

January 4, 2021

Board of Education
Reed-Custer CUSD 255U
249 Comet Dr
Braidwood IL 60408

To the Members of the Board of Education:

In 2019, we conducted a full kitchen remodeling project with all new cabinets that were built and installed by the Career Technical Education (CTE) students at RCHS under the patient guidance and tutelage of instructor Mark Smith. To this day, it doesn't seem possible that we have such a beautiful and functional kitchen as compared to the previous kitchen. Much of this is due to the careful and thoughtful design considerations that were offered by and discussed with Mark.

Despite all the careful planning, we just weren't sure how the demolition of an old pantry and the removal of a header wall and doorframe were going to evolve. New cabinets were needed to go alongside and above the refrigerator, which found a new home in that former pantry location. Beyond that, since we extended the new flooring into the attached bath/laundry room, we felt it made sense to install matching cabinets and a new vanity in that room so that all the décor would match.

With the 2019-2020 kitchen project being a smaller one, Mark was able to schedule our additional cabinets into his Spring 2020 schedule. Well, COVID certainly interfered with that. Despite numerous delays and ever-changing rules and regulations, he moved forward as much as was possible within the rules.

The project was completed this fall with the installation of all the new cabinets and we are just as happy with these as we are with the cabinets from the original project. While there were far fewer students present for the installation, they exhibited the same courtesy and manners as did all the students in the original group. It seems evident that they are learning more from Mark than just woodworking skills.

At this point, we wish we had more areas of the house that need new cabinets! There is actually one remaining vanity that remains from the original cabinetry installed when the house was built. We may have to see if Mark's schedule can accommodate one last small project.

We can easily say that we will recommend Mark and the RCHS program to anyone we know who is in need of new cabinets.

Sincerely,

Ned and Debbie Jacklin

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