

Coventry students learn about automotive, carpentry industries



Lauren Knight/Daily Times

Coventry High School students from the automotive and carpentry classes spent the year learning about their chosen fields. At the end of the year they enjoyed a barbeque.

Some seniors already with jobs, some will continue on to technical schools

LAUREN KNIGHT
lknight@ricentral.com

COVENTRY—High school students may seem young to begin a career, but the automotive and carpentry classes at Coventry High School made it possible for some to get a job or pursue an education at a technical school.

“We have four students that already have jobs in the field,” said Scott Leavitt, a carpentry instructor.

According to James Thom-

son, an automotive instructor, two students already working in the field are from the automotive program.

“Most of the rest are going on to pursue a higher education at a tech school,” he said.

Ryan Reuter, a senior, explained that he came into the carpentry program this year. The class lasts for three periods and the students typically “go out on jobs,” he said.

With their own set of tools, students receive instructions for the project and how the teacher wants it done, according to Reuter.

“We work as a team,” he said. “It’s pretty much like the real field but with more kids and more explaining.”

Both classes are offered for grades 10, 11 and 12, and offer

education based on the grade level.

Leavitt explained that the carpentry class covers everything from the basics and safety to certification and green building.

“They learn all aspects of construction, from start to finish,” said Leavitt.

Reuter stated that this year, his class built a second story addition and garage on a house.

“I came into [the year] with no experience and came out knowing a lot,” he said.

According to Thomson, the automotive class teaches first year students learn electrical, second year students learn steering suspension and brakes, and third year students learn about auto performance.

Two seniors from the pro-

gram took gold this year in the statewide automotive competition, according to Thomson. The competition was designed to examine everything from electrical to parts and was set up with 10 stations to test the students’ knowledge, he said.

Kyle Demello, senior, was one of the students who took the title of Skills USA for automotive at this competition. He explained that they worked in teams of two and had a total of roughly 25 students competing.

According to Thomson, one of the automotive students won the bronze last year as well.

“The program is different than others,” said Sean Toolin, senior and student in

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the automotive class. "I like it because it's more hands on."

Toolin currently works at Town Fair Tire and will be entering the military soon. He explained that the automotive program benefitted him when he took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test for the military.

"It's a test that takes your score to see what jobs you

qualify for in the military," said Toolin. "My scores were one of the highest."

He hopes to work as a mechanic on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Reuter also has a job lined up for after graduation. He explained that unlike his carpentry class, which concentrated on framing or building, he would be doing finish work.

"I will be working at a stair shop, like custom stairs for big

homes," he said. Reuter said he heard about the opening after the company contacted Leavitt for students interested in employment.

Demello plans to continue his education at Lincoln Technical Institute to study diesel technology.

"I learned a lot here but it's tough to cover everything," said Demello. "Diesel is a different industry but involve some of the same concepts."