



## Ozaukee High School's Automotive Program on the Rise

**Matt Zavada**  
Principal, Ozaukee High School

Ozaukee High school is a small, rural school of about 200 students in the Northern Ozaukee School District located in Ozaukee County. It is accurate to say that we have a track for all students no matter what their goal may be upon graduation, and the demographics of our clientele shows that we must offer several options. For instance, nearly half of the graduating class of 2024 went on to an apprenticeship, two-year tech school, or joined the workforce. Our programming allows for all students to develop necessary skills to achieve success in their desired career choice or schooling option. We often refer to this as the "Path of a Warrior".

The automotive program at Ozaukee really began to take shape in the summer of 2023, when our first auto lift was installed in our shop. A second lift and overhead door installed in the summer of 2024. This was largely made possible due to donations from community organizations, fundraising efforts, and a large donation from the Ozaukee High School Class of 1967.

CTE teacher Travis Kornely stated, "It's an important skilled trade with a shortage of quality workforce. Mechanics have to be knowledgeable in so many areas, and to have



this resource in our school to offer our students is a gamechanger." Additionally, Mr. Kornely also states that "the sole fact that everyone is going to own a vehicle" is reason enough to have some basic training in automotive mechanics.

The current course offerings in our Automotive program includes two courses that are currently open to

juniors and seniors, but we may be looking to expand the offering to the sophomores due to the popularity of the program. Those courses include Auto Service 1 and Auto Service 2.

Auto Service 1 is a course that covers tools, safety, employability skills, general service tasks, tire service, vehicle alignment, and 2 ASE areas of Electrical Systems and Service and Engine Performance. This course is an excellent way for students to gain an introduction to inspection, identification and basic maintenance of vehicles. Auto Service

2 continues with the coverage of the ASE areas but focuses more on suspension, steering, and brakes. Students will also be given the opportunity to use the scan tools and diagnostics of vehicles.

Our students have gained experience in these courses by performing basic maintenance on staff vehicles, live work, teacher demos, and staged labs presented in the shop. Stu-

dents that complete these courses have the opportunity to earn Industry Recognized Certifications (IRC) through examination and performance assessments in SnapOn and ASE Entry-Level. Every IRC that a student earns is indicated on the student's transcript to be recognized by both colleges and employers.

The automotive program at Ozaukee has grown significantly in the last two years. Travis Kornely believes that students take an interest in the program because auto mechanic work is "like a puzzle, trying to figure out a problem, diagnosing, fixing it, and sending it out of the shop working, it's satisfying." If the program continues at the pace in which it is growing there may be a possibility of creating an Auto Service 3, which may offer more independent work for motivated students. There is a high level of pride in this program from both our District and our community. Please feel free to visit our website and connect with us if you would like to talk further about our programming.

[www.nosd.edu](http://www.nosd.edu)

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Ozaukee High School's Automotive Program on the Rise .....	Page 1
Student Transportation Video Contest .....	Page 3
Highway Construction Skills Training Program .....	Pages 4-10
The Ahnapee Diesel Center and Ahnapee Automotive Program .....	Page 11
Potosi Senior Literally Taking Flight .....	Page 12
Westosha Central High School STEM Aviation Program .....	Page 13
Franklin High School Automotive Tech .....	Page 14
Maintenance Classes Lead to Tech Ed Pathways .....	Page 14
Bergstrom Technician Apprentice Program .....	Page 15
Meet the Glendale Teenager Gearing Up for the Auto-Mechanic Industry .....	Page 16
Beloit's Auto Technology Program Provides Real-Life Learning Opportunities .....	Page 17
Doctor Gives Back to City Stadium Automotive .....	Page 18
Avoid 'Braking' the Bank: PHS Auto Shop Will Service Cars .....	Page 18



## Student Transportation Video Contest

**The 25 contest is now open and  
accepting applications!**

The ARTBA Foundation supports an annual student video  
contest to promote the U.S. transportation design and construc-  
tion industry.

The Student Video Contest is aimed at helping students  
gain a better understanding of the importance of transportation  
infrastructure investment to the U.S. economy and quality of  
life, and to learn more about the industry and potential trans-  
portation construction career opportunities.

ARTBA's Research & Education Division (RED) sponsors  
the contest which is divided into two age groups: elementary,  
middle or high school students; and post-secondary, college  
and graduate students. Winners are selected in each age group,  
for a total of four first-place videos.

First prize in each category is \$500 and second place in  
each category is \$250. Videos should be no longer than 2½  
minutes and feature audio

**Deadline:** Video Submission Deadline: June 2, 2025  
**Website:** [artbatdf.org/scholarships-awards/student-video-  
contest](http://artbatdf.org/scholarships-awards/student-video-contest)

### About ARTBA

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association  
(ARTBA) was established in 1902 by Michigan public  
official Horatio Earle with this express purpose: to advocate  
for construction of a federally-led "Capital Connecting Gov-  
ernment Highway" that he said would connect "every state  
capital with every other state capital, and every capital with  
the United States Capital — Washington."

Earle's vision was achieved—in what is arguably the  
greatest association accomplishment ever—when President  
Eisenhower signed the 1956 law authorizing the Interstate  
Highway System and creating the Highway Trust Fund to  
finance its construction.

**View previous Contest Winners at:**

[artbatdf.org/scholarships-awards/student-video-contest](http://artbatdf.org/scholarships-awards/student-video-contest)

## Congratulations to our 2024 Video Contest Winners!



"CHIP: The Future of City Management" by 12th Grader An-  
drew Cabbage explored the role of cars in our society and  
what the future of mobility could look like in urban areas,  
citing recent strategies in Seattle, New York, and Chicago.



"The Importance of Infrastructure Investment in the Unit-  
ed States," was submitted by Cassandra Rondinella, who  
is working on her Master of Arts in Education at Baldwin  
Wallace University. Ms. Rondinella is also a library media  
specialist for the Akron Public School system.

# Skill Improvement and Apprenticeship Fund



*Operating Engineers 139*

In today's rapidly evolving construction industry, skilled labor is more essential than ever. Recognizing this demand, our apprenticeship program has actively engaged with the Highway Construction Skills Training Program to provide comprehensive training and development opportunities for the next generation of construction workers. This partnership has not only enhanced our apprenticeship offerings but has also contributed

significantly to the infrastructure development of our communities.

Our involvement in the Highway Construction Skills Training Program started with a shared vision: to bridge the gap between educational training and real-world application in the highway construction sector. By collaborating on curriculum development and training sessions, we've ensured that our apprentices receive industry-relevant skills that are crucial for success in construction jobs, particularly in highway projects.

The training program offers a comprehensive approach that includes classroom instruction and hands-on experience. This format enables apprentices to learn essential concepts such as project safety, equipment operation, materials handling, and construction techniques. By directly participating in real highway projects, apprentices can apply their skills in practical settings, solidifying their understanding and building confidence.

One of the striking features of our involvement has been the emphasis on safety training. Given the potentially hazardous conditions involved in highway construction, we prioritize equipping apprentices with the knowledge and tools to work safely. The program integrates comprehensive safety protocols into every aspect of training, ensuring our apprentices value safety as a culture, not just a requirement.

