

# MAKING THE Connection TO Career Technical Education

Thursday, March 18, 2021

## LAKE SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

### Shorian Shop a hit with Lake Shore students

Lake Shore High School offers multiple Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. The Shorian Shop is a student favorite at Lake Shore. Janice Radlick, oversees the Shorian Shop and all its glory. This CTE class specializes in marketing, sales, and marketing management.

Radlick states, "The Marketing & Sales and Marketing Manager classes are recommended for any juniors and seniors who want to work in business or own their own business."

In this class, Radlick teaches students many skills needed to own and operate a business. She teaches them how to open a sale, approach customers, and close a sale. These skills are critical in the business world. Radlick also prepares students with a careers unit. Radlick states, "Students prepare a resume and job application, and do mock interviews with business people."



John Bohl, Emily Lavoie are pictured at the Shorian Shop.

Tyler Scherer, a senior at Lake Shore and a current manager of the Shorian Shop, noted that "Taking business courses at Lake Shore can give students a significant advantage in the college admissions process, as well as in the business world."

In addition to his previous responses, Scherer says, "I learned crucial life skills from these marketing classes, including time management

and leadership skills."

As this class is recommended to juniors and seniors if students succeed they are able to apply for store manager in the Marketing Manager class. Radlick explains, "Managers are responsible for running the store, including ordering merchandise, entering inventory, accounting and financial records, and similar activities. It is great experience!"

A business needs more than just a manager, it needs employees. The other junior and senior students determine what products the Shorian Shop sells, what prices the store charges, and how they display and promote the products.

Scherer notes that "You do not need to have a particular interest in marketing; it is an interesting and fun class and will help anyone who will work in business in the future. You can gain actual working experience working in the Shorian Shop!"

## LAKE SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

### Hands-on experience in media productions class

At Lake Shore High School, there are a variety of classes that offer many skills that will help students prepare for the real world. Career Technical Education (CTE) classes give students the opportunity to learn skills not taught in a textbook but get a hands-on experience. One of these CTE classes is media productions.

The Media Productions class is broken up into three courses taught by Tamela Blaszkowski. In order to take Media Productions II students have to take the introductory courses, Media Productions and Media Productions I.

The introductory course for media productions reviews terms and covers the basics that will help students in Media Productions I and II. Media Productions I is a year-long CTE class that builds on what was taught in the introductory class and delves further into editing and producing videos.

Media Productions II

is the class responsible for producing the school's daily announcements, The Shorian Report, and producing videos that are requested by the district. Media Productions II focuses on creating and editing videos but also gives students an in-depth look into consumer and producer relationships.

Blaszkowski states, "This class is very 'customer' based as students are working with district personnel as clients to help create media."

Media Productions gives students an experience that they wouldn't receive in a typical classroom setting. Students are able to use actual equipment that they may use in the future if they continue down the media productions field. They use Nikon DSLR cameras, Canon Vixie cameras, tripods, iPads, various microphones, GoPros, Media 2 students learn to fly drones. They use Adobe Creative Cloud for our software to create videos. The Shorian Report uses

a Tricaster system as our switcher to do the live announcements.

Media Productions classes are responsible for different projects that they have to complete throughout the year. Blaszkowski explains, "Some of the big projects are the competition videos that are Public Service Announcements that are a requirement for Media I and II students to create and enter. The competitions we have participated in are Courageous Persuaders, Meijer Great Choices and the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Student competition. Another big project for the Media I students is the News Feature interview project and the broadcasting project where that class learned to create a "show" using the tricaster switcher system. Introduction to media creates various projects including a commercial and a music video."

Blaszkowski talks about how many of her students enjoy the class because of

the use of technology and its different from what they normally do. She said, "I think a lot of students like to take the class because they like to make things on their phones and want to take it further and learn even more using industry standard software."

She also explains, "Most projects start with learning some element of video/movie making, such as camera techniques, color editing, how to do a proper interview and choose the correct microphone."

Then students get an actual project to practice what they learned about. They plan their project. Record their project and then edit the project into a final video."

Media Productions is geared towards students who want to learn more about recording, editing and producing videos. This class offers a more hands-on approach than traditional classes and helps students get real-world experience using different types of technology.

## LAKE SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

### Colorful work going on in design studio

Lake Shore's Design Studio is tucked away in the back hallway between the art rooms and the history classes. It's painted vibrant colors and always has at least two kids working intently in the back regardless of the time of day.

It's the home of Lake Shore's robotics team, as well as the classroom students peer into before considering adding a design elective to their schedule next semester. These students, led by Melissa Todaro, participate in an essential part of the Lake Shore high school experience, and get to learn lifelong technical skills this semester back in the classroom.

