

well as meeting deadlines and producing quality products."

"Students are are thinking outside the box. They get to use reverse engineering skills - they take an item and work back how it was created so they can reproduce it - and are connecting math to real life," said Matt Able, Algoma High School technical education teacher. "And they develop ownership. It is being done for a purpose with higher standards and accountability, because it is for someone else and they are representing the school."

Algoma Wulf Tech takes on a variety of projects, including work for nonprofit and local government agencies. Several students will build Frisbee disc cages needed at a park for the Kewaunee Parks and Rec Department. Parks and Rec purchased the materials and the students will donate the labor and have a lasting hands-on experience for a class project.

Kevin Sperber, a sophomore, completed a cabinetry design for the Algoma Long Term Care Unit's kitchen remodeling project. He drew the design using AutoCAD. CTI Hospitality is assisting with the project and will

create the doors of the cabinets. Students will cut and assemble most of the project, including installing the cabinets at the facility.

Kevin said he enjoys programming and designing using the software programs. He also liked working on a meaningful project.

"When you are working on something like this for the community to make something better rather than just a small project for yourself, you are doing something important," Kevin said.

Precision Machines Inc., Olson Fabrication and CTI Hospitality are three local companies that have been supportive of the new approach to teaching industrial technology skills at Algoma High School. They provide guidance, encouragement, and vision to the program. Precision Machines, Inc. has even hired several graduates of the high school program.

"They see the benefit of what we are doing here," Cochart said.

"It is an amazing program that we have been working hard to provide for our students," Superintendent Ronald Welch said. "We recognize that the hands-on kind of

learning is best for lots of kids. As much as it is very expensive and we don't get support from politicians, we are pushing ahead to make it happen. The school purchased the equipment using its fund balance with the premise that the program would be self-sustaining after a period of time and pay for itself.

The concept of changing the approach to learning in the industrial technology department came from feedback that local companies provided. Business owners shared with the school that students were lacking real world business skills such as working with groups and teams and had no concept about how a business runs, said Able.

Jamie Spitzer, owner and president of Precision Machine Inc. in Algoma, has provided support to the program and is excited about the opportunities for students.

"Having this in the school and having them be ready, willing, and able to give the kids the opportunity is amazing. We are seeing good things ... They have seen growth and are adding on more equipment. We have been able to give them jobs to do and they have been doing a very good job. The

from all over Northeastern Wisconsin.

In addition, Algoma High School students will participate in the NWTC Tech Challenge on April 18. Every Algoma Middle School student will explore Mind Trekkers at the same event, a traveling educational road show from Michigan Tech designed to ignite interest in students to explore education and careers in STEM fields.

"It is touching more than just the manufacturing kids. They are incorporating marketing and developing websites. It is pretty cool ideas and pretty good concepts. It is good for the community and that is the reason we are doing it," Spitzer said. "It is a positive thing for the school."

Kyle has seen several doors of opportunity open to him through his participation in the new industrial technology classes. He has a lead on a job after high school graduation at a local manufacturer in Algoma, and he also plans on studying for a Machine Operation degree at NWTC with a plan to take courses while working full time to gain a second degree in the field. In the meantime, he enjoys the real-world, hands-on learning opportunities.



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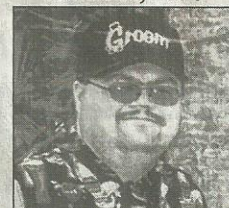
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In loving memory of
MARK ZAHN,
Who went to eternal life
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9 years have passed since we got the early morning call. That memory is as clear as if it happened yesterday. Although the pain of losing you still lingers, the wonderful memories we shared is our keepsake with which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.

Love Always and Forever;
Mom, Dad, Michele, John,
Shauna, Sierra, Racheal,
Grandpa, family and friends