

The Lessons Learned

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The Lessons Learned

I've spent four years in the Design Technology program here at Dakota High School, and I couldn't be happier to say that I've thoroughly enjoyed every single day that I've come to class, especially this year. I believe I've come an extremely long way from the beginning, to the end. Between learning to work well with others and come to a common solution, to working by myself to figure out ways to fix a problem. This class gave me a pathway for what I want to do with my college career as well as a guideline for my work career.

As I started in Tech Design with Mr. Kobler, he taught me the fundamentals of design. He showed us all the basics, and computer skills to start. Then was Mechanical design, where we learned how things work to have an end function. Then we started in Engineering with Mr. Mitchell. There we learned that things must work, or people die. We did the Egg crash vehicles with teams, which taught us that there are compromises when working together to come to an end result. Finally, in R&D for the final year which started off with Vex Robots, then was the Senior Capstone Project in which I built my Trike.

I learned more than I thought I did this year. I designed, built, and resulted with a functional driving vehicle. I rode it to school today. Everything must be precision measurements. If they're not exact, the whole thing does not work. As well as plans change, you sometimes make things multiple times with a different design every time.

Mr. Mitchell has pushed me to be my absolute best every day and only expects the best. I might've not realized it in the beginning and sometimes wanted to rip him apart, but I'm sure there's times where he wanted to rip me apart. He gives real world examples of how people are in the workplace and gives strict rules to shape us into better overall people. I believe there were times that I slacked, but I believe I always put my best foot forward when I needed to. On the other hand, Mr. Kobler taught me the beginning, but he doesn't give me the respect that I give to him. I've never disrespected him or criticized him in any way, but he proceeds to disrespect my work and criticize everything I do.

My favorite part about the program is taking something that started as an idea and turning it into something real. For an example, our Egg Crash Vehicles in Engineering. We had an idea of a crash mechanism to save a life of an egg, and made it function to save it. We only had one survivor, but that's another thing. You can always improve your design by testing it and remaking it.



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This program set me up for the rest of my life, as it influenced me to pursue my dream of a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I plan to start at Volkswagen Group of America in Auburn Hills as an Intern in the fall, hopefully to carry me to the rest of my career there or along the same path. As of right now I'm starting at Macomb Community College to save some money to take my pre-requisite classes, then I plan to Transfer to Oakland or Wayne State University.

This program was the only class I ever looked forward to. If I could tell myself one thing if I could start over, it would be to listen and pay attention during CAD or Inventor instructions, as I feel I'm slightly behind the skill level of everyone else. I wish I asked more questions as well. You learn a lot just by asking questions. I would say I would recommend this class to more future students because it is a great program, but I believe it shouldn't have this many students. The instructor can't focus on individual

problems and give as much one on one support to a student, especially when there's multiple different projects happening.

In the end, I want to thank Mr. Mitchell for pushing us all to be our best and only wanting the best for us. I've never met a teacher who cares so much and interacts so much with his students. This program shaped me into who I am today, it makes you pick apart everything and just wanting to know how things work, and interested in making something that makes something work. I will never forget this program.

