



## Students learn about career options

Recently, Barker Middle School had a week dedicated to exploring and learning about different career options. One of the biggest events in this week was the “job shadow,”

In the  
Middle



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where students get to choose someone in the community to follow around for a day and learn about their job. I had the privilege to spend the day with one of the journalists of this very paper, the lovely Jessica O'Brien.

The day started off with getting a rundown of the main room in The News-Dispatch building (which is actually smaller than I thought it would be). Next, we went to the courthouse, where we sat through a few high-profile cases, including two murder cases. With some time to spare, we headed over to City Hall.

At City Hall, we were warmly greeted and I got to go on a tour of the whole building. It doesn't look like it from the outside, but the building is huge. I was even able to see the Mayor's office and look through old city archives!

Afterward, we went to the old Mullen building, where there's offices for Safe Harbor, to interview Abagael Schmidt about the upcoming summer camp. While learning about interviewing and note-taking techniques, I also got to meet some (more) great people and learned about Schmidt's inspiration and good plans for the future of Safe Harbor.

Then, we headed over to the Michigan City Police Department, where I got to meet even more people and went on another tour. One of the highlights of the tour was the holding cells. While there were no criminals and nothing to really be worried about, there was definitely an eerie feeling that motivated me to be extra careful to not get into legal trouble.

Next, we went to the Lubeznik Center for a Rotary meeting, where Jessica was covering a story on the Secretary of State's presentation. Before the presentation started, we got to have a Thanksgiving-like lunch and chat with some guests and members of the club.

In that one day, while I learned many things, the biggest thing was the realization that I definitely want to be a journalist. For either a paper as big as the New York Times or a small paper like this one, I still want to write and spread the news. I also learned about different techniques for gathering information (and yes, Jessica, that having contacts is very important), the benefits, the downsides, the upsides, and many other things about being a journalist.

Thank you to everyone who I met at City Hall, the police station, Rotary, Safe Harbor, and The News-Dispatch, specifically Kalon, Adam, Kelley and especially Jessica. Also a special thanks to Amy Hamman for setting up not just my job shadow and everyone else's, but for being so cheerful, engaged, and determined to make Barker be the best it can. Thanks so much!

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