

Teen mom.

It's a title that usually carries a negative stereotype. However, to senior Brandy Blomgren, it's just one of life's many challenges. Since the birth of her daughter Chloe in the summer of 2014, life has only become harder for her, although Blomgren wouldn't have it any other way.

"Most of the time when people are stereotyped as teen moms, they're dropouts and all that," Blomgren said. "So I just want to say that I made it with my daughter as my inspiration. I want to break the stereotype to show that we can be successful, and I think that her being there is a really big part of it to."

Education was a priority for Blomgren who planned to attend college after high school, working toward a law degree from the University of Kansas or the University of Missouri Kansas City. But balancing school and home life took practice.

"[It's] definitely the hardest part," Blomgren said. "Chloe likes to tear up my homework or touch my computer."

And despite her day-to-day challenges, excelling in her classes was an expectation.

"If the stereotype of teen moms is that they don't show up, they come in late, they don't do their work, then [Brandy] is the exact opposite," Evan Brandt, Blomgren's Environmental Education teacher said. "She's there almost every day, she gets her stuff done. She's so far past that stereotype, she's a better student than most of my other kids. She just has this drive to do awesome."

Excelling in school while raising a child was made easier with supportive parents. Blomgren's parents, Amy and Mike, were just that, she said.

"My parents understand that I'm still in high school, so if I ever want to do anything like go to the movies with my friends, they'll let me do stuff like that and they'll watch her for me," Blomgren said. "Or if I need any help financially or otherwise, they'll always help me out if I actually need it. But they also push me to do it myself."

Along with her parents, Blomgren received encouragement and support from her classmates.

"It's nice to see someone still succeed after having a baby," senior Ashley Ross said. "I know that it's really hard, but she's doing great and I'm really proud of her."

Through all the struggles and challenges, Blomgren showed perseverance and commitment in her fight to rewrite the teen mom stereotype.

“If you can avoid being a teen parent, then do so, because it is really hard,” Blomgren said. “But if not, it’s not the end of the world. You just have to be persistent and you have to actually want to do it. And you will be shown more love by this tiny little human than you had ever thought possible.”