



Hickory Public Schools

Week in Review

November 4, 2016

“A snapshot of HPS good news”

Taste Test at Jenkins Elementary – Smiley Face Wins!

Kindergarten through fifth grade students at Jenkins Elementary recently experienced a “taste test.” Approximately 100 children participated in the tasting of three natural juice flavors—including **Dragon Punch**, **Cherry Star** and **Wango Mango**. No additional sugars were added to the juices.

If the students liked the juice, they marked the survey’s smiley face; and if the juice didn’t make the grade, the students marked the frowning face.

The natural juices received a thumbs up from the majority of testers—with 86 percent providing a “smiley face” approval rating.

According to Hickory Public Schools Child Nutrition Director, Tina Pottorff, the taste test survey is part of the NC Procurement Alliance for Child Nutrition. ““This is a collaborating group that selects menu additions based on the feedback from students,” said Pottorff. “Last year, students at one of our schools participated in the tasting of corn muffins and a roll. If the menu items receive student approval, the next step includes a bidding process from vendors before the actual addition to the school menu. It’s a long process but we love having the feedback from our students,” she said.



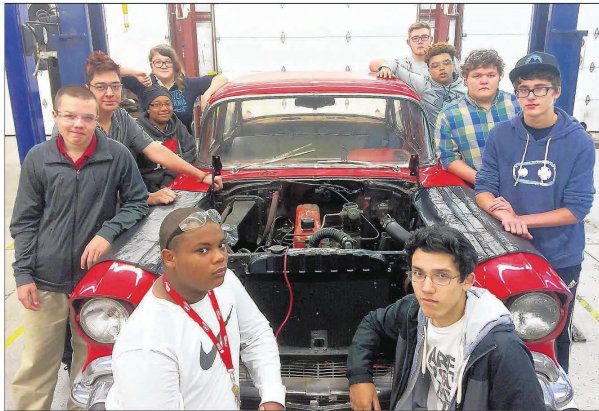
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Congrats to the HHS Automotive Department!

~Featured article in the Hickory Daily Record~

"It's not going to be some sort of Frankenstein's monster. It's going to be something beautiful."
—Hickory High School automotive student Emily Cooper

Geared up to go fast



Hickory High students in Tim Felton's automotive class are geared up and ready to turn this 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air with a straight six engine into an eye-catching hot rod. The project is funded through the Charlotte STEAM R.A.T. Rod Challenge.

HHS automotive students hit gas with hot rod project

BY JOHN BAILEY
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HICKORY
Keeping students motivated to be in class is not a problem for Hickory High School automotive instructor Tim Felton these days.

The idea of turning an old, worn out 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air into a RAT Rod (Radically Alternative Thinking) has Felton's students geared up every time they walk through the doors of the school's automotive shop.

"It's basically thinking outside the box for the kids," Felton said. "They're putting their own ideas into this project (and) it's hard to teach in the classroom because all they talk about is the '57 Chevrolet."

Hickory High's automotive department received a \$5,000 donation from the Charlotte STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) organization to build a RAT Rod last year.

Charlotte STEAM and Harper Corp. of America have challenged students from across North and South Carolina to build a RAT Rod vehicle, charlottesteam.org says.



Demarco Young works on connecting a turbo charger, built from airplane parts, to the car's engine.

The HHS students decided to buy a '57 Chevrolet at the end of the 2015-16 school year. In September, the teacher got news from the organization that donated the money that the car is in the national RAT Rod magazine. Hickory High will present its RAT Rod in a car show in April.

Felton sees the project as way to expand his students' education. "They're building something," Felton said. "Nowadays, everybody wants to buy something. This takes it to another level."

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FROM THE FRONT/LOCAL

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Hickory High School automotive students Justin Reyes, Summer Cade and Emily Cooper take time to figure out the best way to add old school bus seats to the group's 1957 Chevy.

Rod

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The main requirement of the challenge is that the project must be completely student driven — their ideas and their work put toward transforming the vehicle into a street-legal, head-turning classic.

Other requirements include building the car with parts from at least 10 other vehicles.

The RAT Rod must be operable and safe for the road, and students must use STEAM curriculum.

The students' imagination is already showing with a specially fabricated steering wheel and gear shift from spare engine parts.

Hunter Dyer, a senior, is the mind behind the special steering wheel. He wants to make working on cars his career after graduation.

"I was tired of seeing plain Janes," Dyer said of his idea for the steering wheel. "I took piston rods and made a U out of them, and I took sprock-

ets and welded them on top."

He plans on wrapping a timing chain around it to finish off the wheel.

Dyer added that the winner in the car show will be the team that is "off the wall, unique and custom."

Classmate Grayson Keller, a junior, is certainly doing his part as the creator of the car's gear shift.

"I've seen some similar to it, but I haven't seen any with the same parts," Keller said. "The aluminum connecting rod and piston head come out of a 426 hemi that the guy who owned it had pro charged ... but didn't really take care of the motor, and he blew the motor apart. This was basically the only solid piece that you could tell what was what."

While the students have dived head first into the creativity and problem-solving side of the project, they've also realized how much the challenge is expanding their knowledge of cars.

"We've learned some of the parts we don't usually work with and we get to learn more about what makes

the car do what it does," sophomore Zacary Eckard said.

Fellow sophomore Emily Cooper added that every student is getting a chance to put his or her own creative spin into the vehicle.

"It's mostly like we're all actually making something together," Cooper said. "It's not going to be some sort of Frankenstein's monster. It's going to be something beautiful."

She and classmate Summer Cade decided to re-use old school bus seats for their RAT Rod.

"We're figuring out a way to make it look interesting and unique inside the car," Cooper said.

The students also incorporated parts from tractors and even created a turbocharger from airplane parts.

The Hickory High Automotive Technology Program is part of the overall Career and Technical Education program for Hickory Public Schools.

For more information about the program, visit hickoryhigh.hickoryschools.net.



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