



Demonstrating the TIG welding process to sophomore Ben Kaehr is Adams Central Ag teacher and FFA sponsor Mike Jones. "This information is really helping me because I want to be a mechanic when I graduate," Nathan Coffey said. "It's hard to learn how to set up...you have to know the temperature and the gauge of the steel piping you are working with." Welding is the focus of the first semester's content in Ag Mech.



NATHAN COFFEY/MIG WELD



BROCKTON TONNER/DRILL PRESS

Students 'fire up' the class

Variety of life skills taught in Ag. Mechanics class

Providing a "taste" of potential careers is one of the reasons Mike Jones enjoys teaching Ag Mechanics class.

"What I tell my kids is when they take this class you get a wide variety of experiences. If you like motors, metals or woods this course can be the introduction to other courses," Jones said.

"I really enjoy this class," sophomore Cody Emmenhiser said. "It gives you all sorts of information in machine work. I think everyone should try it."

With welding as the focus first semester, the class is currently creating Christmas-themed projects - everything from a metal Christmas tree and stand, to a dog and sled.

Zach Hakes is helping Jacob Klug complete his

project: a metal utility shelf with drawers for Jacob's grandfather as a Christmas gift.

"I like that I get to spend the first two hours of the day working in the shop. You learn better through getting hands-on experience," Klug said.

Classmate Hakes agrees.

"I want to become a welder when I get out of school, and this is great experience."

When the projects are completed, they will be put on display in the cafeteria for all students to enjoy and place their votes on the best, says Jones.

But teaching welding is not the only reason Jones decided put his Agriculture Education degree from Purdue to practice at Adams Central.

"Hopefully my students

are learning people skills and a good work ethic," Jones said.

"Over half of my kids will go into the workforce, and they'll need to learn how to be on time, responsible and respectful of others at work."

This work ethic was obvious as his students independently worked on their projects, using different welding skills -- along with a variety of other experiences, including small motors, electricity basics, concrete and woodworking.

With his project completed ahead of deadline, Brockton Tonner has moved on to other challenges.

"I'm making a mount for my car to put more lights on the front grill," Tonner said.

That'll be some Purple Geo Tracker.

CLASS OFFERINGS at ADAMS CENTRAL

Ag Mechanics - 2 hours

Life Science: Animals

Landscape Management

Agri Business Management

Students may also choose to join the FFA chapter and compete in contests for experience in leadership and scholarships.



DYLAN GARNER FINDS PARTS TO REPAIR A CHAIN SAW