Moreover, the collaborative nature of the apprenticeship program fosters an environment of mentorship. Experienced professionals from the Highway Construction Skills Training Program serve as trainers and mentors, guiding apprentices through challenges and sharing invaluable insights from their own careers. This mentorship not only enriches the training experience but also helps apprentices build professional networks and develop crucial soft skills like teamwork and communication.

Community outreach is another significant aspect of our apprenticeship program's involvement with the training initiative. We actively participate in local career events aimed at raising awareness about career opportunities in the construction industry. By engaging with schools and community organizations, we promote the importance of highway infrastructure and inspire young individuals to consider apprenticeship as a viable and rewarding career path.

As our apprenticeship program continues to evolve, we remain committed to helping our apprentices succeed in their careers while addressing the skilled labor shortage in highway construction. The ongoing collaboration with the Highway Construction Skills Training Program enhances our ability to provide participants with the training, experience, and support they need to thrive in a critical industry.

In conclusion, our apprenticeship program's involvement with the Highway Construction Skills Training Program represents a powerful partnership focused on fostering skilled labor for the future. Together, we are building not only the infrastructure of our roads but also the future of our workforce — one apprentice at a time. We are excited about the impact this collaboration will continue to have on our apprentices, our communities, and the construction industry as a whole.

## Careers in Highway Construction

### Heavy Equipment Operator

Heavy equipment operators are responsible for running the heavy machinery used in road construction projects, such as bulldozers, graders, and excavators. This job requires a high level of skill and experience, but it can be gratifying for those who enjoy working with large equipment.

The median annual wage for construction equipment operators was \$55,270 in May 2023.

### Truck Driver

Truck drivers transport materials and equipment to and from construction sites. This job requires a commercial driver's license (CDL) and the ability to operate large vehicles safely.

The median annual wage for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers was \$54,320 in May 2023.

### Laborer

Laborers perform various tasks on road construction sites, including digging trenches, pouring concrete, and laying asphalt. This job requires physical strength and the ability to work in all weather conditions.

The median annual wage for construction laborers and helpers was \$44,310 in May 2023.

### Pipelayer

Pipelayers install and repair underground pipes for water, gas, and sewer systems. This job requires physical strength and the ability to work in tight spaces.

The median annual wage for plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters was \$61,550 in May 2023.

### Asphalt Paver Operator

Asphalt paver operators are responsible for laying asphalt on roads, highways, and other surfaces. This job requires experience operating heavy machinery and a high level of skill in working with asphalt.

The median annual wage for construction equipment operators was \$55,270 in May 2023.

### Concrete Finisher

Concrete finishers pour and finish concrete surfaces for roads, highways, and other construction projects. This job requires high skill and experience in working with concrete.

The median annual wage for masonry workers was \$53,010 in May 2023.

### Surveyor

Surveyors are responsible for measuring and mapping land for road construction

projects. This job requires a high skill level in using specialized equipment and software.

The median annual wage for surveyors was \$68,540 in May 2023.

### Electrician

Electricians are responsible for installing and maintaining electrical systems on road construction projects. This job requires high skill and training in working with electrical systems.

The median annual wage for electricians was \$61,590 in May 2023.

### Construction and Maintenance Painter

Construction and maintenance painters paint walls, equipment, buildings, bridges, and other structural surfaces, using brushes, rollers, and spray guns. They may remove old paint to prepare surfaces prior to painting and mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency.

The median annual wage for construction and maintenance painters was \$47,700 in May 2023.

### Cement Mason

Cement masons smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a

variety of hand and power tools. They may align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

The median annual wage for Cement masons was \$50,720 in May 2023.

### Construction Foreman

A construction foreman plans, directs, or coordinates, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. They also participate in the conceptual development of construction projects and oversee the organization, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation for the life of the project.

The median annual wage for a construction foreman was \$104,900 in May 2023.

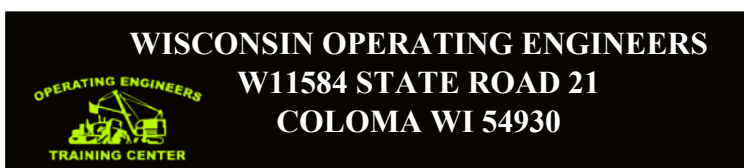
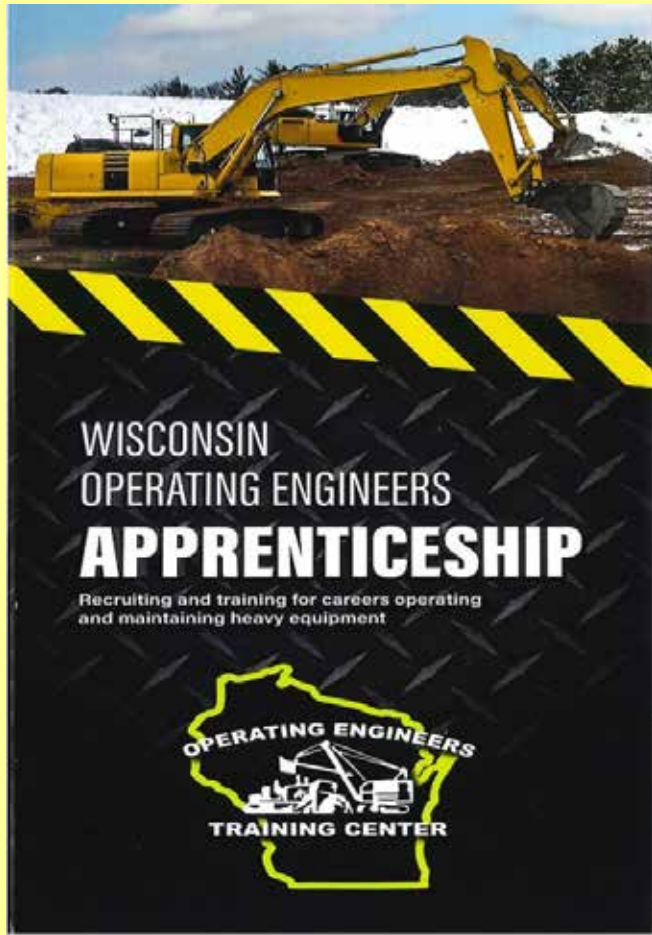
### Construction and Building Inspector

Construction and building inspectors inspect structures using engineering skills to determine structural soundness and compliance with specifications, building codes, and other regulations. Inspections may be general in nature or may be limited to a specific area.

The median annual wage for construction and building inspectors was \$67,700 in May 2023.



# BUILD A CAREER WORKING WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT



## WHAT IS AN OPERATING ENGINEER??

**OPERATING ENGINEERS** are the operators of what is generally referred to as **HEAVY EQUIPMENT**:  
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## GREAT WAGES & BENEFITS

## HOW DO I BECOME AN APPRENTICE?

YOU MUST ATTEND one of our Information Sessions held at the Coloma Training Center located at W11584 State Rd 21, Coloma WI. Please call (715) 228-4911 to register.

Applicants are required to arrive by 8:45 a.m. There will be no entry after 9 a.m.



