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Senior Bella Lynch gained nursing experience in the medical field working at Merriam Gardens long term care facility as a part of the CAA's medical program

How did you first get involved with the CAA medical program?

I've known that I wanted to do something in the medical field for a really long time. So when when the counselors from the high school visited the middle school and talked about the CAA [medical classes], I started thinking about what I wanted to do. I planned all my classes since freshman year around this program.

Do you have any memorable or funny stories from the CAA lab?

Our mannequins are not the best, and so you'll be trying to change their shirt and their arm will just pop off or they'll just slump to the ground, and they're so heavy and you have to hoist them back up. It's always funny to watch people struggle with them.

What do you like about working at Merriam Gardens?

I work one-on-one with my residents, so it's getting that connection with them. I'm not going to be working with [my current resident] for that long, and so I may not make that big of an impact on her life, but she's going to make a huge impact on my life, because I've already learned so much from just working with her these past couple of days.

[Working with people] is so different than working with mannequins in a lab.

DAILY DUTIES

An overview of Bella's schedule working at Merriam Gardens long term care facility

TUES. & WED.

7:30 A.M. ARRIVE AND CHECK IN

8:00 A.M. MEET RESIDENT

8:30 A.M. WALK WITH RESIDENT TO BREAKFAST

9:00 A.M. HELP RESIDENT WITH DAILY CARE TASKS

10:00 A.M. CHECK OUT

RIGHT ON TRACK

Required courses and prerequisites for the CAA nursing aide medical program

→BIOLOGY 1&2 **→** CHEMISTRY **-**

MED. SCIENCE 1 → ANATOMY

→ MED. HEALTH CAREERS -

NURSE AID CERTIFICATION ◆