

Harry Potter Inspires MCC Cooking Class

Terryville Teacher Adds Whimsy To Recipe

Submitted Mike Jordan-Reilly
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MANCHESTER

Teacher Diane Richards likes to work up a little magic in her kitchens, and, for the month of March, she's bringing that magic to the Manchester Community College campus.

The Terryville High School family and consumer science teacher is joining the college's Excursions in Learning Children's Program, an enrichment program for inquisitive students. As a first-time instructor in the program, she will be introducing "Wizardry in the Kitchen," a culinary course that will incorporate themes found in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.

"Ever wonder what your favorite characters may have eaten at mealtime, or what unique treats they may have snacked on at Hogwarts? Then this class is for you," Richards said.

"Wizardry in the Kitchen" runs Saturdays, March 10 through 31, for students in grades 5 through 8. There is still plenty of time to register, according

to Carleigh Cappetta, MCC's program coordinator.

"The course runs four successive Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.," Cappetta said. "It caps off our Spring 2012 Excursions in Learning program, which included Saturday enrichment classes in physics, computer game design, cartoons, and movie making and editing."

She added, "This year there were other new courses offered for students in grades K through 8, including Cook Across Europe; Ooey Goey Science and Art; Shake It Up with Shakespeare; and Exploring the Music Bugs Make, which captured young people's imaginations to make learning not only challenging but fun."

Richards, who holds a master's degree from St. Joseph's College in instruction and curriculum, and is a certified instructor with the Association of Family and Consumer Science, as well as an adjunct professor with the UConn Early College Experience program, is a perfect fit for the MCC program because she has always based the activities in her classroom on themes students relate to as a way of enchanting them when it comes to cooking.

For example, at Terryville High, she is running a baking class based on the



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DIANE RICHARDS will teach "Wizardry in the Kitchen," a culinary course based on Harry Potter, in March.

popular Food Network program, "Cupcake Wars." Each week four of the country's top cupcake bakers face off in three elimination challenges until only one decorator remains. In Richards' class, the version of the competition is simplified.

"Teams prepare four kinds of cupcakes and present one kind for round one. A group of judges made up of teachers and students narrows the field until in the last round two teams present their last two cupcakes."

For more information, contact Carleigh Cappetta, at 860-512-2804, email ccappetta@mcc.commnet.net, or visit www.mcc.commnet.edu/continuing/excursions/summer.

