



# Education

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## What's next for these Hammonton High School seniors?

by Katie Amrhein and Alyssa Capelli

GAZETTE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

With another school year coming to a close, high school seniors across the country are faced with the daunting question: What's next?

For many, this means going to college. Hammonton High School senior Elyse Ryan has not committed to a university yet, but knows that she wants to major in nursing and minor in public health.

"When I had my hip reconstructive surgeries, it made me realize that I wanted to go into nursing. I looked up to my nurses that helped me through my surgeries, and I want to be able to do that for my patients," Ryan said.

Ryan's parents are both educators. Rather than following in their footsteps, she wants to help people in a different way. Nevertheless, their support has been unwavering and it motivates her.

"My parents, throughout the whole college experience and through my whole life, have always been so supportive of me," Ryan said. "If I had a passion, they'd say 'go for that passion.' 'Keep doing it.' If there's a hindrance or something blocking you, do it anyway."

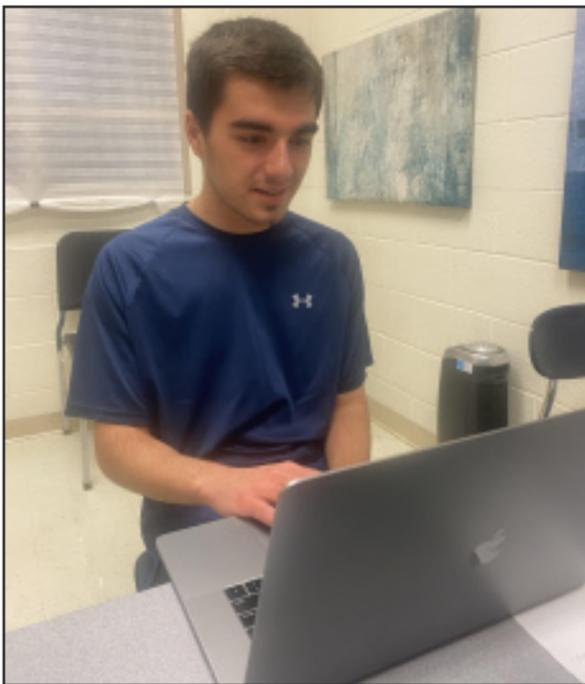
Parents can play a big role in choosing what college to attend. Senior Will Bauers is headed to Pennsylvania State University after growing up watching football games with his dad.

"It's been a dream of mine. I started doing my research and I realized it's a pretty good school, not just for football. It's got the culture, the education and it's not far," Bauers said.

Bauers is currently going to major in political science and has future aspirations of law school. However, Bauers recognizes that just because he has that goal does not mean that his vision will not change down the line. He said his biggest fear is the "unknown."

Bauers is not alone in that feeling. Ryan also expressed her apprehension about the future.

"A common fear is that everyone feels like they don't know what they want to do. No one can predict the future



Courtesy Photo

Hammonton High School senior Will Bauers.

and no one knows exactly the different path," Ryan said.

Another concern students face is being away from home for the first time. Senior Naji Boone plans to attend a college in the state for one year before going to her dream school, the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. At AMDA, Boone will live her first two years of school in New York and the last two years in Los Angeles.

"It's a great program for exposure. New York exposes you to the Broadway scene while Los Angeles exposes you to the Hollywood scene," Boone said.

This means she will be a long way from home. While Boone is excited about graduating, she knows getting out of the small town she has known her

whole life will not be easy.

"I'm used to it being like a family and knowing everyone, so it'll be different to go somewhere where no one knows who I am," Boone said.

Graduating usually means not seeing your closest friends every day, which is a difficult prospect for seniors.

"I'll most miss the atmosphere and being so close with everyone because we truly have grown up with each other," Ryan said.

However, one thing seniors will not miss about high school is the class schedule. The freedom to choose the routine best suited for their lifestyle is something they yearn for.

"In high school, the way classes are set up, it's a daily stack-up. Five days a week, eight periods, but in college, maybe I could take classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday, have two classes a day, and still have plenty of downtime and time to study," Bauers said.

Boone shares Bauers sentiment.

"I won't miss having to wake up super early. It's not the same schedule day in and day out. I'll be happy to get into a new rhythm," she said.

No matter where they go, the seniors at Hammonton High School will never forget where they came from and are grateful for everything their educators have done for them. Specifically, they appreciate the guidance counselors for helping them navigate the next chapter of their lives.

"It does help that our guidance counselors have been able to help me with the college application process," Ryan said.

"I go to my counselor for everything. Usually, when I'm fearful of the next step, they help me no matter what," Boone said.

The future is bright for the Class of 2022 and everyone at *The Hammonton Gazette* cannot wait to see the great things in store for them.

## The transition from being an eighth grader to a high schooler

by Shaniele Brown and Samantha Irwin

GAZETTE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The transition from middle to high school can become an overwhelming process for eighth graders. As the end of the year approaches, the graduating teens are anticipating the start of a new chapter in life, that involves a different schedule with more challenging courses and the shift of their social circle.

High school is a different world that allows students to begin the process of adventuring off into more of their interests. They can take part in regular and advanced classes, play various different sports and be a part of different organizations. Although the teachers aren't as interconnected as the ones in middle school, they are still able to help and provide resources.

Ninth grader, Emily Cheseboro, 15, came from a really small Catholic school to Hammonton High School. The first few weeks of her freshman year were overwhelming; now, she's got the hang of things.

"Your middle school teachers always say that high school is so much harder than middle school, but it really isn't that different. Teachers still care about you and are always there for you," Cheseboro said.

Eighth grade students at Hammonton Middle School will get a chance to see what high school life is like in fall of 2022. Catie Warren, 14, wants to be able to be more involved when she gets to the ninth grade.

"I am excited to get involved with different activities like pole vaulting in track," Warren said.

Another eighth grader, Robert Geilling, 14, is ready to be in a higher grade, but for him right now, he's feeling nervous about the atmosphere and who he'll be around.

"I am nervous to be in new classes with new people. I'm nervous to be in a new, bigger school," Geilling said.

There's no manual on how to survive high school much less your freshman year. It can be a bit nerve wracking to start over and have to make new friends as well as adjust to a new schedule.

For the current juniors at Hammonton High School, their freshman year was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that they are well into high school, they wanted to offer incoming freshmen some advice on how to have a good experience.

Adrianna Palmore, 16, a junior at Hammonton High School, has a sister in the eighth grade who will soon join her in the fall. She was once nervous just like everyone else.

"Don't be afraid to sit by yourself, you will make friends," Palmore said.

Another junior, Gabe Glisson, 16, missed out on orientation his freshman year, so he wasn't able to figure where to go.

"I missed orientation, so I didn't know where anything was," Glisson said.

"First impressions are very important, no matter how much you change people will always remember that first impression," Glisson said.

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