



January 2026

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Elijah Mims

Garfield Heights



Elijah Mims is a student at Garfield Heights High School and is enrolled in CVCC's Architectural & Mechanical Design (AMD) program, instructed by Erik Ward. When the opportunity to attend CVCC became available, Elijah was immediately intrigued by the hands-on learning environment and the chance to further develop his life skills. Originally, Elijah hoped to enroll in the Construction Trades program. With experience working alongside his father, who specializes in masonry and other construction work, he was eager to build on those skills. When the program filled, Elijah decided the AMD program was the next best fit and closely aligned with his interests.

As for life after high school, Elijah is keeping an open mind. He's intrigued by the idea of acting and even a future in SWAT, but for now, his focus is on graduating and setting himself up for success beyond high school. He's excited to see what opportunities the next year brings as he continues exploring potential career paths. Elijah describes his time at CVCC as exhausting and challenging, but incredibly rewarding. He's grateful for the supportive environment and the people around him. Being surrounded by motivated peers who chose to be there and work hard has made a meaningful, positive impact on his academic experience.

His favorite part of the AMD program so far has been working with blueprints and experiencing the full lifecycle of a project, from creating and reading plans to bringing an idea to life. Outside of school, Elijah enjoys playing video games, spending time with friends, and continuing construction work with his dad. His advice to others? "There are so many opportunities here. I'm looking forward to graduating—proving to myself that I can do it if I work hard and keep showing up. I never quit when I know I can do it, and being at CVCC is proof that I can." Keep up the great work, Elijah! We look forward to seeing where your journey takes you next.

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