

Guidance Teacher

Shayna G. River Ridge School District

“In the end, It's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

-Abraham Lincoln

Thinking about a career at the age of 12 is hard. There are so many possibilities. My parents both work in manufacturing and have taken me to events like the UW Madison Engineering Expo where I could see robots, lasers, animation, play with slime, memory wire, and a lot more! Although those things were interesting and fun, I just don't think those things are my type.

My dream career is a guidance teacher. When I was in the third grade, I was bullied by an older boy that rode my bus. I put up with him trying to take my stuff and throwing things at me. The last time was when he bit me through my winter coat, as I was getting off the bus to go to school. I was so upset and I didn't know what to do. A friend went with me to Mrs. Fohey's room, who is River Ridge's guidance counselor. Mrs. Fohey helped me and I will never forget that moment. I hope someday that I'll be that person that helps others like Mrs. Fohey helped me.

I also attended my sister's high school orientation where Ms. Townsend, River Ridge's High School guidance counselor, where she talked about what classes to take depending on what kids wanted to do after high school. She also was helping kids with their future planning.

To become a guidance counselor, you need a Bachelor Degree and a Master's Degree for a total of about 6 years of education. The annual salary is about \$55,000 per year. My true dream would be to attend UW Madison and play basketball, while working towards my degree.

Some challenges with being a guidance counselor are student home issues, suicidal threats, and bullying. My uncle is a foster parent and the kids have all different backgrounds. It requires patience and understanding. I am confident that I could face these challenges and make a difference in children's lives. I enjoy problem solving and getting to the bottom of issues. A weakness to overcome is my shyness. I started playing on an AAU basketball team last summer with girls that I had never met before. Experiences like this will help me throughout life.

As you can see I have some big goals! I know from experience a guidance counselor can be a big impact on someone's life. My main goal in life is to be happy and help others.

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