

# Labori High School to alleviate construction and engineering skills shortage

In an effort to alleviate the skills shortage in the building industry and engineering fields, Labori High School, the only school in Paarl and one of very few in the country to offer the full technical as well as academic portfolio, is working together with the private sector to prepare its learners for the world of work.



Ockert Christensen (civil technology teacher), Abré Marais (architect) and Johan Batt (Labori High School headmaster) with pupils.

A course in construction and building science is currently being offered after hours to learners who are interested in a career in the construction industry or engineering. The course is offered free of charge by Abré Marais Architects and the learners' first project is to design and construct a tuck shop at the school. Building material has been made possible by the generous sponsorship from local businesses and the interest from the industry in assisting the learners has been overwhelming.

Headmaster of Labori High School, Johan Batt, said this initiative aims to offer learners practical skills beyond the classroom to make them more competitive in the job market or even prepare them as entrepreneurs.

"The skills and experience they build up whilst on this course will definitely count in their favour when they apply for positions post matric. Each participant who completes the course will receive a certificate and build a relationship with the businesses involved.

"Many of our alumni are employed in sought-after positions at engineering firms and a course such as this will most definitely increase our learners' demand in the industry."

He adds that there are opportunities for other businesses to participate in additional courses aiming to develop students in the technical trade.

"Our classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and machinery and offers an ideal platform for businesses

to offer additional courses in the electrical, civil and mechanical fields that would enhance the school's current curriculum."

Businesses wishing to support the school with the project can do so by sending an email to [info@hslabori.co.za](mailto:info@hslabori.co.za) or calling 021 872 8293.

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