

# Senior Showcase for December

A lot can happen during four years of high school. Some painful, some joyous. Some exhausting, some exhilarating. But always memorable. Over the course of this school year we are going to highlight some of the amazing individuals who make up our senior class and share a bit about their journeys to the graduation stage this May.

## Travis Terry



As noted last month, each month we will be highlighting a Delta High School senior as we move closer and closer toward their graduation day in May. This month's showcase is Travis Terry.

Travis is one of those students who simply does not earn the sort of recognition he deserves in school. Too often in schools we have a narrow minded focus on success. We define it in terms of GPAs and test scores. However, there is more to this world than SAT scores, and while we will continue to celebrate those students who rise to the valedictorian status it is important to pause and recognize that there are other equally important measures of success in high school and in life. Travis epitomizes this type of success.

As Travis readily admits, high school has not been the easiest journey. In fact, there were times he considered leaving Delta High School for homeschool. When asked why he stayed, Travis said, "I stayed because of the challenges. Because I learned a lot about dealing with people, about learning to compromise." Travis also credited the support he received from his teachers, "Mrs. Chauncey always pushes me to do better and Mr. Hall has really helped too with school and life." Travis

finished by saying, "I feel like they [the staff] have become my friends and really care."

In addition to these lessons, Travis has also learned how to balance school expectations with real world responsibilities and activities. Travis is an active member of the local Future Farmers of America (FFA) group sponsored by our local cooperative extension. Travis has worked at the FFA high tunnel over the summer. He has taught bushcraft and been a counselor at the junior high Outdoor School for seventh graders three years in a row. He has even taught bushcraft at the Experience Alaska Agricultural Camp in Fairbanks for students from out of state FFA organizations.

Travis has also competed at both state and national levels in FFA twice earning bronze at nationals with his team. Travis credited classes he has taken at DHS with Mr. Hall and Mr. Adams for helping him prepare for these competitions which require knowledge in welding, tool identification and automotives.

Travis is not content with just one extracurricular activity. Travis has also been a member of the Rural Deltana Fire Department for over a year. He has helped with outreach at our elementary school, he has competed at the Deltana Fair and he goes out on calls when he's not in class at DHS. Travis got a taste for some of the fire service and paramedics training in Mrs Stonekings' classes last school year and now he has Basic Life Support Training card and recently completed his EMT certification. Travis says he wants to continue volunteering for his community after high school.

Given all these differing experiences, it is understandable that Travis is still deciding what course to take next year. Continue training in firefighting and paramedics? Or perhaps put his skills to use at this year's Heavy Equipment Academy run by Mr. Hall and Partners for Progress in Delta. From there he might join the ranks of other OHS graduates in the Operators Union Local 302 out of Fairbanks so that one day he can own his own ranch and put all of his FFA experience to work in our community. Good luck Travis.