

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • March 5, 2021

This has been a year of adaptation. When Pickaway-Ross became the location of a COVID vaccine clinic last week, it necessitated a remote learning day for students.

Commercial Carpentry instructor Aaron McManes offered his students the opportunity to continue work on the shelter house at Chillicothe's Mary Lou Patton Park that day instead of completing an online assignment and 11 juniors and two seniors signed on.

"I am super proud," Aaron wrote in a Facebook post after the students were finished for the day. "Today they showed they are serious and dedicated to learning and working in the construction industry."



Aaron and his seniors — shown at the site Wednesday — have been working on the shelter house since late fall but time there has been limited and the winter break, followed by harsh winter weather, impeded their progress.

Working from about 9 a.m. until 2 last Friday was what was needed to make a difference.

"I say we have

two more days on it," Aaron said Monday. "We should be done this week."

And adaptation has come into play here as the shelter house is a mix of residential and commercial carpentry. Aaron's program has been dedicated to commercial carpentry for the past few years after originally dividing the program between residential and commercial.

This project "is kind of a little bit of both, because we're working with wood. But it's got commercial regulations to it. Because the community is going to be there, so it has to be able to withstand wind abuse and things like that,"

Aaron said.

Aaron said his students gain basic knowledge of working with wood as they learn how to use tools such as circular and reciprocating saws in their junior year for their first project, making sawhorses.

"So it's been a little bit of an adaptation for them but they're doing pretty good at it," Aaron said.



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