

Advance Packaging Corporation hosts local high school group for “How it is Made- Live”

Holland Christian High School offered interested seniors an opportunity to spend several days visiting local industries to see “How it is Made” and learn firsthand about area industry. Advance Packaging and the corrugated industry in general have been looking for ways to attract talent. APC saw this tour as a great opportunity to not only show the students the incredible amount of science that goes into the process of making a corrugated container, but also the potential career paths within the industry and at industry suppliers. This was an opportunity to demonstrate firsthand that manufacturing no longer means working in some dark, dirty environment, where workers do the same thing all day long. Manufacturing jobs are far more diverse and varied today and can even be cool.

As the students toured the modern box plant they had the opportunity to see how their education, both present and future, associated with real world jobs. They witnessed the diverse positions involved in the making of a box! They were able to see the work of incredibly talented Press Operators running multimillion dollar machines, Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Packaging Engineers, Graphics Artists, Machinist, Mechanics, Robotics Specialists, Statisticians, Accountants, Chemists, Marketing Specialists, Human Resources Specialists, Printers, Tool Makers, Logistics Planners, Material Handlers, Truck Drivers, Estimators, Scheduling planners and Purchasing Agents., The list goes on and on, all to make a box in a safe, efficient, and sustainable business environment. As the students toured the manufacturing facility and learned how a box was made they also learned a little bit more about how their future career paths could tie to this industry.

The last stop on the tour involved an opportunity to see themselves as a part of the future of the corrugated industry. They saw themselves printed out as a “standup” display using some of the latest in digital print and cutting technology.

After the tour was completed each student was given a copy of the Fibre Box Handbook and an open book test so they could learn more about what they saw. They were also directed to the ICPF and TAPPI websites to look at scholarship opportunities.

Students commented that they had no idea that there was so much that went into something they typically use once, and then recycle. They were pleased to be able to associate college degrees with real world jobs.