Rolling Meadows graphic designers get their start in Visual Arts pathway

Toward the beginning of their high school careers, Miranda Adelman and Raymond Liu took an introductory course in the Visual Arts pathway.

That class encouraged them to continue taking Visual Arts pathway courses and participate in graphic arts internships at Harper College, where they gained industry experience. Today, the Rolling Meadows High School seniors have a better understanding of the field and their next steps after graduation.

“I feel like I’m at a great spot right now with what I’ve learned through my classes and outside projects,” said Raymond. “It’s helping me a lot through my journey.”

The Visual Arts pathway is one of 44 in District 214’s Career Pathways program, which provides students with rigorous academic courses, access to early college credits and industry certifications, and personalized and career-specific learning experiences.

The goal is to help all District 214 students discover their futures so they can decide what they want – or do not want – to pursue after high school. Business Management, IT, Culinary Arts, Journalism, Engineering, Visual Arts and Aviation are just some of the pathways to choose from.

Along with taking Visual Arts pathway courses, such as Advanced Graphic Design and Advanced Placement Studio Art 2-D, both have taken a Small Business Management course, which has given them entrepreneurial skills to run their own startup or freelance.

The Small Business Management course serves as a capstone to their learning, combining their graphic arts skills with all aspects of running a business and working with clients, such as hands-on management, communication, deadlines, and budgeting and finance.

Raymond hopes to be an interface web designer and Miranda plans to start her career in illustration.

District 214’s Career Pathways program not only gives students the academic skills to make them college and career ready but also instills grit, perseverance and resiliency so they can tackle and achieve their goals.

To learn more about District 214’s Career Pathways, speak to your student’s counselor and visit www.d214.org/discover214.

“I don’t think I would’ve known what my career path would’ve been without experimenting in my graphics classes. It really helped cement, in my mind, what I wanted to do as a career.” – Miranda Adelman