

Students open Spear Gear store to support DECA programs

by Kristen Lang, *Staff Writer*

Students around the Riverdale campus go through their notebooks or binders and discover something horrible... no more loose leaf notebook paper! Asking friends frantically and searching for a writing utensil at the same time, these students miss assignments and instruction during the search. Or, they may forget to do the assignment because they didn't write it down, or fail the test they were distracted from in the first place.

Fortunately, Riverdale students have come up with a spectacular way to prevent this chaotic domino effect, and it is called The Spear Gear Store.

Located in Riverdale's DECA Diner, the Spear Gear store is open from 7:15 am to 7:45 in the mornings and during both lunches on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. The merchandise that this store has to offer its students and teachers include pens, mechanical pencils, lead and eraser refills, index cards, sheet protectors, highlighters, notebooks, folders, sharpies, colored pencils, notebook paper, posters, T-shirts, and Trident gum. The prices of these items range from \$0.50 to \$12.00.

Mrs. Emily Bartlett, as one of the Career and Technical Education teachers, is the manager of this store; seniors Jeff King, Katie Roberts, and Sydney Rajvong are the Spear Gear stores executive officers.

"I like [that] whenever you walk in, and you're greeted with a smile," says Senior Kassie Smith.

These three classmates take the time to wake up earlier so that they can get to school at the store's opening time, and they take away their time to socialize with their friends at lunch, all because they care about Riverdale's students.

"It's nice to know that Spear Gear is there if I ever run out of lead or gum," says Senior Hayley Field.

King says, "We really need to create awareness of the store. Everything here is essential for school. People don't realize what our store has to offer them."