

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Rae Carole Armstrong,  
Mayor



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Joseph Harris  
Fire Chief

**CITY OF PLANTATION FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**NEWS CENTER**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Special Needs Students Learn About Paramedics**

**Plantation, FL: April 27, 2010:** Experiencing a medical emergency can be frightening for anyone. But for someone with special needs, even the simplest medical issue can become a harrowing experience.

To help reduce anxiety and provide better understanding, a class of hearing impaired students from South Plantation High School visited with Plantation paramedics to learn about the EMS system and how paramedics do their jobs..

“Children with special needs are more likely to experience a medical emergency than other children,” said fire chief Joe Harris. “Often our greatest challenge is keeping them calm and helping them to understand what is happening.”

Plantation paramedics spent almost two hours demonstrating a variety of procedures including spinal immobilization, oxygen therapy, and cardiac monitoring.

Through sign language interpreters, students asked a variety of questions about the equipment, procedures and the job.

“Some of the questions were actually very challenging,” said Paramedic Jermaine Gaspard. “In a few cases, they made me stop and think.”

After the demonstration, the students were given a tour inside the ambulance and experienced what it’s like to be a patient.

“While we certainly hope they never need our services,” said Harris. “If they do, hopefully we were able to reduce some of their anxiety. And that always leads to a better recovery.”

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Special Needs Students Learn About Paramedics



*Doesn't hurt a bit: Paramedic Jermaine Gaspard demonstrates the heart monitor to a class of hearing impaired students from South Plantation High School.*

*The program was designed to help reduce the anxiety experienced by children with special needs, during medical emergencies.*

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