

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

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Most of us have seen jail or prison scenes on television or in the movies, and the images are hard to forget. Inmates in jump suits, guards keeping watch, or the sound of thick, metal doors closing; it is not a scene most of us want any part of.



Such a scene played out Tuesday for 40 juniors and seniors in our Criminal Investigation and Police Science program provided a glimpse of future employment opportunities. During a two-hour tour of the Pickaway County Jail guided by Lt. Larry Mosley, the students learned about the inner workings of a real jail. Lt. Mosley, who is jail administrator, walked the students through the process a typical inmate experiences from the point of arrest, to processing at the jail, to court arrangement, to trial and, ultimately, to confinement.



Connection - Students Rusty Eversole (Circleville) and Jenna Neace (Paint Valley) meet Sgt. Jim Brown, a 1997 graduate of PRCTC and 14-year veteran of the Pickaway County Sheriff's Department.

Lt. Mosley outlined a day in the life of a typical prisoner. He said the jail has processed nearly 1,200 prisoners this year, and that those who are incarcerated are serving sentences ranging from several months to up to three years. The students also learned that the difference in the color of the county issued jump suits helps differentiate between various levels of charges.

The students visited the main command center of the jail, as well as the smaller, horseshoe-shaped "cell pods" within the facility. They watched real prisoners going about their day from a pod command center, which is a room encased in thick, bullet-proof, one-way glass located in the middle of the horseshoe.

CIPS teacher Ed Ryan introduced the students to Sgt. Jim Brown, a deputy sheriff who graduated from his program in 1997. Brown joined the department in 1998 after earning required certifications at the Southern Ohio Police Training Institute at Ohio University-Chillicothe. Sgt. Brown emphasized the importance of getting good grades in helping them reach their goals, no matter what they want to do after high school.

Just like the tour of Glatfelter several programs took in October, visiting the jail takes Career Tech education to another level. This visit allowed our students to see how the knowledge and skills they are learning are applied in the real world.

I said it before and I'll say it again, Career Tech education works best when theory, real-time application, and the local business community work in concert. I want to thank the Pickaway County Sheriff's Department for giving our students this opportunity.