## Contact us with any questions

Phone 715-228-4911

Email [info@139training.org](mailto:info@139training.org)

[www.139training.org](http://www.139training.org)







# Wisconsin DOT's Highway Construction Skills Training Program Offers Path To Career In Road Construction Industry



tions to the construction marketplace, most graduates line up good-paying jobs as laborers, flaggers, ironworkers and equipment operators upon completion of training. Many graduates frequently talk about the experience as life-changing, and reference a sense of pride and accomplishment in their newfound work. It's also a chance to chart a stronger financial future as many opportunities start at \$20-plus per hour with room to grow.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit [wisconsindot.gov/HCST](http://wisconsindot.gov/HCST) to review testimonials and find more information on upcoming sessions. Employers, as well, are encouraged to get to know the program and

**H**ighway and bridge construction jobs are in demand, and these jobs are a great way to earn a living. You might wonder, "where would I even start?" A good answer is to check out the Highway Construction Skills Training (HCST) program, managed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

No prior construction experience is required. You may even be surprised how quickly you develop new skills. HCST is a certified pre-apprenticeship program taught by knowledgeable and passionate instructors. They will help you learn everything from the terminology to the tools, methods, math, safety regulations — even other skills like putting yourself out there, interviewing and landing your new job.

The training is a six- to eight-week commitment in a hands-on environment. It includes on-site visits with construction contractors and trade unions as well as classroom instruction by WisDOT and other industry partners.

The HCST program has many connec-

***Most graduates line up good-paying jobs as laborers, flaggers, ironworkers and equipment operators upon completion of training.***

benefits of hiring skilled HCST workers.

HCST classes are held in Milwaukee, Racine, Madison, Green Bay, Crandon and Hayward. HCST sessions at any of the six locations are open to qualified applicants. Core service partners include: WRTP Big Step, Forward Services Corp., WisDOT's Tribal Labor Advisory Committee, Sokaogon Chippewa Community College and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University.

**Continued on Page 7**



## HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

- 1 PHYSICAL ENDURANCE**  
You can tackle the elements, like working with your hands, and can work 40 hours a week.
- 2 PASSION FOR CONSTRUCTION**  
You want the satisfaction of building the road you travel on and seeing the results of your work.
- 3 A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE**  
A valid driver's license is needed to travel to training and worksites. We can also help you obtain CDL certification.
- 4 MATH AND READING SKILLS**  
You should be able to read and do math at a 6th grade level. Coursework involves construction math and terminology.
- 5 CAN PASS A DRUG TEST**  
Safety is a priority on any construction site. You will be trained to save lives in this program, and you must be clean to join.

*\* Participants must be 18 years or older.*





*As a Certified Pre-Apprenticeship Program, we*

- ▶ Provide a bridge to construction career opportunities for students, the unemployed and underemployed, and underprepared learners.
- ▶ Prepare students with the skills, competencies, support, and minimum qualifications to enter a registered apprenticeship.
- ▶ Prepare underrepresented populations for high-quality careers in construction.

### Continued from Page 6

Completion of the HCST program is reliant upon passing a Commercial Driver License (CDL) written exam, passing an apprenticeship test from one of the skilled trades, receiving flagger certification, and completing OSHA 10 safety training. While it may sound like a daunting list, WisDOT staff

***A chance to chart a stronger financial future as many opportunities start at \$20-plus per hour with room to grow.***

and the service providers work very hard to coordinate an effective program with experienced professionals. Instructors work with students every step of the way. To date, more than 1,000 HCST graduates have been placed with employers as laborers or apprentices.

Take action on your new career path in highway and bridge construction:

**HCST is an intensive 6-week training course taught by industry professionals. With us, you will learn the skills needed to start your career in construction:**

- OSHA 10 Construction Safety
- Flagging Certification
- CPR/First Aid Certification
- Construction Math and Measuring
- Physical Conditioning
- CDL Preparation
- Plan and Blueprint Reading
- Tool Identification
- Construction Terminology
- Apprenticeship Test Preparation



- Visit [wisconsindot.gov/HCST](http://wisconsindot.gov/HCST) to find application materials, an interactive tool to find a class near you and links to testimonials.
- Keep your eye out too! WisDOT Labor Development Specialists also work to promote the HCST training program at many career fairs and other outreach engagements across the state.



**Forward Service Corporation** has been operating the HCST program since 2000 and currently has programs in Green Bay, Madison, Beloit, and Winnebago County.

1819 Aberg Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704  
608-216-7626  
[info@fsc-corp.org](mailto:info@fsc-corp.org)  
[www.fsc-corp.org](http://www.fsc-corp.org)

### Highway Construction Skills Training Centers Contact Information:



**Milwaukee Area**  
Kimberly McGowan  
[Kmccgowan@wrpt.org](mailto:Kmccgowan@wrpt.org)  
414-937-3630

**Racine Area**  
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**Northeast Green Bay Area**  
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**Southwest Area**  
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608-640-9518

**North Central Tribal Area**  
Noel Vandiver  
[Noel.Vandi@scc-nsn.gov](mailto:Noel.Vandi@scc-nsn.gov)  
715-478-7633



# Asphalt Offers Career Pathways



By Deb Schwerman, Executive Director,  
Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association

Did you know that for every ten roads in the United States, nine are paved with asphalt?

That means that while the economy may fluctuate, the asphalt industry remains steady: there will always be a need for people to help design, build, repair and maintain asphalt pavements. These jobs are also hands-on and local and could never be outsourced overseas.

Here in Wisconsin, the roads we travel every day are the result of a wide variety of

experts who come from all walks of life and bring a range of experiences and backgrounds to their work. The possible professions in the asphalt industry are extensive, but can generally be categorized into three groups:

- **Asphalt Plant Crew.** Includes plant and loader operators, quality control technicians, and more.
- **Paving Crew.** Includes truck drivers, equipment operators and specialists, and site managers.

- **Engineering and Management Crew.** Includes project managers/engineers, technical directors, and quality control personnel.

The degree, license or certificate you'll need depends on the job you want, but having your high school diploma will give you the most options. If you don't have that, a **High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED)** or certificate of **General Educational Development (GED)** can work as a substitute for some jobs.

For some technical jobs, you will need a few years of study after high school. Several Wisconsin colleges offer programs for earning a **Civil Engineering Certificate** or **Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering**. Pavement engineers need to earn a **Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering** or **Construction Management**, which can be obtained through several Wisconsin colleges and universities.

A **Commercial Driver License (CDL)** is necessary to drive large trucks on the road, but isn't required to run many construction vehicles at the plant, or on a closed job site.

If you become a quality control technician (for the asphalt plant or for roadway construction), you may need additional on-the-job training after you get started. Your employer may have you take one or more courses in Wisconsin's **Highway Technician Certification Program (HTCP)**. Certification can help

advance your career and lead to new opportunities!

**Quality control technicians** are often entrusted with specialty equipment (manufactured by WAPA members). Before you can operate this equipment, special training/certifications may be needed.

Pavement engineers need a **Professional Engineer License (PE)**. You can obtain this after earning an engineering degree, gaining work experience in engineering, and then passing the engineering exam.

The asphalt industry is always looking for hard-working people. If any of these careers sound interesting, check out WAPA's website at [www.wispave.org/get-started/](http://www.wispave.org/get-started/). We also maintain a listing of current job openings at [www.wispave.org/job-openings/](http://www.wispave.org/job-openings/), so be sure to bookmark and check back often!

