

Upgrade for Port High machine shop

MORE WELDING WILL BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS

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Port High is in the midst of renovations to expand its technology department to offer welding to more students.

In the machine shop, just after Christmas, the school started ripping out the old hardwood flooring because the plans are to now expand it to offer students machining and welding in the same room. With machining it made sense to have hardwood floors, however, with welding those floors needed to come out.

"They had to move all the equipment in order to rip the floors out," said Mike Pastore, technology director. "We're spending about \$90,000 on the upgrades. It will take some time but we

are hoping the room will be finished by March."

As well, the hydro needed to be updated in order to accommodate the new equipment.

"We do have welding in the auto shop but we're not able to teach a lot of students. This will allow students to take machining and welding. This way we can have welding and manufacturing in one," he said.

In an age with more students focusing on academics, Pastore said it's important to offer students more choices. This is especially important when it comes to trades. "I think now the average tradesperson is in their fifties. That means they'll be retiring soon enough. Some students are more talented in the trades. They need to know what options they have for future careers. By pursuing these types of technology jobs, they can get high paying careers," he said.