



Three new Middleton CTE Pathways receive nearly \$85,000 in startup funding for state-of-the-art equipment to train students in sports med and construction courses

Middleton instructors in three new career technical education pathways are buying industry approved equipment for their programs after winning three competitive grants. That means students in rehabilitation services, construction, cabinetmaking and bench carpentry will have state-of-the-art equipment to learn new skills before they graduate.



Stacy Kastler

That gives students a huge advantage, Middleton Career Technical Education Director Stacy Kastler said, because they are able to learn new skills for jobs they can apply for once they graduate from high school.

The grants are for programs at Middleton High School and Middleton Academy. Students at either school can enroll in the new programs.

“Receiving these grants provides our teachers with the resources to prepare our students with practical skills and knowledge that will directly help them in the workforce,” Kastler said. “These pathways offer hands-on learning opportunities that can engage students effectively and be relevant to their future goals.”

Construction Instructor Harley Wilson understands the value of the grants and what it will mean for students to work with industry standard equipment.



Harley Wilson

“Grants are an essential component of starting and maintaining a quality CTE program. General funding at both the state and local level for CTE programs normally only cover consumable supplies necessary to carry



out the labs and activities to meet the programs standards. Grants help to bridge the gap between annual funding and industry need.

Starting a CTE program and adding equipment to a program to keep up with current industry standards are very costly and most schools are unable to fulfill those needs on their own,” Wilson said.

Students will start seeing the impact of these funds immediately but the largest influence will come from the expanded curriculum opportunities these funds create beginning in the 24-25 school year.

Sports Medicine Instructor Jenna Morch said students already have access to new equipment, which gives students hands-on practice directly related to what they are learning now.

“For example, my Foundations of Health Professions class is learning the nervous system right now,” Morch said. “We will talk about stroke and paraplegia, and then we will practice wheelchair transfers for patients that need that care!”



Jenna Morch



“I think students are attracted to hands-on learning and the break from note-taking and worksheets. My students think it’s so cool that we have an entire lab and worked hard, and even enjoyed unboxing and putting all of the things together! It made them take pride in how their lab is set up and got them way more involved!”

The Idaho Division of Career Technical Education received State General Fund appropriations for this fiscal year to support newly established career technical education programs. The grants are very specific and Middleton School District will be reimbursed for expenses amounting to:

- **MHS Rehabilitation Services** - Sports Medicine: \$24,606.94 for medical equipment.
- **MHS Construction Trades** - \$12,429.00 for saws, compressor, ladders and nailers.
- **MA Cabinetmaking/Bench Carpentry** - \$33,200.97 for equipment including sanders, saws and nail guns.
- **MA Residential Construction** - \$14,945.84 for equipment including saws, ladders, rooftop fall protection, airless paint sprayer, nail guns and compressors.

To learn more about the CTE programs, visit this link or <https://bit.ly/MHSCTEPathways> or scan in this QR code:





Construction students build storage sheds, learn skills, use proper equipment

Middleton Academy's construction students are putting their skills to work, building a variety of projects, including 8x10 storage sheds, using some equipment secured by grant money, such as the one built for the Community School's Closet.

They are also building a 10 x 16 shed for the Middleton Community Center. Principal Steve Diffey said the Community Center provided the building materials.



The students learn how to build spec houses according to code and industry standards, along with team building skills that they will need in the workplace. Top that off with learning construction skills with industry standard tools, Diffey said.

Students are also encouraged to study the safety manual. Kase Fielder is the first to earn the OSHA Safety Card. Part of next year's curriculum may include "Construction" English, where students would learn applicable construction skills



such as reading blueprints while learning English, Diffey said. That will include the Safety Manual.

Anyone interested in having something such as a shed built should contact Mr. Diffey at Middleton Academy.

Pictured: Middleton Academy Principal Steve Diffey, student Kase Fielder and construction teacher Mark Enger.