

Attendees: Ryan VenHorst and Nick Michalek (Oak Park and River Forest HS), Andrew Hebert (Ridgewood HS), Ontisar Freelain (Proviso West HS), Michael Matticks and Lindsey Longstreth (Leyden HS), and David Weishaar (Riverside-Brookfield HS)

Schools are continuing with the coursework set for the 2020-2021 school year with modifications to curriculum that makes efforts to continue offering as much relevant work to manufacturing-related careers as possible under each school's current circumstances. Each school reported having student engagement that works, but is certainly more challenging for all of the expected reasons with reduced in-person classroom time.

Leyden has utilized ToolingU and CareerSafe to supplement work time experiences for students. OPRF has adapted all software typically used in school to be accessible through the school's network. This has allowed students to work with programs and software for manufacturing that can be shown by example in class times and utilized by students during the school day at the high school. Riverside-Brookfield has had the chance for a little more in-person time, and the remote school tools are being utilized to offer as much exposure and time for students to see and use equipment related to manufacturing careers. The purchase of the Shopbot Desktop Max at RB offers another opportunity for students to engage in CAD/CAM processes as well. The same courses are running at Proviso and Ridgewood as have been offered in past years with the implementation of Project Lead the Way. Ridgewood, Leyden, and OPRF have also continued offering the woodworking based courses exploring manufacturing processes.

The dual credit opportunities are continuing at this point for some schools and others have postponed the offerings of some programs based on the nature of the school year. OPRF is continuing its offerings right now based on the hybrid learning schedule and potential contact time leading to the end of the year. Leyden has suspended the dual credit offerings for the school year and plans to resume next year with the addition of Automotive dual credit that was supposed to begin this year. OPRF is currently also meeting with Triton representatives to discuss the potential for Automotive to be offered as a dual credit course as early as next year. RB is exploring use of Certiport to create paths for certifications at this time.

With the phasing of students back into the buildings, the schools have the chance to get back to a more normal version of the hands-on learning offered through the Technology Programs. Each school is also reviewing current and future program needs and has been asked to create their equipment and supplies requests to prepare to the 2021-2022 school year. The upside of this school year to date is the sense that the technology integration for remote learning has created new ways of considering the delivery of content for the future. While no teachers expressed a desire for the current configuration to continue, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel that shines more brightly than it did in January of 2020.