



8th Grade Technology Education

Mr. Oberholtzer

8th Grade Technology & Engineering Teacher

Warwick School District Technology & Engineering Dept. Coordinator

(717) 626-3705 (Ext. 2139)

joberholtzer@warwicksd.org

Welcome to 8th Grade Technology & Engineering

Greetings! My name is Mr. Oberholtzer, and I am excited to embark on a new hexamester and I look forward to exploring the many facets of Technology, Design, and Manufacturing with our students over the coming weeks. This course is fast-paced, challenging, and rewarding.

Students will have opportunities to learn and grow. They will have the chance to develop and design a solution to a given social-technical problem. They will carry that solution from inception, through the manufacturing process, right to the end stage, which is a finished prototype. The students will learn responsibility, project management, and decision-making, and they will learn to safely operate a variety of industrial-sized woodworking equipment. This year, we will continue our endeavors to give the students autonomy within the shop and the work environment. Your student will have the opportunity to use modern CAD software, interact with 3D printers, a CNC router, and a Glowforge laser cutter/engraver, in addition to using modern shop equipment. New this year, we also have a TIG welder. While we don't have time for every student to learn welding, we will provide opportunities for those who are interested to try it out.

Some of our instruction will be done via Problem-Based Learning, where the students will have a lot of say in *how* the projects are completed. This can be scary for some students as there is no set recipe; however, this method also better mimics how we, as adults, tackle problems, projects, and our own learning.

Safety is always a priority, and we will provide in-depth training on equipment. The students will practice with the machines under direct supervision, and they must prove they know the rules/procedures before they operate the equipment on their own. We also discuss what it means to have a "Safety Mindset".

Please take the time to explore the class website on Teacher Web. More in-depth information is available regarding course content, Frequently Asked Questions, grading, etc. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at [**joberholtzer@warwicksd.org**](mailto:joberholtzer@warwicksd.org) I try to respond to emails within 24 hours whenever possible.

I look forward to working with your student this hexamester and am excited about the direction the course is heading. Together, we can help prepare our students for a bright future!

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey Oberholtzer

Expectations & Requirements:

- **Safety:** Students will adhere to all safety rules and will follow instructions at all times. They will not only remain conscious of their own safety but of the safety of others as well. We believe that safety is, first and foremost, a *mindset*. Students must wear safety glasses, including over-glasses if they wear corrective lenses. Students with hair that touches their shoulders must tie it back. When we are working, open-toed footwear such as slides, flip-flops, sandals, and Crocs are not acceptable. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is supplied where required.
- **Responsibility:** Students are responsible for their own work, turning it in or finishing on time, and for making up any missed time or assignments. They should come prepared for class. This means showing up on time, with something to write with, and with their computer. If any assignments are due, they should be completed and ready to turn in. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for make-up work or to schedule make-up time.
- **Project Fee:** There is a **\$10.00** flat fee for this course. The costs of materials and consumables are ever-increasing. Please know that: A.) We do our best to keep waste to a minimum and to make efficient use of supplies. B.) Any "Project Money" collected is used to procure or replenish materials and consumables for the course.
- **Attitude & Professionalism:** In line with the District Mission Statement, Tech & Engineering is the ideal platform for introducing, developing, and strengthening professional practices and attitudes. As transitioning young adults, students should be developing good personal and professional habits *now*, as these attributes will surely follow them through High School and beyond. They should understand that excellence is a function of hard work, dedication, a willingness to accept and work through challenges, and a willingness to grow and learn. If they embody a professional mindset and attitude, success is sure to follow.

Please discuss the expectations and requirements listed above with your student and sign below as an acknowledgment that you both understand the expectations and requirements for this course, and as an acknowledgment that you know the safety risks associated with participation in this course.

Questions should be directed to Mr. Oberholtzer at joberholtzer@warwicksd.org

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Family/Guardian Signature: _____

\$10.00 Lab Fee:

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check (Payable to **Warwick School District**)
- ☐ Will contact directly with questions or concerns regarding the Lab Fee