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510
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Student Government Day

On March 15, 2010, I shadowed the Acushnet Town Administrator, Al Coutinho. During this day I learned that the town administrator is a full time job, and helps the selectman. Jacob Bolarhino, James Texeria, and I learned how to have a meeting, and then we had our own. Jacob approved the idea that bike helmets should be given out to kids that can't afford them, and declined the idea of casinos in Acushnet. Coutino and the selectmen taught us how to second a motion to pass an idea. After our meeting was over we went to the selectmen's office, and then walked though the Town Hall. During our walk I learned everyone's job in the Town Hall. At the end of the walk, selectman, Leslie Dakin, took us to the basement where they keep historical documents. As we walked down stairs we noticed that the hallway was flooded, and we told Coutinho about the flooding and he called the maintenance. I learned that it was the town administrator's job to manage the town hall. Jake, James, and I had another meeting to discuss the issue, and we came to the conclusion that the maintenance man had to clean the basement and more pumps were needed. After the meeting we went to the Century House and had lunch then went back to school.

During the day I learned many things about my job and the other jobs. I learned that a town administrator is the person that helps the selectmen write letters, contact people, help them during the meeting, and run the town hall on a daily basis. Also, I learned that selectman and town administrator have to sign the budgets for the town before they are given. A thing I learned that I found interesting was that being a selectman is not a full time job, and that is why they hired a town administrator to run the town hall when they are not there. A town clerk, also, does dog licensees and swears town officials into office. Another thing I learned was that the board of assessors value people's homes and that value of the home increases or decreases your taxes. The board of health also has the power to go into any restaurant or business and shut it down because they have a health or safety violation. The most important thing I learned was that the town is like a puzzle if a piece is missing the puzzle won't work. Everyone's job in the town is important and if one of the boards or departments weren't there the town will crumble. I had a great time that day and I would do it again in a heartbeat, and the things I learned will help me through my life, and maybe someday I will be in the town hall.