

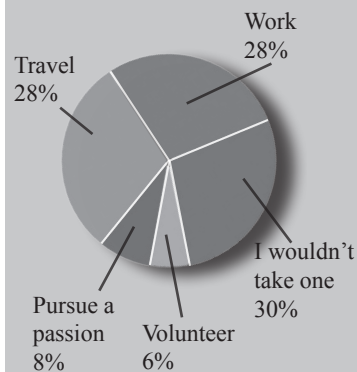


"I would travel to see part of the world."

Mariah Hartshorn  
senior

## What would you do if you took a gap year?

\*100 students polled



"I wouldn't take a gap year. I wouldn't have the money."

Mrs. Karen Henderson  
Counselor

**Letter Policy**  
Letters received to the editor are subject to editing to avoid libel or other illegal expression, as well as for mechanical or other grammatical mistakes. Letters must be appropriate to print in a student publication. The adviser and editors reserve the right to not include any letter they deem as inappropriate and can limit letters to 250 words.

## The pressure to decide

### What should you do after high school?



Art by Brailee Crum

### Staff Editorial

Choosing what you are going to do after high school is a difficult decision all students are faced with. You could get a job, go to a vocational school, go to a community college or university, join the military, travel, or take a gap year, or even live in your parent's basement.

No matter what you decide to do, we think that the decision should be up to you, and that you shouldn't feel pressured by your parents, or teachers, or friends, or society to do something that you don't want to do.

It seems like all your life you

get asked "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and you say something like a firefighter or a ballerina or the President of the United States. But then somewhere along the way, you grow up and the time for your decision is now.

So how will you decide? You are the only one who truly knows how you enjoy spending your time. You shouldn't make this huge, life-changing decision solely based on how much money you will make. Sure it's a big part of the decision, but if what you're doing makes you miserable, it may not be worth it.

Some people say that learning a trade is the only way you'll ever

get a job and that you should go to a vocational school. Some people say that the only way you will get a good-paying job is to go to college and get a degree. And some people say that Steve Jobs and Bill Gates didn't go to college, so it would just be a waste of time and money to attend a university.

You should be passionate about the path that you take after high school. There are pros and cons for every possibility. You shouldn't do something because your parents want you to and they shouldn't force you to do something that you don't care about. The views of society are constantly changing, so

the "right" decision 20 years ago is totally different than the "right" decision today or what it will be in another 20 years.

The Institute for the Future did a report that estimated that 85% of the jobs in 2030 haven't been invented yet.

So even now, while you're trying to plan for the future, focus on what you care about.

So when you think about your life after high school, ask yourself: What do I enjoy doing? What makes me happy? What am I passionate about? And will I enjoy doing this for nearly the rest of my life?

## IN ONE WORD...describe the lockdown drill.



Outrageous

Davian Gallegos,  
sophomore



Boring

Elijah Neilsen,  
freshman



Spooky

Kristian Whyte,  
junior