



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ALERT – Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Fargo Public School District #1

VA ORTHOTICS VAN TO VISIT DISCOVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM CLASS

Discovery Middle School students in Jefri Jones' seventh grade STEM class are getting a visit from experts in the field as they take on a project to design and construct an ankle foot orthosis.

- WHAT:** VA Orthotics Van Visit
WHEN: **Thursday, March 21** from 8:45-9:32 a.m.; 9:36-10:20 a.m.; 10:24-11:08 a.m.; and 11:12-11:56 a.m.
WHERE: Discovery Middle School,
CONTACT: **Jefri Jones**, Discovery Middle School STEM teacher, 701.446.3462 or jonesj1@fargo.k12.nd.us for more information.

The VA Orthotics Van is visiting Discovery Middle School as guests from the Fargo VA Medical Center Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Services department speak with STEM students about their project to create an ankle foot orthosis for individuals with spastic hemiplegia cerebral palsy. Presentations will be given to classes during each of the school's first four periods.

Spastic hemiplegia is a type of cerebral palsy that causes muscle tightness and involuntary contractions in the limbs and extremities on one side of the body.

During the project, students are provided background on the condition, including the requirements for a special device to help train the body to walk properly. They are guided through a design brief, including design specifications and requirements. They design and construct their own ankle foot orthosis, and when finished, present their final product and explain how it best meets the needs of the patient.

The specialists from the VA will show the students the VA Orthotics Van, which they take to the homes of veterans to create orthotic and prosthetic devices on site as prescribed by their physician. They will discuss the materials and equipment the VA uses to create orthotics, the process of creating orthotics, and the details of a career as a prosthetic and orthotics expert.

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