*Established in 1948, WAPA is a statewide, non-profit organization representing the interests of the asphalt industry on a wide range of issues related to pavement design, construction, maintenance, specifications, costs, marketing, and policy at the local, state, and federal levels. WAPA's mission is to promote quality asphalt pavements that are safe, sustainable, durable, and cost-effective.*

For more information, please visit [www.wispave.org](http://www.wispave.org) or contact Deb at [deb@wispave.org](mailto:deb@wispave.org).

## Common Types of Heavy Equipment Used in Highway Construction



**Motor Grader/Road Grader** — These high-efficiency machines are designed to create flat soil surfaces that are ready for asphalt. They use an adjustable blade called a moldboard between their front and back wheels, which is raised and lowered to leave behind an even layer.

**Front-End Loader** — These loaders are commonly used to remove dirt, snow, rocks and other materials. It normally has a rectangular "bucket" on the front, but this can often be replaced with other attachments.

**Skid Steer** — Also known as a "bobcat", a skid steer can perform many of the same functions as a front-end loader, but its compact size



makes it better suited for smaller spaces and projects.

**Bulldozers** — The quintessential heavy machine. It's used in all sorts of projects that require masses of earth or material to be pushed around or flattened.



**Excavators** — Excavators are staples at road construction sites. They feature a long hydraulic arm that accepts attachments like buckets, rippers, thumbs, grapples, hammers and augers. Thanks to their broad attachment compatibility, excavators can tackle various projects, from repaving roads to carrying away rubble and debris. They're also built with a rotating cabin, allowing for ample maneuverability in almost any environment.

**Dump Truck** — After bulldozing a building or excavating a pit, all that material needs to go somewhere. This is a very heavy truck with a container in the back that can dump its cargo where needed.



**Backhoe** — This machine is almost like a combination of an excavator and bulldozer, with a smaller version of each machine on either end. This unique hybrid may be a little smaller, but it's no less important. They're often used for smaller jobs, where the larger bulldozer or excavator would have trouble maneuvering around.



# Why You Should Consider a Career in the Asphalt Pavement Industry



## Money

The industry provides high-paying jobs for workers at every level. The industry pays competitively and provides strong benefit packages. Pay parity between males and females is closer than almost any other industry.



## Job Security

Asphalt pavement jobs cannot be outsourced to other countries. Roads are built and maintained by people who live and work in their local community. There are miles and

miles of roads in dire need of repair, and more workers are expected to retire than can be replaced in the near future.



## Opportunity

Whether you have a college degree or are looking for on-the-job training, there are a wide range of opportunities within the asphalt industry both in the office and in the field.



## Sustainability

Asphalt is the world's most recycled product, and the industry is committed to continuous innovation to increase the use of reclaimed, recycled, and waste materials in high-performing asphalt pavements.

[WWW.WISPAVE.ORG](http://WWW.WISPAVE.ORG)



**94% of roads in America are surfaced with asphalt.**  
**Contact us today to learn how we do it in Wisconsin.**

The Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association is a statewide, non-profit organization representing the interests of the asphalt industry. WAPA members are Wisconsin-based contractors and manufacturers, asphalt mixture producers and liquid asphalt suppliers who support the industry by providing quality pavements, materials and services.



# WAPA

**Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association**

4600 American Parkway, Suite 201 Madison, WI 53718

Phone: 608-255-3114

[www.wispave.org](http://www.wispave.org)

Learn more about careers in asphalt and find job openings at: [wispave.org/get-started](http://wispave.org/get-started)

## WISCONSIN RIDES ON US



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\* Email the Fabick Cat team at [careers@fabickcat.com](mailto:careers@fabickcat.com) for more information about the full benefits of the **FABTECH** program.





# The Ahnapee Diesel Center and Ahnapee Automotive Program



## Luxemburg-Casco School District

Located in the district's former middle school building on Church Street in Casco, the Ahnapee Diesel Center houses the first credit-bearing, diesel-only high school education program in Wisconsin and is one of roughly 20 such programs nationwide.

Its facility features a 4,200-square-foot main instructional area, along with a 1,000-square-foot classroom space. The project converted the one-time Art and Wood Shop areas of the former Luxemburg-Casco Middle School into the diesel center. The district's middle school moved to the main L-C campus at the start of the 2020–21 academic year. Among

the significant modifications within the 4,200-square-foot main instructional area were the lowering of the concrete garage floor by 2 feet to accommodate a full size semi-truck cab, enlargement of the front overhead door

to 18 feet, creation of a new exterior ramp, the addition of a rear overhead door to facilitate entry of smaller diesel equipment, enhanced exhaust systems and ductwork to adequately distribute air and mitigate contaminants, attachment of interior and exterior catch basins,

and upgraded electrical outlets to support safe operations.

Ahnapee Diesel is a consortium of area high schools: Luxemburg-Casco, Denmark,

*Almost all of the students in the diesel program have been placed in the Ahnapee Youth Apprenticeship program with our partner businesses. We believe that the L-C diesel program will be a win-win for our students and the local business community.*

Algoma and Kewaunee. Students in their junior and senior years are given the opportunity to earn college credits while also receiving credit towards high school graduation.

With successful completion of the college's Diesel Maintenance Technician (DMT) curriculum while in high school, students attain a one-year technical diploma. The required 26 credits include courses such as Transportation Welding 1 & 2, Diesel Lab Operations, Intro to Diesel Mechanics, Intro to Electrical Systems, Diesel Heavy Duty Electrical 1 & 2, Chassis Sub-Systems, Hydraulic/ Pneumatic Systems, and Engine Sub-Systems.

Upon graduation from high school, students can choose to pursue a technical diploma as a Diesel Heavy Equipment Technician or a Diesel Medium & Heavy Truck Technician. Associate degrees in either Diesel Heavy Equipment Technology or Diesel Medium & Heavy Truck Technology also are possible student pathways.

Strong support from area companies and the regional transportation industry have been a catalyst in getting the Ahnapee Diesel program off the ground. "With the help of many area companies who have been willing to form strong partnerships with L-C, we are able to create a workspace mirroring that of a professional diesel mechanic," says Mike Snowberry, the district's director of learning services who is guiding the program's creation. "Our students will have quality instruction and fully equipped, professional-quality toolboxes, along with the new facilities. Almost all of the students in the diesel program have been placed in the Ahnapee Youth Apprenticeship program with our partner businesses. We believe that the L-C diesel program will be a win-win for our students and the local business community."

## The Ahnapee Automotive Program

The Luxemburg-Casco School District also hosts another educational initiative — the Ahnapee Automotive program.

Students are provided with the opportunity to earn college credits while also receiving credit towards high school graduation.

Through successful completion of the Automotive Maintenance Technician (AMT)

curriculum, students attain a one-year technical diploma. Following graduation from high school, they may choose to ladder into an associate degree in automotive technology or a two-year technical diploma as an automotive technician.

"One of the themes that we have heard loudly and clearly from our community, our business leaders in the transportation industry and from the college is that there is a huge need to produce highly trained automotive technicians, and that those technicians can earn lucrative salaries in a very broad market," says Luxemburg-Casco District Superintendent Glenn Schlender. "Because of that messaging, we created the Ahnapee Automotive program. "The district believes in the importance of providing L-C students with a wide range of educational choices. This program is designed for those students with a mechanical aptitude, who enjoy diagnosing and solving automotive challenges."

