

Dakota's Diary

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Mindset



“Man up” and “be a man” are two terms that have been used for centuries. In modern society men aren't praised for seeking help if they need it, they are ridiculed. That help, however, isn't the determining factor of happiness. Happiness is as much a mindset as it is a feeling.

To be happy is perspective relevant. Nothing tangible can cause happiness, but can only alter a mindset toward that goal. Even some of the most successful and what

you and I would consider “well-off” people wouldn't call themselves truly happy. The opposite is true as well. There are people who society wouldn't consider successful, but who have happiness.

Why does this matter to a high schooler? Realizing that being happy comes from within is just the tip of the iceberg. Happiness isn't the only thing that can be determined through a

strong mindset. Success, time, and determination are all factors that are determinable through a frame of mind.

Athletes talk about the winner's mindset. Whatever competition it may be, having a strong enough mindset is just as important as the athletic ability. None

of the greatest athletes in the world have gotten to where they are through pure natural talent. They work for what they have. This is amplified through the mindset that they have and they let it speak through their work.

Whether it be athletics, academics, work, or life in general, a strong mindset is vital to success or defeat. It's easy to not work at all. And it's easy to work hard when life is going your way. It's hard to find a drive and a passion when there's nobody pushing you toward your goals. Frame of mind shows up in life again and again. Only when it is mastered is life truly discovered.

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There are two ways you can go with pain: You can let it destroy you or you can use it as fuel to drive you.

-Taylor Swift

Staff Editorial

With the new building of Eaton High School comes a new atmosphere and a new way of doing things. One of the big points of emphasis to the community about the new school was that even though Eaton was in a new building, it is still the same old Eaton. This is an easy way of thinking about things, but the execution of this idea is a little harder to perform.

What made Eaton High School different were the traditions and the history that the old building contained. The composites that were hung up in the hallways, showing the previous classes all the way back from when the building was founded in the early 1900's, were iconic to the old building. The old building itself brought character to being an Eaton Red. The old auditorium, that housed generations of Eaton students, gave a sense of belonging to every student that stepped into the building. Many of the things that made EHS what it was, were taken away with the arrival of the new building. “The school atmosphere just doesn't feel the same. It seems like they are trying to force us to start new traditions. I think the Rowdy Reds seems very forced,” said EHS senior and student council member Grant Hernandez. The “Rowdy Reds” was the name given to the student section of the new school, and to the students, it was an idea that sprung up out of nowhere.

The drastic changes are a big part of the new

Tradition at EHS

school feeling different to everybody. If some of these traditions were added and taken away slowly, students and staff would have a better time understanding them and enjoying them. The changes that have happened within the school in the past year alone were drastic, and changed the dynamic of the school atmosphere.

The new building itself also has its downsides. Many of the places in the school aren't finished with construction, so students aren't even allowed in them. For example, the theater isn't able to be accessed because it isn't finished yet. This is a change because the historic theater of the last high school was iconic, and housed all of the plays and concerts that the school had to offer. All of those events now have to be held at a local church instead of being held in the school that is performing them.

EHS choir teacher Christina Contreras said, “I've been teaching here at Eaton for almost 20 years, that part [not being able to perform in their own theater] is very bittersweet for me, the history and the tradition. It's just going to take time. I'm trying to keep a positive and forward minded mindset. It's just the growing pains of getting it finished.” Everything in the new school will take time to rebuild.

Teachers also don't have their own classrooms. Each classroom in the school is considered a “content classroom” and many of the teachers have to move from one classroom to the next depending on what class they teach. This is hard for the teachers because they aren't able to have a good place to get their work done. There are office spaces around the school for the teachers, but each office

houses many teachers in a confined space, making it difficult to get things done. To the teachers, it feels like they don't have a “home base” even though they have an office space. A classroom provides a sense of belonging to the teachers, which translates to the students as well.

This is also difficult for the students. Not knowing where to find a teacher at any point in a day makes it hard for a student to get the things they need for their classes and when they need to turn their work in outside of class. They need to schedule an appointment with their teacher instead of being able to just go into their class and ask them a question. The class environment is also different, because the teachers can't decorate how they want to and make their class feel like a secure environment.

This environment can easily affect the learning of the students within the school. It makes it harder for the students to learn. If the learning environment isn't optimal for the students it will mess with their academics, and their social skills as well. When students don't feel comfortable in school, it doesn't help anybody progress.

It is hard to be successful in an uncomfortable environment. When the goal is to make the school feel more like home for a lot of these students, and it feels like the opposite, students and staff have a hard time adjusting. With a whole new school environment, people are forced to change how they do things, and how they have always done things. The school doesn't feel like Eaton, which is the exact thing that the administration tried to keep alive.