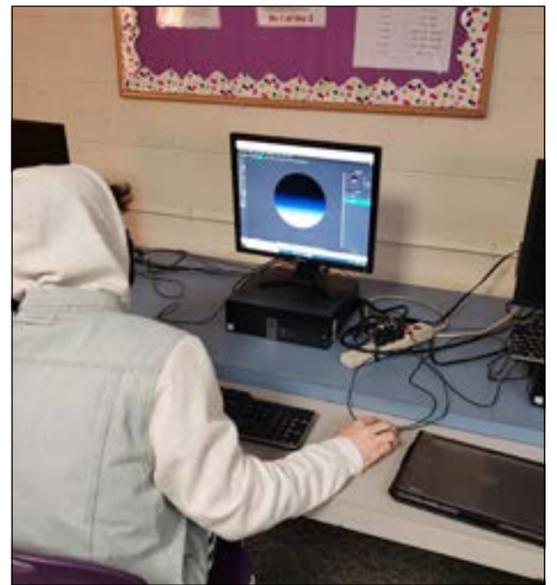
The room is home to many of Lake Shore's design electives including Interior Design, Mechanical Engineering, and Architectural Design. These classes are led by Todaro, and she works to help them gain technical skills like scaling, blueprint reading,

mechatronics, 3D printing, and CAD.

The average class size is pretty small, usually 15 kids per class. It allows Todaro to get a real hands-on approach to these particular student's educations, and tailor her advice to the tasks of each student's own project. The students are given a certain degree of autonomy in the design studio, in the past they've built class projects, robotics projects, the occasional pep rally prop and stage production scenery. By giving them everything they need, Todaro fosters a real environment of learning in her classroom.

For students with an interest in creatively solving problems, and an aptitude for working with their hands, the class is an engaging and educational experience. The class has hard work planned for the rest of the semester, so expect to hear more from the students working in Lake Shore's design studio.

## LAKE SHORE HIGH SCHOOL



A Lake Shore student works on a project in the digital design class.

### Students expand knowledge in digital design class

The 20-21 school year has caused many changes to classes, such as relying much more on digital-based learning. Thankfully, Lake Shore's Digital Design class already has this function built into its curriculum.

The class is offered to 10th-12th graders, and emphasizes the use of technology/computers to create, design, and develop real-world solutions for personal and business needs. It was designed to develop awareness and understanding of application software and equipment used by employees in the graphic design industry to perform tasks in design, business, marketing, advertising, and management.

Students explore graphic communication through the understanding of the elements and principles of design; as well as, the design process, from idea

development through the final execution of a document, development of prototypes, business documents (logos, brochures, posters), and 3D and laser printing. Students in the class use these tools through challenging projects and assignments resembling those of the graphic design industry.

Mallory Buzun-Miller, the course's instructor, explained that she wanted to teach this class because, "I really like design and technology. It is a great way to learn something new and fun as well as build lifelong skills."

Buzun-Miller continues, "Design thinking and problem solving are important in many areas of life. Students will be able to use these to think logically and out of the box to solve problems while using creativity and reasoning."

## LAKE SHORE HIGH SCHOOL

### Building, home renovation classes teach lifelong skills

Students have spent an inordinate amount of time at home over the past year. It has become clear how important our dwelling is to our mental health and comfort.

Thankfully, Lake Shore's Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, Intro to Building Renovation and Home Renovation classes can teach students lifelong skills to improve their homes as well as garner skills that may assist them in future careers.

Chris Mazzola, one of Lake Shore's CTE teachers, encourages all students to take the introductory classes. He states: "The class introduces over 40 different hand and power tools. It is where the students learn how to handle a tape measure, operate the many power tools, hook up and test electrical

connections, hang and patch drywall and many more important life skills that will benefit them for a long time."

These skills will be useful well beyond high school.

Students who enjoy the introductory class, or those who plan to pursue a career in skilled trades should also take the Home Renovation class. This class puts the initial skills to use in practical ways at a home owned by Lake Shore near the school.

Mazzola explained, "students travel off-site to remodel a house in a nearby subdivision. The goal is eventually to sell the house but using it as a teaching aide has always been the purpose. The District has been very supportive of the teaching that happens there and one day soon it will be completed and

ready for sale."

The house is used to teach students a plethora of skills including plumbing, electrical, drywall work, painting, oak flooring, ceramic tile, windows, doors, trim, framing, roofing repairs, landscaping, brick paving, and custom carpentry.

Mazzola's mentorship does not end after a student's senior year. He explains, "Once a student graduates, we follow up with surveys to see if they are in any trades after high school. I have many that have gone into the trades over the years. I have also been able to get quite a few students interviews and jobs through contacts, and I follow up with those contractors to see how they are doing."

Another attractive factor to students following the

skilled trade path is the variety and lack of crippling college debt. Students can begin making money and gaining independence almost immediately after high school.

Mazzola continues, "I am currently following and mentoring at least six former students as they navigate their new positions with HVAC, plumbing, carpentry, electrical and cabinet installation companies. All are thriving in their new fields and are loving the fact that they don't have any College debt."

Building and Renovation classes allow students to start on a path of life-long prosperity or gain skills that will accompany them regardless of career path, and a dedicated teacher like Mazzola will be right by their side during either journey.

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