

More than college bound: Hudson students' future too limited

by junior Caleb McCullough.

At Hudson High School, a lot of emphasis is placed on preparing for college. Maybe a little too much.

Granted, Hudson offers arguably the best education in the area. And it shows in our college enrollment rate. Of the 2016 graduates, 98% pursued post-secondary education. That is well above the national average of 69%.

With so much tradition, and expectation, placed on HHS grads to attend college, it seems we are often committed to plans

which have been made for us long before we began our first day of kindergarten just because we're from Hudson.

The problem is, too many people dread college, stumble through for four or more years, then come out with a lot of debt and a job that they don't particularly like. Why?

A high school graduation does not have to be followed with worry about the cost of a college

degree, anxiety of a college workload, and dread of a lengthy university education. For those who want that or need that, great. But Hudson graduates need to realize that is not your only path.

Community colleges offer a more streamlined training for many promising careers, getting you into the real world making some real money. Later, if you decide you want to go to university after all, you could have half of your degree done by the time you get there.

Then there's apprenticeships and other trade schools where you can learn a craft and get paid doing it. If you have a passion for something in these fields, a degree is often entirely unnecessary.

Military service is yet another fantastic option that you could turn into a college de-

gree if you choose to go that route. Military service is about the most noble and respectable job there is, with incredible benefits after you get out. Being a veteran will go a long way to getting a job, and the military will often help pay for higher education after service.

Steve Jobs. Bill Gates. Harry Truman. James Cameron. And, until just recently, the Lieutenant Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds. What do all these people have in common?

They didn't go to, or didn't finish, college right after high school. Admittedly, these success stories are extreme exceptions. The success of a small fraction of people is not a solid reason to totally throw higher education to the wind.

But for the most talented one percent, all it takes to find success is intuition and hard work. Thomas Edison never passed the eighth grade, and here you are reading this, illuminated by his ingenuity and perseverance.

Some feel that a college degree is essential, calling it the new high school diploma. But in today's ever-changing job market coupled with the explosion of technology that accompanies it, many people are finding success without formal education.

Besides, employers in many fields hire based on skills, not degrees. In jobs like journalism, coding, art, photography, and more, emphasis is placed on a strong portfolio of work to back you up, not a college degree. Sure, college can be a great place to develop these skills, but it isn't necessary.

A college education has its obvious benefits, and it's a great option for some. But, especially at Hudson, we need to realize that it is not the *only* option. We have access to a whole world of opportunity. And if you don't look beyond the status quo, you just might miss out on your true passion.

Personally, I advocate that more Hudson students at least explore different options. After all, expanding your horizons is never a bad thing.

HANGING WITH HAILEY

by junior Hailey Elder.

Guess what? The world doesn't revolve around you. It doesn't care whether or not you are happy or whether or not you think something is fair. That's just life.

Children are demanding. When they're hungry, they demand food. When they're tired, they demand a nap. When they need help, they demand help. Now, this is understandable... when they are, in fact, children.

When these children become teens the painful reality sets in. They can't depend on Mom and Dad as much anymore. Unfortunately, the older kids get, it seems that they struggle with grasping the fact that they are not babies anymore. They're no longer being catered to.

I'll be honest, I am so guilty of wanting my parents to take care of everything for me like the good ol' days. Unfortunately, growing up happens, and our parents are not always going to swoop in and save the day for us. Nor should they.

We cannot depend on having our parents assist us with every little issue life throws. Don't get me wrong, not getting everything you want isn't fun. What is even less fun is turning 18 and figuring out the world doesn't revolve around you after all, so it's time to learn.

Adulthood happens, and teenagers go through all of high school counting down the days until they are on their own. When the time finally comes and teenagers turn 18, they get a big slap in the face. Sure, being a grown up means no one can tell you what to do. It also means no one is going to do anything for you. No one is going to call in sick for you, no one is going to make your meals for you, and no

one is going to make sure that your laundry gets done. That's hard for some people to accept. Instead, we complain. We blame. We whine. We move into Mommy's basement... Okay, that's a bit dramatic but sometimes that's the case. My point is, this needs to stop. Don't depend on things being handed to you on a silver platter. Accept the challenges, and attack them head on.

Mom and Dad are great. Appreciate them and thank them for all that they do for you as much as you can. Parents want the best for their kids, and sometimes they go a little far in making sure that they receive nothing less than the best.

But here is my plea to all the parents out there: Do not, I repeat, DO NOT take care of real life situations for your children. Do not handle problems with friends, coaches, teachers, or their bosses for them.

That is their job. That is how they learn.

You want to protect them from the world, I get that, but you are only hurting them in the long run. A big part of growing up is figuring out how to handle life when things don't go your way. The saying is "When life knocks you down, get back up," not "When life knocks you down tell your mom 'cause she'll make life apologize for not playing nice." Don't let your kids grow up expecting life to always be fair. Instead, teach them how to deal with it when life isn't so kind.

Not everything is going to be fair. If you have a problem, do something about it. If you want something, go get it. You can either sit on the sidelines and pout about how life isn't fair, or you can get up and do something about it. You choose.



**Did
you
know ?**

A radiation therapist has a median salary of \$80,220 with a 12-month certificate

You can either sit on the sidelines and pout about how life isn't fair, or you can get up and do something about it.