



P R E S S R E L E A S E

B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S

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Commissioners:
Steven A. Davis
Mike Kiger
David L. Levacy

County Administrator
Carri L. Brown

Clerk
Rachel A. Elsea

Jail Tour Displays STEM Skills in Action for LHS Students

Lancaster, Ohio – Twenty students from Lancaster High School’s Pathways to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program got a chance to see their lesson plans come to life with a tour of the new Fairfield County Public Safety Facility and Jail. The March 1 tour focused on the construction of the building along with the functional design elements that will improve efficiency for the Sheriff’s department.

“This field trip allowed our students to see the practical applications of what they have been learning in the classroom, from the architecture of the exterior of the building to the mechanical systems within the facility,” Jeffrey Wells, LHS STEM Teacher, said. “(The tour) gives them a better perspective on how the principles of engineering have a direct relation on how the world truly works.”

The facility, which is expected to be operational in June of this year, is still in the active construction phase. So students were able to see a combination of finished and unfinished parts of the building.

“The most interesting thing that I learned is how so many small things fit together to make the entire structure,” LHS student Justin Nauman said. “If I was not planning on majoring in aerospace engineering, I could definitely see myself being involved with a project like this in the future.”

The tour was led by Dennis Keller, County Facilities Manager, and coordinated by Rick Szabrak, County Economic Development Director. The purpose of the tour was help increase the focus on local jobs that utilize STEM skills. It also demonstrated the importance for collaboration among various contractors to help develop a large project.

“As we all traveled through the site there were drawings in every room,” Clay Hartzler, Engineering and Math teacher, said. “Students often thought there was no way that engineers created or used as many drawings as I have made them create.”

Hartzler added, “Hearing the speakers at the site discuss how they all work together and seeing some of the construction workers move through the site helped to illustrate how everyone must collaborate. We took a fair amount of time discussing visual design principles and elements recently and many of these principles and elements were evident in the jail site.”

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