To receive the one-year AMT technical



diploma, students must complete 26 credits in courses such as Transportation Service Operations, Auto Service Operations, Brake Systems, Steering & Suspension Systems, Intro to Electrical Systems, Engine Repair, Engine Performance, Advanced Chassis Systems and Transportation Welding.

"We couldn't have done this without the help of the many great partners who stepped forward," says Mike Snowberry, the district's director of learning services who is spearheading the program. "One of the things that I tell people is, if you invest in us we're going to invest back in you. One of my passions is that I'm going to try to find you the best people I can in our school system that love turning wrenches. What gets me excited every day is helping students to find their purpose."

[www.luxcasco.k12.wi.us](http://www.luxcasco.k12.wi.us)







## Potosi Senior Literally Taking Flight



*Lily Zenz, Potosi School District*

I had always had a small thought of becoming a pilot in the back of my head. I told my mom and she talked to one of her coworkers who is a pilot, Randy Peterson. Randy took me for my first discovery flight. I was immediately in love with flying. I soon found a school in Mineral Point and I started lessons in the spring. The school is to “go at your own pace” so you can go full-time, part-time, take a week off, or whatever pace you want. My reasons for wanting to become a pilot relate a lot to Britney Boxrucker, a flight instructor at Driftless Aero, who said “I wanted to become a pilot because I went for an airplane ride and liked it a lot.”

When you first start flying you are pretty much just learning how to fly around. You aren’t really trying to do anything specific. But once you get a little bit of time, you figure skills out like landings, takeoffs, and just basic flight maneuvers. You start working on ground reference maneuvers like turns around a point and S-turns. Then you start working on stalls, steep turns, and slow flight. All of it is so much fun and you are learning so much.

After I got a basic understanding of all of that, I got to really start working on meeting my requirements. First I soloed for the first time, which

was super nerve-racking but also so exciting. My parents were able to be there and watch me, which was very special.

Then I started working on my cross-country requirements. I flew to Monticello and Savana with my instructor and then it was time for me to solo to those places. But before I could do solo cross-country, I had to solo to Lone Rock, Lancaster, and Platteville. My favorite was soloing to Lancaster

because my parents got to come watch me.

Then you have to meet a certain time requirement with night flying. That was my absolute favorite flight. It

was so cool to fly over towns and see all the

lights. My least favorite requirement was ‘hood time’. This is where all you can see is your instruments and you have to be able to fly the plane. It is hard because you almost have to forget what your body is telling you and rely only on what your eyes are seeing on the instruments. Also, you have to take a written test. It is just another test to make sure you know what you are doing.

About a week and a half before my checkride, the preparation really started. A checkride is a final test to get a certification as a pilot. There is an oral part where you talk about different things that pertain to the certification you are trying to get and then there is

a flight portion where you fly different maneuvers. I started doing lessons almost every day until my checkride, which was to happen the next Thursday. For the next week, almost all I did was study and try to prepare for my checkride. During my flight lessons, I practiced as if I was in a checkride. I tried to fly within standards for all of my maneuvers. Your checkride is based on the ACS (airman certification standards) for that certification and within that there are set standards for how you fly your different maneuvers.

Then it was Thursday. For your checkride you have to complete an oral test and then a flight part. First I did the oral part, which went well, so I moved on to the flight part, which also went well. If you make it back without them saying anything about you failing, it means you passed. And luckily I made it. I was so excited and happy. My parents were waiting at the hangar for me and I got to celebrate with them and my instructor Britney.

So far, since I have gotten my private pilot license, it has been so much fun. I would have to agree with Dominic Glass, a flight instructor, who said “My favorite experience is taking my parents up.” It was such a special experience with them. Another cool experience I have had is getting to fly my friends around. I also have been enjoying the freedom of flying when and where I want to go.

At one point I thought I wanted to just do it as a hobby. I thought I was going to college for health care; I had even applied and been accepted. But once I started working towards my pilot’s license, I knew I wanted it to be my career.

[www.potosi.k12.wi.us](http://www.potosi.k12.wi.us)



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# Westosha Central High School STEM Aviation Program

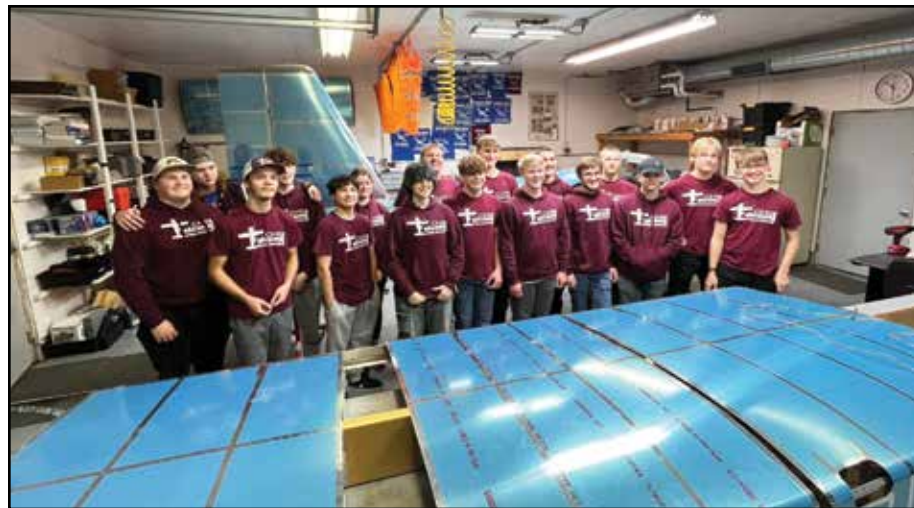
Started in 2014, Central High School's STEM Aviation Program (Falcon Aviation) stands out as a remarkable educational endeavor where students actively engage in the construction of a Van's RV-12 aircraft, guided by experienced mentors. This program goes beyond traditional teaching methods, immersing students in hands-on experiences that foster skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, while also cultivating teamwork, leadership, and determination.

The program is among several initiatives supported by Eagle's Nest Projects Wisconsin (ENP WI), a nonprofit 501c3 organization. James Senft is Falcon Aviation's director of aviation.

Not only does this high school aviation program build its own fleet of light aircraft (they're on their 4th), but for some students, building the airplane is only the beginning. Students who are part of the program can use the plane free for flight instruction. Two flight instructors, also professional pilots, train the students at the highest level.

This provides students with the unusual opportunity to learn to fly in an aircraft they helped build. Those who earn their license also have access to the aircraft.

They have a workshop at Westosha Central High School in Paddock Lake, Wisconsin. Stu-



Members of Eagle's Nest at Westosha Central High School are making great progress on the Van's RV-12 they are building. Every rivet and every detail brings them closer to the skies.

dents gather weekly in this dedicated space for meetings, build sessions, and ground school. The municipal airport, KBUU, serves as home base for all flight operations. The latest Van's RV-12iS plane built by the Central High School STEM Aviation Club, F3 Tiercel, is located at KBUU in a generously donated hangar.

For many students, the program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"This is what's going to set me up much

better in my career," John Klenke, a student, said. "Being able to say I built a plane is great. Not only that, though, it gives me that experience in life; it helps better myself."

Another student, Ben Haapanen, the president of the club, has been part of the program since his freshman year and reflected on the process.

