

Making the Connection

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Roseville Community Schools

ROSEVILLE

New makerspace technology stimulates student creativity

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The new school year has brought many changes to RHS. Ranging from Promethean board integration to the upgraded athletic facilities, there has been no shortage of advancements around the school. One recent addition that has not gotten as much attention, however, is the makerspace. What used to be the library has been upgraded over the summer with two new rooms added to the upper floor along with new furniture on the lower. One of the rooms belongs to a club that science teacher and technology coordinator Robert Smitka sponsors, called Roseville Engineering Science and Technology (R.E.S.T.). The other room has become an engineering room of sorts, with thousands of dollars worth of technology just for students and faculty. Some additions to the room include two Digilab 3-D printers, a Silhouette vinyl designer, a Glowforge laser cutter, and a scroll saw. The idea of these machines being available is that anyone at RHS, teachers or students, can use them to custom create whatever they please.

"We have a machine that makes custom molds, so if [the hospital-



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Teacher Robert Smitka works with senior Marissa Hedrick to make a custom-made vinyl sticker using the Silhouette Cameo vinyl designer. This machine, along with the other new additions, will allow students and teachers alike to design their own one-of-a-kind creations.

ity teacher] wants to make something like custom chocolate molds with the Roseville 'R,' he can," Smitka said.

Smitka, along with teacher Samantha Jordan, have been in charge of all the new technology this year. They were also responsible for picking out which laptops students will be receiving later this year and have received special training on the Promethean boards. The equip-

ment in the makerspace, however, was all up to Smitka. According to him, principal Patrick Adams and one of the bond coordinators told him that the makerspace was going to be finished this year, and he needed to make a list of all the tech he wanted in the room. He had not expected to get everything he asked for, but it has been arriving over the past few weeks.

"Once everything comes in,

we're looking at about \$14,000 worth of equipment," Smitka said.

Although the room itself is not open to students yet, Adams and Smitka hope they can allow it to be public soon. To use the machines, teachers and students alike must be trained first. Students will also not be allowed to use them without a teacher present, but they will still be allowed creative freedom. It is also still undecided if students will be required to bring their own materials or not, but it will be determined before the opening.

"I hope all teachers, at some point, will be able to bring their students to the upstairs makerspace... I want all the kids to be able to get in there and experience it," Adams said.

The equipment will be available to students during school, but also after school clubs. One club that will surely benefit is R.E.S.T. club. Every year the club participates in three different competitions for each subsection, each with their own unique challenges. In the past, the club has struggled to find parts that fit exactly what they needed for their constructed vehicles. They have also 3-D printed PVC pipe connectors in the past, but the 3-D printer was not readily available

whenever they needed it. With the new equipment in the makerspace, the club will have a huge advantage in their ability to innovate new designs and features that have not been achievable in these past years.

"The equipment we worked with prior was not as reliable, so having brand new 3-D printers, rather than the ones we were working with that couldn't print very large models, we will hopefully have the ability to do things we could not do before. This technology is exciting for the club especially, since we will no longer be working out of Smitka's back room. This makerspace seems to open up a whole new world of opportunity for us," R.E.S.T. club president Marissa Hedrick said.

The technology has also already benefited teachers inside their own classrooms. Social studies teacher John Czech has had a sculpture of the human brain 3-D printed for his Advanced Placement (A.P.) Psychology class, along with a brain puzzle. With the start of creations being made in the makerspace, Smitka and Adams hope that by the end of the trimester it will be open to all students, allowing them to create unique prototypes and bring to life their innovative ideas.

ROSEVILLE

Building trades students close to finishing four-year house project

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A lot of hard work has been poured out from the RHS building trades class these past couple years. With the help of teacher David Diebold, over 100 students total have been building a house located on Guest Ct. in Roseville. In the current school year, they have almost finished the bathroom, completed the kitchen, and will continue to do the final touches throughout the year. The district anticipates the house going on the market in early 2020.

