

Students use field trips to explore careers

By Garrett Pearlman

Shop teacher Mr. Tim Rouse will take his students on a dozen field trips before the school year is done.

Mr. Rouse leads Durant High School in the number of trips taken, allowing his students to learn more about the trades.

"Typically what I do is I try to use whoever is showing me some kind of interest in the trades of some kind," he explained.

"So if someone tells me that they for sure think that they want to be a welder or go into construction or go work for them as a mechanic, those are the kids I try to, first and foremost, take to the trips, so that they can get a better feel for [it]."

These trips give students an idea of what they are really getting themselves into and if they truly want to do that particular trade.

"It's kind of like a job shadow experience," Mr. Rouse said. "Unless you go and see what they actually do there, a lot of times you might have a mindset of what they do, but you don't really know for sure, so that's why I like to take that group of kids on those trips."

Mr. Rouse added that "you can't teach everything inside the walls of school, so it's nice to be able to get out there and see stuff."

One student pursuing a job in the trades, senior Brady Meincke, said he thought he wanted to be a welder until he

visited a company that featured numerous welding jobs.

"That just didn't seem like an environment I wanted to be around for the rest of my life, so I chose to be a person that does HVAC [heating, ventilation, and air conditioning] instead," he said.

Meincke, like Mr. Rouse, also believes that these trips allow students to get more of an understanding of the trades.

"It just gives you an opportunity to see what jobs that you can do in the real world and what the trades are really about," said Meincke.

Mr. Rouse gets help to set up these trips from Durant's work-based learning coordinator, Mrs. Christina Anderson.

"She lined up the trip to the [Russellroy] Foundry this year," said Mr. Rouse. "If I have a situation where I want to get into some place, she has more business connections, so I can utilize her to get something set up, especially if it's a first-time trip to some of the other plants."

Meincke also got help from Mrs. Anderson to enter the HVAC field. An HVAC technician manages heating and cooling by installing and/or repairing furnaces and air conditioners.

"You know [Mrs. Anderson], she got me on the phone, I did a job interview for this guy, and he gave me a lot of stuff and then told me to call another guy, like somebody that actually works for the Union



Photo contributed by Mr. Rouse

Durant students took a field trip to Kinze Manufacturing plant in Williamsburg on January 10.

Hall," said Meincke.

"Then I called him, and he told me to sign up. I could either go there or do it online, so I did it online, and now I'm signed up. Hopefully they accept me."

One of Meincke's favorite trips was during his summer job when he helped build a house in Kalona with other Durant shop students under the supervision of Mr. Rouse.

"During that, we went to this place called Millers, and they make roofing, so it's like tin roofing," he said. "Everything there, since they're Amish, they can't use electricity, so they do everything with compressed

air, and it was really cool to see all of that."

Mr. Rouse states that data suggests that 60 percent of jobs in the next ten years will be in the trades.

"I'm trying to get them [students] as prepared as I can for post-graduation situations, whether that's a two-year college, four-year college, a trade school, or going right straight to work for someone through an apprenticeship program," he said.

"There's a lot of trade jobs out there right now that you could make as good, if not better, money than you can if you go out and get a four-year degree."

Durant sophomore ventures into BMX racing

By Carlie Jo Fusco

Durant sophomore Mayson Eddy is introducing a sport that may be new to the



Photo contributed by Mayson Eddy
Sophomore Mayson Eddy competes in a BMX race.

Wildcat student body. Eddy has been competing in BMX (Bike Motocross) for three years now at a track in East Moline.

She became interested in BMX after riding her sister's old bike at her grandmother's house.

"I was curious about it," Eddy said. "So my mom took me to a BMX open house, and I fell in love with the sport."

She rides at the East Moline BMX Speedway, where she stands in ninth place on the points scoreboard. Her speedway holds competitions each weekend, and Eddy has competed at almost all the meets provided by her speedway while she has been involved in the BMX community.

The East Moline BMX Speedway operator, Paul DePauw, said that Eddy is also known as Mayson "The Bulldozer" Eddy. She often has to race in the boys' division because there aren't enough girls entered.

body picks, what they're going to do, who's going to graduate early, and who's going to a four-year school," Mrs. Badtram said.

The beginning of April is when Mrs. Badtram starts checking grades and preparing for the graduation ceremony itself.

"I start really looking at grades, making sure everyone is where they need to be, and passing their classes. Then it's game on," Mrs. Badtram said.

Seniors have already purchased

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seems as if we care more about sports than we do academics.

"Should we be asking ourselves why we don't take as much pride in our standing in the state academically as we do

While she competes well against both genders, the more competitions that racers compete in, the more points they build up. Depending on the type of race, the points offered may vary, with some races offering more points than others. Her overall score currently sits at 371. The leader of her speedway has 1,818 points.

Training can look different for BMX athletes compared to other high school sports. For Eddy, she practices different scenarios around the track.

"I practice by working on what are the best lines to take on different parts of the track," Eddy said. "And when I practice, I act like it is a race to the finish line."

She hopes to spread the word about the sport, and while it is a rather small community, Eddy hopes to see the sport grow.

"I have a lot of goals, but my main goal right now is to get more people into

BMX," Eddy said. "I would like to see more girls my age and just everyone of different ages start racing."

Her advice to others interested in BMX is to recognize how nobody sits on the bench.

"I tell them that we are not like other sports; we are never sitting on the bench like other sports," Eddy said. "Everyone participates."

BMX can be a dangerous sport, but this doesn't scare Eddy. She uses it as something rather motivating to get others to try the sport.

"Everyone must know that you are going to get hurt if you enter this sport," Eddy said.

"Like many other sports, you're bound to get hurt. But the real question is, are you going to be the person that gets back up and on the bike?"

Preparations begin as Durant High School nears graduation day

By Leah Feuerbach

As graduation season approaches, high school guidance counselor Mrs. Kristy Badtram is helping to prepare the seniors for their next adventure.

There are 45 students in the 2023 graduating class.

Mrs. Badtram feels like she has become close with the seniors this year, but she is excited to see what their future holds.

"It's exciting to see where every-

in sports?" Mr. Holst asked.

Mr. Holst added that if the school does not hold students accountable for their actions and expect them to be respectful, it may be harder for them to learn it in "the real world."

Durant is bringing in so many Davenport students because their parents perceive that Durant has a better learning environment, he pointed out.

"If we don't address it, Durant is going to be just as bad as Davenport is now," Mr. Holst said.

Mr. Burnett said we are very blessed here in Durant to have a positive and safe learning environment. He attributes that to

graduate.

Seniors need to make sure they are applying for scholarships.

Students will need to get room and board all lined up for their desired college and sign up for orientation sessions this summer.

It is also important for the seniors to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form as soon as possible for the upcoming school year.

the staff and the work they do with the students.

"We want our students to grow into mature and responsible adults," Mr. Burnett said.

Mr. Burnett said that the teenage years can be difficult ones for everyone involved. He agrees that we still have discipline challenges today but doesn't feel that it isn't under control.

"Do we have challenges today? Absolutely we have challenges today," Mr. Burnett said.

"Do I think it's mass chaos, and people aren't accountable? Of course I don't."



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