

Ashlyn Gardner

Mrs. Ramkisson

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### Is Independence a good school?

Independence is an alternative school. Do you think Alternative schools are bad? First we should know why we have schools, schools are meant to provide education and get you a degree so you can get a job. The reason for public schools is to create hard workers for the real world. Public high schools are a way for everyone to achieve educational standards. Alternative schools are a way for people who don't learn the same way to achieve those standards as well. Independence is helpful because of smaller class sizes, caring teachers, and F+ help.

First off let's talk about the little things that make a difference. To help explain, I'm going to include some of my personal experience here. The diversity at this school is more than ive seen at any other school I've been to, about 49% white, 38% hispanic, and 4% black. Another thing that's small but makes a big difference is that the price to go here is little to none, which helps students that don't have the funds for school. This school was a bit of an eye opener for me, and I think it's helped me learn the important things in life. So to summarize the diversity in this school has helped me realize that everyone has their own battles that know one sees and I think it important to know that.

Independence does not have as many opportunities as public school, but the opportunities they do have really help. For instance Independence creates a positive community, Independence has a few sports teams, sports is important because it teaches students to work together and makes them feel part of a community. One of the biggest things that I really love is their reward

system. At other schools I've been to, the schools punish you for being bad, like detentions, excluding them from events, lowering citizenship. But independence focuses more on rewarding good behavior, like attendance BBQ (BBQ for good attendance), Hex goals (rewards for achieving your personal goals), attendance race (grade level with highest attendance gets reward). I think rewarding people is a much better way to encourage kids, because you are encouraging them to do good instead of encouraging them to not mess up or do bad.

Independence also offers extra help because they really do want you to succeed. Such as Advisory, F+ make up, Homework help, and food bank. These extra help opportunities are really helpful, let me explain. Advisory is a class we have everyday (except Fridays) to help catch up on missing work and to see where we can improve our grades. F+ makeup is something new they have started where the kids who failed a class might have one more chance at redemption. If a student did their work but didn't get enough to pass F+ make up helps them by having a teacher spend time with them and help them get to passing. They also do homework help after school to help students that stay after with their work they did not finish. Independence teachers never give homework, as Jamie says “ schoolwork is for school, home is where you focus on home. Not schoolwork” -jamie. That's why they have homework help so students don't have to do it at home. This is one of the teachers favorite extra help opportunities. This is just one of the many ways independence helps you succeed.

The last thing I wanted to share with you is the teacher's comments. For each teacher/staff i asked two questions, first what do you like about independence? Jamie (art teacher) “ i like the small classes, i like how are teacher/staff are dedicated to their students especially the at risk students, i like the personal connections we get to make with the students' ". Boughton (JROTC) liked“ the students, how we can be real here.” Amanda (english) liked the

small classes and how she could help each student individually, she loved that she could help more students, and she is a big fan of the sports. Josh (math) liked “the culture, the positive reinforcement at this school.” and Jacob (The Principal) liked the students personality, the background variation, he loves the commitment/work ethic of teachers and staff. Second, what is your favorite opportunity this school provides? Here are some of the answers; Boughton reward system, Amanda F+ make up, Josh F+ make up and consultation, Jacob homework help, F+ make up and the social workers. A special mention to Jamie who helped me alot. When I asked Jamie these questions she had a lot to say, she is very smart, here's what she said. “Independence is not a traditional school. A Lot of the kids that go here are at-risk kids with background issues. Students at independence have to work harder to be successful.” I also asked Jamie what happened to independence graduates? “ Not many graduates go to college, most go straight to working a job. Jamie's favorite things about independence are the small classes, the dedicated teachers (especially for the at risk students), and the personal connections between teachers and students.)

So altogether independence is not a bad school, because they have smaller classes to focus more on you and your needs. They have teachers that really care and want to help you any way they can. And they have many opportunities to succeed and have fun. So that's why in my opinion Independence is a great school.

