

CTE

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CAREER • TECHNICAL • EDUCATION

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Students in woodshop class build character and skills

By Charles Allen
Guest Writer

Under the direction of veteran career technical education instructor Charles Allen, Mount Clemens High School students become better future employees.

Although he is new to the high school, Allen's teaching style is evidence of his experience. He treats the classroom like a job site.

"I try to establish goals which parallel jobs in the real world," Allen said.

Students who complete the coursework will have outside work skills required for any vocational job.

For example, Woodshop students learn the proper use and care of power and hand tools necessary for all three phases of cabinet making. They are

made aware of and encouraged to follow the rules of shop safety. They learn how to successfully create various kinds of wood joinery, including the dado joint, the rabbet, the finger joint and the mortise and tenon joint. They practice project planning and assembly, and learn the importance of project completion.

Allen posts in the classroom

a list of 15 job, or employability, skills. He expects all of his students to acquire these skills during the semester. Among the skills on the list are: arriving on time, coming equipped to learn, developing and implementing a work plan, use of hand and power tools, working with and without supervision, working cooperatively, following directions and safety guidelines, and

responding appropriately to constructive evaluation.

Students begin with small projects such as a jewelry box or a clock, and may progress through all three phases of cabinetry. Ultimately, they will craft a bookcase, a table, a table with a drawer, and finally a cabinet with a door.

Students who take advanced courses build on previous experience.

The only limit to what Allen's students can accomplish is their imagination and their acquired skills.

Successful students are awarded a certificate of completion. Beyond department honors and recognition, Allen awards the Silver Hammer award annually to the best student in his classes as a token of his esteem.

Industrial technology

Students get hands on look at automotive careers

By Phil Conger
Guest Writer

The Industrial Technology Department at Mount Clemens High School is a very active department. It offers valuable experiences that prepare students for the world of work.

There are six subjects taught in the department: Small Engines, Automotive Technology, CAD, Architectural Drafting, Industrial Technology Leadership and Architectural Design.

The small engine class teaches students the service and repair of recreational and small industrial engines, from lawn equipment to generators and personal watercraft.

The automotive technology class is geared toward achieving Automotive Service Excellence certification in seven areas. This focus enables graduates to enter the automotive field and be contributing workers. These skills also enable the technician to receive a higher



salary based on certification. Students enjoy this class because it offers hands-on skills that allow them to repair their own vehicles.

Computer Aided Design is a popular course offering. It of-

fers students an opportunity to acquire the experience that many employers seek in talented workers. In the real world, engineers and all of industry use drawings to communicate and store technological de-

signs. In this class, CAD sketching, orthographic projections and sectional views are used to record designs. Students also construct a residential floor plan of their own design.

Students enrolled in the architectural design and drafting class have the opportunity to design drawings of residential and industrial buildings. These drawings are then scaled down and constructed in class to check practicality.

Once students have mastered the skills taught in the small engine, automotive technology and other classes, they are able to enroll in the Technology Leadership class. The class is offered to juniors and seniors only. Here, the Industrial Technology leaders assist the teacher with class activities and demonstrations. They also provide other students with one-on-one assistance and work on advanced projects of their own choosing.

Program is all business

Mount Clemens High School's Business Department is continuing to have a great year. Students are highly engaged in learning about technology in various formats and classes from PowerPoint to Excel.

Students just completed a real-world banking experience in Computer Applications B-Excel. Students had to create a 13-sheet workbook in Microsoft Excel and then input nearly 100 checks that they created. The students enjoyed the assignment and realized quickly how important accuracy is, especially when it concerns money.

The Mount Clemens Career Technical Education Department honored Katie Cwikla, a 2005 graduate, at the Macomb County Career and Technical Awards this past spring. She was recognized for her outstanding skills in the Mount Clemens Business Department, where she excels with Microsoft Office. Cwikla is involved with the high school, and competed at the State Leadership Conference for Business Professionals of America in prepared speech. She is president of Student Assembly for Mount Clemens High School. She plans to pursue a career in English and Business Education at Michigan State University.

New this school year is John Bourdeau, a 2003 Adrian graduate, as the third Business teacher. Bourdeau is teaching Marketing, Business Law, and Business, Service and Technology.

To help all business teachers,

including Judi Little and James Wagner, all computer classes were equipped with current textbooks for the first time in six years. The updated textbooks correlate with the Microsoft Office package with relevant and current material vital for students in the ever-changing business world. The new materials have been well received by all three business teachers, as well as the 300-plus students the department serves.

