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Summer school draws more fast-track students

By [Monique Lewis](#)
Press & Sun-Bulletin

OWEGO -- Not all students go to summer school because they have to. Some, like Emily Price, willingly give up summer vacation.

Price, of Owego, is taking participation in government and economics so she can load up her school year with art courses. She is one of 307 students taking summer courses at Owego-Apalachin Middle School.

The school is one of five sites where the Board of Cooperative Educational Services offers summer school for 15 school districts in Broome and Tioga counties, said Steve DiStefano, administrative mentor for BOCES. Health, English, economics and participation in government are the most popular "early credit" courses of the 50 offered through BOCES, DiStefano said.

"Early credit has grown in the last five years," he said. "It frees up (a student's) schedule to focus on other challenging courses so they can prepare for college. Some of them get jobs (in the school year)."

David Lee, a senior at Tioga Central High School, said if he takes economics in summer school he can take video production at BOCES in the afternoon during the school year. "There are great teachers (in summer school)," he said. "They play an active role in making sure all the kids understand (the lessons)."

However, the classes are loaded with much more information than a normal school year, Price said. She was used to 42-minute lessons at Owego Free Academy, compared to 1 1/2-hour lessons in summer school.

"I had to rearrange my work schedule around this," she said. "It's all time management." Maybe it's the extra half-hour that creates less daily homework because of in-class projects, compared to the school year, OFA senior Tyler Watkins said.

Lee, Price and Watkins sit next to each other in economics. On Thursday, they watched scenes from the movie "Trading Places" to learn about the stock market environment.

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