

Family Consumer Science



Norma Vorthmann, the Family Consumer Science teacher at Treynor, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 3. She spoke about herself and about Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Norma met her husband through match.com. Through the website you communicate with someone anonymously until you are ready to meet. They communicated for some time before they made formal contact. Fearful that they lived a long distance apart, she was shocked when she found that her future husband only lived three miles away. They were married in July.

CTE is a component of a national consumer education curriculum. Iowa law says each school needs to offer four of the six programs available in High School. Treynor offers:

- Business and Information Technology
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Marketing
- Industrial Technology

For Family and Consumer Sciences, Treynor has four babies, each costing about \$180. The babies are paid for through the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act.

Each student in the class has to tend the babies for 60 hours. The babies are programmable with 15 schedules to perform all the functions of a normal baby, with easy, moderate, and difficult levels. Norma mainly uses the moderate level. The school has eight new sewing machines, also funded mainly through Perkins.

Some of the topics they cover in her class are:

- Independent Living
- Careers
- Child growth and Development (ages 0-3), and
- Early Childhood (ages 4-10).

The students use the website ChooseMyPlate.gov to help plan meals that they serve to a guest.