

Mashpee School Committee Impressed With Tech Center Achievements

SAM HOUGHTON | MASHPEE ENTERPRISE



Mashpee School Committee gave students and staff at the Mashpee High School Technology Center of Excellence accolades for their recent achievements.

The center was the recipient of the PTC Academy Champion Award in November for demonstrating leadership in industry education. Students and staff were also featured at the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators/Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Fall Technology Conference at Gillette Stadium and the Massachusetts STEM Summit 2014 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

At the December 3 school committee meeting, tech center teacher Salvatore Nocella said that a systems engineer at Brandeis University had learned of Mashpee's success and e-mailed him to learn more about Mashpee's experience. He said the request is proof of Mashpee's accomplishments.

"These kids are great ambassadors," Mr. Nocella said of his students in the program. "They are a blessing to the town and they work extremely hard."

Mr. Nocella and Michael P. Looney, as well as three students in the program, gave a presentation on some of their work to school committee members.

Erik Bergstrom, a senior, explained how he built a miniature 3D Star Wars scout transport with the center's 3D printer. He said he logged about 20 hours of free time to build the object. Mr. Nocella's classes are "fun but a lot of work," he said.

Brendon T. Kidwell, another senior in the program, explained how he built a multiple part and multiple gear object called a lathe chuck. He showed how he created the object using computer software before exporting the design to the 3D printer. He spent some 30 hours working on it and used reverse engineering techniques. Mr. Nocella said that Brendon has been completing college level work and that he is quite impressed with his ability.

Sophomore Jashan Chopra explained to the committee how he built a sphere and square objects with the 3D printer.

Committee member Geoffery A. Gorman said that he had not done this type of work until well into his college years. "I wish I had gone to Mashpee High," he said. "This is incredible. Amazing."

"This will take you a long way," committee member Christopher C. Santos said. He said that he has been involved with computer graphics in his career and tried for a long time to replicate similar projects as the students but without success. He said that when looking at the objects these students made, it can be difficult to appreciate the effort put into it. "I am impressed," he said.