

Shadow-a-Student Day 2024 (02/13/24)

In my annual tradition, we select one member of our Student Body for the Dean to shadow for the day. This is an important part of my position as our Dean of Students because I so often get lost in the wider trajectory of our school, that I lose what it means to be a student here at Judge. I like being reminded of what the day-to-day feels like for any of our students. This year, I was fortunate to have our very own Sophomore Core Representative, Rowan Hankins to be the student that I'd follow that day.

Let's start before school! As many of you probably don't know, our Student Council meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays before school begins at 7:15 a.m. This morning, we met together in the BLT room to discuss some ongoing fundraising ideas, and brainstorming some more suggestions about volunteer opportunities that our Student Council could participate in as a group.



After the Student Council meeting, we headed for our first of (3) tests for the day. Luckily for me, it was in Mr. Barron's religion class to get us started. He was so kind as to facilitate a "Hollywood Squares" review so that I could brush up on my New Testament before sitting for the examination.

Our examination had plenty of heavy hitters, and I got to pray to Joseph Cupertino for help in remembering Mary Magdalene and understanding the theology tied to praying the rosary. At the culmination of the examination, Mr. Barron informed me that I did indeed score well- it was nice to start the day with an exam that I could in fact complete. We then headed to AP Precalculus where my streak of successful test taking would immediately come to an end.



While Rowan was incredibly prepared for this examination- she studied for hours in the nights leading up to the exam- I on the other hand had absolutely no idea what I was doing. I managed a handful of clever jokes in response to Mrs. Jackson's questions regarding roundabouts, and generally took observations around the class rather than continue to embarrass myself in front of a colleague.

This was a humbling experience, because I remember the feeling of being lost and unprepared for an examination. While Mrs. Jackson had done well to prepare our students, the feeling in the room was palpable as our students sat down with this challenging material. I experienced an array of emotions as I sat in silence- nervousness, sadness, excitement (as I thought I might know how to solve a problem), then despair again when I realized everything I had pondered was wrong. After 90 minutes of mathematical misery, we rose from the ashes of this exam and were headed to lunch.

For most of our students, lunch is a nice 30 minute reprieve from the day, but on this day, Rowan had volunteered to run our Snack Shack with her friends as part of her StuCo responsibilities. Today, she was joined by Zach and Amelia, our January Employees of the Month! We sold pretzels, sugar cookies, and an onslaught of syrupy sodas which have become a crowd favorite at the Snack Shack.

After lunch, we headed to Ms. Estrada's dance class. Unfortunately, I neglected a change of clothes, so I was forced to stretch, "dance," and participate in my signature suit and tie.



For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to enjoy Ms. Estrada's class, I can tell you that it was a real highlight for the day. We began with a short activity where we shared the happenings over the weekend, and then began to stretch. Being an old man, I was wholly unprepared physically to be part of this class, but I was honored that Rowan let the fact that I could not stretch, nor dance, nor count to eight successfully, hold me back from participating. I went home and practiced some more of the moves, to no avail. Neither my wife, or corgi, Philip, were impressed, but I daresay that more practice and more time in Ms. Estrada's may elicit better results!

For the fourth class of the day, I headed to Mr. Petty's class for some French. For those of you who are not aware, most of my graduate coursework is in the history of France, so I was quite excited to jump back into the elementary French classroom. While Mr. Petty was out, we did have the opportunity to sit and discuss a French worksheet and we worked through that as a group- it was great to have a native French speaker as the TA

to even help me with some conjugations. This free time in French class gave me the opportunity to talk with our students to hear more about their worlds as well. Rowan is already considering college choices, is navigating friendship complications, is spending time looking at her evening homework schedule, and looking for a point to connect with another student regarding a summer internship. Needless to say, this young person is using all of her free time to strategize and make the most of their freetime throughout the day. She also took the time to look at some review material as we headed into the Final test of the day.

HISTORY!

Heading to Mr. Johnstone's history class felt like a Roman general's triumphant return to Rome! The Enlightenment, French Revolution! Mr. Johnstone was speaking my language, so I arrived heroically and took my seat in the front of his class. We began with Kahoot review, where I took 2nd place.... We then set down and completed an examination that took us through the Enlightenment and French Revolution.



For mere mortals, the 2:45 alarm would mean the end of the day, but for Rowan, it meant the start of a trek to Herriman for her club soccer practice. We estimated that a 45 minute drive each way, plus (2) hours of practice would have her getting home around 6:30 p.m. or so to eat quickly with her family and get started on homework.

That evening, we had homework in Math, in Dr. Dasch's class, and some work for the next section in history. Additionally, she needed to draft her statement of candidacy for her upcoming run for Student Council, as well as work on a group project. We estimated roughly two to three hours to complete all the tasks for the evening.

I didn't make it to soccer practice, but did manage close to 15,000 steps just following Rowan for the day. Add in homework after soccer practice that evening at a conservative (2-4) hours, put me in bed around 9:00-10:00 p.m. only to wake up at 6:00 a.m. again the next morning. Needless to say, our kids are busy, and it was so helpful to spend a

day in Rowan's shoes. Our kids are so involved which makes me so incredibly proud of all of our Bulldogs! It was a great reminder to all the adults of the ongoing work each of our students do, even after the class day is over.