

Justin Niver

I attended a field trip last week to Coach & Equipment and learned about the manufacturing processes that go into the development of buses. I learned that attendance is one of the most important things associated with manufacturing. As I saw at Coach & Equipment, absence in one part of a production line, slows down the whole line. Also, the people who restack or prepare the parts and get them ready for the next day are just as important as the people who work to prepare and make the buses. I learned that people work really hard on a production line to accomplish their tasks. I saw some of the hardest working people I have seen in a long time. I was fascinated that different companies bid on the buses and generally, the lowest bid gets the job. Also, our tour guide told us about the production and machines this company had. I was fascinated by the machines the company had and how they were used in manufacturing. I also liked the teamwork that was displayed by the people inside the company. Everyone came to work and busted their butts to make sure they had done their job for the day. This is one reason why Coach & Equipment has survived so long in this tough economy. This is extraordinary because of its location, the small town of Penn Yan. The fact that I learned that I thought was the most interesting was that Penn Yan gets its electric power from Niagara Falls and uses hydropower. The tour guide stated that Coach & Equipment had a special contract so it had reduced electric costs. All workers had to have on long pants and leather shoes or boots while in the factory. Also, the workers had to be careful not to run into sharp pieces of metal that stuck out while on the job. We saw a piece of metal bent in a machine and the workers told us of the many hazards associated with the machines. My experience at Coach & Equipment has showed me the hard work that occurs in an assembly line. I have decided that the engineering part of manufacturing interests me more than the assembly part. The assembly part requires lots of hard work and includes many hazards that I don't want to have to worry about. The field trip was very influential to me and helped me with my career decisions and also helped me to understand how a manufacturing company runs. I would be interested in attending another field trip in the future because this trip greatly helped me in understanding manufacturing and how a company works.