



Vestal Central School District

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Vestal students get a lesson in basic car maintenance

Vestal High School's Life & Career Readiness class helps prepare students for the practical side of life. As the students finished up a unit on what it takes to own a car, including a deep dive into the intricacies of car insurance, Bernice Thompson thought it might be useful for her students to learn about car maintenance, as well. She consulted with School Counselor Becky Martino, who reached out to her contacts at the Department of Labor. Last week, they came in with virtual-reality goggles for students to experience how to perform a basic oil change.

Following up on that experience, on December 7 Transportation Supervisor Ken Starr invited Mrs. Thompson, her class, plus students from BOCES Heavy Equipment Repair & Operations class to use the bus garage's wash bay to practice some routine maintenance checks on her personal vehicle. Transportation mechanic Matt Darrah, with an assist from mechanic Mitchell Dabrovolksis, showed the students how to check the oil, washer fluid, and air filter. They also checked tire pressure and then made sure the brake lights were working properly.

"Learning basic car maintenance skills can give students the ability to become more independent and capable young adults," said Mrs. Thompson. "Knowing how to perform these maintenance checks themselves, even how to change an air filter, can save students a lot over their lifetimes as well."

This was a wonderful team effort! So, many thanks to Vestal IT gurus Tyler Clements, Taylor Ehrets, and Storm Kurtz, who ensured the VR goggles worked with District technology, the Department of Labor, Vestal CSD Transportation Department, and especially to Becky Martino for bringing this all together. We appreciate everyone who contributed to this life lesson for our students!