

High school students should make the most of every opportunity

Counselor recommends taking college course(s)

Historically there have been less than a dozen – figures are difficult to come by – high school students who wear a cap and gown from their high school and West Hills College at the same – or nearly the same – time. But with at least three students walking in both graduation lines at the end of this semester, the trend appears to be upward.

“Taking classes at West Hills doesn’t cost anything for high school students so young people have everything to gain and nothing to lose. My advice? Choose a subject you enjoy or from an instructor you know and see what it’s like.”

**Angela Tos
Counselor at
West Hills College Lemoore**

And that trend makes at least one counselor at West Hills College Lemoore happy. Angela Tos, a nine-year veteran of working with students, three at West Hills, says “all high school students should take at least one class from a community college just to see what college is like.”

Tos wasn’t even talking about graduating from West Hills while still in high school, but noted that some high school students are

Joshua and Rebecca Davis

‘Double grads’ will turn two tassels

Three students, including a brother-sister team, graduate from high school *and* WHCC next month

A brother-sister team from Faith Christian Academy in Coalinga and a student from Hanford West will have an opportunity to turn their tassels as each graduates from both high school and West Hills College this spring, according to Darlene Georgatos, district registrar.

“It’s not common for a student to do both at the same time,” Georgatos said. “There have probably been less than half a dozen over the years.”

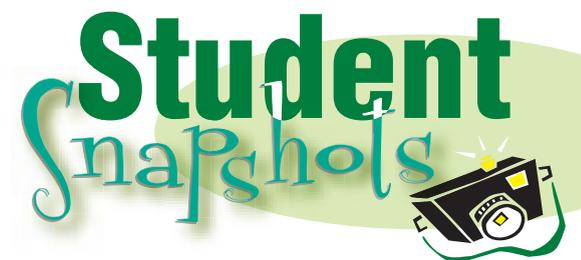
This year’s West Hills College Coalinga graduates include Joshua, 17, and Rebecca Davis, 16. Ironically, they will graduate on May 25 – the same day, only hours apart – from both FCA and WHCC. Also set to receive double diplomas is Catrina Monroy from Hanford West High School in Hanford. She graduates from West Hills College Lemoore.

“West Hills College work wasn’t as hard as it was challenging,” said Joshua, who at 17 is the oldest of the Davis pair. He will earn an AA in social science and Rebecca, will get her AA in liberal arts.

Catrina notes the double dose of school isn’t easy. “I don’t have much time between working and studying and going to one school and then the other.” Besides doing her work for the two schools, she’s a sandwich maker at Quizno’s in Hanford and has done an internship for Assemblywoman Nicole Parra.

Cooperation between colleges and high schools allows high school students an opportunity to earn credits from each at the same time, according to Faith Christian Academy Principal Tara Davis, who just happens to be the Davis pair’s mom.

Noting that the policies of FCA allow – perhaps “encourage” would be a more fitting word – students to take both face-to-face and online classes at the college level, it will



come as no surprise that Tara Davis glows when she talks of her children’s academic career.

“If you don’t go over 11 units,” she said, “there is no charge for high school students to take classes at West Hills.”

Friends of the Davis students do not find their academic successes difficult to believe. Joshua holds a straight 4.0 GPA in both FCA and WHCC while “Rebecca got one B so she holds about a 3.85 GPA.” Josh is planning to attend Chico State online and hopes to become a history teacher. Rebecca will attend Fresno State in the fall and plans to be a Spanish teacher.

Catrina earned a 3.85 at Hanford West and a 3.5 at West Hills and is the daughter of Virginia and David Monroy. She plans to join her brother, David, at California State University, Fullerton, in the fall. Virginia, Catrina’s mom and head cheerleader, said, “I’m amazed at Catrina, at how hard she’s worked.”

Joshua and Rebecca Davis and Catrina Monroy will wear many hats during their lives, peers might agree, but right now a double graduation from high school and West Hills College – with honors – is the capstone of their young lives. **CF**

