

STICK BUILT

STUDENTS WORK TO REBUILD ARMS CABIN

STUDENTS BUILT the Putney campus. Yes, this is a simplification, but if you ask people who attended Putney in its earlier days, they often talk about which building they built: Old Boys dorm, New Boys dorm, the Art Building, twice. And they'll ask why this doesn't happen anymore. The school's work toward a net-zero campus complicates things, but if you walk to the campus wood shop, you'll find it abuzz, literally, with progress on the new Arms cabin, and students committed to its construction.

To be built with hemlock posts, maple girders, and cherry joists, insulated and with south-facing windows to supplement the wood stove, the cabin will be beautiful, with student input on design, the work of student hands, and the professional skills of the school's carpenter, Bryce Jewel.

The woodshop welcomes students and offers them a place to learn a skill, explore an interest, perhaps find their first steps toward a vocation or a career. Its organized, clean, busy space bursts with music and laughter even in times of focus and precision. Creativity and order are equal partners.



Jaiden '23 came to Putney with an interest in timber-framing, having had an architect father who took down old New England barns and reconstructed them into beautiful homes using the original beams. He sought Bryce out, eager to get involved in building the cabin. Last summer, Jaiden spent two weeks of his summer break planing girders, cutting notches and half laps, sanding and routing. He's continued the work this fall, and will spend his December Project Week on a final push to ready the cabin for on-going progress this coming winter and occupancy next school year.

Bryce sees the educational value, big-picture, of this work. "We want students to have the experience of carpentry. That's different than training people to be carpenters. You can take it and run with it if you want to, but the real experience is seeing how these things are done." Jaiden sees it that way, too. "I want to further my knowledge and see if this might be a passion of mine. And . . . I really want to live in a cabin my senior year."



Students at work on the cabin under supervision of Bryce Jewel (far left), including Jaiden '24 (upper left and bottom right), Francis '24 (above), and the carpentry afternoon activity last fall.

