

eighteen
under



18

ashtabula county
easternohio.ja.org

DUSTY LARSON
AGE 17
A-TECH



Dusty demonstrates strong innovative spirit, leadership, and school involvement through his dedication to learning and developing advanced technical skills. He was selected to participate in The GRIT Project welding bootcamp at A-Tech, where he attended an extended school day from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and maintained perfect attendance. He earned six welding certifications, and his success led to him being invited as a guest speaker for The GRIT Project coalition meeting, where he shared his experience with local leaders and business partners. His achievements were also featured across Appalachia Ohio on social media.

Even after initially failing his pipe welding certification twice, he remained committed, staying late and arriving early, ultimately passing his sixth and most difficult certification. Described as proactive, ambitious, and humble, he consistently works to improve his own skills while supporting others. He has also been invited to return as a peer-to-peer welding instructor this summer.

Outside of school, he works in his family's trucking business, plans to obtain his CDL, and is an experienced race car driver with strong mechanical abilities. His work ethic, integrity, and determination make him an exceptional student and leader.