

# The American *Dream* or the American NIGHTMARE?

by junior Halle Haack

Children are rewarded for good behavior. Athletes are rewarded for performance. Now, it seems that laziness is rewarded, too.

When my parents were young, they were incredibly poor. But, they fought their way out of their circumstances and built their lives from nothing. It wasn't easy. It meant working 80-100 hour weeks during tax season, carefully monitoring spending, and making smart investments.

Rather than their "rags-to-riches" story being esteemed within society, my parents are penalized. The government labels the results of their efforts as overabundance and hinders our family due to it. I know this because we've filled out the FAFSA.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a government program that provides financial aid and scholarships based on "need." That's the problem. It's a common misconception that parents are required to cover their child's tuition. Many don't- and they shouldn't have to.

Thus, the "privileged" middle-class students like me, whose parents feel it's important for us to contribute to our own higher education, are trying to come up with the same amount of money as everyone else. However, we're not eligible for the same financial aid opportunities. Ironically, it makes our needs greater.

For example, FAFSA specifically aims to provide aid to

those in lower-income families. Such students will qualify for a Pell Grant worth over \$5,000 per academic year. Plus, these grants and scholarships will not be taxed. These are small examples.

So, now hard-working parents like mine are further punished for their accomplishments. When the government increases taxes and denies scholarship opportunities to their children, it enforces the expectation that parents SHOULD be required to pay for their kid's college.

While the money my parents have worked for is viewed as excess by the government, what they fail to understand is that it's theirs- theirs to choose where to use it, when to use it, and how to use it. They've earned that right- they've worked for it.

Yet, those who choose not to find a job and don't have higher education are given a surplus of government aid. All the while, the working class is taxed more. Doesn't this discourage the environment that our country claims to foster? "The American Dream:" where hard work causes you to have more penalties! Great.

I feel like it's only fair to redistribute scholarship opportunities based on more than simply parental income. It's not about obtaining the greatest opportunities. It's the fact that you're willing to achieve within the opportunities you're given.

between trimesters.

Another benefit of this schedule is the five period schedule trimesters have during the day. This is different from the eight period day we experience now at Hudson High School. Students would have fewer classes and, therefore, less of a workload at the end of the day.

For students like me, that play sports, it is often hard to come in outside of class because there are practices after school, and we often take full schedules of classes during the day. How are we supposed to get help?

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## Time for **TRY**-mesters

by junior Hannah Tjepkes

The opportunity to take classes personalized to a student's interests and future is becoming more than a want; it's a need.

Hudson is in a semester-based calendar for the school year, but our district should consider a trimester calendar.

### Trimesters Lessen The Load

In a trimester system, each trimester is 12 weeks in length compared to Hudson's long 16-week semesters. For students who struggle to understand all the information throughout a semester, this schedule would help improve grades because it decreases the load of information and separates it

## What do you think?

by senior Lexi Bergmeier

**If soap touches the ground, is it clean or dirty?**

72% said  
**DIRTY**



**"The soap is becoming dirty because it comes into contact with a dirty floor. Since the soap isn't scrubbing, it isn't cleaning the floor."**

- junior Sam Hansen

**"The ground is clean because the soap cleaned the floor."**

- sophomore Ashlyn Reynolds

**Do you think water is wet?**

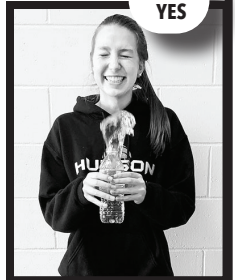
65% said  
**YES**

**"Water is wet because when you are under water you are getting wet."**

- junior Sara Hansen

**"Water isn't wet because when something has water on it, it makes it wet. Wet describes something with water on it."**

- freshman Ayden Meyer



**Why wash your towel if you get out of the shower clean?**



**"My dead skin is on the towel, and I don't feel like rubbing myself with dead skin when I'm all clean."**

- freshman Jasmine Oleson

**"Moisture can result in mold build up."**

- senior Drew Stanfield

**What came first, the chicken or the egg?**

44% said  
**THE EGG**

**"Dinosaurs laid eggs before chickens were ever around, making the egg come first."**

- senior Payton Stuart

**"If there wasn't a chicken who laid the egg, there wouldn't be an egg."**

- senior Ellie Brown

