



January 2026

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Ella McCabe

Nordonia Hills



Ella McCabe, a student at Nordonia High School, is enrolled in CVCC's Power Equipment Technology (PET) program, taught by Matthew Harding. Ella chose the PET program because of her passion for hands-on learning and her enjoyment of taking things apart and putting them back together. Interested in working on all types of engines, she was drawn to the program by its strong reputation and the opportunity to gain practical, work-based experience. While Ella isn't yet certain what her plans are after high school, she's keeping her options open and is excited to continue exploring her interests through the PET program. She's considering a future in the military, government work, or a union job in the field. "I have a lot of military in my family and really respect those who serve," she said.

"From day one, Ella has demonstrated strong leadership in the classroom. She was elected class president and selected to serve as a Regional Officer for SkillsUSA. Dedicated to producing high-quality work, Ella remains focused, engaged, and consistently on task. She has shown a genuine passion for this field and continues to stand out as a driven and motivated student. I look forward to seeing her continued success," said instructor Mr. Harding.

Ella, in turn, speaks highly of her instructor: "Mr. Harding is an incredible teacher who truly cares about our success," she shared. "He challenges us to step up as leaders. Before coming to CVCC, I wasn't familiar with SkillsUSA, but now I'm very involved and excited about the opportunities ahead. I'm really glad I pushed myself outside of my comfort zone and got involved." One of Ella's most meaningful experiences at CVCC so far was volunteering with a few of her classmates and instructor at Wreaths Across America in December. "It was one of the most fun days," she said. "While it was sad to see people grieving, witnessing the community come together was incredibly special and impactful."

Outside the classroom, Ella stays busy as a member of the wrestling and flag football teams at Nordonia High School. She also balances working at a restaurant and in landscaping, enjoys working out, and spends her free time racing and working on dirt bikes, and hopes to secure a summer internship to gain more hands-on experience. Ella encourages other students to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new opportunities. "Try new things, stay engaged, ask questions, and be open to new ideas," she advised. "Every time I trust my gut, it seems to work out. Why not set yourself up for success?" Keep up the outstanding work, Ella! We look forward to seeing where your journey leads next.

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