

**SOUTH LAKE HS**

## Auto shop program awarded large grant

By Mary Dupuis '19  
Section Editor

This year, the South Lake Automotive Technology program was awarded grants totaling over \$20,000 from the Ingersoll Rand Foundation's grant program and the state of Michigan.

The Ingersoll Rand program, known as "Real Tools For Schools," has awarded 500,000 dollars to 50 high schools in eight cities since 2015. Their goal is to help build and support automotive technology classes in high schools in areas surrounding Detroit.

At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, Auto Shop teacher Nate Barton was given word about this program through email. He was then required to fill out an application, including the story of South Lake's auto program, as well as a description of what the money would be used for.

The application went successfully, resulting in South Lake being granted this award.

On top of this, the South Lake Auto Shop program recently received another grant from the State of Michigan for \$11,006.25.

"This was a non-competitive grant, meaning that as long as you apply, you receive funding. The amount of funding depends on the number of districts that apply," says Director of Curriculum and Assessment John Thero.

Putting every penny to use, Barton plans to get new tools, supplies, and a new Wheel Alignment Rack in order to create a better learning space for students.

"The grants will benefit students by providing them with a Wheel Alignment Rack that is currently being used in auto shops. This will give students hands-on experience with tools that they very well could



Looking under the hood, seniors Savannah Gavin and TaVeontae Crosby check the car's oil.

be using at a job as an Automotive Technician," says Thero.

This modern technology in the auto shop is exciting everyone, including Barton.

"I'm very excited about this new machine. It'll bring us into the twenty-first century," says Barton.

As the new toolboxes and machine find their way into the auto shop, the students feel as if they have struck gold.

"All the new toolboxes will help us to be more organized, because right now it's kind of hard to find stuff. The new tools will definitely help us be more productive," says junior Clint Kirchner.

Senior Savannah Gavin agrees, and feels that the new tools and toolboxes will not only benefit the students now, but those in the future as well.

"Now we'll have newer technology to work with instead of the older tools we have now. It will help us to get more familiar with what is used today in auto shops all over," says Gavin.

One of the main advantages that students are seeing is that these new supplies will bring their program into the modern age.

"We'll finally not have tools from the early eighties, it'll be great. I saw we just got some new tool boxes. I'm really excited for all the new tools, because we're missing a lot of them and they're falling apart," says senior Anthony Tarpey. "All the new desks will help us out too, because then we'll have enough seats for all the kids in the class," adds Tarpey.

Barton explains that the current classroom setup is not ideal. However, new desks were donated to the auto program which should make the learning space much more comfortable for students.

"Currently the students are sitting in much older, outdated chairs and desks," says Barton. "The new desks should definitely keep the shop more organized and help the class flow better in general," adds Barton.

Some of the students' top

picks for their favorite out of all of their new supplies are the tools and the boxes that hold them.

Senior Azelle Morisett's favorites include many of the new measurement tools. "I love the new tools we're getting because you can actually read these new ones that have the measurements on the sides. The other tools were too worn out to read, so these will definitely help."

On the other hand, Gavin loves the tool boxes and the new learning opportunities that they bring. "I like the new tool boxes, because I think that all the new equipment that they hold and the new things to work with will be good to learn about."

The Ingersoll Rand Foundation also offers seminars and mentoring for students who are considering their options for a career in auto mechanics.

While many of the auto students are undecided on their future college majors, many also are keeping auto and engineering in mind as



PHOTO BY JENNA HALL

Auto shop teacher Nate Barton gives hands-on instruction to his students.



PHOTO BY JENNA HALL

In the lab, senior auto students Robert Davis, Da'Kauri Sparkman, Antonio Goines, and Ja'Michael Johnson work to get their safety training certification.

possible career paths.

"I've been thinking about going into a career in auto. I actually applied to a college for it. I really enjoy working with my hands with stuff like that," says Tarpey.

Morisett finds herself in the same boat. "I'm still deciding what career I want to go into, but I might go towards the auto and engineering side of careers," says Morisett.

Barton plans to take full advantage of these new opportunities and take the auto shop class on a field trip soon to the company itself in order to tour its different buildings. He also wishes to give a very big thank you to the founda-

tion for giving South Lake this opportunity, and for their continued support of the students.

"I appreciate the grant and the company that we are working with. Their employees have been very helpful and have come in and talked to the students as well as offered them career opportunities. They are quite encouraging to them," says Barton.

The new tools, desks, and mentoring will not only create a more organized and comfortable learning environment for students, but they will also improve the education of the students and influence their future career decisions.

**CTE**

## South Lake's culinary program gets updated facilities

By Mary Dupuis '19  
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Over the past few months, South Lake High School has undergone countless renovations on the inside and the outside of the building. The Bond that was passed back in 2014 granted South Lake the money needed to tear up and rebuild the tennis courts, fix the ceilings and heating and cooling systems in classrooms, and make some constructive changes to the science classrooms. However the main beneficiary of the bond is the culinary arts program which will receive a brand new restaurant, kitchen, and classroom.

The bond has been used to entirely rebuild the Lakefront Bistro at South Lake that is run by students. Going along with this is the construction of a brand new kitchen and culinary class-

room.

"The Bistro is on target as scheduled," says Director of Operations/Facilities/Transportation, David Hambaum. "As soon as the food court opened up, we began demolition work on the old kitchen, which is going to become the new bistro area. It's all going according to plan," adds Hambaum.

As construction progresses, Chef Darrel Shepherd is ecstatic for his students to be able to work in such a new and improved environment in the coming months.

"I'm crazy excited about it," says Shepherd. "We're going to get a new kitchen, a new restaurant, and a new classroom. It's going to be a world class, state-of-the-art facility; probably the best student run restaurant in Michigan."

The students are excited for the improvements be-

ing made as well. Senior Josh Morris is in the Culinary program for his second year, and is very glad to have improvements made to the program, and says he is most looking forward to the new bistro.

"I am most excited for the new bistro as a whole. The old restaurant was kind of small. The new one's going to be pretty big and spacious, and it's going to be pretty cool," says Morris.

Hambaum is also excited for members of the school and community to be able to utilize all of the new facilities.

"I'm happy to see the improvements occurring for the students and the community. This is part of an exciting time where we're making things nice and new for current and future students and taxpayers in the community," says Hambaum.

"We're trying to meet



PHOTO BY GRACE OSIALOWSKI

In a culinary demonstration, seniors Hovhannes Koehler, Jordan Kidd, and DeVontae Johnson show buttercream flower piping techniques on delicious desserts.

and exceed everybody's hopes in terms of the good things we're doing," adds Hambaum.

The construction is predicted to be completed in

March, and the new restaurant is on track to be operational next school year.

With these improvements, the South Lake culinary program can look

forward to the progress it can make in teaching its students and remaining

an exceptional educational program that contributes to its community.

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- Armada Area Schools
- Center Line Public Schools
- Chippewa Valley Schools
- Clintondale Community Schools
- Eastpointe Community Schools
- Fitzgerald Public Schools
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