

IF YOU WERE A CARPENTER

Apprenticeship Program gives Students Tools of the Trade

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Shiu Reddy is one of those students who was confused about what he wanted to do with his life. He did, however know that he didn't want a desk job and that he liked working with his hands. Having spent time assisting relatives who were building a house and excelling in high school woodworking classes, Reddy decided to take the Carpentry Apprenticeship Program at Cambie Secondary School

The Carpentry Apprenticeship Program is a course of study that allows Grade 12 students the opportunity to achieve their Level One technical training in Carpentry. The program is currently in its second year and is under the instruction of James Sawada, a Red Seal certified carpenter and teacher. The program has a partnership with Kwantlen University College which allows the students to complete some of the curriculum out at the brand new Cloverdale Campus.

Sawada, a former general contractor, considers Reddy to be one of his top students. Not only does he possess the skill, Reddy is also reliable, dependable and helpful. "He always wants to do better and improve himself", says Sawada. Reddy, who hopes to one day build his own house, has been busy the past five months building a house with his fellow carpentry students.

The Carpentry Apprenticeship students have been commissioned to build a 600 square foot cabin for a client that has summer property on Salt Spring Island. They have been busy framing the two-level home in the Carpentry compound of the school. The cabin is being built pre-fab and will be taken apart once completed and shipped up the coast. According to Sawada, the students really enjoy working on this venture because their efforts are being applied to a full-size, realistic project.

The Carpentry students will be out in full force at the **4th Annual Career Options Fair**, held Thursday, March 1, from 3:00 – 8:00 pm at Cambie Secondary School. The students will build and frame a partial home inside one of the gyms at Cambie. Once complete the school district's Plumbing Apprenticeship students will come and outfit it with pipes and fixtures. All Richmond parents and students are invited to see Reddy and other apprenticeship students in action, as well as take part in a variety of interactive hands-on activities. Admission is free.