

# Features

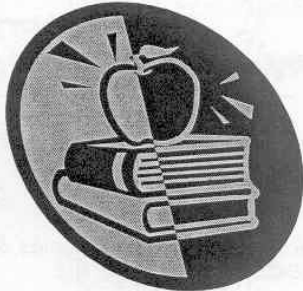
## Setting a Path for the Future Through TFIM

By: Dasha Henley

There's a new organization this school year at Carrick High School called The Future Is Mine (TFIM) which is directed by Mrs. Rutten, a culinary arts teacher. So far this year, The Future Is Mine has organized a display honoring America's veterans on Thursday, November 12. The members also hosted a Visit Carrick Day for a group of 40 Arlington eighth graders. Some of the TFIM's members attended an advisor's meeting in early in December. This new group at Carrick has been very busy and working towards great things.

The Future Is Mine a ready for the real world initiative. The program helps high school students find their passion and push them to pursue their dreams. A handful of leadership students have been selected for membership.

The team of students is in charge of career awareness, exploration experiences, and civic engagement activities for peers, themselves, and school community. According to The Future Is Mine packet, TFIM student activities in each school will:



- Be student initiated, driven and executed.
- Meet needs of individual school community.
- Target all students.
- Maintain integrity of overall missions.

The Future Is Mine gives students the courage to consider college. TFIM won't ensure you'll get into an individual college, but TFIM will give you the training to help get prepared for life after high school.

The first project run by TFIM was held in the cafeteria on Thursday, November 12 to honor our veterans in America. Two local heroes, Ryan Lane and Jason West, were both honored at this event.

Ryan Lane was born in Pittsburgh, PA on January 12, 1984. He was raised in Castle Shannon and Carrick. He graduated from Carrick High School, and after graduation, Ryan chose to defend our nation. On July 22, 2002 Ryan joined the Marine Corps. His goal was to be the best marine he could be, and was able to reach that goal with dedication. Ryan became a primary marksmanship instructor and taught recruits basics on combat shooting. He built an effective team, when assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> light armored reconnaissance unit. Ryan was killed in Afghanistan on July 23, 2009. The students, teachers, and staff of Carrick lost a true hero and he will never be forgotten.

Jason M. West is another local hero who died honorably in Iraq. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA on December 30, 1977. He went to Carlynton High School and graduated in 1995. He joined the army when he was 17, and won soldier of the year for his dedication and leadership skills. He went to Slippery Rock University and joined their ROTC program. He graduated in 2002. Mr. West attained the rank 2 Lieutenant. After Officers Candidate Schools he joined the Friedberg Germany Bulldogs unit and spent 13 months serving as tank commander. Mr. West was killed in action by a RPG. Jason West was a true hero in and out of battle and will not be forgotten.

After the Veterans' Day event, TFIM hosted a Visit Carrick Day for a group of 40 Arlington eighth graders. The members of TFIM served as tour guides as the eighth graders visited the various programs and classes. The Carrick Café served the Arlington students lunch.

Several members of TFIM also attended the December advisor's meeting, which was an all day event in McKeesport. Terra Weaver and Allen Lee Jr. joined Mrs. Rutten and represented Carrick High School well.

There is no doubt that TFIM is capable of great things. Carrick students and staff look forward for more events hosted by the members of TFIM.

