

**AARON TARSA'S
CONSTRUCTION TRADES CLASS**



**WEST SHORE
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT**

West Shore Educational Service District's Construction Trades students are fully immersed in a hands-on, real-world project. The high school juniors and seniors, who are part of the ESD's Career and Technical Education program, are constructing a new cold storage building on the West Shore Community College campus.

"It's a great opportunity to get hands-on work, and it's beneficial for me since I'm going into this field for a career," said R.V. VanderWeele, a student from Manistee High School. "We're learning on-the-go and it's great getting trained by instructors who are fun to work with."

This collaborative project was discussed by WSCC and West Shore ESD for a number of years and incorporated into the college's facility master plan. However, the growing popularity of the CTE AgriScience program led to the displacement of WSCC maintenance offices and storage this year, making the project a priority. In addition, it was an ideal project to be handled by the CTE Construction Trades program, as much of the curriculum is covered through the process of building this structure.

Mary Rivera, a student from Walker-ville High School, has "enjoyed the experience of hands-on work in a fun atmosphere, and the professionalism on the job site."

At the beginning of year, students completed a series of safety trainings, which prepared them to be on a working construction site. Students are on-site every day, with the exception of days with inclement weather.

This cold-storage building will be complete with four bays, two of which will be utilized by the West Shore ESD and two by WSCC. CTE students will complete 90 percent of the construction for this new structure. Portions of the project, such as the cement foundation, were completed by a building contractor. The project is expected to be wrapped up by the end of the 2016 - 2017 school year, with the outer structure and roofing to be completed prior to snowfall.

*Brandy Henderson
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IMAGINE is made possible by **Oakview Medical Care Facility, Great Lakes Energy, Little Caesars Pizza of Ludington, Pennies From Heaven Foundation, West Shore Bank, West Shore Community College, West Shore ESD, Metalworks and Walmart.**