Construction Technology

Herndon Career Center | Video Transcript

Hi, my name is Jim Oliver, and I am the Construction Technology instructor here at Herndon Career Center. In the construction class, students learn the basics of plumbing, electrical work, concrete, framing, roofing, and heavy equipment operation.

Students will also earn a 10-hour OSHA certification and two certifications through the Carpenters' Union. Completing these certifications may help students qualify for an increased rate of pay.

The Construction Technology program at Herndon Career Center is housed in a newer facility with high-quality equipment. Students have the opportunity to wire electrical stations and operate the heavy equipment we have purchased so they can gain valuable seat time and experience.

Students learn how to measure, assemble, and complete layouts, as well as how to read blueprints. They will learn different aspects of plumbing, framing, and roofing. They will also learn the importance of bidding a job by calculating project costs and labor costs.

We also focus on workplace expectations. Students learn to punch a time clock and be responsible with their time. We offer paid internship opportunities for first-year seniors and some returning second-year students. I have a list of contractors who are continually looking for young, capable people to come work for them.

The station beside me is used for electrical wiring, plumbing, and drywall. It gives students a small-scale introductory space to practice these skills before applying what they have learned in the shop when we begin building a larger structure. It is a stepping stone.

We start small and build a strong foundation of knowledge and understanding. Using this station allows students to develop their skills before moving on to larger projects. When they enter the workforce, they will have a baseline knowledge that will hopefully help them stand out and earn a job over other applicants.