"It's been incredible," Haapanen said. "This aircraft arrived in boxes, entirely in



pallets, and ever since my freshman year all the way up to my senior year, we've been slowly putting it together, and we've gotten pretty far." From an article by TMJ4 News

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EaglesNestProjectsWI>

[www.westosha.k12.wi.us](http://www.westosha.k12.wi.us)

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## Franklin High School Automotive Tech



Last fall, 14 students earned their ASE Certification in the area of Maintenance and Light Repair. Congratulations on your hard work and accomplishment!

*Chad Kafka, Communication Specialist  
Franklin Public Schools*

Our Franklin High School Automotive Tech program provides many real world opportunities for students. They get the opportunity to inspect and work on their own vehicles, as well as perform work on

vehicles that were donated to the program. Sometimes, students also work on teacher vehicles. This real-world experience prepares students for potential issues they may see in the future, whether they choose to go into automotives as a career, or just work on their own personal cars to save them-

selves some money.

"I try to prepare my students as much as I can for the future throughout my courses," shares instructor Alex Bondar. "I provide real hands-on work, and teach the students employability skills that will make them successful no matter what career path they decide to choose."

In October, The Transportation Technology 2 course took on helping out our Franklin High School Music program when their FHS Bands trailer was having issues. This turned into a great learning opportunity for our automotive technician students and was also a way for them to give back by helping out another program. FHS Automotive students were able to repair and fix up the trailer so it could be used at a handful of fall competitions.

In early November, 14 students in the Transportation Technology 2 course earned their ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certification in Maintenance and Light Repair. ASE certification is a credential that demonstrates an automotive technician's skills and knowledge in specific areas of vehicle repair and maintenance. Students prepared for this certification through prior learning and daily review questions that led up to the

test. For the students, not only does this certification look great on a resume, no matter what career path they pursue, but the certification is also an entry into the ADAMM Technicians of Tomorrow Competition. The competition takes the top 8 scoring pairs of students from schools in southern Wisconsin for a competition at the Greater Milwaukee Auto Show in the spring. Historically, Franklin has competed the past 3 years, with a winning team in 2023. The competition involves a written test, an on vehicle portion where a vehicle is "bugged" and the students need to fix the problems, and 8 hands-on stations that test their theoretical and hands-on knowledge.

You can follow FHS Automotive Tech on Facebook to see more about their happenings!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564071329034>

[www.franklin.k12.wi.us](http://www.franklin.k12.wi.us)



## Maintenance Classes Lead to Tech Ed Pathways



*Frederic School District*

At the Frederic School District in Northwest Wisconsin, Mr. Olson our Tech. Ed. Teacher instructs a class called, "Basic Home and Automotive Maintenance". This class is offered to 9-12 graders, and all students are encouraged to take the course during their high school career.

This class gives students the ability to learn some very important life skills that can save them some major money as they become adults. On the automotive side

of this class, students get to learn how to change a flat tire, how to patch a tire, how to change oil, how to check fluid levels, how to rotate tires, and the basics of how an engine works all while completing these tasks on their own vehicles. Students also get the chance to learn some very important home maintenance skills such as how to do some simple wall framing, how to wire an outlet and a switch, how to hang drywall, how to mud drywall, how to patch drywall, how to do simple plumbing and

any other skills that time allows for. This class is mostly hands-on and enjoyable for all students who take it. Students get to learn many life skills that will help them feel pride of doing their own work/maintenance as well as help them save money in their future!

After taking the Basic Home and Automotive Maintenance class, some students realize they would like to pursue one of the subjects further.

These students can take a deeper dive into a full Construction class. Students will learn everything from attaining a jobsite, surveying land, construction calculations, building a foundation, pouring concrete, framing walls, installing windows and doors, roofing houses, and everything in between that they would see on a construction site. Students learn all of this while building storage sheds that are then sold to community members.

Students can also pursue their automotive interests by taking small engines. In this class they get the chance to learn everything about a small engine by fully disassembling a Honda engine. Once it is totally disassembled, they put it all back together to see if they can get it to fire again. If it doesn't fire up, they can then troubleshoot and diagnose what needs to be fixed

and get the chance to make those fixes. After working with the Honda Engines, students get the opportunity to bring their own engines to work on. Most of the time students have access to small engines that need repair from their family members, but in case they don't, the instructor always has engines on hand that students can work on to get them up and running again. This class gives students a sense of pride when they can diagnose, repair, and get their engine back up and running for its original owner.

The Construction and Automotive classes here at the Frederic School District give students the skills and understanding to do basic repairs that students will face as adults. The classes help build a sense of pride in our students by allowing them to tackle these repairs themselves. These classes are a great introduction to students to all the career possibilities and choices they have for their future!

[www.fredericsd.org](http://www.fredericsd.org)



# Bergstrom Technician Apprentice Program



Bergstrom's Technician Apprentice Program offers high school and college-level candidates a hands-on, in-depth experience to jumpstart their careers in the automotive industry. Participants work alongside seasoned technicians, gaining practical knowledge and valuable mentorship.

## Youth Apprenticeships:

- Offered to students interested in automotive who are in their junior or senior year of high school.
- Apprentices are paired with an experienced technician for guidance and skill development.
- Apprentices receive paid working hours during the program.
- Skills learned while on job correlate with competencies set by the school to allow work to qualify as class credit.

## College Apprenticeships:

- Offered for team members who are enrolled in an automotive or collision degree program at a local technical college
- Tuition Reimbursement of 50% of tuition each semester and additional post-graduate reimbursement available.
- Apprentices are paired with an experienced technician for guidance and skill development.
- Apprentices receive paid working hours during the program and a structured raise schedule each semester.

This program is an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on experience, earn while

you learn, and set the foundation for a successful career in automotive technology. One of Bergstrom's students who recently went through this program and graduated reflects on their time in the program fondly. We asked Gerardo to share his experience in the program and how his time correlates into his personal life and what his daily life as a collision repair technician looks like.

For Gerardo, the most rewarding part of being an auto body technician is the ability to work at his own pace while knowing he's making a meaningful contribution to the community. Being part of the Bergstrom team has been especially fulfilling for him, as he values the unique bond and approachable nature of his colleagues, something he believes sets the team apart.

Before joining Bergstrom, he studied Auto Body Collision Repair at FVTC and graduated in May 2022. His instructors played a significant role in shaping his career, helping him secure his position at Bergstrom. In just 2½ years, he advanced from a recent graduate to a flat-rate collision technician, a milestone he's particularly proud of.

Outside of work, he has a passion for snowboarding, which he considers his favorite winter activity. His admiration for his father runs deep, as he credits him with

instilling the values of hard work and determination that have guided his career. These principles, along with a strong work ethic, have helped him navigate the ever-evolving automotive industry, where learning never stops.

A typical day in his role begins with setting up and organizing his workspace to prepare for the challenges of the day. Whether working on a minor dent or major structural repairs, he carefully plans each job to ensure efficiency and precision. Staying busy and accomplishing important tasks keeps him motivated, and he encourages those interested in the automotive field to stay focused and set clear goals. His biggest career lesson so far has been understanding how quickly vehicles evolve, making continuous learning a key part of his success.

With his drive and dedication, Gerardo continues to make an impact in his role at Bergstrom, helping customers get back on the road while growing as a skilled technician.



## TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Bergstrom's technician apprentice program for both high school and college-level candidates offers a hands-on, in-depth experience to get participants ready and excited for a career in the automotive industry.

