

## Wilson Talent Center Virtual Visit – Construction Technology

[Jerry Johnson] My name is Jerry Johnson. I'm the construction trades technology teacher. I've been working here for 17 years. In the construction technology class. We cover mostly residential construction because that's what students are familiar with. But we send students into the working world in residential, industrial, commercial. They can go anywhere they want to out of this program. It's a great opportunity for a high school student to get hands on experience in a setting to where we're using real scale projects. We teach carpentry, from the foundation up. We also get electrical, plumbing; we have heavy equipment that the students are able to use when they learn on the simulators. We have a backhoe, an excavator, a small tractor and an area to dig that the students can do that. Plumbing, for example, is very hands on the projects we work on in class are real scale projects, meaning we use the actual materials and performed in the same way you would when you build him out in industry. So this is as much plumbing as would be in a kitchen. It's usually just buried in the walls. The students do all the work. Using the same professional grade tools to do it with the electrical, that's the same way you'd wire up anything electrically is just again on a smaller scale with the students doing 100% of the work. The opportunity we have this environment is there's the opportunity to fail because it doesn't have to meet code. We want the students doing the hands-on part of the work, not worrying about it being perfect. The level of work they do is really elevated, but having that freedom to to learn maybe make a mistake. Learn from that mistake just in relaxed atmosphere is an excellent opportunity. One of the best benefits of the class is a student's ability to be successful. They get to come into an atmosphere that's based on being hands on while still applying the academics to what we're doing, so they're still doing math. We're still doing English. We're still doing problem solving, but we're doing it in an environment that challenges the student and gives them a chance to use their hands to figure stuff out. And usually by hearing about it, reading about it, and then performing the actions it anchors it in their head and they get to know that skill. Coming from class, you can go directly into industry, working as a professional. You can go continue education to get a degree in management. To do that, you can simply be educated homeowner on what we're doing, so this class is a great opportunity for anybody just wants to know more about it in an environment that is high expectations. A lot of support and is very user friendly for the student. To be in this class. What we want is that you have the interest you don't have to have any experience, any background. That's my job to teach you safely how to use all the tools, all the materials if you want to be in this class, it's a great atmosphere. It's a two year class. However, if you're only available to take it for one year. You'd be able to get what we've got for that year, so I hope you're interested in what we're doing. And now let me send you off to a couple of students to tell you what they think. [Dominic Beckley] Hi, I'm Dominic Beckley. I'm from Stock Bridge High school. I'm in the construction class because I like to hands-on and I like to learn new things. I want to get into the Union at Local 58 as an electrician and here I learn all that kind of stuff. This stuff right here. This is our plumbing table right here. We soldered and put all these pipes together and got all the measurements for it. But here's our blueprints. It'll show all the measurements that we need, where they go. [Dominic Story] Hi, I'm Dominic Story from Stock Bridge high school. I joined the construction class here at the Wilson Talent Center over here, we have our electrical wall that we've been working on. We're pretty much almost done with it. We pretty much just learn all the electrical you need to do wire a house almost.

These boxes right here are for light switches. And then if you look down below, we haven't gotten to these yet but these are going to be outlets eventually. Then we also learn how to wire for lights and then we have a circuit box that we connect it all to. With any of these skills, really we can just, something goes wrong in your own house, you can fix it or you can join the electrician union and just go wire houses for a living. So back here in the back we have all of our lumber storage from when we get to carpentry. Here's everything we need for doing electrical between switches. We have outlets, we have everything over here. Anything you need to do to use wires and wire a house pretty much. Each year we do a little different like our second year. Next year we're going to be building like doing carpentry, almost building a house. So this year we learned plumbing and electrical and next year we'll be doing all carpentry so. We look forward to seeing you guys here. It's a really good class.

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