

Learning is really picking up STEAM at Cuba-Rushford



Seniors Mikayla Moshier and Brittany Fair show pottery bowls made in Mrs Feenaughty's Pottery 3 class

By Cynthia Dutton

CUBA-RUSHFORD—A recent visit to the Cuba-Rushford Middle/High School proved that building sure isn't "your mother's high school" anymore! Technology Integrator Jay Morris led an informative tour to demonstrate five areas of instructional emphasis at C-R, abbreviated as STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics.

First stop at the school was the library where there are, of course, lots of books, but also 40 PCs. When the school was built in 1996, the library/media center had a few PCs around the perimeter. Through the years, as teaching modes have evolved, PCs were added in blocks of four to encourage collaboration. Not only is the library well equipped with desktop PCs, all Cuba-Rushford students, grades Pre-K through 12, are given an iPad at

the beginning of the school year. Many assignments and tests are done on the iPad on special class and grade specific applications (apps) that are downloaded. Each student is responsible for taking care of his iPad and, according to Morris, they do not disappoint. Morris explained that most student learning is no longer one student to one piece of technology, but rather three to one...the student is one part, and they often have their own device plus their district supplied iPad then desktop or laptop PC which is used for research and solution documentation. Having technology available instantly meets the fast paced needs of today's learner. There was an app Notability that junior Ellie Morris used that allowed trigonometry problems to be written and solved on the iPad. Students were using their free period to work in groups and collaborate on projects. This is what "study hall" looks like today!

On our way to the technology lab, we met Hayley Walt and Emma Gaeta, studying collaboratively on the floor in the hallway. They are film students who were using "mise-en-science," an app that helped them understand and analyze the film "Edward Scissorhands."

Mike Johnson, technology instructor/educator, introduced Ian Snopkowski, presently a junior who plans on becoming a mechanical engineer. In "our mother's day," this class might have been the industrial arts class, but it is now a great deal more than learning to use drills

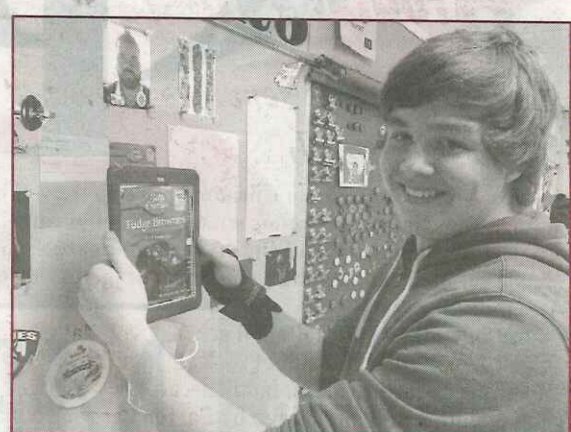
and saws. Ian demonstrated the use of a 3D structure scanner clipped on an iPad Air and produced a three dimensional copy of an object. With astonishing speed and clarity, a complicated wooden figure was reproduced "3 dimensionally" on the iPad. The department is in the process of getting a 3D printer so that objects students create can be made. Johnson pointed out that the usefulness of this technology is huge, for instance, giving the ability to recreate/rebuild a broken/missing part while "on site/in the field." It offers great cost savings to be able to recreate a part "in the field." Also, 3D printing is an excellent means for rapid prototyping when designing an item needed to solve a particular problem.

Next we visited Pat Ploetz's lab...known "in our mother's day" as the Agriculture Room, whose coursework currently has a little home economics and industrial arts thrown in. She still teaches agriculture in our environment, but the curriculum contains the importance of raising livestock and crops and incorporates the science of raw products behind that. Animal Science is rotated annually with Food Science, which is the unit being completed this fall. Yesterday one class made mozzarella cheese, learning about moisture content. The correct moisture content allows for effective shredding and the cause and effect of moisture on that. There is a "food plot" outside where students raised a ton of acorn squash, learning good soil stewardship practices. We met Jacob Ingalls, a senior who completed a welding

project. He showed off a welding table he made, and discussed the engineering for stability and weight. From his experience in welding at CRCS and at BOCES Career and Technical Center, he could get a job immediately with local industry, or he can continue his education at SUNY Alfred on the Wellsville campus. Ploetz showed off gum ball "machines" that her 7th graders constructed out of wood. They incorporated STEAM learning in measurement, production and assembly of the approximately ten parts that made up the object.

