

Good Will Hunter

Creative, generous senior logs hundreds of service hours while keeping the school running

SOPHIE RYLAND
staff reporter

On a typical weekday, senior Hunter Bagby arrives at school around 7 o'clock and leaves anywhere from 5 to 9. He also can be seen at Saturday School almost every week and spent five weeks here last summer. He isn't coming that often to work on homework or to talk to friends but rather to help keep the school running. He takes care of anything from projector bulbs and computer warranties to broken servers and old locks. All in all, Bagby estimates that he works about 20 hours a week and completely for free.

"He repaired almost everybody's computer," desktop analyst Diana Broaddus said. "He's done wiring, he's helped change bulbs, he's fixed the innovation stations, he does doors, he does sprinklers. ... He likes to fix things. The teachers all know him; they go to him before they go to me."

CTE teacher Audrea Moyers, who has taught Bagby for all four years of his high school career, has seen him develop his skills over the years.

"At first he was just helping out with Ms. Broaddus, doing tech for everybody, so if I put in a HEAT ticket for a computer issue he might come down working with her, looking at hardware, reimaging things," Moyers said. "Over the years he's done more than that. When I got a new computer lab this year, he helped automate the process of installing all the software, so it runs very smoothly. He does a lot of the work himself, like when the computers were new, he spent a lot of his own time to help me get them imaged and ready for students to use, so he's saved me probably hundreds of hours over the course of these four years that I would've used during my conference periods and after school just keeping the computers running."

Bagby got his start in computers long before he began assisting teachers in the middle of his freshman year.

"My computer skills, they go back to when I was 4 or 5," Bagby said. "My dad, he worked at IBM, and he would bring home these old derelict servers, and I found them really fascinating, and I would start programming with them, and it went from there."

Using and improving his computer skills, however, is not Bagby's primary motivation.



No job is too big or too small for Bagby, shown here replacing a printer in Trailer 3 on Monday that may just be older than he is.

“Teachers help me and make me be a successful student; I want to make them be successful teachers.”
-senior Hunter Bagby

"Other people have gifts that I don't have, and I just want to be a part of helping out and doing my share," Bagby said. "Teachers help me and make me be a successful student; I want to make them be successful teachers."

For Bagby, managing both his regular schoolwork and his additional help with the school has always been a challenge.

"When I was a sophomore, I kind of liked



Principal Mike Garrison recognizes Bagby for being the male student with the most community services hours at Award Night.

to do the computer work more than I did the schoolwork; it would be my distraction," Bagby said. "At the same time, it's a motivation for me to like school; it's what keeps me coming here. Now I try to see myself as more disciplined; maybe I'm not, but I'm doing a lot better than I was."

Many students have seen Bagby in their classrooms at one time or another.

"We got all the computers updated on the newer operating systems, which made them a lot faster," said Christina Beck, the editor of the yearbook. "He's fixed the server a lot. ... that's very helpful. We couldn't operate without it."

Though he is a graduating senior, Bagby's work on the computers will continue to pay off even when he is gone.

"Things have been working better for us, and I think it's because of some of the things that he's put into place, like reimaging the machines that were acting wonky," librarian Jane Farmer said. "Because of the things that he has done that

“We'll miss having someone here to say, 'Hey, I can do that' with a solution that we never thought of.”
-teacher Audrea Moyers

have helped sustain our computers, we haven't needed as much fire-putting-outing."

The teachers agree that the school will continue to run without Bagby's help, but that his immediate availability, particular skills and readiness to help will be irreplaceable.

"He's done things we didn't even think could be fixed," Moyers said. "He's fixed locks, and keys and other things we kind of just put up with. We'll miss having someone here to say, 'Hey, I can do that' with a solution that we never thought of."

Bagby plans to study civil engineering at the University of Ottawa in Canada.

"No more computers for me," Bagby said. "Computers, they're monotonous. You can make deals, you can cooperate; with computers, it's a screen. It's all yes or no, I don't always like that. I want to interact with something more enticing."

Moyers believes that Bagby has great potential in his chosen field.

"He has an honest desire to make things better, to improve things," Moyers said. "He's going to be a good engineer because when he sees a problem, he wants to fix it, and he doesn't just talk about fixing it, he makes plans and then implements those plans."

His impact on McCallum can be seen in every room in the school; any time a student uses a notebook to write an essay, a teacher projects a video, or even when the classroom lights are turned on, chances are that they are able to do so because of Bagby.

"All I can say is that AISD and McCallum are going to miss him because he supports this whole school," Broaddus said. "Hopefully, he's done enough so that we will be well off for a while. I don't think there'll be another Hunter."