

**Lauren P. — “As of right now...”**

*Arrowhead High School*

*Hartland, Wisconsin*

As a child most kids aspire to be an astronaut, a superhero, a bus driver, a firefighter, a garbage man. They think they have it all figured out. They want to save the world. They grow up with these professions in the Disney Channel shows they watch. They want to be just like them.

In middle school they tend to change their mind. Now, they aspire to become a doctor, a surgeon, a teacher, and a police officer. Again, they think they have it all figured out. They want to make a change. They grow up around these professions and as they get older understand the money aspect of each one.

Then high school rolls around. I swear their dream career changes every week. They go from a nurse, to a doctor, to a marine biologist, to a judge. As a freshman they are introduced to financing. As sophomores they start to become their own person. As juniors they are researching more careers. As seniors, at just 18 years old they are faced with what could be the most life changing decision they've faced. Picking one career they want to do for the rest of their lives.

At this age and stage of their lives they are forced to make one of the most important decisions of their lives. At just 18 years old. They are still just indecisive kids, hormonal teenagers, and irrational thinkers. You are still trying to figure yourself out, who you are, your passions, your likes and dislikes. You are still so sheltered from the real outside world.

As a senior, I have an idea of what I want to study, but the truth is, some may have their heart set on a career then you end up changing your major one to three times. You start to learn more about it. Take the courses to get you there and then realize, this profession is not the one for me. It's trial and error.

Going on 18 years old, yes I have my college all set which I am very fortunate to have committed my junior year, some are still trying to figure that out. My career of choice as of right now, A Speech Pathologist and Audiologist. I use the words “as of right now” because you never know what you may like or dislike about a profession. You never know exactly what you are getting yourself into.

Choosing a career is a temporary choice until the day you decide you no longer need to work to earn a living. You are given the fortunate option to change up your career. You are given the option to go back to college as you get older and earn a degree in a different field. You are given the option of choosing where you want to work.

So, when someone asks me, "Lauren, what do you want to be when you grow up" or "Lauren, do you know what you want to study"? My response, “As of right now....”. By using these words, I'm giving myself the opportunity to keep my doors wide open, giving myself more opportunities and time to truly figure out what I enjoy doing and what career path I decide to pursue.