

**Staff Editorial:**

# Staff split on student e-mail idea

**Student email accounts would better prepare for college -- make deadlines harder to avoid**

The *Paolite* staff is, for the most part, split on the idea of school e-mail accounts, with opinions varying from “SWEET!” to “stupid”.

Some of us feel as though the e-mail accounts would keep the school better connected, and it would

make work a lot easier on the students.

It would also reduce the amount of paper used by the school greatly.

It would also prepare students who are headed to college for a world where professors want all

assignments and projects e-mailed to them instead of turned in as a printed paper.

Yet, others of feel as though the e-mail account would not catch on, or that it is a good idea, but it simply will not work. It would also

make deadlines harder to avoid.

We the staff do feel though, that the electronic wave in the twenty-first century is a good thing. Times are changing and it is only a matter of time before our school changes with them.

## Planning for college takes a unexpected turn for one senior

For years all I have heard as a senior is that it is of the utmost importance to get into a good college. If I were to fail at getting into a good college I would never get a good job and my life would be a failure.

Recently I've questioned that idea.

The commonly accepted idea is that a student failing to go to college is going to end up a loser. For years I have blindly accepted this fact, making my one and only main goal in life to get into college.

However, last year, the sudden new goal is to think about a job.

What job should I end up with? What do I want to do for the remaining years of my life?

Even though I have lived for 18 short years, I am now expected to decide what I want to do for the remaining 60-plus years of my life. After hearing this for months, I have started to question the pressure to get into a good college. Maybe that is not what the world wants after all.

I have two parents and three older brothers. Neither of my parents went to college, and the one brother who did end up going to college ended up dropping out. Despite this, both my parents have jobs that do more than enough to support our family. None of my brothers are right where they wanted to be, but they are doing enough to get by. All five of those in my

close family are all employed. Most outsiders would look at these five individuals and think that they are doing just what they should in life.

The odd thing is, none of them went to college.

***“I suppose it all goes back to one of the sage pieces of advice I’ve picked up over the years: do things for you, not for others.”***

This fact struck me suddenly not too long ago, and I started to wonder: does the world demand that I get into a good college, or does it demand that I get a good job?

I have started to suspect that it is the latter.

The common perception of the unemployed is that they are lazy, dirty, wrong, insensible and just plain ol’ stupid to not have a job. After all, according to CNN news, roughly ninety percent of America finds it no problem to get a job! The 9.4% of America that is unemployed deserve to be where they are, probably got that way making stupid decisions in their

life and need to get off their lazy butts and go out and start working.

Surprisingly enough, according to BLS News, only roughly 70% of high school graduates actually attend college. The numbers here aren't matching up! The rule is that if a high school student doesn't attend college, they are going to fall flat on their faces and not make a difference in the world. If that was true, the

unemployment rate should be 30%. Instead, it is remarkably less.

Apparently a person's worth in the world isn't tied up in whether or not they attend college, but whether or not they have a job. The five o'clock news report is not about the rising and falling college attendance rate, but the unemployment rate.

Society doesn't care all that much about college; the important thing is to get a job.

Needless to say, thinking about all of this and coming to this conclusion kind of astounded me. Honestly, it shattered the college-driven world I have lived in for so many years. I still definitely intend to attend college, but now the pressure is phenomenally less. Now that I've realized that society in general doesn't give a crap whether or not I attend college, it makes me feel better to know that all the pressure to go to college comes from me, not from my peers and betters.

I suppose it all goes back to one of the sage pieces of advice I've picked up over the years: do things for you, not for others. My self-worth comes from what I intend to do with my life and whether or not I succeed. It is NOT determined by whether or not I get into an Ivy League school and get straight As.

The point is to do what I want in a way that I can use to support myself, but not to please anyone else.



## Daily schedule forces prioritizing out sleep

Sitting here writing this, I have an audience behind me, giving me opinions, drilling my mind with thoughts and other issues as I begin to write. But this is my story, my opinion, my thoughts.

The normal day for me, Stevie Thomas, begins at 6 a.m. Yes, some of you wake up this early anyway, but with the next hour, I will be leaving to head out to Zero Hour, the APE class offered before school technically starts. Now some of you may ask, "What that heck is she doing taking that class so early?" My answer, that was my only option.

I am an Academic Honors Student. As a member of the National Honor Society, I must maintain a level of grades higher than a C+. Some say this is easy, but when you have eight classes a day, work part-time after school until at least 9 p.m., have homework EVERY night and at least try to have a social life, it is somewhat... no it IS challenging.

I am a two-sport athlete. Volleyball and tennis is what I do. Am I the best at it? Haha, no. Will I ever play in college or go pro? You've got to be kidding, right? I do these things for fun. But is it really "fun" anymore? Is getting up so early each morning, lifting weights and or running until my lungs collapse, then sprint to the locker room to frantically search for my inhaler before I pass out worth it? Three years ago, I may have said yes. It is junior year now, my thoughts and opinion on this is beginning to change.

A typical day for me is Zero Hour, seven classes, practice and or work and then the dreaded item: homework. May I ask what the point of hours of homework is? I

see it as pointless, yet for some reason teachers think it is appropriate to add additional work onto a subject we sit in for almost an hour anyway. Once again, I say pointless.

Hours of my day are consumed by sports and school. Yes, I chose this, but I do not think coaches and teachers take into consideration that students are also involved in activities and such outside of school that also take time out of a day, which is only approximately twelve to fifteen hours long, while the rest is taken up by sleeping.

Back to the topic of Zero Hour. This is an APE class offered before 8 a.m. You cannot be "forced" to take this class for sports, but if you WANT to play, you have to take it, or its bench time for you. So therefore, I have to take it at 7:15 in the morning. After that, my seven required classes begin... yippee right? Not. Due to the fact I am almost failing one, and I am not happy about that... so I am happy to say, I have made a very, very tough choice for my second semester.

I just want to know one thing. Why can't teachers and coaches understand that we kids need a break from everything once and a while? Every now and then, it is HEALTHY to take a back and actually breathe. One or two nights a week without homework would make it ten times easier.

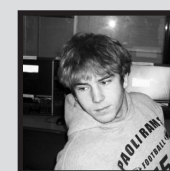
No, I am not and never will be able to convince a high figure authority this, but I do want to say my opinion... homework EVERY night and practice until almost 6 p.m. is absolutely ridiculous and I will stand my ground for another year and a half.



### The ultimate Christmas present...

**"A new car."**

Allison Ater  
Senior

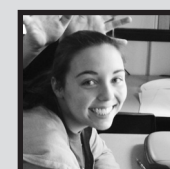
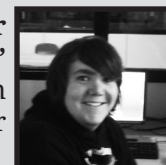


**"A trip to the Bahamas."**

Tyson Bostock  
Senior

**"Jennifer Anniston."**

Dakota Hudelson  
Senior

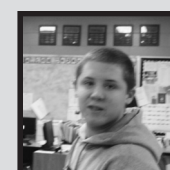
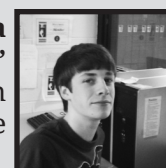


**"A baby llama."**

Gracen Dunn  
Sophomore

**"A Madonna poster."**

Sean Fulton  
Sophomore



**"A 72-inch HD plasma screen TV."**

Ian Bostock  
Sophomore

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Little known facts from familiar faces*



Sophomore  
**Shelby Barnes**  
is in the process of being adopted.



Freshman  
**Savannah Rogers**  
likes donkeys.



Junior  
**Mariah Sword**  
has cystic fibrosis.



Freshman  
**Josh Turner**  
has blue eyes with a brown spot.