

Translation

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"A bit creative"...

... and certainly talented

Within the specialized company Dangel Metall, the third generation prepares systematically for their professional life.

By Henry Rasch

Franziska (23) and Elena (19) both have metal running through their veins and identify themselves with Dangel Metall in Lenningen from an early age.

But to grow up with metal is not enough within the family business with Frank Dangel (managing director) and Patricia Dangel (commercial manager) as heads of the company.

Therefore, both sisters count on a study at the Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg followed by an apprenticeship in plumbing.

Picture 1: On top: Elena and Franziska Dangel

Baumetall: Why is a combination of a study in business administration and an apprenticeship in plumbing the ideal solution for your work in a plumbing specialized company?

Franziska Dangel: The combination is an advantage because a craft trade business can only survive with mechanical and economical skills. Especially today, where bureaucracy showers you, a solid foundation in business administration is necessary. The right order, depending on whether you start with your business administration studies or the apprenticeship, can be decided individually.

Elena Dangel: For me, starting with a dual study program is the ideal solution as you receive insights into the operational relations, the workshop, and the construction sites. Therefore, a technical and manual understanding regarding the company can be developed which simplifies the later apprenticeship.

During the apprenticeship, you learn a lot about the technical and manual aspects which complete themselves with the theory and practice of the dual study program.

To what extent is the master craftsman's diploma a thing for you?

Both agree: The master craftsman's diploma is very important for us because it builds the foundation to lead a company and train others. Training is really important so that skilled workers can be won over for our company and for the whole craft trade sector itself to secure a long-lasting quality.

Without a master craftsman's diploma, competencies, which are important to lead a company, lack. This is one of the reasons why we dislike the abolition of the master craftsman's diploma.

On which tasks do you focus on within the company?

Franziska Dangel: I am doing an apprenticeship as a plumber and depending on the schedule I am either working in the workshop or on the construction site. When I am in the workshop, I produce, for example, roof-framed covers, panels, or flashings. Sometimes, I also assist the office.

Picture 2: Franziska adjusts the bending machine to bend the treads according to specifications.

Picture 3: Teamwork: Franziska and Elena Dangel while cutting a metal sheet to length

Elena Dangel: I am doing a dual study program in business administration with a focus on handcraft. During my practical training, I get insight into all work that is needed within the office. From completing service specifications to processing orders, from writing offers or accounts to accounting. Every once in a while, I am part of award meetings, construction side meetings or I get insights, sometimes for a few days, into the workshop or the construction sides. When I am going to start my plumbing apprenticeship, I will go more into detail, like Franzi.

What difficulties are women facing in the plumbing sector?

We both were never confronted with any difficulties. We both like challenges and hard work and are willing to do more than needed. Of course, it can be exhausting now and then.

Does your toolbox include an extra compartment for your lipstick?

Franziska Dangel: No, we do not need the lipstick, necessarily. This is day-dependent.

Which abilities are required for women within the plumbing sector?

Actually, women do not need different abilities than men. Apparently, while working in a plumbing company, it is useful to have manual dexterity, a good power of imagination regarding components and to be a bit creative. But, all of this can be learned over time. Also, someone should be free from giddiness and weather-resistant.

Which construction project you were part of was the most fascinating one?

Franziska Dangel: I always keep a construction site, where I, together with a colleague, covered my first facade with Dangel-Metall-panels, in good memory. In particular, it was special because we were doing everything, from measuring to producing and installing, by ourselves. Usually, we distribute all processes among all colleagues.

Elena Dangel: I was part of the construction side of a church in Pfullingen. The St. Martin's church has a big meaning for me because that is the location where I attended my first award meeting which took place 42 meters above the ground. Also, I was allowed to install a few metal slates by myself.