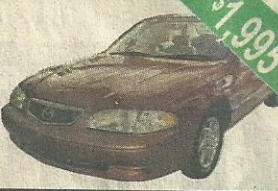


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Algoma High School sophomore Kevin Sperber looks over the kitchen cabinet plans he created for the Algoma Long Term Care Unit's kitchen remodel.

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PAMELA PARKS/FOR
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STAR-NEWS



Real-world learning opens doors for AHS students

By Pamela Parks

Star-News correspondent

When Algoma High School senior Kyle Holmes enters the school building each day, he opens the door to more than just a path to his high school diploma.

A new focus in the high school's industrial technology program with an emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles is creating multiple paths of opportunity for Kyle's future.

Kyle is not only a student but an employee. He works for Algoma Wulf Tech, a student-run company based at the school that subcontracts with local businesses to create wood and metal products on CNC machines as well as creating design work with the latest manufacturing software and printers. Visit www.algomawulftech.org.

Kyle works after school producing metal

it is hands-on-work and there is lots of problem solving. You get to learn how to do it and do it," Kyle said.

Changes in the program began when Algoma High School principal Nick Cochart was hired in 2011. Not even two years later, the department has a new look and feel. The space no longer has worn dark green World War II-era machines cluttering the space but is streamlined with the latest machines and current technologies. Classes such as Woods 1 or Metals 1 do not exist. Courses are project and research-based with a focus on STEM, an interdisciplinary approach that integrates real-world, problem-based learning.

"It took time but now that it is here, it has grown fast," Cochart said. "We have seen student interest in industrial technology as well as Math and Science go up. Rooms are filled with kids and they

