

## Overview

The School of the Trades will provide students with the high-level academic, technical and employment skills that build successful careers in the fast-growing fields of the mechanical and building trades. Students will be trained by professional trades instructors dedicated to the mastery of skills within the carpentry, plumbing and electrical trades. That training will allow students to earn hours toward the State of Wisconsin Apprenticeship Program and begin their journey toward a lucrative lifelong career. Core subject instruction will hold students to rigorous academic standards required in today's skilled-trade industry. Given these opportunities, the School of the Trades represents a unique, real-world bridge absent in many traditional academic settings and sorely needed throughout the state of Wisconsin and the nation.

Through this program students will develop skills, build self-esteem and challenge their potential for future success. The program will facilitate the development of students' occupational skills, employability skills, career awareness and high level academics (mathematics, reading, science, communication, technical reading and writing) in order for them to successfully pursue a lucrative career in the building and mechanical trades, an area growing exponentially across the world. This school will provide an educational environment that promotes the strongest form of learning: *strong academic skills nurtured by practical application.* Graduates will meet the steep requirements necessary to excel in an aggressive and uncompromising job market, both locally and throughout the global economy.

### Comments from our educational experts:

*"The construction industry offers individuals an opportunity for success that surpasses many traditional career options. The Tosa School of the Trades will aid students with the development of critical thought process, practical life-long skills and an opportunity to gain entry into a skilled trade or the college path of their choice."*

Joe Weisling, Training Director  
Southeast Wisconsin Carpentry Joint  
Apprenticeship and Training Committee  
262-574-6995  
joe@sewctc.org

*"The Tosa School for the Trades will offer students a unique opportunity. Along with the high quality of academics, students will learn skills that they will be able to apply in a life long career in the carpentry, plumbing or electrical industry."*

Scott Hamilton, Training Director  
Milwaukee Area Joint Plumbing  
Apprenticeship Committee  
414-359-1318  
shamilton@plumbers75.com



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# Tosa School of the Trades



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***Tosa School of the Trades will provide a unique, dedicated educational environment that promotes the strongest form of learning-strong academic skills nurtured by practical application that directs and prepares learners to take full advantage of existing and unfolding career opportunities.***

## School Format

### Year One

1. Ten weeks of core subject instruction, including English, math, science, social studies and financial literacy, plus OSHA safety training, technical reading, writing and mathematical skills
2. Five weeks of carpentry trade-specific teaching and lab work
3. Five weeks in the classroom re-teaching the new skills with a focus on technical reading and mathematical skills
4. Five weeks of plumbing trade-specific teaching and lab work
5. Five weeks in the classroom re-teaching the new skills with a focus on technical reading and mathematical skills
6. Five weeks of electrical trade-specific teaching and lab work
7. Five weeks in the classroom re-teaching the new skills with a focus on technical reading and mathematical skills

### Year Two

In their second year, students will select one of the three trades as an area of concentration. Utilizing all three of the five week sessions for their selected trades, the students begin training hours that can be applied toward a State of Wisconsin Apprenticeship certification. The state apprenticeship program is typically a 4-5 year, 6,000-8,000 hour program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) and the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards. Students will be able to earn instructional hours toward an apprenticeship in the carpentry, plumbing or electrical trade.

## Curriculum & Instruction Practices

Curriculum is designed with the recognition that students need high-level skills for a rapidly changing job market and world. Curriculum and instruction contains a high level of rigor, relevance and relationship based on three curricular strands:

### 1. Trades-specific context and application of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards covering:

- English/Language Arts – focus on technical reading and writing
- Mathematics – focus on technical math as it applies to the trades
- Science
- Social Science
- Financial Literacy – focus on personal and business/industry aspects

### 2. Expert trade-specific instruction

Three trade areas will be taught in the first year. Students choose one of these areas in the second year and begin earning instructional hours that can be applied toward the State of Wisconsin Apprenticeship Program. Trades include:

- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Electrical

### 3. Infusion of employability skills and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills

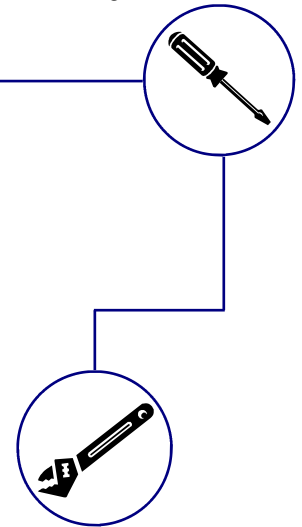
These skills will be explicitly taught and modeled, as well as integrated into lessons. Employability skills include speaking and listening skills, writing and supervision. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills include such things as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, flexibility, innovation and initiative.

## Grade Levels

This school will serve 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, beginning with an 11<sup>th</sup> grade cohort of 20 students chosen by lottery in its first year.

## Location

The school will be located in the lower level of the Fisher administrative building.



## For more information

For more information about the Tosa School of the Trades, please contact:

Jason Zurawik  
414-773-3012  
zurawija@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us  
www.wauwatosaschools.org