

“A Brighter Future”

I am lucky enough to come from a school district where the administration’s goal is to ensure that its students are receiving the highest quality of education. Because of this, I know that my school is already doing many things that others may not be, but there is always room for improvement. As I look back over my high school career, I believe there are areas that could be improved upon in order to provide an education that will better prepare students for their futures.

I realize that core classes such as math and science are essential to a high school education, but I also believe that some of the other required classes I have taken throughout high school instill skills that every student will be able to apply to their future. Personal finance, health, and business communications are all examples of courses I have taken where I gained life skills. Everyone has to compose a letter, go to the doctor, and balance a checkbook at some point in their lives, but without these classes, many people would not know how. Although my school has done its part in teaching these skills, I believe even more can be done to prepare students for their future.

As a freshman, I knew I would go to college after high school, but as far as a career choice, I was completely undecided. Because I became involved in extracurricular activities and competitions, I gained experiences where I was able to explore the areas of accounting, finance, and business, allowing me to decide that I want to enter the business field. Although I had opportunities like these to determine my future, many others are not as involved. Even as seniors, some of my peers still do not know where their interests lie. I think one way to improve the education of future students is to add an exploratory class to our school’s curriculum for freshmen and sophomore students. Coming from a small high school of just over one hundred students, I know it is difficult to offer a wide range of classes since the faculty is limited, and because of this, offering a class to explore just a single career is illogical. My suggestion instead is to offer one class where introductions to various career paths are each taught for a few weeks, allowing students to get a taste of what field they may want to enter. Science and technology, the arts, healthcare, education, business, and technical careers are all fields that could be explored by those entering high school. Giving introductions to each of these areas would allow students to determine a basis for decisions about educational opportunities in their future.

As the use of technology continues to increase in our world today, I feel that it is also important for schools to utilize these new methods of learning. Just last year at my school, Chromebooks were purchased for each student, allowing more of our work to be completed online. This has transformed our schooling, as we are now able to complete homework, correspond with teachers, and turn in assignments on these devices. Teachers and students agree that this has been a positive change, but I believe the use of this technology can go further. Many social networks have been created for colleges that allow students to freely express their ideas about homework topics as teachers mediate. This allows students to

collaborate with one another as they would in the real world, and through this social aspect, students take more of an interest in their work. If applied to high school classes, this could be a way to integrate technology into the classroom so it is safe and attractive to students. Although the use of social networking in school is sometimes frowned upon, the reality is that it is used regularly in careers today, and it is very relevant to the future.

I know that my school has prepared me well for my life after high school, but perhaps through the application of these ideas, as well as the continued efforts of the administration and staff, those who follow me will be able to have an even brighter future.