECHS as a freshman this year, “I’m pretty excited about Bethany being here this year. I would hate for her to miss this great opportunity.”

Martin Gutierrez, sophomore, also had great observations. “I love having more people in our school this year. It’s kind of cool having students from all three counties. But now, we are just all Timberwolves.”

Leia Woody, sophomore, was excited with our new kitchen and cafeteria. “This building is great! We have much better food – breakfast is awesome.”

Liz Silvers, Mayland Early College Liaison and instructor of the freshman college seminar called ACA 111, echoes the positive changes. “The students are able to spread out a little more this year,” she says. “I teach all high school freshmen this semester in their first college class. They are very smart, dedicated and so willing to learn. These students are also extremely mature, a trait that serves them well as they are also college freshmen...at age fourteen!”

The Early College High School is part of a high school reform initiative developed and funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The curriculum design allows current ninth-graders to earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree in five years. MECHS currently serves fifty three students from Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties.

An open house is scheduled for MECHS in conjunction with Mayland Community College’s DREAM Day on November 7.

