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Front page  
**Giving Back While Building Skills**

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A woodworking teacher for 25 years now, Murphy has spent the last four of those years at Stanley.

"Girls are very comfortable in this class and encourage other girls to take it. We have 21st century technology at Stanley that is a true representation of what the industry uses. This exposure to CAD, CNC and powerful machinery can lead to so many different career paths. They learn about engineering, programming, creative arts, mathematics, carpentry and wood working," said the instructor.

"Most importantly they are so proud of their work." To understand the bigger picture and limitless possibilities of the field, Murphy took the students on a field trip to Autodesk in San Francisco to explore the amazing world of innovative design. The company is a leader in engineering, 3D design and entertainment software that is used in everything from architecture to manufacturing to media and beyond. Students reported back that it was "really cool" and "fun."

Looking around the organized, massive classroom filled with wood, band saws, miter saws and the very impressive ShopBot – a tool for cutting, carving, drilling or machining all kinds of things based on computer designs – the support that the community has provided to keep the wood technology class thriving is apparent. Judging by the engaged kids who claim this is their favorite class, the investment seems to be paying off.

The sturdy chair just needs a bit more sanding, stain and varnish to be ready for its debut. Once complete, it will be on display in the school's library.

Murphy has a special connection to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants the wish of a child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition; her nephew was granted a wish. The wood technology kids are thrilled that they are able to help a sick child's wish come true. When asked how much they hope to raise for the charity, the kids all chimed in: "As much as we can."

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, and are available at the Stanley school office until May 21. The night of the open house, May 14, tickets will be sold in the library, the wood shop as well as the office.



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