

# MAKING THE Connection TO Career Technical Education

Thursday, February 25, 2021

## ST. CLAIR SHORES

# Lakeview's automotive program continues to grow strong and educate students

For more than 23 years, Lakeview's auto program has taught students about vehicles and engineering, and for some students, has instilled a passion for working with cars.

Many are unaware of the numerous classes one can take under the umbrella of the Auto Program. There are prerequisite classes that must be completed before progressing to more advanced courses.

Auto Technology and Industrial Education instructor James Schneider stated, "We start freshman students in a class called 'Auto Systems'. Here, the kids learn the basic automotive fundamentals. It is basically a class that scratches the surface of what the car is all about."

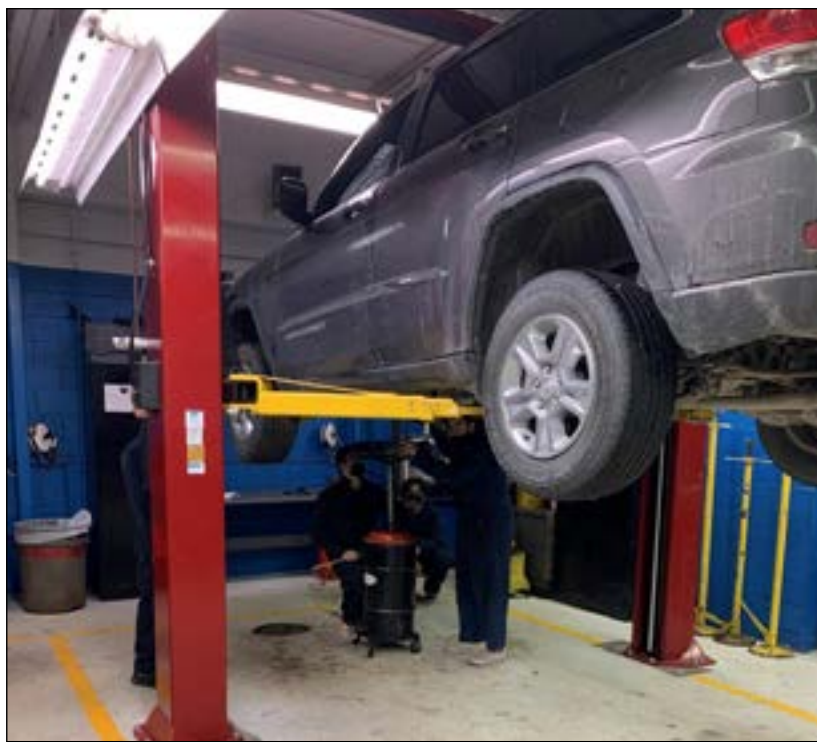
Once a student takes this class, they then have the opportunity to proceed to the more intensive classes.

"The next step would be Auto I. Auto I is a year-long class, and our main focus is on vehicle maintenance, breaks, and suspension. After this, if students still want to continue on, they can take Auto II. This class focuses on the engine and engine performance," explained Schneider.

The amount of classes that a student takes is completely up to them. If a student is really serious about the program, and wants to continue working with vehicles in the future, or even as a career, then they may go on to Auto III.

Schneider said, "Auto III is where we cover automatic manual transmissions, rear axles, heating and air conditioning, and we really touch base on the rest of the systems of the vehicle."

Taking auto classes also has sev-



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eral benefits, even if you're not necessarily interested in working with vehicles.

"If a student takes Auto I, II, or III, and gets a B or better, Macomb Community College will offer credits. Essentially, they can get two or three college classes covered, which is an awesome feature of this program," Schneider mentioned.

Schneider seeks to continue working with students rather than lecturing at them.

"One of the big things I really like to focus on is the hands-on experience of the classes. I always like to

give kids as much hands-on experience in the shop as possible, so the more we can do of that, the better," said Schneider.

Although the main focus of the automotive program is on automotive technology, there are other great skills that are learned while participating in this program.

"We focus on more than just auto. This program is also amazing for learning life skills. It will help you be able to live more independent, and not have to rely on other people when something goes wrong," Schneider stated.

## ST. CLAIR SHORES



KAYLA BELLOW

# Teacher Cadet course continues to grow and adapt at Lakeview High

By Kayla Bellow

The Teacher Cadet course was designed to offer students, who have a penchant for teaching and are natural leaders, hands-on experiences in regards to a future career in teaching. These students end up dealing with the everyday challenges that come with being a teacher, learning how to best handle these situations.

