

Ashwaubenon Students partner up with PCMC to engineer a Formula High School Race Car.

This year Ashwaubenon High School engineering students racing in the 2011 FHS Challenge have a secret weapon. Their new partner PCMC! The Wisconsin **Formula High School** project was created to allow students who are interested in motorsports, engineering, and technology areas a realistic outlet to showcase their skills and talents.

Students who are involved in athletic competitions have regular meets or games in which they compete to see how their abilities compare with other schools. Students involved in **Formula High School** now have the opportunity to compete against other schools in a controlled racing time-trial event. Each team is responsible for constructing a vehicle to a strict set of guidelines. These guidelines help the students construct safe vehicles that closely resemble SCCA Formula First race vehicles. Although the competition vehicles may appear cosmetically similar, the differences in the drive trains, alignment, and steering geometry make for spirited competition. Despite the **Formula High School** event being held at a prominent motorsports facility, the focus of the project is to help the students develop the engineering and technical skills that are vital to our nation's manufacturers.



"Matt Chike of PCMC is our secret weapon." says Tom Barnhart instructor at Ashwaubenon High School. Over the past three months our students have been working with Matt to outwit the other teams by teaching them problem solving techniques and strategies he uses at work as an engineer.

Also a former member of the UW Wisconsin Racing team www.uwracing.com Matt has a wealth of racing knowledge that benefits the team. "Matt has generated a high level of enthusiasm amongst the students. He really gives them an authentic experience and offers a lot his personal time to work with them. He sure makes my job easy." says Barnhart

In mid February the car will be ready for paint with the help of Williams Auto Body the team will make it look awesome! The car will be painted in a theme that symbolizes the partnership between PCMC and the Ashwaubenon School District's new Engineering Education Program. Further down the road will be the cars unveiling -with a date yet to be determined. The FHS Race event will be held on April 30th and May 1st at the Briggs & Stratton Motorplex at Road America. Email tbarnhart@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us for your free track day pass and witness these great students compete in the event. Stay tuned to the newsletter for more information.

www.formulahighschool.com

