



“ COME OUT WHEN YOU’RE READY. THERE’S ALWAYS PEOPLE THERE FOR YOU. YOU JUST HAVE TO FIND THEM.”

A PIECE OF IDENTITY

Sadearah Hanson knows that there are many reasons to find fault in being a teenager and participating in high school life. The grinding judgment. A culture in which being yourself attacks on one’s beliefs, values, inspiration, and worth. These acts often go unpunished, and one is left with guilt and responsibility beyond control.

“America in general has not had a good history when it comes to equality or even equity. We seem to put one race or sexuality above all of the others and it’s not good for society or our school,” said Hanson. Throughout her journey, she has pronounced herself as pronoun indifferent, and proves her success to herself by staying grounded to her values and true to herself.

Although she is a very confident person, she said that “being uncomfortable at a school really causes you to hinder not to be yourself and focus on the discrimination that you feel.” Hanson also stated that she does have faith in Delta High and its diversity. As a person she tends to believe that being open minded can help one grow and the community at DHS will soon learn that.

When digging deeper into our school, Hanson believes that our education system is stuck in a bubble. “In my American History class, we only talk about white men when it comes to the great story of the United States, and I always wondered why, when there were women, immigrants, and even a gay general that nobody speaks about.” Hanson sees change as a very positive aspect and said she hopes that Delta could become open-minded, “I grew up in a very homophobic, white, Republican household where I was raised to not be open minded, when in reality life is easier when you’re open minded.” Hanson continued, “People who grow up closed minded are always angry and never really learn how to help our society.” As a young person, finding yourself takes time. As for Hanson, she took as much time as she felt needed to come out openly as a gay person.

“I found out that I was gay in middle school and I came to my friends as bisexual because I was even afraid of what they would think of me. It was stupid.” Not only did Hanson come out to her friends, but she confided in one of Delta High’s very own English teachers, Ms. Ranum. “She was very accepting and sweet about it. She made me feel brave; shortly after I came out to my peers through a class presentation and I felt very supported.” Hanson explained that being gay or lesbian was hard growing up. She found music to get her through her hardships and her Grandmother was the one person who helped. She gave her a CD when she was 12 which led her to love Freddie Mercury. This British artist, her dad, and best friend Enrique Gonzalez have helped shape her into the person that she is today.

While experiencing change and acceptance, Hanson also faced multiple downfalls. “There is a lot of homophobia and discrimination everywhere, in Delta, school, family, the worst part of it all is feeling as though you can’t be yourself in the hallway because you feel that your will hear words such as faggot. It sucks.” However, Hanson fought through it when she found herself and her people. “I am no longer scared to be myself. I have found my outlet and it is wonderful.”

