

## Board Updates Cabinetry Lab



What does one third of a piece of paper and a piece of plywood have in common? Theodore Roosevelt WoodLINKS Cabinetry students now know as they can now cut plywood, panel stock and other materials to within .001” of accuracy. All this was made possible by the Board of Education approving the purchase of an Omnitech CNC Router late this past spring. With the Boards support students will be able to utilize this high tech piece of equipment as well as the \$102,000.00 software donation from Microvellum from last year.

Students were greeted with the bright orange machine when they arrived back to school this fall. “We are very excited to bring this level of technology into our curriculum to challenge and inspire our students” said Troy Spear, WoodLINKS Cabinetry instructor. Spear’s students already have been planning on how to utilize the new piece of equipment into projects for the community. “We are even in the beginning stages of planning to possibly help remodel the kitchens in the Family and Consumer Science lab,” Spear added. The Cabinetry II class has been designing in Microvellum a version of a table in the Arts and Crafts style originally designed by Charles Limbert.

When asked “why an Omnitech router?” Spear was quick to answer, “It came with the #1 industrial control in the world, a Fanuc; it is built with quality and is an industrial duty machine.” The Manufacturing Classes, taught by co-teacher Joe Paoloni, will be incorporating the router into the existing curriculum as well. These classes are

part of the Career Technical programs housed in part at TRHS. By design the Manufacturing class teaches students the usefulness of programming versus merely being an operator. Paoloni has been utilizing a Hurco CNC mill for some time in training students in CNC programming and manufacturing. Students have designed and made projects that range from wooden plaques to plastic injection molds. "It only made sense to us to try and partner a similar control to the existing machine we have" said Paoloni.

Both Roosevelt teachers have been in contact with the staff at Omnitech for about four years. "We first saw this machine at AWFS and were amazed at how it was built, the standard features as well as the rapport we were able to build with the Omnitech team since first meeting them" Spear said. Paoloni added, "In my 30 plus years experience in the mold and metal industry and working with machines, it takes a lot to impress me. This CNC machine has impressed me!"

Spear concluded by saying, "My students are ready to dive into working with this piece of equipment. I plan on introducing my CAD classes as well to this level of manufacturing. It can only help them appreciate the industry applications and possibilities that much more."

If you are interested in more information about the WoodLINKS program or the Cabinetry program at Theodore Roosevelt High School contact Troy Spear  
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