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The Scary Challenge of Life After High School

Everyday across the United States, millions of kids step through glass doors to receive the education that will prepare them for success in their lives. They walk down halls filled with classrooms and teachers that will serve as the foundation for future prosperity. High school can be a great learning center that forever will change the lives of many. A high school diploma is an equal opportunity that anyone can achieve, and it is an opportunity that will kick-start the student into their future successes. High school is a great way to start off a student's life on the correct path, but are high school's teaching the correct information to students to ensure that success? Most high schools put the primary focus on critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In most high schools, including Cuba High School, there needs to be a push towards teaching basic life skills, time management skills, and communication skills.

Spring marks an era of change in the life of a high school senior. After the months of May and June, the path of life is not set anymore. The student could join the workforce, attend a college/university, or go to a tech/vocational school. The options are endless, but what have high schools taught their students about independent life skills? Cuba High School offers nutrition and other individual living classes, but these are optional and often looked upon as frivolous classes. The class is viewed as a joke until the student is alone and panicking because they do not have the basic life skills to function without an adult. Every person should know how to cook basic meals. Even basic first aid can seem daunting to someone who has had no previous experience

with the subject. Cuba High School needs to put an emphasis on teaching life skills to produce functioning members of society.

Procrastination is a topic that all high school students are exceedingly familiar with. The deadline system used by Cuba High School only encourages this problem. Time management skills need to be taught at a young age, and they should be continually taught year after year because of their value. When members of society, students will have to deal with work deadlines, making time to do chores, grocery shopping, and possibly juggling children's activities as well. Setting a solid foundation by teaching students time management skills would make more productive members of our society. Cuba High School should place more emphasis, and reward good time management skills, to help make the path of life easier for its students.

In a generation that is becoming more digitized by the day, communication skills online and in real life situations needs to be a priority in schools. Cuba High School does not have a class that teaches students skills such as how to prepare for an interview, how to format emails and memos, or on skills to make your resume look appealing. These are all very important life skills that students go out into the world without possessing. They have been put at a disadvantage compared to other students who have taken the time to master these skills. Communication skills are the basis of every career. If time is not taken by the teachers and administrators to help students understand the importance of proper communication, then the student will have to teach themselves through failure. The students at Cuba High School, and students everywhere, deserve to learn skills that will give them an advantage in the game of life.

Preparing students for independence in life is no small task. It is filled with challenges, students pushing back, and the occasional academic hiccup. In the end, the end product of a

student that is prepared for a life of challenges, successes, and failures is what a high school should desire. Cuba High School sometimes loses this vision, but the heart of the faculty and administration is in the right place. Students require hours of dedication, discipline, and compassion to be prepared for what life holds. Cuba High School could help better off their graduating seniors by teaching them basic skills, how to manage themselves, and how to communicate.