

# Graduation Projects

Students have final shot to make the grade



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People from different professions, throughout the community, showed up to judge the KMHS Graduation Projects late Wednesday afternoon, May 24th, at the high school. One hundred and two eager soon-to-be grads were dressed in their casual best with smiles and manners turned on high. They were nervous. Some showed it all too well, while others did an excellent job of hiding it.

Each group, consisting of about five judges, was assigned five senior projects to pass or fail. Many were eager to see the products and ideas of the bright minds of Kings Mountain's youth. While the youths were eager for it all to be over, "The overall Graduation Project grade accounts for 25% of each student's final grade," said Marcie McCready, the coordinator for this year's projects and judging.

There were no podiums to lean on, no chairs to sit in. A solitary table in the center of the room was available for students to display their posters and products. The seniors had to stand tall beside them, center of the room, with all eyes on them and only note cards to guide their speech.

Whitney Roper took the floor first in her group. She conducted her research on the importance of the "Head Start" program with 18 children, aged 5 and under, at Graham Elementary in Shelby. Beginning in 1964, by a task force recommendation, Head Start has been used as an early childhood development program, striving to increase the school readiness and learning preparation of young children in low-income families. Roper made up a short rap to teach her children about brushing their teeth. The rap was designed to stay in their memory, but she learned that it is also forever burned in her own memory. "I hear it every time I brush my teeth now," she said, with a sigh. She enjoyed working with the children and has decided to become a psychologist.

See Project, 2B



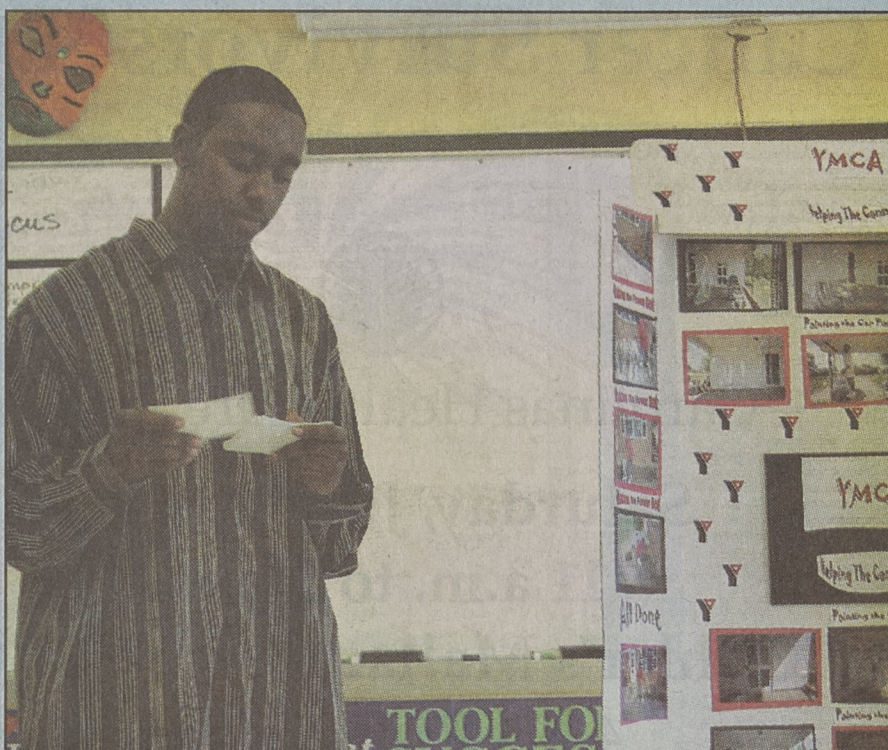
Emily Canipe calmly presented her project on donating bone marrow. She may have been a ball of nerves inside but her message came out crystal clear. She organized a bone marrow drive as part of her project. Top Left Corner: Thomas Grindell was very nervous telling about his project to the group of judges. But his words flowed more clearly once he had his product (a welded iron bench) by his side.



Whitney Roper shared a rap about brushing teeth with the judges that she used with 3, 4 and 5-year-olds in her research. Below: LaShay Scruggs brought in first aid kits that she created with her boy scout troop in Gastonia.



Left: A student showed her product, an iron grill, to her group of judges. She spent many hours welding, sanding and painting it to perfection. Right: Maurice Bridges entered the room and shook hands with all of the judges. His charming first impression made the heartfelt message in his presentation shine. Bottom Left: Thomas Grindell showed the judges his iron bench that he welded and painted in his spare time. Bottom Right: A lot of patience and hard work was put into these senior projects. Melissa Weston sewed and designed her own dress for the prom.



Photos by Emily Weaver