As a technician apprentice, you're paired with a seasoned technician to offer valuable growth opportunities from the onset of your career.

### Apprentices Receive

- Seasoned mentor
- Paid working hours

### College Continuation

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## Meet the Glendale Teenager Gearing Up for the Auto-Mechanic Industry



Most nights after school, Acie Holland III can be found in a garage working on cars. He works on brakes, oil changes, and everything in between for drivers, all with the help of his father and grandfather.

TMJ4 first met Acie back in late April when he helped save a bus full of his classmates after the driver suffered a medical emergency. (See at right)

It was his knowledge of vehicles that gave him the confidence to maneuver the bus to a safe place. That knowledge was passed down from generation to generation.

"It makes me feel good knowing that I have two gentlemen in my life who show me everything," Holland III said.

It starts in the garage, where Holland III

finds peace while helping out with all different types of cars.

Holland III discovered his passion at a young age.

"I would sit there, hold a flashlight, and watch how my dad or my papa did it," Holland III said. "Then, once I learned certain tools, I did certain jobs. I started off with oil changes, and then from oil changes, I went up to brakes."

The Nicolet High School freshman now has big dreams and hopes to one day enter the industry after graduating from high school and technical school.

"I want to work at a dealership for a minute just to get the feel of everything," Holland III said.

It's an industry in need of skilled techni-

cians right now. According to Tech Force, between now and 2028, 349,000 automotive technicians are expected to leave the industry due to turnover or retirement, while only 87,000 are expected to enter.

It's not just Acie who could be entering the industry in the near future. He's also helping inspire the next wave of mechanics.

Sometimes, people who get their car worked on by Acie bring their children.

"Kids will be sitting there looking bored, so I'm just like, 'Do you want to learn how to do brakes or how to do an oil change?' and I show them how to do it," Holland III said.

Through his work, he's able to give these kids a glimpse into what it's like to go under the hood.

He's also able to show the community his skills, like Justin Jenkins, who needed some work on his brakes.

"He came highly recommended, so this is my first time here," Jenkins said.

All the experience he is gaining is going toward his ultimate goal of one day opening his



own shop.

"I want to call it Ace Autos because my name is Ace. My dad's name is Ace, and my grandfather's name is also Ace," Holland III said.

Keep an eye out for Ace Autos in the near future.

By: Mike Beiermeister for TMJ4. Reprinted with permission

[www.nicolet.k12.wi.us](http://www.nicolet.k12.wi.us)

## Glen Hills 8th-grader Helps Save School Bus after Driver has Medical Emergency

From April, 2024

A quick-thinking 8th-grader saved the day when their school bus driver had a medical emergency on Wednesday evening.

Acie Holland III, a Glen Hills 8th-grader, noticed the bus was beginning to veer into the oncoming lane. Then, he says he noticed his school bus driver was not responsive.

"As we got about 20 feet down Villard, I was looking at my phone and I looked back up and I felt the bus accelerate," Acie said. "And I looked at the bus driver because she went past my stop and I looked and I seen her head just go down."

That's when 8th grader Acie sprung into action, moving the bus driver's foot off the gas, and hitting the brakes.

"I ran up there, I took control of the bus because I was scared but at the same time, I was like I wanted to just make sure everyone was okay, and that nothing was gonna happen while I was there," Acie added.

He then securely parked the bus, contacted 911, and told the younger students to call their parents.

The driver then regained consciousness and was able to call her dispatch.

"He's an ace," said father Acie Holland II.

The two have spent time since Acie was young, working on cars and learning about mechanics.

"It didn't phase me because I know that he's capable of almost anything," said Holland II.

Acie also helped save the day for TMJ4. He helped jump the dead battery for a station news car while at Glen Hills Middle School.

"It's nice to know that he's carrying that name along, so that makes me feel awesome," said Acie's father.

The young man is also an excellent wrestler and enjoys go-karting. He credits the positive impact his family has had on him for his quick-thinking and confidence.

"That just comes from being raised around positive people and being surrounded by positive people," said Holland III.

The Glen Hills School Community said they could not be any prouder of Acie.

Students could be heard chanting AC-Hero when school let out on Thursday.

By: Mike Beiermeister, Jay Sirkin for TMJ4. Reprinted with permission







## Beloit's Auto Technology Program Provides Real-Life Learning Opportunities



Beloit Memorial High School's automotive program is a NATEF certified program which focuses on technical skills and has a strong emphasis on the employability skills that our students need in order to be successful in the workforce, regardless of the career path that they choose. Instructor, Guy Olson is transforming a traditional automotive program into an industry-

modeled learning program.

Beloit Memorial is a Wall-to-Wall Career Academy comprehensive high school. As part of the PACMES (Public Safety, Automotive, Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, and Engineering academy), the Automotive pathway includes work-based learning opportunities such as job shadows, co-ops, and Youth Appren-

ticeship (YA). The following courses in the automotive sequence are open to all high school students in grades 9–12.

Intro to Automotive Technology — an entry level course with an introduction to shop safety, shop operations, basic automotive repairs, and careers in the automotive industry

Automotive Technology 1, 2, and 3 — courses progress from fundamentals of modern day automotive technical servicing to advanced engine performance that include work on fuel, emissions, heating and air conditioning, transmissions, steering, and suspension systems.

Dual credit options are available through Blackhawk Technical College as well as multiple industry certifications which are also available as students progress through our Auto Technology sequence, including ASE Entry Level certifications and Snap-On Scanner certifications.

The successful completion of the three Auto Technology courses will prepare students for an entry-level automotive technician position.

In addition to skill development in automotive repairs on vehicles that serve as learning modules, our instructor, Guy Olsen, operates the program as a fully functional automotive shop; every student isn't going to become a mechanic but may still be in the automotive field. Students learn workforce skills starting with a Point of

Purchase and Service Area where they create work orders, order parts, schedule and confirm service appointments, track progress, complete and organize work order documentation, and demonstrate customer service skills as they work with customers from the drop-off to pick-up of the customer vehicle. This provides real-life learning opportunities that prepare the students for multiple jobs in the automotive repair industry.

Updates within the program include a new tire balancer, new tire mounting machine as well as vehicle diagnostic scanners, including a top-of-the-line diagnostic scanner that has intelligent diagnostics to interface with diagnostic scanners in the industry through a nationwide network. The scanner also has bluetooth capabilities so the diagnostic readings can be projected onto a classroom screen so each student is involved in the learning experience.

One senior in Auto Technology 1, states that "This provides REAL hands-on experience of what it is like to work in a shop. We interact with the customers with the whole process of ordering parts, working on their vehicle, and then delivering it to them."

[www.sdb.k12.wi.us/memorial](http://www.sdb.k12.wi.us/memorial)



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## Doctor Gives Back to City Stadium Automotive



### Green Bay Area Public Schools

Dr. James Bailey, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Bellin Hospital, made a very generous gift to seniors in East High School's City Stadium Automotive program on February 14, 2025.

Driving a pick-up truck with a trailer attached, Dr. Bailey delivered six 42-inch double bank roller tool cabinets.

Dr. Bailey gave the tool cabinets to seniors in the City Stadium Automotive

program. Colton Dean, Lyric Ekberg, Fabian Guzman, Jaime Guzman, Alex Olea and Steven Solis all received a tool cabinet in the color they personally selected.

