

## A New Generation of Learning

Although I believe that my high school career has been very fulfilling, that is not the case for everyone. I was exposed to classes that enabled me to push towards my goals for the future. However, I have known exactly what career I want to pursue since I was young. Many students of this generation do not know their optimal career choice. Some even go into college without an idea of where to start. Therefore, they may build up extensive debt on classes that do not benefit their ending career choice. Some students have no desire to go to college because they have not been exposed to something they enjoy. I believe that the school should present more opportunities for students to find a career path that they truly want to pursue.

Many students, especially in our area, enjoy hands-on experiences. Classes such as automotive, welding, and wood shop provide these students with a desire to learn and a passion for the work. These jobs are beginning to die off because they do not have people pursuing these paths. The students will benefit from these classes because they find themselves interested in their work, rather than being forced into classes that they deem useless. I know that State Fair Community College offers great classes to high school students to enter these trades. However, the positions in these classes are limited to only a few students. Also, agricultural science classes offer opportunities to these experiences, but many students only want to feed their interest in one special thing. The agricultural classes only briefly focus on the trades. I strongly believe that if we offer classes in high school, that are strictly focused on specific trades, students will find interest in these jobs. Then they can go off and pursue a degree that will suit their desires. This will also help them save money as they go through college, and provide the workforce with more employees.

As I move on into the real world, I feel under prepared for life on my own. I believe a life skills class would be extremely beneficial to the generations that follow me. Household skills such as sewing on a button are important because who has not lost a button from their favorite shirt? Other important skills are basic first aid, changing a tire, how to check the oil, how to apply for a loan, and how to identify the risks and benefits of a decision. Having knowledge in these areas can help a student day by day. And the most presented problem, how to fold a fitted bed sheet, may be discovered. I think it is magic. Classes teaching how to deal with financial obstacles such as filing taxes and how to apply for a loan will be crucial to students' future. These skills will help better prepare students for a life on their own, as they are not always taught by their parents. Those skills are helpful when out in the real world and could be used in everyday life.

Even though these changes would not affect me, I trust that the addition of these classes to our everyday curriculum would greatly benefit the generations of students that follow me. Here at Cole Camp High School we have a great reputation of leading in education, and I believe that there is always room for additions and improvements.