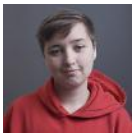


Rise *and* Shine

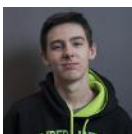
Students talk about the early bird welding class



Ryan McKown



Madi White



Dakota Bolinger



Jacob Smith

Vocational welding opens a lot of doors for people who take the class. Although waking up early can be a drag, it is all worth it in the end. This class is run through Scott Community College.

"We have to sign an application and you get a certain amount of credits for it," said **Ryan McKown**. There are many differences in opinions whether it should be in the morning or in the afternoon. "It starts at 7:15. I like having it before school because we have more time during the day to work on projects and on actual school stuff," said McKown.

Madi White thinks otherwise. "I would rather have welding later on in the day because I am definitely not a morning person," said White. Being one of the girls can also sometimes be difficult for White. She said "There is a lot of testosterone in the classroom. It's annoying sometimes because you realize how stupid boys can be."

In early bird welding there are a lot more opportunities to create something of your own. "Usually in early bird welding we do a lot more projects for the city and the school," said **Dakota Bolinger**.

The welding students have made signs for teachers to purchase for their yards. One of their most popular projects are the snowflakes at Vander Veer. The snowflakes are featured at the park during winter. Many people from West and the public admire the snowflakes created by the welding program.

The snowflakes are something diverse West has that other schools don't. "The lights at Vander Veer are super cool. I think it's cool I got to take pictures in front of them. I'm proud that my school made these beautiful snowflakes that are on display," said **Jacob Smith**.

The welding program has done many things for the community and this is just one of them. When they made the snowflakes for Vander Veer it was really exciting. They are really pretty to see and they are great for putting everybody into the holiday spirit.

The opportunities that welding opens to people are countless. Being able to walk around a park and see something you or your school made is an awesome feeling.

Story by Hannah Nicely

"I feel like nobody really likes getting up early, but I do when going to morning **practice for swim** because that gives our team more opportunities to get better—especially when we sometimes have afternoon practice as well."

- **Amber Sweeney '20**



"I like **early bird strength and conditioning** because it helps me wake up during the week so I'm not sleeping in all the time. I like that there's no distractions from working out when it's in the morning."

- **Patrick DeVine '22**



"I like **early bird band** because it gives us more time to play our instruments, but it can get cold since we're outside at 7:30 in the morning."

- **Alex Garcia '21**



"Getting up at 5:30 every morning for **dance practice** is difficult, but you get used to it after a while and it's nice being able to just get it done early."

- **Emily Monroe '19**



gets the worm





Eat. Sleep. Weld. Repeat. Wyatt Swearinger '20 is working on a project for early bird. The old heating and air conditioning system parts were taken to the welding room as scraps. "I like welding because I've gotten really good at it. It brings me joy when I get to see the things I build with just my hands," said Swearinger.

Photo by Alex Solbrig

Morning Prep

How do you prepare for early bird/morning practice?



"I don't like getting up early in the morning for dance team practice but it's useful because then you have time for other things after school. Sometimes it can be hard to function though because we're all tired and moody."

- **Peyton Flynn '22**

"The biggest struggle with being in early bird band is having to be at West by 7:30 every morning and not having a lot of time to get schoolwork done since I don't get home until 7 at night after football practice."

- **Sam Burken '20**



"In the morning I eat breakfast twice: once at home, and then I pack snacks to eat after dance practice. I always keep my dance shoes, poms, and extra clothes in my bag."

- **Kennedy Wink '21**

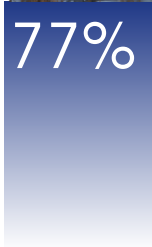
Lazy or Lively?

Students were asked if they prefer waking up early or sleeping in



"I just can't sleep. I don't have a first or second block so it's not a big deal. All during the day I'm tired but at night I feel more awake."

- **Sarah Kakert '19**



Night Owls

Survey based on 57 students



Early Risers

"I enjoy waking up early because it gives you a longer day and you get a lot more time to get ready."

- **Kami Seago '20**

