

Gaining experiences

Gearing up for successful future

By: Katherine Kettlehake

The Great Oaks Schools were an opportunity for students to receive technical training and career development while they were in high school. Four schools made up the Great Oaks system including Diamond Oaks, Scarlet Oaks, Live Oaks, and Laurel Oaks. Students chose which activities they wanted to participate in and focused on those throughout the day.

Oaks students could gain college credit for the courses they took in their chosen field as well as for their regular academic courses. They could earn up to seven credits, which meet the requirements to graduate and receive a diploma from their home schools. Students started at the Oaks in their junior year; it is a two year school.

"The two schools come together. We still can play sports and come to dances at our home school while attending the Oaks," said **Michael Lanner, 12**.

Many options were available to students who chose to go to the Oaks. Along with many courses in regular academic subjects, courses were also offered in automotive and power technology, business technology and marketing, communications technology, construction and maintenance, consumer and community services, environmental science and agriculture, health, industry and engineering, and information technology.

Early placement was also available to Oaks students who met a grade point average and the attendance requirement. They were able to be trained in a job outside of school, gained extra credits, and gain valuable experience while being paid.

"The Oaks is a great place to learn a trade. We are then allowed to go out and apply that trade in a job setting, which is great experience," said **Dirk Sayre, 11**.

The Oaks schools were recommended to people who had a tentative idea of what they wanted to do in their future. Students did have the opportunity to change this if they were unhappy with what they were studying. The Oaks was a fantastic place for anyone to receive training in preparation for their future.

DIRK SAYRE, 11, WORKS on a car motor. He was enrolled in automotive courses. **Sayre** did not take his academics at the Oaks, so he only attended it for half of the day.



The students at the Oaks gain skills that they couldn't attain at an academic based school, and get to apply everything they learn. After graduating many go onto college and they have an easier time getting jobs right out of high school.

-Mrs. Robin Wells-Kamp



SOPHOMORE STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT fire and law departments while touring the Oaks. The students who took fire courses at the Oaks got the chance to wear an actual fire uniform and breathing mask. They did real drills to prepare them for an actual fire.