

# Opinion: P-TECH what the heck

story by maddy parkhurst

## Why is there nothing going on?

When I was in middle school signing up for my high school classes, I was first introduced to the P-TECH program that Grand Junction High School is offering. I then began the process of applying for this program.

P-TECH stands for Pathways in Technology Early College. It was first brought to GJHS in 2021. This program is for highschool students and it helps them earn their associates degree at no cost during high school. Some of the pathways within this program are Architecture and Construction, Engineering, Computer Science, Environment and Natural Resources, Education and Human Services, Health and Exercise Science. Within these different categories you have different careers. For example in the Environment and Natural Resources that is where the vet-tech program is a part of.

I have looked on both the school website and in the Academies handbook for information on the P-TECH program, but there is very little information. It gives you a QR code to apply and a list of the different areas it covers, along with a few basic facts about the program. It doesn't give you a list of classes to take for it, it doesn't give you any names of who to talk to about the program. Overall, I just feel like it's very unhelpful for anyone looking for more information.

On the first day of school, I was looking at my schedule and found there was nothing to do with P-TECH on my schedule. I later found out the only class for P-TECH was my advisory.

Within this advisory, we really didn't do much related to P-TECH. We would just try to plan on going to vet clinics or plan on doing something vet tech related, but none of these things actually ever happened.

I did think we would start actually doing something P-TECH related when all the P-TECH advisories met in the cafeteria for a P-TECH meeting. I soon found out there wasn't much about P-TECH other than just hearing about the other advisories. No one really paid attention to what was said at these meetings, we all just seemed excited to get doughnuts and orange juice.

Now I am placed in my academy, which really

hasn't done much for me and my P-TECH journey. I was placed in a tech-ed classroom for my advisory which has nothing to do with my career choice, which is really upsetting to me.

I have been asking around trying to get more information on P-TECH but no one seems to know anything. Honestly, if they brought back the advisory meetings for P-TECH that would at least help get some information out and for students to ask questions. The only place I found information on what classes to take is further in the hand book under the different academy sections for specific careers. On these pages it gives a better outline of what classes to take for your specific career.

If they gave P-TECH its own advisory or a class period to help us get information or make it easier for us to get information it would make the program run more smoothly.

In the new school hopefully there will be an easier way of helping kids getting information or finding out what classes to take for their specific pathway.

