



April 2025

# Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

## **Dominic Dipaola**

### **Nordonia Hills**



Dominic Dipaola, a junior at Nordonia High School, is currently enrolled in Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's Power Equipment Technology (PET) program, taught by instructor Matthew Harding. Dominic's interest in mechanics was sparked at an early age, spending time at the car dealership where his grandmother worked. Surrounded by mechanics, he was always curious—watching them work and asking questions about what they were doing. That early exposure inspired a genuine interest in the field and similar hands-on careers. When Dominic learned about CVCC and its variety of career-focused programs, he was immediately intrigued by the hands-on learning opportunities—especially those in the transportation field, like Power Equipment Technology.

While Dominic is still exploring what path he wants to take after high school, his long-term dream is to one day live and work on a farm in a rural area. He saw CVCC as the perfect opportunity to develop useful life skills while testing out a potential career direction. Currently, he's weighing his options between pursuing a career in the PET field or following his passion for music.

"I actually want to take notes in class—which is something I never thought I'd say," Dominic shared. "It's hard to choose a favorite class experience because everything we've done has been so interesting and fun. I really enjoy class, and I love the way Mr. Harding teaches. He's super encouraging and always takes the time to recognize when we do well." One highlight of his experience so far? "We got to work on an old tractor that's been at CVCC for years—we literally split the thing in half. That was so cool! This place really does prepare you for the workplace."

Outside the classroom, Dominic stays busy. He's a member of the Nordonia High School band's drumline and recently started working at a local restaurant. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with friends and playing video games. When asked what advice he'd give to students considering CVCC, Dominic said: "Just go for it—even if you're hesitant. How are you going to know without trying? You're only going to benefit from giving it a shot." Keep up the great work, Dominic! We're excited to see where your journey takes you.

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