

SchoolMatters



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School News for Residents of the Kimberly Area School District



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Superintendent

This fall, students in the Building Construction 2 class at Kimberly High School have been rehabilitating an older home in Kimberly in partnership with the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. The students are gaining valuable hands-on experience and learning about construction-related career options. They learn important employability skills, work with professionals in the field and will graduate better prepared for their future - which are all elements of our enhanced Academic and Career Planning (ACP) resources. These community-based projects involve the efforts of so many people. I am especially proud to see our students giving back to the community through this project.

-- Bob Mayfield

Students Helping a Family Rehabilitate Their New Home Through Habitat for Humanity Project

The Building Construction 2 (BC2) class from Kimberly High School (KHS) is helping humanity through their community-based project this year. The class has partnered with Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate an older home in Kimberly. The home will be new to the family moving into it after the renovations are completed.

The Kimberly crew is working alongside the Habitat for Humanity staff, volunteers and home owners, as they repair and improve many aspects of this existing home. As is common to home improvement work, they are encountering expected and unexpected projects as they work through the renovations.

The 25 KHS students taking the BC2 class have been meeting at the worksite, rather than the classroom, to gain hands-on experience and learn from professionals working in the trades. Construction projects they are learning about and working on include:

- Putting a new roof on the house and garage
- Fixing exterior siding
- Adding railings to the porch and deck
- Concrete work on sidewalks
- Installing new windows and doors
- Repairing the basement, including stairs
- Putting in new walls, including drywall, plastering and painting
- Remodeling the bathroom
- Other miscellaneous projects that will improve the quality of the house, such as installing new registers, backsplash and appliances.



The garage before, during and after a new roof was installed by Kimberly High School students.

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They expect to wrap things up in December so the family can move in just in time to celebrate the holiday season in their new home. The BC2 class is only offered in the first semester, therefore the rehabbing of this home is the only project they will be working on this school year.

“I have many goals for my students to take away from this experience,” said Steve Masanz, the KHS technology education teacher and ACE Academy Coordinator leading the class. “Two that I feel are the most important are discovering rewarding careers in the construction industry and developing positive essential workplace skills that will help them in any career field they choose. As a bonus, fixing up an older home with many unique issues will help students become more educated homeowners themselves.”

While the project will be completed this winter, the benefits to the community and students will last a lifetime. The students will graduate better prepared for life after high school. This experience is an example of how Academic and Career Planning (ACP) in the District helps students explore careers and have real-world experiences that help prepare them for college, careers and life. By taking Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) coursework like BC2, the students are also developing an interest in high-demand jobs. “I feel we were doing ACP long before it became a state initiative because students are able to test drive various construction-related careers in a real-world experienced-based setting,” said Masanz. “They are able to gain firsthand career knowledge to decide which careers best fit their interests, as opposed to simply reading about careers on the internet or watching YouTube videos.”

The BC2 class is part of the curriculum for the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy. Called a school-within-a-school, ACE Academy students receive a comprehensive education in a collaborative learning environment that fosters a link between classroom learning and real-world experiences. The ACE Academy started eight years ago at KHS and there are now 50 students enrolled.



The sidewalk along the house before and during the construction work being done by Kimberly students.

Students in the BC2 class have the opportunity to work alongside local professionals, such as concrete workers and electricians, in order to learn from experts about their careers in construction. Each community-based project has been different so the students develop a slightly different construction skill set. However, according to Masanz, the most important skills – those related to employability - are gained with every project.

Past Building Construct 2 classes have built residential garages, concession stands, a park gazebo and an outdoor learning classroom in their school’s forest. Last year’s BC2 class built a shelter in Sunset Park.

“Community projects afford our students the opportunity to be part of something that is bigger than themselves,” said Masanz. “Students often like to show their family members the projects we are working on and I can see the pride in their eyes when we finish each project.”

The goal of Academic and Career Planning is not for students to have a plan set in stone at a young age, rather it is to help students learn about their interests and the types of career options available to them. “It is nice that our students are able to do something positive that improves the community that they live in through acts of selflessness,” added Masanz.

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**--Steve Masanz
Teacher at Kimberly High School**