



September 2025

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Sofia Pichert Independence



Sofia Pichert, a senior at Independence High School, is thriving in the Cosmetology program at CVCC under the guidance of instructor Melissa Fox. Inspired by her cousin who works in cosmetology and specializes in nails, Sofia was eager to follow a similar path. Her passion for doing hair made CVCC the perfect place to turn that interest into real-world skills. What truly drew Sofia to CVCC was more than just the hands-on learning, but also the opportunity to step into a new environment, meet new people, and open doors for her future. She's now working toward earning her cosmetology license by the time she graduates, which will give her the freedom to work in the field regardless of where her career path takes her. After graduation, Sofia plans to study health sciences, with the goal of becoming a nutritionist or dietitian—careers that reflect her love for fitness and healthy living. Even as she pursues those goals, she hopes to continue cosmetology on the side.

Reflecting on her journey, Sofia is proud of how much she's grown both in her technical abilities and personally. She's gained confidence, learned how to take and apply feedback, and made meaningful friendships. Initially unsure if cosmetology was a long-term fit, Sofia now knows it's something she wants to keep in her life. Some of her favorite parts of the program include doing highlights, styling up-dos, and hearing from industry professionals. She's also a proud member of the National Technical Honor Society at CVCC, a testament to her dedication and academic excellence.

Outside of class, Sofia stays active by babysitting, going on walks with her mom, hanging out with friends, trying new things, and playing volleyball for Independence. "Last year I did all of my friends' hair for prom and did mine last," she laughs. "I have a feeling that'll be my job from now on, but I love it!" Sofia's advice to future CVCC students? "Take every opportunity you can, and don't be afraid to put yourself out there even if it's scary. I was nervous on my first day and didn't know what to expect, but I don't regret coming here at all. I'm on track to graduate with my cosmetology license and will carry these skills with me forever. I love both my schools, Independence High School and Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, and I'm really grateful for this experience." Way to go, Sofia! Keep shining.

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