



“Teaching Work Ethic in Manufacturing”

The purpose of the work ethic curriculum being provided to the HTEC network is to provide teachers with valuable teaching tools that can be easily adopted, adapted, and used in their high school and post-secondary machining programs to teach the subject of “Work Ethic”. Students who enter the manufacturing workforce must be taught the “ethics of work” in a way that relates to their personal lives as well as to the manufacturing environment that they will be a part of on a daily basis. As machining teachers, we all know how important the acquisition of machining skills are to a graduate of our programs. However, often times the teaching of “work ethics” is overlooked so that we turn out skilled graduates who don’t have the work ethic needed to be a truly valuable employee. A highly trained and highly skilled machining student is of no use to an employer if they do not have work ethic to go along with their machining and manufacturing skills.

Every other Thursday starting in September of 2016, Jim Weber, machining and welding teacher at Capital High School in Helena, Montana, will put a “lesson” on the HTEC website regarding the teaching of work ethic. The basic structure of the lessons provides a framework, scenario, and topic regarding work ethic that can be presented to your class. From the scenario provided, the students write a 1 ½ to 2-page response and on Friday of each week the class holds a discussion lead by the teacher regarding their responses. HTEC teachers are free to use and adapt the lessons/curriculum to fit their programs as needed. The topics will vary each week so feel free to pick and choose curriculum that you feel is valuable to your program. Many of the scenarios will be very specific to the fields of welding and machining while others are generic and be used any career area. If you are in need of a more formal curriculum to purchase and use in your program, the Center for Work Ethic Development is an excellent resource. **I would also highly recommend Eric Chester’s bestselling book called “Reviving Work Ethic”. It is a very good read and Eric really “gets it” regarding the issue of work ethic.**

The work ethic curriculum has become a huge focus within my program as I train my students for entry into the workforce. I personally guarantee you will see positive results in your program by taking the time and effort to intentionally teach the subject of work ethic. If you have any questions regarding the work ethic curriculum and how to teach it, please feel free to contact me at jweber@helenaschools.org.

I hope it helps and if you have any suggestions feel free to send them my way.

Sincerely, Jim Weber, Capital High School, Helena, MT

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