

## MY TIME AT CHAUTAUQUA

Chautauqua High School has changed my life in many ways. I came here not knowing who I was or where I was going in life, I did not know how to stand up and speak for myself, I was lost. One of the first things my teacher told me was that she was going to make an independent and strong person out of me. She has succeeded and I think I can live and make a change in the world. I feel I have grown inside as well as out. I have become more comfortable being myself and believing I can do anything. I can now stand up for myself and know that I have the right to do so.

When I was going to the High School I couldn't understand what they were talking about and plus the students over there were very immature (or so I thought). When I came over to Chautauqua I was able to understand the work I was doing and I learned a lot more, a lot faster. I could concentrate and get my work done without any distractions. The students at Chautauqua are more diverse, and they are more acceptable. I went back to the high school for a couple of months and I got good grades, because I could understand things better and I was not worried about other petty things like my looks. I did come back though because this is where I feel the most at home, My friends are here as well as my inspirations, I don't think I would be the person I am today if I did not attend Chautauqua.

I have had a lot of fun a Chautauqua, it has helped me grow. If I could do school over again I would do nothing different than what I did. I want to thank Sabra for being there for me when I needed her and keeping me on track, she inspired me by letting me know that I am allowed to have an opinion. I want to thank Mike for doing P.E. whenever he could. I want to thank Julie for offering art classes. I want to thank Howard for doing the music class. I want to thank Caryn for being the mascot of our school what would Chautauqua be like with out her. I want to thank Barry for keeping things real. I want to thank Michelle for being my friend. I want to thank Cass for keeping this school together all these years. I also want to thank Steve for listening to people and considering their ideas. I want to thank all of you for making this place so wonderful.

Jamie Otterstrom 12/01