Teacher Cadet instructor Elizabeth Curd has 14 first-year Cadets enrolled as interns and 6 second-year students enrolled as externs.

This year has been different than any other. The restrictions put on in-person learning due to COVID-19 have directly affected these students. The hybrid schedule Lakeview Public Schools has incorporated requires classroom numbers to be reduced from previous years. The school is operating at around 50% capacity on any given school day.

Curd stated, "COVID protocols have restricted my students from participating in-person or online in their elementary or middle school classroom placements. Instead, they have been in my classroom doing bookwork and research, prepping for when we get

the go-ahead to be placed - hopefully next semester."

Curd is concerned that the unknowns will keep kids who are interested in the course from enrolling next year.

Curd said, "I'm concerned about students not taking the class because of the restrictions placed on the program and them being discouraged from exploring the career of teaching because they have had a front row seat to the craziness that is the teaching profession of 2020."

Past Teacher Cadet students share the same frustrations of not being able to participate in in-person classroom teaching.

Senior Abby Howe stated, "This past year definitely took a turn. Last year we all had a blast meeting and working with the kids, so it has been very sad that we cannot do that this year. Even though I can't student teach in person, the class has prepared me to take the next steps of my life in college and adapt to the ever-changing environment of teaching."

Although this year has been unconventional, the students and teachers are doing their best to adapt to the changes that are being made every day.

## ST. CLAIR SHORES

# Lakeview Engineering department adapts to challenging times

By Conall Hunter

Lakeview's engineering classes continue to work and seek to solve problems.

The classes have continued to stay busy despite the still-raging pandemic, sending school schedules into disarray.

Engineering instructor Jolaine Price has been working hard to ensure students can still practice Computer Aided Design at home, finding software for students to use.

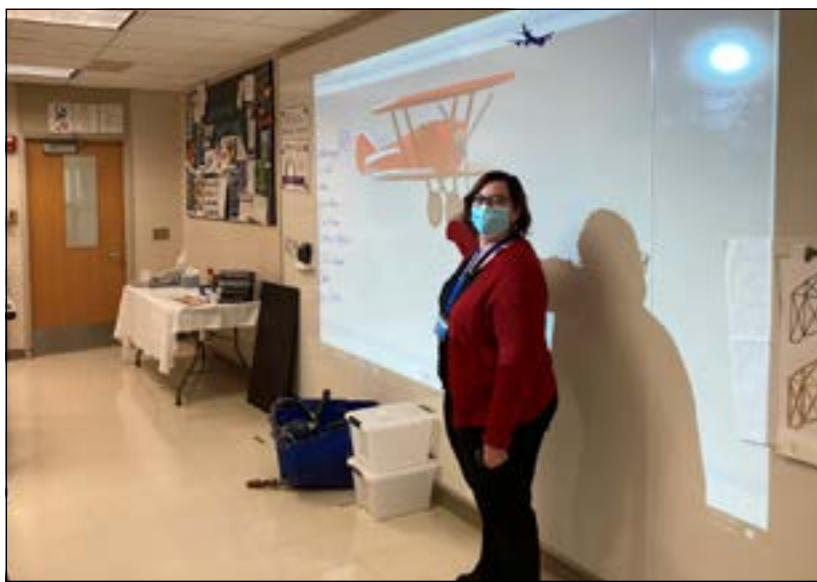
In the classroom, students continue to design and print projects they have in years past.

In 2019, the engineering students designed and made snow globes to be sold at Lakeview's annual craft show in an effort to raise money for the department. However, the seasonal nature of these snow globes left them with numerous leftover empty globes.

Looking to avoid waste, students have repurposed the globes and are designing terrariums: small scenes made up of 3D-printed objects, similar to the snow globes but without the Christmas theme.

Students have been creating palm trees, lighthouses, turtles, and more for these terrariums, iterating on designs and attempting to perfect their projects.

The palm tree is actually an interesting example. In the first attempt to



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print it, the palm fronds were found to be too thin and easily breakable. In the second version, the palm fronds were thicker but still broke off. In the third version, the fronds and trunk are planned to be printed separately, not only making a whole tree but also saving on print time.

As usually, the engineering department is also making practical items for use around the school. This year, the engineering department 3D printed the school's atten-

dance awards.

One student designed a German castle which is being 3D printed to a grand scale.

Price said, "I want this to be the biggest thing we've ever printed."

The engineering department also received a new 3D printer, which should speed up printing.

Despite the limited time in the classroom, this program continues to push the creativity and imagination of its students.

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