

YOUR EARLY MORNING FIX

Dynasty Coffee serves students and staff at **NFHS** hot drinks and muffins every school day.

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Deliveryman Dale DeBacco is slightly winded as he returns to Dynasty Coffee headquarters with a few minutes to spare before closing time.

He quickly explains to his two partners why he's running a little off schedule and they all begin cleaning up the area after a tough morning's work.

It's time for the three owners to leave the business world and attend their high school classes.

"It's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it," student Phil Rulli said as he wiped down the counter. "It's made us want to get something going and start our own business after high school."

He pauses for a second and looks around the small concession stand.

"Well, maybe not in the coffee business," he said with a slight laugh.

DeBacco, Rulli and their business partner Darren Robbins are all seniors in Derek Zimmerman's entrepreneur class at Niagara Falls High School. The popular course — enrollment has grown from about a dozen two years ago to 70 this year — allows students to create their own business and operate it for real.

"They're learning how to develop a business plan and how to be resourceful," Zimmerman said. "They're building a work ethic, responsibility and trust."

Each student or team is given \$100 in seed money, which comes from a grant, to begin their business. Before that happens, however, they have to present a business plan and fill out an application.

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TOP: Niagara Falls High School student Dale DeBacco, right, delivers coffee to English teacher Roxane Adrian. Business students opened and operate the Dynasty Coffee shop as a real-life entrepreneur venture and class assignment. **ABOVE:** Joe Bellonte, business program coordinator, gets a hot cup of coffee at the student-run Dynasty Coffee shop inside Niagara Falls High School.