Freshman Chris Love, who is enrolled in the school's Business Service and Technology class said, "I enjoy learning about different occupations and their wages... it's interesting."

The department club, Business Professionals of America, competed March 17-20 in Grand Rapids at the State Leadership Conference. Mount Clemens had 34 students compete in various events. Students and teachers practiced after school and in the evening for several weeks.

Four-year BPA member Cwikla said, "The club has helped me learn skills that I can apply to the real world. I'm glad that I'm able to be part of such a fun and positive organization."

BPA President Jake Westerman, a senior, said, "BPA is a great club to be a part of because it's a good way to meet new people, and it helps prepare us for the real world. I also like to dress up and comb my hair like Donald Trump."

Next week's CTE Page will feature Chippewa Valley

Family And Consumer Science At MCHS

By Katherin Rhodes

What are the Family and Consumer Science classes at Mount Clemens High School all about?

Listen to the news or read a newspaper on any given day and you are sure to hear about a family member murdered, a teenager abandoning an unwanted baby or a family separated. The Family and Consumer Science classes at Mount Clemens focus on preparing students to become well-balanced individuals who contribute to the family and the community.

How does this happen?

Students enrolled in these classes are actively involved in doing positive things for the school, surrounding community and their families. One of the projects included adopting a family. Each year during Christmas, a needy family is selected by principal Nelson Jackson to receive items to make their Christmas a happy one. Students from the Family and Consumer Science Department collect food, clothing and money, and give it to this family. To prevent embarrassment to the recipients, their name is kept

anonymous.

Students also collect food and donate to families during the Thanksgiving season. Over the past four years they have donated more than 500 pounds of food to feed more than 30 families.

Teacher of the Month is a project the FACS students chose to show appreciation to the staff. A monthly election was held among the student body. A teacher was selected and received a gift of appreciation.

Students have completed other projects as well to show appreciation to teachers.

"I felt good showing teachers that we recognized their love for teaching and for their students," said Kendra Morgan, a senior at Mount Clemens High School.

Over the years, FACS students have participated in other projects, such as school beautification, visiting nursing homes, serving food to the homeless, and conducting AIDS awareness and CPR workshops.

Students enrolled in Professional Child Care and Nutrition classes may receive a co-op position after meeting the departmental requirements.

Nutrition and foods: Food for growth and food for thought

By Katherin Rhodes

Teachers tell students, "You are what you eat."

Most students enroll in the Nutrition and Foods class with that word—eat—on their mind, and of course they do eat—and eat and eat.

The nutrition class helps students gain a thorough understanding of the effect that good (as well as poor) nutrition has on the body's development. Mount Clemens high school's Nutrition and Foods classes offer weekly labs that allow students to develop culinary skills. Each year students combine their efforts to prepare a Thanksgiving feast. They spend days preparing dishes that they have for years seen their par-



ents make, but never thought they possessed the skills to prepare themselves. All students in

the Family and Consumer Science classes are invited to partake in the repast. Students also

put their skills to test as they assist with serving at banquets, lunches and special breakfasts. Many students also work at restaurants and with catering services.

In an effort to provide more experience for students who want to pursue a career in culinary arts, the Macomb County Culinary Club was established. Over the past three years students have developed culinary skills and competed against students from surrounding districts. The areas of competition include apple pie, entrée, breads and grab bag. The Mount Clemens team has been successful, winning seven gold, five silver and two bronze medals.

Parenting students learn real facts of life

By Essence Moore

Students enrolled in the parenthood class are given the opportunity to learn the child development process, and much more.

During this course, each student gains a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and the rewards affiliated with parenting. Students are challenged to analyze personal strengths, weaknesses and goals before committing themselves to the daily care and guidance of child rearing.

The Baby-Think-It-Over doll project is implemented in the curriculum. Each student is



matched with a doll that cries, burps, and needs to be fed and diapered. They care for these babies as they would a real child. Before receiving a baby, students learn about the developmental stages of a child and are equipped with an empathy belly. Boys and girls alike leave this experience with a new respect for pregnant mothers and the birthing process.

Many students are further determined to wait until they are physically, mentally, emotionally and financially ready for parenthood after taking these classes.



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For more information about CTE or to share your thoughts about the "Making the Connection" series, contact Karen Johnston at 586/228-3469 or email kjohnston@misd.net

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