

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Classroom becomes TV station at Romeo High School

By Kayla Kieleszewski '18

At Romeo High School, a numerous amount of programs and classes exist for students searching for something they're passionate about. Many of these classes focus on specific career paths, anything from technical studies to hands-on construction courses. One specific class Romeo High School offers is video production, also known as VPC, led by Ms. Stephany Harbison.

The video production program started out as a club at Romeo High School. Years later, the program switched to a class elective for all students. Currently, two levels of the course exist, VPC I and VPC II.

Similar to many other classes, VPC students receive new assignments every couple of weeks to document and record.

For each assignment, the students are required to undergo a "three-step process." Beginning with pre-production, production, and finally, post-production.

Pre-production days allow for planning and brainstorming in order to begin creating the main idea. The magic happens on production day. Students obtain

the most interesting and relatable footage possible for the specific assignment. Lastly, on post-production days, the editing and final touches take place. Students use programs such as Final Cut Pro X and Motion (FCPX) to edit their videos in order for the community to view their polished work.

Since video production classifies as an applied arts class, a large portion of the class focuses on creativity and new ideas. Mrs. Harbison often pushes her students to get more out of the class than just editing skills.

"My main goal is that students will watch television and movies totally differently," Harbison said. "Instead of just sitting back and watching a story, I want them to consciously think about all of the work that went into each frame of that movie. I want them to ponder how and why the director shot each frame the way he or she did. I want them to consider alternative ways that the story could have been told."

I also want them to understand why a movie ticket costs \$10+. For the amount of work and manpower that went into the



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Lights, camera, action! Rhett Stahovec '18 prepares to begin filming with his partner, Paige Kopczyk '18. The multiple year video production students record and edit on any given day, contributing to the success of their work. "Video production is a great class and I really enjoy being creative with the videos," Stahovec said. Students enjoy the productive, yet artistic work environment VPC provides. Students receive the opportunity to either be in front or behind the camera to display their unique skills.

project, \$10 is really an insignificant amount. Students often thank me sarcastically because they can no longer have a relaxing movie watching experience.

It takes work and thought to critique and analyze shot composition and shot detail." Video production relies on the versatility of those composing the projects. Students with backgrounds of other skills

further their knowledge in the class, resulting in a smoother run of the class.

"Students who have acting experience would fit nicely into our program. In classes like English, Speech, Newspaper, and Journalism, students learn to come up with, develop, and research ideas.

These are skills that video production students use as well," Harbison said. "Marketing and Busi-

ness would also relate to VPC. We are trying to sell or promote an idea, event, etc, which is what students in those classes do as well. The students and I consider producing a piece to be art. You have to be creative to tell an interesting story. So, it relates to art as well."

For anyone searching for a job relating to the video production field, a wide variety exists.

"Some jobs in the field

would be: Production Assistant, Grip, Gaffer, Producer, Director, Director of Photography, Sound Engineer, Consistency Coordinator, Editor, Costuming, Makeup, Actor, Marketing, and Sales to name a few," Harbison said.

"Honestly, the skills that students learn in Video Production could be used in careers that are non-video related as well.

The students learn skills that are useful in most jobs: collaboration, brainstorming, idea development and seeing that idea to fruition, troubleshooting, teamwork, compromise, working under pressure, meeting deadlines, communication, research, sales, etc."

Video Production provides endless opportunities after high school.

Romeo High School, along with its partner building the Romeo Engineering and Technology Center, supply a long list of opportunities in career and technical education for their students. These courses open up creative ideas to those looking forward to pursue a specific type of career future. Through these programs, students gain the ability to explore deeper into their quick approaching futures.

MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY

Students learn to apply classroom concepts in real world settings

By Megan Ferguson '19

Located at the RETC, Romeo Engineering and Technology Center, the machine tool technology class not only teaches students about machine safety, but also takes ideas and concepts out of the classroom and shows students how to use them in the real world. While taking a CTE (Career and Technical Education) class, students gain key skills that effectively guide them into the workforce after they graduate.

"If they finish here, they can take everything they learned, go out right now and get a job making pretty good money working with these machines," Mr. Tod Rawling, teacher at RETC, said. "I have a job board and I have companies email me all the time trying to get people to work for them."

Excited to teach this class for the first time, Mr. Rawling expresses his excitement for the possibilities this year holds, and what knowledge he plans to pass down to his students.

"We do a lot of math [in this class]," Rawling said. "Also the machines, safety, and how to use them."

Rawling is not the only one eager to be a part of this course. Several students enrolled in the class and are excited to see what knowledge they will gain.

Miles Kreger, a junior at Romeo, enrolled in the class at the end of his soph-



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Machines, Math, and Safety: Romeo Engineering and Technology Center students Daniel Vance and Joseph Finley, work on a project in the Machine Tool Technology class taught by Tod Rawling. "We do a lot of math in here," Rawling said. "[We do] safety and the machines and how to use them."

omore year.

"I wanted to look at machining from an art standpoint," Kreger said. "I love being able to see a piece of stock, a piece of metal, and being able to make it into something completely different."

Unlike many others, CTE courses are responsible for sponsorship and fundraising.

With these funds, the

classes run smoothly with proper, up-to-date equipment.

"We have an advisory committee and we do a lot of grants to get machines," Rawling said.

The machine tool tech class makes a big impact within the school, providing students with the right knowledge and skills that they'll use later in their careers.

ROBOTICS

Robotics class helps develop hands-on engineering skills

By Chloe Lucci '17

Romeo Community Schools offers a wide variety of Career Technical Education classes. The robotics class that takes place at the Romeo's Engineering and Technology Center develops students learning about engineering.

This class provides a wide range of technical and hands-on learning that prepares students for their future careers. Students work on expanding their knowledge by working with different forms of technology and working together to problem solve various situations.

"I think the robotics class provides multiple benefits to students," Michael Savage, robotics teacher said. "In addition to academic skills, the class encourages students to be problem solvers and think through things. If something is not working, they need to figure out how to fix it, and usually by a given deadline."

The robotics class designs and creates robots which allows students to further advance their knowledge of engineering.

"It encourages students to try things out, evaluate the results, and then make improvements," Savage said.

"The class encourages them to take things to a more advanced level and join the robotics team, the Byting Bulldogs."



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Students in Mr. Savage's 6th hour robotics class gather around their robots that they created in a friendly competition of which robot is stronger. The boys have fun as they become more familiar with their robots. They push each other to become better at operating the bots, along with finding weaknesses they will use improve the robot and each other.

While learning the main objectives of engineering, the robotics class works in groups to better understand that engineering is a process.

"Students also have to work in groups and make sure all members are contributing to the current project," Savage said. "These are all great real-world skills that the students will use when they enter the workforce."

The students focus on developing new ways to

work as a team, which includes problem solving for different future scenarios.

They also learn how to design robots for specific challenges, how to use programming and design software, along with expanding their knowledge of specific parts of the robots.

As the year continues, the students continue to learn how to use the new design software to create robots and how to program them to interact with unique environments.

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