

# MAKING THE Connection TO Career Technical Education

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**CLINTON TOWNSHIP**

## Robotics—the future is bright

By Jaida Robinson and Christopher Rucker, "Voice of the Dragon" reporters

Have you ever put your building skills to the test? Well, that's what the Robotics class at Clintondale High School does EVERY DAY! Four 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 be ready to compete.

Two years later, they started competing against other schools. 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. Last year, 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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Solar-powered car

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, four different groups are working on separate projects. Two groups are de-

signing Battlebots with an obstacle course, one group is building a 3D Printer, and one group is building mini-robots. 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.

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 Cafe at their best'

By Kierra Stuart and Raya Starks, "Voice of the Dragon" reporters



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Making cookies

The Dragon Cafe is Clintondale Community Schools' student-run cafe, operated by the Culinary Arts Students under the direction of Chef Merlo. This class is hands-on where you get to learn the necessary tools of the industry. If you attend Clintondale High School, you get to enjoy the delicious meals prepared and served by the culinary students. While working in the kitchen, students learn new skills such as food preparation, sanitation and safety, customer service, management skills, professionalism, organization, and essential math.

The person behind the scenes is Chef Amy Merlo. Chef Merlo dedicates her time to make sure the staff and students feel welcome and that they leave satisfied. Not only does Chef Merlo teach basic cooking and baking but she has also earned awards in regional dessert competi-

tions, catered for the community and worked on various other events with her students.

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's Hot Spot is truly hot!!

By Princess Mia Johnson and LaNiya King, "Voice of the Dragon" reporters

As seen in many schools, Clintondale has its own version of a school store called, "The Hot Spot." Kim Spriggs is a 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. 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 how the marketing class benefited him personally Senior Richard Washington said, "I feel the class has helped me with my communication skills and cash handling. It has also given me more confidence when talking with others."

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

study, eat lunch, play games, listen to music, talk, and relax.. "I like how I can come here to relax with my friends and play games," said Tierra Collums, a student at Clintondale.

In addition to their hard work running the school store, students also take time out to plan events for the school and the community. In the beginning of the school year their first event was marketing the schools annual Cystic Fibrosis game. Students planned 18 events that took place during the week such as assemblies, a community walk, wall decorating, and minute to win it games to educate students and community members about Cystic Fibrosis and raising \$1,000 to help researchers continue searching 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 clothing, food, and toiletry items to help families in the community and last year opened up a year around store for the community." We take this time to show kindness and bring awareness to others in our community that are less fortunate than we are while learning marketing strategies at the same time," stated senior Jaden Fredericks.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

In the studio

## Clintondale Dragons are coming in loud and clear

By Tajah Lewis and Gabriel Willis, "Voice of the Dragon" reporters

Audio recording is a great hands-on class where students are given an opportunity to explore their passions while mastering the trade in any of the five state of the art recording studios.

With the addition of new equipment and two additional audio courses there is also a new excitement added to the program with the addition of Mr. Paul Moro, the newest addition to the Clintondale staff. When asked what attracted him to audio and recording he responded, "I started re-

cording music when I was 18 years old. I was in a band for years and after a visit to a recording studio I started building a small one at my house and I have done it ever since. Now I'm teaching students how to do it or at least trying to," he said with a giggle.

There are exciting things to come with this growing program as students continue to explore the many possibilities available for careers throughout the audio industry. With students recording and editing music, commercials, podcasts, voice overs, sportscasts, and public service announcements



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Paul Moro and student

for the school districts. The young Dragon visionaries have stirred a lot of excitement for the bright future of this growing program.

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