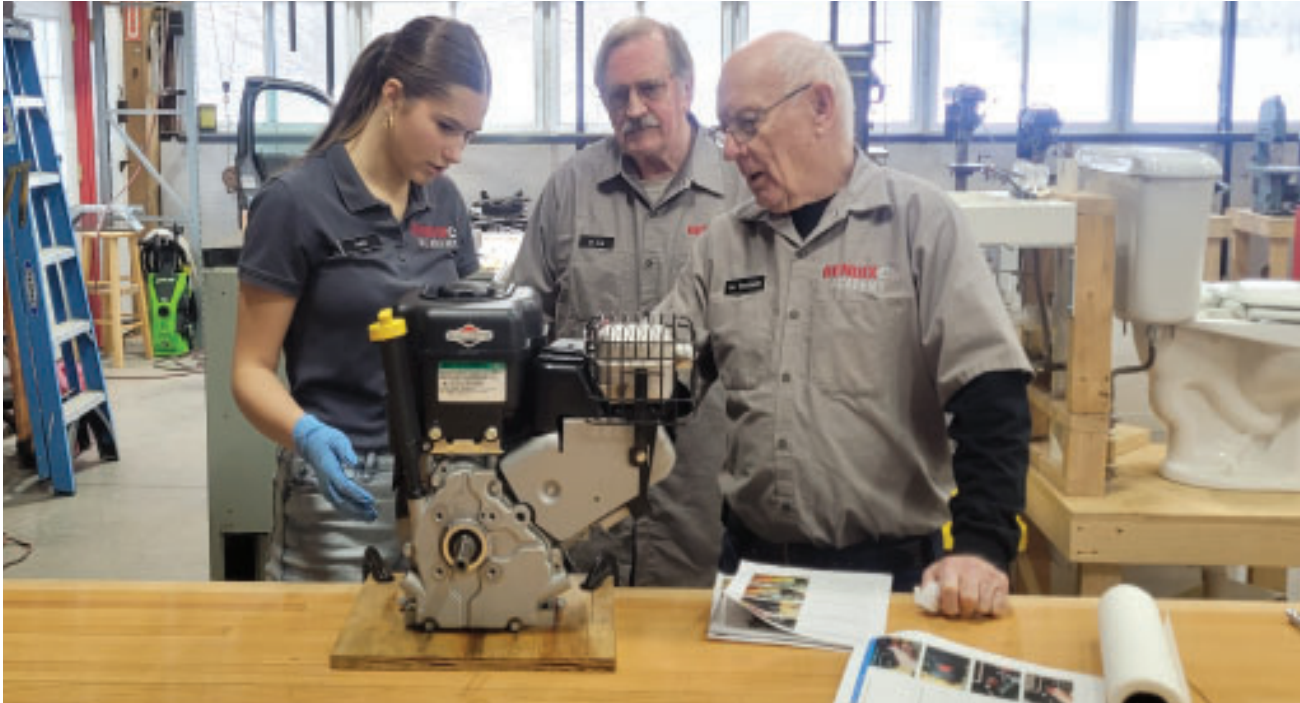




TOOLMAN TIMES



Lucy, a Bendix Student, studies a Briggs & Stratton snowblower engine before disassembly.

Learning Mechanical Self-Reliance at Bendix Academy

Click here to read more!



Bendix Academy, a nonprofit dedicated to hands-on toolmanship mentorship, is preparing for full-time programming in 2025. The academy equips students ages 12 and up with practical skills that foster confidence, problem-solving, and future career readiness in

trades, engineering, and maintenance.

Since launching in 2022, the pilot program has exceeded expectations, giving students ages 12–18 the opportunity to work with experienced mentors. Through hands-on learning, they develop mechanical self-reliance, critical thinking, and discipline—essential skills for any field.

“The success of our pilot has been beyond our expectations,” said Todd Trainor, Founder and Program Director. “Kids thrive when given the chance to learn in a supportive, hands-on environment. Our mentors not only teach toolmanship but also build relationships that boost confidence and spark curiosity.”

