

## Preparing to be an Adult in High School

To begin, I think our school district works tirelessly to prepare the students that are graduating for life as young adults. Of course there are some things that could be amended or changed, but there are also many attributes that I would leave the same. Over the years of being in Perry County School District 32, I have always felt prepared for whatever next step I was about to take. Whether that be for the following school year, changing classes, or reviewing my schedule. At times though, it wasn't always as easy as it could have been.

First, one of the steps our school could take to make transitioning to adulthood easier would be to allow the students at least one day per year or semester to job shadow a position of their choice. I believe this would help dissuade many teenagers from saying things like "I don't know what I want to do for the rest of my life," or "Nothing interests me." These school-required job shadow days could help students find the field they are looking for or the degree they are interested in pursuing. Personally, I would love to have this kind of opportunity because I am an athlete who plays three sports. Between juggling practices, games, schoolwork, and occasionally a job when I can, it's hard to find time to shadow a person or career I'm interested in on my own time. Our school district does provide a mandatory job shadowing day for seventh graders, but interests and goals can change drastically between seventh grade and twelfth grade. By continuing to offer mandatory job shadow day each semester or every school year, I believe students would increase their confidence in the job or degree they want to continue for the rest of their life, or they may figure out a job field they do not want to pursue prior to college.

A second step our school district could take to aid in our transition from high school would be to provide more guidance when choosing our classes for the upcoming school year. I

think students should receive more advice on what type of classes they should be taking for the type of career or field of study they are going into. I believe this would be beneficial for students because many students take easier, less challenging classes during high school to lighten their schedule at the time. However, when these students go to college, more rigorous courses can be intimidating or even overwhelming as they did not properly prepare themselves. These choices are ultimately the student's to make, but students could benefit greatly if this kind of information were more readily available. I have known the career field and occupation/degree I wanted to pursue since seventh grade, and it has not changed. I had an easier time in high school deciding which classes I wanted to take because I knew what I wanted to do. I didn't have to ask for help often from my counselors. Not all students are so fortunate, and without additional guidance, some may make decisions about courses based on short term goals rather than long term plans.

In conclusion, I think our school district is tirelessly trying to prepare us to be young adults, but there are some changes that could be made to make the transition much easier. The two changes I suggested, requiring a mandatory shadowing day and additional guidance when preparing to choose classes for the upcoming school year, would benefit students in preparing for their future career plans. I think our school district should high consider these options and opinions because student's needs should always be put first.