Dr. Bailey graduated from Westwood High School located in Michigan, where he had participated in their automotive program. He shared that the automotive program was an important experience for him and said he wanted to give back to the community.

"I felt that doing something like this would be really helpful for them and help set them off on a good career path...this is something I knew that if I was in their position, I would be really excited to get and I wanted to do the same thing for them," Dr. Bailey said.

Senior Alex Olea said that receiving the toolbox helps a lot, especially with future expenses as he begins his career. Alex said he plans to continue at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and currently works for Gandrud Automotive. Alex added that receiving the toolbox inspires him to give back someday when he is in a position to do so.

### About City Stadium Automotive

Students enrolled in City Stadium Automotive focus on the diagnosis and troubleshooting of faults in automotive systems while receiving high school and college credit through the local technical college. They also have the opportunity to work at major dealerships while still enrolled in high school. The hands-on, real-world experience students receive centers around technical research, automotive workplace skills and practices, and preparation for post-secondary education.

Students now have the opportunity to earn more than 26 college credits over the

course of their junior and senior year as part of the Automotive Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. Upon graduating from high school, students will be prepared to either enter the workforce directly or continue their education for one more year to complete either a two-year Automotive Technician technical diploma or an Automotive Technology associate degree.

City Stadium Automotive at East High is certified by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) for Maintenance and Light Repair Program Standards. NATEF is an organization that examines the structure, resources, and quality of training programs and evaluates them against standards established by the industry. Students who receive NATEF certification are prepared to work in the automotive field, enroll in technical school, or both.

To learn more about City Stadium Automotive, visit [gbaps.org/CSA](http://gbaps.org/CSA).

[www.gbaps.org](http://www.gbaps.org)



## Avoid 'Braking' the Bank: PHS Auto Shop Will Service Cars



PHS senior Tyler Shallue replaces power steering lines on the Biller family van.

### Plymouth High School

One of the major aspects of the auto shop is that students and teachers are welcome to bring their vehicles in and

perform work on them. If the students are in auto tech or basic auto, they can repair the vehicles themselves. If the students aren't in either automotive class, then they are able to have the auto tech students repair/maintain the vehicle for them.

The most common way that students can bring their cars or trucks into the auto shop is by directly asking automotive technology teacher Beau Biller, or by having a student in auto tech ask him. The teacher's preferred method of bringing their cars in is calling Mr. Biller or emailing him. The only requirement to get a vehicle worked on is to supply the proper parts or things that are being replaced when necessary.

The auto shop does tire jobs, fluid checks, part replacements/fixing, transmission swaps/repairs, overall checks/assessments, and other automotive activities. There is a wide variety of tools and students who are capable of many different jobs to fix the vehicle.

There are many different benefits of bringing trucks and cars into the auto shop. "It's nice for students to bring vehicles in because it's less expensive and it's the best way for students to learn about automotive technology and get a general understanding

of auto maintenance," said Mr. Biller.

Since the auto shop handles many varying models and brands, there is a lot to learn and do. "My favorite part of teaching auto tech is doing different things every day and it's always a new task or problem to solve," said Mr. Biller. By having a lot of tasks and activities to be completed, there is much to like about the class.

Most auto tech students enjoy working on vehicles. "My favorite part of auto tech is that it doesn't feel like school and it's an escape of the mind," said senior Leyton Schaefer. The aspect of spending all class doing hands-on work is one of the reasons why auto tech is a popular class.

Other auto tech students have their favorite parts of working on vehicles. "My favorite part of working on different vehicles is the difference between them and the variation between the alternative vehicles," said senior Dylan Andrews. Getting skills in automotive repair and maintenance can help students with their future careers or their future as a whole.

There are lots of varying reasons why students decide to enroll in automotive classes. "I decided to take auto tech because it's always been my passion and it's a valu-

able shop class that goes with what I want to do after graduation," said Dylan. With the willingness to learn and work, students always get the job done.

With smaller costs and learning involved, bringing cars into the automotive shop is a great benefit of being a student. There are capable and reliable students maintaining and fixing vehicles throughout the school and they are a beneficial resource for other students' automotive needs. If any automotive maintenance or repair is needed just reach out to Mr. Biller or one of many automotive technology students who will be willing to help.

*Article and photos reprinted from Hi-Lights, the Plymouth High School student newspaper.*

[www.plymouth.k12.wi.us](http://www.plymouth.k12.wi.us)





## Hands-On Learning at Holmen Auto Service

*School District of Holmen*

It's the start of another school day inside Holmen High School, and a few students of Ryan Ziegler's Auto Service 1 class are already hard at work helping a teacher whose tire is leaking while others spend time hunched under the hood testing car batteries.

Auto Service 1 is a semester course of 85 minutes daily, mainly consisting of juniors and seniors. These high school students are learning with professional tools on actual vehicles with

real problems. Auto Service is also a dual credit class with Western Technical College and provides students with three post-secondary credits. This allows our students to earn high school and technical college credit simultaneously and receive their Auto Service Excellence (ASE) certification at the completion of the course.

In this class, students learn about these systems by repairing and diagnosing issues:

- Wheel systems and tires: mount and balance tires, tire puncture repair, tire rotation
- Brakes and ABS system: replacing brake pads, measuring thickness, bleeding brake lines, diagnosing ABS sensors
- Preventative maintenance fluid: completing checklists, fluid flush, and exchanges, customer concerns
- Charging and starting system: measuring voltage drops and amperage outputs
- Ignition system: replacing ignition wires, coils, and plugs
- Cooling system: coolant flow, thermostat replacement, coolant flush
- Fuel system: fuel volume and pressure tests, fuel filter replacement

Technology Education teacher, Ryan Ziegler, says this type of hands-on learning helps prepare students for the real world, "The

students love hands-on learning," said Ziegler. "They can repeat the process until they can complete the task with little to no help from the instructor. It is awesome to see the students complete a task they thought was impossible on their own."

One group of students in the class are working on a battery testing lab. The students are learning how to load test a battery, measure parasitic drain, remove corrosion, and check physical connections to ensure a working battery. "The students walk away with a solid understanding of the basic automotive systems," says Ziegler. "All of the students learn how to maintain their own vehicle."

Another group of students is helping out a Holmen High School teacher whose tire has a slow leak. To find the leak, students have to put their problem-solving skills to the test. "The most important thing I would like them to take away is the problem-solving ability. Use the problem-solving process to simplify the problem and quickly come up with a viable solution,"



says Ziegler as the students dip the tire in a dunk tank to locate the leak. Finding no visible leak, Mr. Ziegler uses this as a teaching moment for his class about snow tires and how to communicate with customers. "Throughout the course sequence, students will learn how to communicate with customers and coworkers. Some of that communication is done by the use of industry software. Another way is teaching the students how to listen to customer concerns actively," says Ziegler.

**A HUGE shoutout and THANK YOU to Dave Sherden for his incredible donation to the Holmen High School automotive classes!**

Dave generously donated his beloved 2001 Volvo XC70 to our program as a project car for students to work on and hone their vehicle repair skills. This car will be a fantastic hands-on tool for our students as they build their knowledge and confidence in automotive maintenance.

We are so grateful for your support, Dave—our classes will make great use of this car!

[www.holmen.k12.wi.us](http://www.holmen.k12.wi.us)

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