The "Arts" are fully represented in STEAM as evidenced by Allison Feenaughty's Art room where seniors Brittany Fair and Mikayla Moshier showed pottery projects. Brittany incorporated science into the art of pottery by throwing three cylinders that fit together perfectly to stack into a large vessel, on which she placed sculpted leaves and faces. Mikayla showed a complicated bowl with cut outs and a handle that was difficult to add. Students take an introductory class in Studio Arts first, and then can build on that to take advanced art form classes like pottery and drawing. Feenaughty's goal is to reach students individually to become better and more creative problem solvers. Neither girl plans to major in art as a vocation in college but both see their learning here as a lifelong pleasurable and useful activity.

A friendly stroll through the halls of Cuba-Rushford Central School may lead you to stumble upon Señor Tim Ellison's Spanish classroom. Inside the door, you will find the students "bringing the classroom walls to life." Each student selects or creates a special "trigger image," and hangs it up in the classroom. The students then use an augmented reality app called Aurasma to begin a magical process. The images are coded



Isaiah Sears capturing an image for Aurasma App in Spanish class

to load a video that the students have recorded to correspond with their trigger image. Next, students use their iPads to scan their classmate's trigger images, thus bringing their screens to life with videos that go into further detail about those pictures or objects. This process is beneficial to the educational process, as students are teaching and learning Spanish naturally along the journey.

Morris, another "Allegany County by choice" resident, spends his days helping teachers and students integrate technology into their learning. He believes that students thrive using technology and that perhaps they come to a quicker understanding of their world and its components when they combine STEAM with History, English and their life experiences.

I would like to do high school over again! What fun!

Merry Christmas
from all of us at
The Road Runner
Auto Parts
CARQUEST 1 West Main St.
Cuba, NY
M-F 8-5:30pm; Sat 8am-1pm
(585) 968-3713



Senior Jacob Ingalls shows off a welding table he made in Ms. Ploetz's Ag Lab.

★★★★★
NOW PLAYING:
★★★★★
THE GRAND THEATRE
144 N. Main St., Wellsville
(585) 593-6899
Friday, Dec. 26 - Thursday, Dec. 1
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies PG-13
Show Times: Every night 6:45pm & 9:30pm
Matinees: Daily beginning Sat. at 2pm
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb PG
Times: Every night 7pm & 9pm
Matinees: Daily beginning Sat. at 2pm & 4pm
Closed 12/24 for evening showtimes and 12/25 for matinee showtimes
12/31 - No 9:30 or 9:00pm showtimes

All The Best To You And Yours
We'd like to extend our warm wishes and gratitude to all our kind neighbors this holiday season. It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you.
EMPIRE CHEESE, INC.
Haskell Rd., Cuba, NY

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season. Thank you for the privilege of serving you this year
Grandalls Memorials
Curt, Cathy & Cory
1-877-407-1717

Cuba • Wellsville
Giant Food Mart
Your Locally Owned Supermarket
Special Orders Call:
Wellsville: 593-DELI (3354)
Cuba: 968-BEEF (2333)
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEARS!
From All Of Us At Giant Food Mart
Holiday Madness
Wednesday December 24th & 31st
All Day Long!
Save \$3.00
16" One Topping Large Pizza **\$6.99** each
All Day Long!
Save \$1.70
Choose From White or Wheat Roll
Cooked Ham or Turkey One Foot Sub **\$4.99** each
Visit Us At: www.giantfoodmart.com