

New multi-process welders expand student opportunities in welding labs

When Mankato East and West High school fabrication students return to the classroom, they'll have an opportunity to use the four new Miller Multimatic 220 welders, which were funded by an \$11,500 Educare grant.

The welders provide an upgrade and expansion within each school's welding lab. Students gain access and exposure to welding skills and techniques on industry standard equipment.

"Welding is in high demand locally and regionally," said Dave Evans, trade and industry instructor at East High School. "And fabrication has become more appealing to the younger generation with a few hundred students in the district taking welding courses. These classes give them insight into what a future career in welding looks like."

The welders have several capabilities including metal inert gas, flux core, stick and tungsten inert gas. Previously, demonstrations required four different welders. "The new welders provide versatility," says Kevin Dick, technology education instructor at West High School. "They streamline the learning process and allow for less downtime and more time working together."

Welding courses follow an industry-supported curriculum, which are guided by a community industry board focusing on meeting local needs. Many students connect with these community businesses and retain welding and manufacturing internships potentially leading to career opportunities.

Evans says students in welding courses learn 21st Century skills like critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. "The welders not only bring new technology to our students, it also allows them to see a project come full circle while practicing essential skills."



East High School student Lindsey Lawton welds a lap joint in the welding lab at school. She plans to intern at a local business after graduation in preparation for a career in welding.

Mankato Area Public Schools' meal information

Studies show that quality nutrition optimizes student learning. Therefore, Mankato Area Public Schools strives to provide students with healthy food that tastes good.

Five healthy items are offered including milk, meat or meat alternative, fruit, vegetable and whole grain-rich items for each meal. Students are encouraged to take three which must include a half-cup serving of fruits or vegetables, which are provided in convenient packages can help students reach that goal.

For elementary students, breakfast costs \$1 and lunch is \$2.35.

For secondary students, breakfast is \$1.05 and lunch is \$2.65. Meals are provided at free or reduced cost for students who qualify. Families must reapply every year and may do so at any time by calling 507-388-7442 or emailing staff.

