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The privilege to serve as superintendent of schools in Plainville has many wonderful moments. One of those moments is the opportunity to see our students and our teachers in action, as was the case during a recent visit at Plainville High School.

The first opportunity was a dynamic math class, where the subject was Advanced Level Math, however, the presentation was focused on the design of the math behind the taxes that the students pay and will be paying in income taxes. The teacher's efforts to make the lesson relevant were clearly working as students were demonstrating their investment in the subject throughout the conversation. Math as taught at the high school during my visit made it relevant to every student, and it was great to see.

I personally have never made a piece of pottery or used a kiln. When I entered a high school art class, it looked like students were making designs on clay. When I asked the students to share what they were making, I learned that they were creating artwork that represented current events in science and hot topics in legislation. What started out to be an art lesson quickly became an opportunity for students to process their thinking about important issues.

The day continued to be rewarding when I then walked into a classroom that was engaged in STEAM work. Students were using the design process to solve a problem in small groups. Using a wide variety of household items, the students were prototyping and planning for prototyping to solve problems collaboratively as the teacher offered guidance and facilitation. As an observer, I can't tell you which lesson was more powerful, that of the design process or the skill of working in small teams.

These are just a few moments in the life of a Plainville superintendent and a peek inside of the school day that I thought you might find interesting. There is no doubt in my mind that our Plainville High School students are learning both the academics and the key skills outlined in our Portrait of the Graduate tenets to support lifelong success.