

Essay

Please write and title a 500-700-word essay on the following theme:

In what ways would you change how your School District prepares graduating students for life as young adults?

I am fortunate to come from a community that supports both the school and its students. Whether it's our annual homecoming celebration or a charity basketball tournament, students always know that they will be supported in all their endeavors. Students also know that they are afforded many opportunities to excel in any area they wish. The school district plays a tremendous role in building this success. The balanced curriculum and professional teaching staff are due to the hard work and dedication of the school board. The school board works tirelessly to change and improve the educational system for its students in any way they can. If I could change one thing about our school district, I would require all students at Kennett High School to take at least one family and consumer science class and one vocational technology class.

All students should be required to take at least one class in the vocational school to be ready for college or a job. Kennett High School is fortunate to have a vocational school on its campus. This gives students the opportunity to prepare themselves for college and their careers. Advanced Placement and honors classes are essential to student's development; however, practical skills are just as crucial for their future. Our vocational school is the best in the area, as several surrounding schools send students to take classes. The vocational school offers Welding, Automotive Technology, Graphic Communications, Marketing, Health Occupations, and several other three-hour programs. Some of its one-hour classes that are important for college and career preparation are Personal Finance, Accounting, Computer Applications, and many other practical courses. These practical skills are applicable in almost any student's college or career pursuits. Whether it is learning how to type or how to balance a checkbook, all students that begin the transition to life as independent adults should have these skills.

The family and consumer science department is housed in a building on campus known as the cottage. The building includes six full kitchens, a laundry room, a printing room, a sewing

room, and several rooms that are modeled as living rooms. Although it is a very nice facility, it is underused. Many students graduate without ever taking a class in the cottage. Every class is just one hour, so they fit well into students' schedules. Regardless of post-high school plans, it is essential to know basic skills as a young adult. Nutrition and Wellness teaches students how to prepare a meal for themselves and make healthy decisions. Child Development trains students on how to become responsible parents in the future. Students can learn how to sew and examine the business procedures of the textile industry in Fashion, Apparel, and Textiles. The family and consumer science department has several other courses that seek to develop attitudes, understanding, and appreciation for the family institution and community activities that affect homes and families. Regardless of what career plans students may have, a base of knowledge about homes and families is essential to graduating students who are preparing for life as young adults.

At Kennett High School, our motto is "Kids Here Succeed." Our school district takes pride in the successes that students enjoy in the classroom, in various clubs, and athletically. Despite the quality of our school district, there is always room for improvement. The one thing I would change is adding the requirement of taking a course in both the vocational school and the family and consumer science building so that students are adequately prepared for both college and occupational pursuits. This change would ensure that, after graduation, new adults can pursue their dreams with the knowledge required to continue success in all their endeavors.