Stella B.

**Mental Health Counselor**

*River Ridge Middle School*

A Hero Without A Cape

I want to be a hero without a cape. What I mean is a mental health counselor, because I want to help people who are struggling with their mental health. College for this profession takes anywhere from three to five years. I would have to earn a master’s degree in mental health counseling. I would like to start with the 2-year human services program at Southwest Tech in Fennimore which would give me my bachelor’s degree. Then I would like to go to a university in a nearby city, like Platteville, for my masters degree. My average salary would be about $44,000 to $97,000 per year.

I would like to become a mental health counselor because I want to help people with their mental health problems to try to make their life better and make them think that they are worth more than they think. I could also save some lives while doing it. I would like to mainly work with teenagers and tweens because they normally go through the most. Now I’m not trying to say that adults and kids don’t go through anything. It’s just from my experience and research, teenagers and tweens normally go through the most emotional stuff. Now I didn’t just pick this job out of the blue, I have role models. My older sister Claire Yanna, who is our school’s nurse, and Kam Fohey, who is our school’s guidance counselor. I look up to them both because they have both helped me a lot throughout my life.

I have just recently wanted to have this career. It has not been a career I have wanted my whole life, but I feel like I have been attached to the idea of it recently. I would probably do the same thing almost every day. I would be in a room with one of my clients, and if they were new, I would get to know them, and if they were one of my current clients, I would just go over how things are and what has happened recently.

My favorite part of this job would be being able to know that I made a good impact on somebody’s life. I do know that working with people who barely know me will be difficult especially if I ask for personal information. I would ask for their story and put myself in their shoes and give them the best advice according to their situation. So in conclusion, I know how to handle it pretty well.

I like the idea of this job because I get to help people, save lives, change lives, and feel good about myself. I’m not just doing it for the money. I am not a very social person when it comes to people I don’t or barely know, but this job suits me because what happens between me and a client would stay between me and a client. I believe that this job could become my everyday life.