



Drafting program gives students an eye for design

By Rosa Russo

The East Detroit High School Drafting program has gone technical. Thirty state of the art workstations have been created to help students learn about the world of drafting and its uses in today's workplace.

Students learn the basics of lettering, measuring and blueprint reading using drafting boards but soon are switched over to AutoCAD 2008 where they are utilizing computer aided drafting to design their projects. The students are able to manipulate the designs to see all angles of what they are designing to give them an in-depth analysis of what they are trying to achieve. It gives the student the big picture of what it is they are designing.

"The use of AutoCAD software teaches the students to be efficient and competitive in an ever changing field," commented, Rosa Russo, drafting teacher.

Senior, Ryan Glappa, added, "The class is a great experience for any student. It is my favorite class. Using AutoCAD has made the class more interesting."

Drafting has been designed to appeal to a wide range of students with various interests in the design field, including architects, engineers, gamers, interior designers, and fashion and furniture designers.

"Drafting is exactly what I should be doing right now. Interior design is my passion and dream and this class is giving me such an edge to prepare me for my future," said Alyson Pulta.

Second and third year drafting students have undertaken a huge project this year. They have diligently been working to create a new high school map, which will show the new addition made to the high school this past year. Not only are the drafting students learning on-the-job skills but "It is going to help the incoming freshmen," added junior, Angela Novakoski.

The drafting classes concentrate on work-based learning, employability skills and leadership skills. To help students make the connection to the world of work, students take field trips to local businesses. Earlier this year, students visited Gentz Industries in Warren. Gentz is involved in providing intricate high-precision engine components to the aerospace industry. The students learned about process engineering and were able to see



DeMonte Mixon, senior, adds the finishing touches to his house design.

parts in their various stages of manufacturing. Students followed Engineer Vince Russo as he showed them airplane engine parts for the PT-6 helicopter, special military planes such as the F-16 fighter jets and land generators.

Students were able to see the importance of accurate drawings, various machining operations and the importance of a good education. At the end of the day, senior, Jacob Dlugosz exclaimed, "You know Miss Russo, I think I kinda like this stuff!"

The drafting classes ventured from the classroom to take their leadership skills and enthusiasm into the community. The drafting club was formed and is open to all students with an interest in drafting or becoming involved in the Eastpointe community.

On December 3rd, the drafting club volunteered to help the Eastpointe Rotary Club during the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the new City Hall. Students handed out donuts and warm cider to members of the community on a bitter-

ly cold night.

Sandra DeRosa, Eastpointe resident stated, "I thought it was great to see the kids involved in something more than just a school event, but something that benefits the community. The kids were cordial, friendly and well-spirited despite the cold weather."

The participation of East Detroit High School students was so well received by the Rotary and the community that more joint projects will be planned.

Another community project had the drafting club joining forces with the Health Occupations students at Gleaners Food Bank in

Detroit to pack and wrap over 200 boxes of food for needy people in our community.

"It was very different than what I was expecting. The people were good-spirited and it was a lot of fun," said Jennifer Johnson, senior.

The drafting class is more than teaching orthographic projection and architecture. It is about teaching our young students to take more

of a leadership role in the community.

"Drafting is a fun and pleasant learning experience. You learn way more than drafting, many things in which a student would not expect, but appreciate greatly," said DeMonte Mixon, senior.

East Detroit High School is exploring the possibility of awarding 4th year math-related credit to students under the State of Michigan's new graduation requirements. Through an articulation agreement with Macomb Community College, students who take drafting at East Detroit may qualify for college credit at Macomb, jumpstarting their college career and saving our students both time and money as they work toward their degree.

The East Detroit drafting students will again step out of the classroom in the summer of 2010 when they will travel to Italy for ten days. Along with the Fine Arts and Italian classes, the joint trip will take students to Rome, Venice, Milan, Naples and Pompeii to study Medieval and Renaissance architecture, the culture and the language of Italy. To assist students with the cost of the trip, the three departments will work together to host several major fundraising events.



Senior Matt Board, and freshmen Shakeul Howard and Christian Walker apply Danish oil to complete their book rack project.

The benefits of Woodshop, using your hands and mind

By Joe Toth

The buzzing sound of saws and the smell of sawdust in the air greet those who enter the woodshop at East Detroit High School. While some students are cutting pieces of wood, others are sanding or glueing dovetail joints together while other students are staining and varnishing to create their current project of making a bookcase shelf. All of these are daily activities that take place in the woodshop.

Students start the course learning about the woodworking field and the possible careers associated with the field. They learn about wood identification and the harvesting and the processing of trees. From there they learn about basic furniture design and the history related to them.

"I never knew there were different styles of furniture or how furniture was made. I just took it all for granted," said sophomore, Kevin Allen.

Learning the proper tool for the proper job is important to know and the students learn about many types of tools from power tools to hand tools. Students learn to use table saws, jigsaws, planers, sanders and drill presses. Hand tools include rasps, vices, screwdrivers, hammers and sandpaper.

"Sanding is not one of my favorite things to do in woodshop," commented Rhyann Sexton, grade 10, "but I understand that if I want my project to look really good, I need to take the time to sand it properly"

Power tools can be very exciting but also very dangerous. Shop safety is an ongoing process. Students must pass safety tests on each machine in the shop before they are allowed to use that machine. Safety glasses are a must.

"My favorite saw to use is the handsaw," said Connor Hobson, junior. "It took a while to get the hang of it but I like moving it around on a piece of wood to create something."

Measurement and plan reading are taught and used daily. Students learn first hand what the adage "Measure twice, cut once" means and why it is important in the woodworking field. Math skills are reinforced daily. Problem solving skills are used when students are building their project. Students must read and interpret from a plan how to "set up" and execute various cuts in a safe and accurate manner to produce a quality product. As such, East Detroit High School is exploring the possibility of awarding 4th year math-related credit to woodshop students under the State of Michigan's new graduation requirements.

"I like that the class teaches people how to work with their hands. It's good for all people to learn a skill," remarked senior, Matt Board.

Several required projects are produced during the school year with time at the end for students to make a project of their own. Some projects include small end tables, keepsake boxes, shelves and bowls

turned on the lathe. "This class teaches students the fundamentals of woodworking and gives the students the confidence to work and learn on their own," said senior, Robert Kempinski.

The advanced machine woods class is offered to students who wish to further their skills in the art of cabinet making. Students are required to produce projects of their choice that they select, with instructor approval, from various woodworking periodicals. Students may also design their own projects but they must learn to draw their own plans first. Some advanced projects have included grandfather clocks, coffee and end tables, curio cabinets and beds.

"When a student has completed both classes, they walk away with a very thorough knowledge and skill base in the art of cabinet making to take into the world of work," commented teacher, Joe Toth.

The next CTE page will feature Anchore Bay

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