

# Editorial: Why School Matters

By **Lacie Warren**  
Assistant Editor

Already a full nine weeks has come and passed in the 2009-2010 school year. By now, students should be in routine for the school day with alarms set and schedules arranged to have the least amount of interference with class time. It is vitally important to be in class. Grades and learned work ethic from high school affect any and all college, even career, chances in the future.

Heard County High School's graduation rates were alarmingly low in 2002. Fifty-eight percent of seniors graduated that year. Although the number is appalling, Heard County High School has soared above the state average (seventy-two percent) in recent years. Last year, (2009) the senior class graduated with 127 students. Eighty-five percent finished their high school career and walked across the stage that night. The senior class of 2010 began high school with 186 freshmen and is finishing up with 129 students, so far. The rest of the school year will either make or break students who could potentially drop out. Studying, being in class, paying attention to lectures, taking notes, and going to tutoring programs like the cram-n-slams have been proven to aid a student whose grades are borderline failing. The small extra steps, whether it is fifteen minutes of studying a night or just looking over notes on the bus every morning, really does make a difference come test time; and test time is what matters most.

The necessity of additional education (after high school) has dramatically increased over the years. Jobs are becoming scarce which creates a more competitive work environment. Working for minimum wage or close to it makes covering the expenses of everyday life next to impossible. If you go immediately after high school into college, a university, or technical school, though, your start-out job has a better possibility of making larger amounts of money. Taking a year off to travel or work will interfere with schooling. Life will get in the way; it is inevitable. Restarting school after two, five, maybe ten years is much more difficult than finishing it all in one, easy shot.

Happiness in the work place is less stressful and promotes a better life. Working at something you love and enjoy is what everyone strives for at the age of five. "I want to be an astronaut," says one child; "I want to be a fire fighter and save people," says another. All children have positive attitudes but no actual views of real-world struggles. To be the things they so passionately want they have to

maintain their grades throughout high school, go to a specialized college or university, pass many stressful tests to prove competency, and pay for all of it.

Everyday life expenses need to be supported somehow. People work jobs to support those expenses. Working a job means skills are needed. To get these skills, schooling is required. Money for luxuries in life, like a car or refrigerator for example, requires extra money. Where does that extra money come from: Having good careers. In order to have a good career, additional education is mandatory. To be an applicant for receiving that education, many things are going to be looked at: grade point average, class ranking, SATs, ACTs, EOCts, and graduation exams scores, work ethic, community involvement, extracurricular activities, and behavioral records. For those of you sitting in class without a care in the world thinking, "Oh, it's just another F," think again. It is your future; it is your life. School matters.

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