

Hudson Valley Pathways Academy: The First Semester



Editor's Note: The Council of Industry is the industry partner for Hudson Valley Pathways Academy, the P-TECH school located in Kingston and run by Ulster BOCES. P-TECH stands for Pathways in Technology Early College High School and students that finish the program receive both a high school diploma and an associate degree. Blended and project-based learning are a big part of the educational process at the school. Students have already visited Council members Selux, Schatz Bearing, Wolf-Tec and Nerak Systems, as well as Mediacom, to work on real-world business problems and interact with employees.

This article was written by one of the students in the Academy, Justice Rosenkranse (right), who comes to the school via the Ontario School District.



WAS ASKED by Dr. Jonah Schenker, Principal of the Hudson Valley Pathways Academy (HVPA), to write an article summing up the first half of our school year. I did some investigating and asked some of my fellow classmates for their thoughts.

"I would rate the school a ten out of ten. You'll definitely see me next year," Gabriel Ziegler-Horton (Kingston) said when I approached him. "I really enjoyed the Mediacom challenge even though it was a lot of work."

"Even though the essays are hard, the school is most definitely a ten out of ten," noted Taylor Mott (Kingston). "Amazing," exclaimed Will Oakley (Rondout). "Very student-friendly."

Sebastian Dugan (Kingston), one of the inaugural class presidents, said that he "enjoyed the school and it was fun."

In addition to our academic classes, we have a series of workplace learning challenges with companies throughout the Hudson Valley, including Selux Lighting (Highland), Schatz Bearing (Poughkeepsie), and Mediacom (Monroe).

"It is group work," according to Sebastian Dugan. "I'm not working by myself." Jaylene Hoyos (Kingston), one of four girls at HVPA, said she "found the projects interesting, but not so useful." Will and Taylor both said "it is more hands-on work. You're not just doing it, you're 'in' it." Gabriel's favorite was Selux because "it was the first group challenge I won."

"I got to help my group for the Mediacom Challenge win with my electronic abilities," boasted Sebastian.

As in every school, there are some let downs:

"We don't have our own cafeteria, and so it takes time out of our lunch period to walk over to Kingston High School to get it," Gabe said.

Many of the students—like Alex Muscarella (Ruby), who played Freshman Football with Kingston, and Chris Dugan (Sawkill)—said that they were disappointed that there wasn't a real gym.

"Be prepared to be involved in the school, be prepared to speak, because people are going to ask. Be ready to see major improvements and major attitude changes in your children towards their school work." This is what HVPA students tell parents whose children are considering coming to Hudson Valley Pathways Academy.