

Making the Connection

Thursday, January 30th, 2020

Clintondale Community Schools



CLINTON TWP.

Robotics – Taking a Step in the Right Direction



By Sara Arment

Have you ever put your building skills to the test? Well, that's what the Robotics class at Clintondale High School does EVERY DAY! Five years ago, Steve Moskal started the Robotics program with a grant from F.I.R.S.T Robotics and from there, they started training and coming up with great new ideas so they could put the students in the direction of a brighter future. Every year students participate in creating and designing various projects. The first year, they won the Rookie Award and in 2016 (their second year) they made the finals and took 5th out of 40 schools and won the GM Innovation Award. Eventually, the grant money ran out, but the Robotics program started receiving private

donations.

Since then, the Robotics program has done some pretty amazing things. Two years ago, the entire class decided to use their funds for one giant project: a Solar/Electric Go Kart. It took some time to finish, but they got it done. This year, the Robotics program won the annual Lowe's Hero Project where they received a \$2,500 grant and multiple other things. Also, last year four different groups are working on separate projects. Two groups are designing Battlebots with an obstacle course, one group is building a 3D Printer, and one group is building mini-robots. This year we decided to make electric Go Karts, laser printer advancements on the 3-D printer, and a drone. We would not have been able to start any of these projects without the \$5,000 dollar donation from Oak-

ley Industry. Steve Moskal is a very devoted and encouraging teacher. The students do all the work by themselves, but if they come across something difficult, Mr. Moskal will step in and guide them in the right direction. I have asked a few students what they feel Robotics means to them and this was a few of the responses: "I think that robotics is a great learning experience, especially for people who want to become mechanics in the future. It's a really fun class and it would be a nice hobby to pick up in the future"- Alezia Lange, and "Robotics is far more enjoyable than other classes because there is a bigger emphasis on experience, not knowledge."- Mark Kramer. The Robotics Program is constantly evolving every year and we hope to see them do bigger and better things in the future!

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'The Dragon Run Restaurant'

By Naomi Cheatham and Alyssa Osantowski

Here in the Clintondale Community School district, there is a student-run cafe, operated by those in the Culinary Arts department under the supervision of Mrs. Downs. In this class, students get hands-on teaching, letting them get a feel for the industry. At Clintondale High School, students and staff can enjoy meals at the cafe alongside people of the community, all prepared and served by the culinary students. While working in the kitchen, stu-

dents learn new skills such as food preparation, sanitation and safety, customer service, management skills, professionalism, organization, and essential math.

The one at the helm is Michelle Downs. Mrs. Downs dedicates her time to make sure the staff and students feel welcome and safe in the kitchen. With her guidance, students run the cafe the way an actual restaurant would using the skills taught by Mrs. Downs, who actually has worked in a restaurant for 10+ years. Not only does Mrs. Downs teach cooking and baking skills but she has also been

a part of a regional dessert competition and has catered for the community.

In the first year of training in culinary arts, you complete the ServSafe certification test, which is a nationally recognized certification that certifies students in food safety, cleanliness, and the basics of preparing food. The second year, you get to learn the basics about restaurant management and hospitality skills as well as regional cuisines. The Culinary Arts students also participate in local community food drives and food tasting field trips.

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Clintondale Dragons are taking over the Airwaves

By Jessica Michalec

From podcasts to editing audio for some of the most important videos in school, the audio class provides students the opportunity to work hands-on in audio business as well as the chance to make their own masterpieces. Students not only have the teachings of someone who has worked in both the audio and TV business, Mr. Paul Moro, but students also work with like-minded peers around them, inspiring everyone to try and create something new every single day.

Since the launch of the new and improved audio class, students have been able to showcase some of their amazing talents for everyone to enjoy. Elijah Daniel, a senior audio student, has started a podcast called Real Talk. On this podcast, Mr. Daniel talks about multiple topics ranging from social issues to school topics. Along with this, audio students are helping in playing a key role in the 2020 senior video.



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Clintondale's Hot Spot Haven

By Trinity Williams and Traniece Gayden

As with many schools, Clintondale has its own version of a school store called, "The Hot Spot." Kim Spriggs is the teacher at Clintondale High School who runs the marketing and business programs. Ms. Spriggs supports her marketing students to turn their visions into reality. The students are in charge of everything from product selection and pricing to design and promotion for the school. The students run all store functions. Learning skills in management, customer service, pricing strategies, promotion, product design and development, communication, cash handling, problem-solving and event planning, all while leaving every customer satisfied and with a smile. When asked what has the class taught you about yourself?, CHS senior Julian Tocco says, "It is my first time learning how to work a register and handle money. Not many schools have the ability to teach you that skill."

What makes "The Hot Spot" so unique is that it comes with its very own "Chill Zone," which is created by the Hot Spot staff and students. The "Chill Zone" is a room open to all students during their lunch periods. They're able to come chill, study, eat lunch, play

games, listen to music, talk, and relax. "The Chill Zone can be a little slow at times to work in but, when accompanied by close friends and doing hands-on things it is more interesting," says Deleon Marshall, a Clintondale senior.

In addition to their hard work running the school store, students also take time out to plan events for the school and the community. At the beginning of the school year, their first event was marketing the school's annual Cystic Fibrosis game. Staff and students planned 18 events that took place during the week such as assemblies, a community walk to an elementary school Robbie Hall Parker. They also did wall decorating and minute to win it games to educate students and community members more about Cystic Fibrosis and raising \$1,000 to help researchers continue to search for a cure. Clintondale's marketing students have also created a community outreach program known as "March Careness." Over the course of five years, this successful event has collected over 9,000 in clothing, food, and toiletry items to help families in the community and last year opened up a year around the store for the community. "This gives us the chance to give back to those in need and going through rough times," says CHS senior Julian Tocco.

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