With strong community support and growing demand, Bendix Academy is expanding in 2025 to serve more students through afterschool and homeschool programs. Training will include woodworking, mechanical repair, and engineering fundamentals.

Bendix Academy remains committed to mentorship, practical learning, and community involvement, ensuring students gain the skills they need for life.



Visit BendixAcademy.org for photo galleries and videos of students like Lucy in action!



Mechanical Self-Reliance: A Skill for Life

In today's technology-driven world, the ability to understand, maintain, and repair mechanical systems is becoming rare—but at Bendix Academy, we believe it's more essential than ever. Mechanical self-reliance isn't just about fixing things—it's about confidence, problem-solving, and independence.

Through our Toolmanship Mentoring program, students learn hands-on mechanical skills from experienced mentors. Whether it's tightening a loose screw, repairing an appliance, or rebuilding an engine, these skills empower young

people to take control of their environment, save money, and develop a mindset of resilience.



Mr. Trainor explains fasteners and wrench techniques to Simon, guiding him through the essentials of toolmanship.

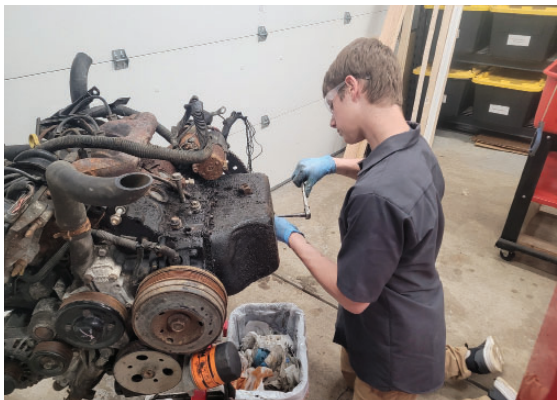
"The confidence and skills I learned from my father and grandfather inspired me to launch Bendix Academy," says Todd Trainor, Founder and Program Director. "Our goal is to pass that empowerment on to the next generation."

As shop classes disappear from schools, fewer young people are learning practical skills. Bendix Academy bridges that gap—teaching not just how to use tools, but how to think critically, tackle challenges, and build a foundation for careers in trades, engineering, and maintenance.

Mechanical self-reliance benefits more than just the individual—it strengthens families, communities, and industries in need of skilled professionals. Every student who picks up a wrench or drill at Bendix Academy isn't just learning a trade—they're gaining a lifelong advantage.



To see our students in action, visit BendixAcademy.org for photo galleries and videos!



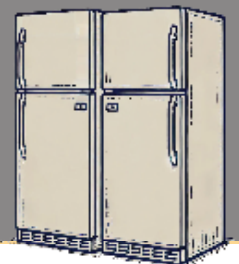
Ryan wrenches on a newly acquired car engine and he prepares it for future student lessons.

TOOLMAN TIPS:

Appliance Door Reversal

Ever faced a problem at home that seemed minor but frustrating—like an appliance door opening the wrong way? Many household appliances have reversible doors, yet most people don't realize how easy it is to make the switch.

Toolman Tips is here to share simple, practical solutions like this—fixes anyone with basic toolmanship skills can handle. At Bendix Academy, we teach students to approach problems with confidence and mechanical know-how. Learn more at BendixAcademy.org/tips



FAMILY FOCUS**A Parent's Perspective****The Impact of Bendix Academy**

I'm Christine, a parent of a Bendix Academy student, and I want to share the incredible impact this program has had on my son.

Bendix Academy's **Toolmanship Mentorship program** doesn't just teach mechanical skills—it instills respect, confidence, and a sense of purpose. My son is paired with an experienced mentor who not only teaches him technical skills but also serves as a positive role model, filling a void left by his distant grandfather. Their bond has been invaluable, giving my son guidance and encouragement as he develops hands-on abilities.

