

I am a student at Jack C. Hays High School. My name is Isabella Ethridge and I am one of the Crime Stoppers ambassadors. I am a junior this year but will be graduating a year early.

High school is a momentary time in one's life and a time that will always be remembered. It is time to learn life lessons and gain the knowledge that you will need for your years to come. Although, it is a time to have fun and build lasting friendships that will carry you through the hard times, especially with college right around the corner. Therefore, it should be a safe space for all students to escape.

High school has changed throughout the years and not all in a good way. Many schools are infested with drugs and violence. I know I speak for many when I say that it has become a place no one wants to be. Students get high in the bathroom just to be able to stand their teacher giving a lesson. Many students struggle with the workload and overwork themselves till they are not okay. It can be exhausting.

However, it is important to keep a positive outlook on all things in life. High schools provide counselors that are available to talk. They will sit with students for as long as they need to feel better. There are teachers that work diligently to make sure that the students have fun in the classroom, but still get something out of the class period. Schools have worked to provide more mental health help and work with students who might be struggling.

It is important to keep an eye out for others who are going through something. Talk to those who can help, check on your students. You never know who might be struggling.

I encourage everyone to reach out and see what they can do to help students across the state.