



April 2025

# Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

## **Nathan Mandich** **Cuyahoga Heights**



Nathan Mandich, a junior at Cuyahoga Heights High School, is thriving in CVCC's Auto Service Technology program, led by instructor Jamie Yax. With a lifelong fascination for cars, Nathan always knew he wanted to work on them. When it came time to choose a program, he opted for Auto Service Technology over Auto Body Repair & Refinishing, drawn to the mechanical side of things—how they work and why they work that way.

Nathan credits CVCC with helping him see things differently, both in and out of the classroom. He's especially grateful for Mr. Yax's supportive, hands-on teaching style. One of his favorite class experiences so far? Working on a small Chevy. "I got to learn how to rebuild the motor, and it was really cool—it wasn't as hard as I thought it was going to be."

His hard work recently paid off in a big way—Nathan placed 5th in the Auto Maintenance & Light Repair competition at the SkillsUSA State Conference in Columbus! "We took a SkillsUSA pretest in class, and I did really well. Mr. Yax encouraged me to compete, and I'm really glad I did. I hadn't considered it before, but I figured, why not? I'll try."

While Nathan is still figuring out his plans after high school, he has a dream: building race engines for NASCAR. Outside the classroom, he works at Taco Bell and spends his free time bowling, golfing, and working on cars. In fact, he's already laying the groundwork to start his own business by working on vehicles for family and friends.

His advice for future students? "Give CVCC a shot. When I had the opportunity to go, I thought—why wouldn't I want to spend half the school day doing something I enjoy? Just make sure you pick something you're passionate about." Way to go, Nathan! We're proud of all you're accomplishing—keep up the great work!

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