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Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Daniel Vlcek

Brecksville-Broadview Heights



Daniel Vlcek, a junior at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, is thriving in CVCC's Power Equipment Technology (PET) program, led by instructor Matthew Harding. Choosing PET was an easy decision for Daniel—"I grew up on a farm and have always been around diesel motors and all kinds of equipment. I've loved it my whole life."

Looking ahead, Daniel plans to jump straight into the workforce after high school, with a strong interest in specializing in heavy machinery and equipment. His favorite part of the PET program? The hands-on experience. "There's always something new and exciting happening in class. I love getting to work on different types of equipment—even driving them!"

Beyond the classroom, Daniel is involved in SkillsUSA, where he will be competing in the Diesel Equipment Technology competition at the state level in March. This competition challenges students in troubleshooting engines, electrical systems, powertrain mechanics, hydraulics, vehicle inspections, and more. Competitors must also perform a job interview and complete a written exam, demonstrating both technical and professional skills.

Daniel credits CVCC with transforming his attitude toward school. "CVCC has completely shifted my mindset in a positive way. I actually want to go to school now. Mr. Harding knows his stuff, and he's funny, which makes class even more enjoyable."

Mr. Harding has high praise for Daniel's work ethic and skillset: "Daniel is a top performer in class and excels in both written and lab assignments. He was the first junior to successfully complete the hands-on GM 350 distributor installation and has a strong drive to succeed in this industry."

Outside of school, Daniel works at Boston Mills Brandywine and competes in snowboarding. In his free time, he enjoys riding dirt bikes and building and taking things apart to expand his skills. His advice for future CVCC students? "Don't be scared, think ahead, and always stay positive." Keep up the great work!

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