"This class has given me an opportunity to better my knowledge of building a house so later on I can make a career out of it," senior Matthew Matyszewski said.

Students even help on weekends to get the house finished on time. They show a lot of dedication with in school and out of school hours. After being in the program for a few years, some

students plan on making a career out of what they have learned from the class. A lot of the students have also been working on the house in their spare time to shadow professionals with installations, including pipework, plumbing, and wiring the electricity in the house. Students in the class never thought they would find so much interest in the trade until they joined the class and got to experience and learn firsthand how a house is constructed.

"This class has made me think harder and realized how much work goes into houses and how much I respect the way houses are built," senior Brenden Bishop said.

Despite the stereotype that only guys take building trades, females have been a big contribution at the site. Diebold commented that his female students have been an integral part of the build. In recent years, more and more female students have joined the program. Many of the girls in the class have also become more comfortable with using tools and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Senior Brenden Bishop uses a water saw to cut tiles for the new and improved bathroom.

saws to be able to contribute as much as possible. The females also play a part in the creative aspect of the house, such as the painting and decorating.

"This class has made me learn

so much [about] so many little things, such as building a wall or even putting a sink in. For the three years I have been in this class, I have built strong relationships with everyone that I have

met," senior Ashley Tighe said.

In the next couple weeks, the class should be installing the carpet and toilets, as well as finishing the tiling in the master bathroom and the painting in the bedrooms. They hope to be finished by Dec. 17 so that the house can go up for inspection and listing in early 2020. They also plan to start building a new house in the spring for future or current Roseville residents.

"My class has had a lot of focused and good workers but parting with the graduating class is going to be difficult because of how well I got to know them," Diebold said.

Faculty and staff are proud of what the building trades students have accomplished these past couple years. With a couple minor setbacks such as having to redo messed up siding to having to replace walls that were not up to code, they have accomplished things that otherwise would have taken much longer if it were not for their hard work and dedication.

ROSEVILLE

Innovative restaurant to come to Roseville High School

Emma Carro
Business Manager

The L.B. Williams restaurant has been a part of Roseville High School's hospitality class for years. The restaurant is currently located at Roseville Middle School (RMS), but now a new location is under construction in the north parking lot of RHS. While construction is going on, the students will still have class over at RMS until the new facility is finished. As bussing students over to RMS can be inconvenient and costly, having the restaurant at the building is an efficient solution

that brings new equipment and better learning opportunities for students.

The hospitality class frequently has guests come to the restaurant where they are able to get insight on what those students are capable of cooking. With the new building, it will bring in more students and people from the local community. Most of the time at the restaurant, the students are learning new techniques, and how to cook and bake extraordinary food items.

According to assistant principal Dennis Borse, the school has been wanting to transfer the build-



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The new L.B. Williams facility is planned to be ready next year.

ing over to the high school for years, and now because of the bond that is possible. It is something exciting and big for not only the school, but the community as well.

"The new restaurant is something exciting coming

to the high school, and it's something we've been wanting to do for a while," Borse said.

Hospitality teacher Jon Grommons is beyond thankful that Roseville Community Schools received the

bond to help build the new culinary facility. The restaurant will allow his students to be more knowledgeable about new cooking techniques, as well as further prepare them for the workforce.

With the facility being on the RHS campus, it gives the students several opportunities to serve the school and people in local communities. Students in the hospitality program are ecstatic to see the unveiling of the new facility and get the chance to give back to their community. They took a more modern and high tech design to the building so they can be

current in industry trends. Beginning next year, hospitality will be able to host and be a part of baking competitions with other schools, as well as be able to learn how to cook new things at a station with a television giving them a tutorial on how to make the item, for example.

"The facility will be suited to host competitions which is especially exciting," Grommons said.

Grommons, along with RHS students and staff, are eager to see the finished building next year, and look forward to the many benefits it will bring to the culinary community.

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