

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

– Welding focus

The Ag-Welding classes allow students to be introduced into the wonderful world of agriculture. The classes will briefly discuss FFA, Animal Science, Ag Mechanics, Plant Science, and Professional Communication. Agricultural Mechanics offer students a brief look into skills such as shop safety, common tools, welding, concrete, electrical, plumbing and framing. In Welding students will learn entry level welding skills, with Advanced Welding adding advanced skills. Some of the certifications available are: OSHA safety certification, SENSE Entry Level Welders Certification and SENSE Advanced Welders Certification. These are certifications that will allow students to enter the workforce well prepared. Don't forget about the fun! Most of the time is spent in the shop. There is no better way to learn than hands on.

Students will also have an opportunity to enroll in the Hill College welding certification courses in conjunction with the Welding and Advanced Welding courses. Upon graduation, students taking advantage of this opportunity will be to continue by attending Hill College and earn a full welding certification and/or an Associate of Applied Science in Welding.

According to the U. S. Department of Labor, job prospects should be excellent. Employment of welding, soldering, and brazing workers is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations over the 2002-12 period. In addition, many openings will arise as workers retire or leave the occupation for other reasons. The major factor affecting employment of welders is the health of the industries in which they work. Because almost every manufacturing industry uses welding at some stage of manufacturing or in the repair and maintenance of equipment, a strong economy will keep demand for welders high. Median hourly earnings of welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers were \$14.02 in 2002. The middle 50 percent earned between \$11.41 and \$17.34. The lowest 10 percent had earnings of less than \$9.41, while the top 10 percent earned over \$21.79. The range of earnings of welders reflects the wide range of skill levels.

Courses offered:

Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Agriculture Mechanics and Metal Technologies

Welding

Advanced Welding