

Work-Based Learning in Action

College and Career Readiness:

McKean High School Becomes a Pilot Site for DOE's Work-Based Learning Curriculum.

This winter and spring, McKean will participate in a work-based learning curriculum initiative developed by Delaware's Department of Education (DOE). A primary goal of the initiative is to create a curriculum that will help schools assess career readiness of students as well as help prepare them for the workplace.

"We are looking to provide career readiness education in a hybrid setting," says Bill Everett, McKean's Work-Based Learning Specialist. Live instruction will be supported and assessed using online tools. To aid in both, Bill has been working with representatives from Junior Achievement (JA) and the YWCA. Both organizations offer a variety of career-based activities and programs and have the resources that can be of great benefit to McKean's students.

Students for this year's pilot will come from McKean's Student Work-Based Learning leaders. Over 25 students covering each of its ten career pathways will participate in the curriculum pilot.

Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC):

Experience for Today and for Furthering Your Career

In our previous issue, we expressed the importance of gaining industry partnerships for the success of McKean's WBL program. The focus of the article was the partnerships made with community businesses. However, in an attempt to further enhance students' opportunities to be successful in the workplace, it is equally important to partner with academic and trade school institutions.

As students delve into their career exploration and experience here at McKean, it is important that they learn where their career pathways may take them and what additional training/education they may need. For this reason, McKean has begun laying the foundation to partner with colleges, universities, and trade schools to raise student awareness of resources available to further their careers. The first venture towards such a partnership has begun with Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC).



Staff from DTCC and McKean have taken turns touring each others' facilities and learning more about program offerings while exploring potential connections. These potential connections include more opportunity for dual enrollment as well as articulation from high school through an associate degree and/or certification in one of many career pathways. Look for more to come regarding joint ventures between McKean and DTCC in future issues.



Upcoming Events

- 20% Off your first order from McKean Marketing.
- Mt. Cuba Center field trip for Plant Sciences.
- DTCC tour of McKean.
- Junior Achievement Career Fusion.

Continuing Events

- Breakfasts and lunches at the Highlander Café
- Plant and flower sales through the McKean Floral Shoppe.
- Car service through McKean Auto Tech.



Student Work-Based Leaders: Rebekah Marvin

Students participating in the work-based experience may apply to be McKean Work-Based Student Leaders prior to their junior year. True to real-life experience, a committee grants these students job interviews. At the completion of interviews, students are selected based on committee feedback and recommendation. McKean's Work-Based Student Leaders are afforded real workplace opportunity by working within their career pathways during their junior year. Outside of the pathway curriculum, students fulfill a role based on a job description and have their work evaluated. Look for selected student leaders that have received their own Student Work-Based Leader polo shirt.

Following in the footsteps of her aunt, Rebekah chose to learn more about working on cars—something she has done since her childhood, and she is currently the only Work-Based Learning Student Leader in auto tech this year.



Two reasons for choosing this pathway were 1.) that she is able to feel more independent, and 2.) that she is able to help her mom save money from unnecessary and extra repairs that shops often suggest.

She shared that when mechanics share their findings about car issues with her mother, she is able to then explain to her mother what they missed or how one issue may be related to another. For herself, Rebekah likes that she can change her car tires, perform repairs, and change oil on her own.

Though her immediate plan is to go to college for animation, she is not opposed to opening her own shop one day. She shared that she and her younger sister have talked about opening a combination car shop/tattoo parlor. “You can get your car fixed and get a tattoo,” she shared.

Rebekah sees the importance of graduating with auto tech certifications. She knows that she could work in the field while paying for college. She also learned about the possibility of working on a college campus in auto tech with tuition assistance or remission being a possibility for paying for school.

The McKean In-School Businesses

Nine of our ten career pathways offer businesses on campus here at McKean. Each offers products/services available to students, staff, families, and the public. Here is a list of in-school business and a few of their offerings

McKean Wood Works

Furniture and wood repairs, small wiring repair, project consultation, outdoor furniture, and wooden boats.

Highlander Café

Breakfast Friday mornings.

Lunch Wednesday— Friday.

Changing menu.

Next Gen Media

Video and event production, live streaming, and audio production.

McKean Auto Tech

Vehicle safety checks, vehicle maintenance, brake inspection and replacement, steering/suspension inspection and repairs, wheel alignments, and other minor repairs and service.



Student Work-Based Co-op: Bradley Delmedico

For their senior year, students participating in the work-based experience may apply for Work-Based Student Co-op. Co-op experiences are off-campus, in-industry work experiences that allow students to work directly in their career pathways.

Bradley has been looking for an opportunity to work in the automotive industry to see if it was something that he wanted as a career. Even then, he was not sure which area of automotive technology he wanted to pursue.

While seeking out opportunities for Bradley to co-op in the automotive industry, an opportunity presented itself. Someone with knowledge of the McKean Automotive Technology program shared its success with Tracy, the sister of and office manager for CC Diesel's owner, Craig. Soon after, Bradley visited CC Diesel and was interviewed. The opportunity turned out to be a good match and Bradley now works on tractor-trailer trucks for CC Diesel after school.



Since then we have had Craig here at McKean to meet our Automotive Technology teacher, Mike Reamer, and to get a tour of our automotive center. While here, he shared how well Bradley was doing and how he was glad to have a hard worker. Due to Bradley's success, there may be more opportunity for McKean and CC Diesel to work together in gaining work experience and future job possibilities for McKean's Auto Tech students.

The McKean In-School Businesses

(cont'd)

Highlander Graphic Designs

Graphic designs for t-shirts, flyers, brochures, and logos.

McKean Floral Shoppe

Boutonnieres, corsages, centerpieces, wreaths, bouquet.

McKean Farm Fresh Foods

All-natural bacon, eggs, pork chops, sausage and a variety of pork products.

Lil' Highlanders Preschool

Daycare for children 3-5.





In-School Business Focus: McKean Auto Tech

McKean's Work-Based Student Leaders assist their CTE teachers in managing an in-school business. There are various products/services offered here at McKean and to the public from our in-school businesses.

Do you want a great alternative to maintenance shopping while looking to serve the educational needs of local youth? Take your car to **McKean Auto Tech**. McKean's Upper Level Auto Tech students are capable of performing vehicle safety checks, brake inspections and replacements, steering/suspension inspections and repairs, wheel alignments, and many other basic repairs and services.

Services and repairs are offered at costs well below local retailers and service shops. Due to the nature of our class schedule, service is scheduled by appointment. Call today and get your car serviced by **McKean Auto Tech**!