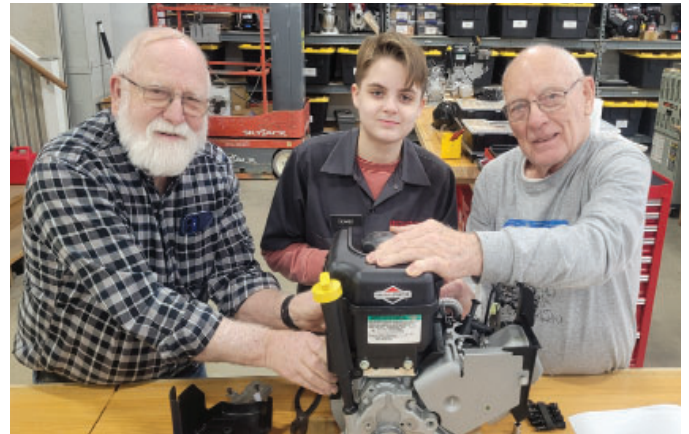


Beyond technical skills, Bendix Academy fosters **community and compassion**.

My son applies his new knowledge to real-world challenges, helping others and seeing firsthand how his skills make a difference. The program's emphasis on service and kindness has shaped him into a more thoughtful and considerate young person.

I've watched his confidence soar as he masters new tools, tackles projects, and takes pride in his work. The experience has given him not just skills, but a **sense of identity and direction**.

Bendix Academy is truly shaping the next generation—not just as skilled individuals, but as responsible, compassionate, and self-reliant young adults.



Rowan working on a motor with mentors Mr. Krom and Mr. Beckwith

**FAMILY
FOCUS****Reviving Toolmanship:****Bendix Academy's Mission**

Do you remember shop class? **The Fox Run Men's Club** did when **Todd Trainor** and **Wendy Zielen** visited in November to share how **Bendix Academy** is bringing back hands-on skills and mechanical self-reliance. Their presentation sparked memories and appreciation for a program that prepares today's youth for skilled trades and independent problem-solving.

Since its founding, Bendix Academy has been on a mission to **revive toolmanship**, teaching students mechanical skills, confidence, and respect.

"We're creating tomorrow's toolmen today," Todd explained. Students work with experienced mentors, gaining real-world experience in car repair, woodworking, plumbing, and more.

The **mentorship model** is at the heart of the program, bridging generations and passing down invaluable knowledge. "We're not just teaching tools; we're teaching life skills, confidence, and respect," Wendy emphasized.

Bendix Academy isn't just training future tradespeople—it's fostering a movement of **self-reliant, skilled, and confident individuals**.

Want to see how we're making an impact? Visit BendixAcademy.org for photos, videos, and ways to get involved!



"We're not just teaching tools; we're teaching life skills, confidence, and respect,"

**COMMUNITY
CONNECTION**



TOOLMAN TIMES

2285 Ore Creek Lane | Brighton MI 48114 | (810) 599-4035
toolmen@bendixacademy.org • www.bendixacademy.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brighton, MI 48116
Permit No. 150



Read Toolman Times Online!



Become a Volunteer!
[bendixacademy.org/forms/volunteer-application/](https://www.bendixacademy.org/forms/volunteer-application/)



BENDIX
ACADEMY

EVENTS

Ready for spring fun? SAVE THESE DATES! Is your snowblower ready for sun?

Or, more to the point, are YOU ready to put away your snow boots and enjoy some fun spring events? If so, mark your calendars to be sure to not miss these two great events arriving with the warmer weather, sooner than you think!



Hockey Night 2025

April 5 | 2025 at the Ice Den in Howell MI

Each year, the Well's hockey team takes the ice and challenges the Red Wings Alumni team to a game to benefit charities of Livingston county, including Bendix Academy.

For more information, like Hockey Night's Facebook Event. Tickets, Sponsorships, packages available at The Well, MI



Open House

May 2-3 | 2025 | Bendix Academy

A Bendix Academy student works on a Briggs & Stratton snowblower engine, knowing that while he'll always be ready for a snowstorm, he's definitely ready for spring! Share with friends and get event updates on BA's Open House Facebook Event. Free Event- Just let us know how many in your group will attend!

For more information or to register for these events visit [BendixAcademy.org/EVENTS/](https://www.bendixacademy.org/EVENTS/)

BENDIXACADEMY.ORG

BENDIX
ACADEMY