

Krystina Mason

June 14h, 2010

Julie Rogers

Written Comments

When I was first informed that I would need to attend Chautauqua High School in order to graduate on time, I have to admit that I was not thrilled. I had known CT only by the Big Bear High School student body's perception: CT is the dumping ground for the valley's worst of the worst. I ate a huge slice of humble pie when I actually began to attend, and now vehemently defend our school's name.

The first thing I was told when I applied was that attending this high school is a privilege, not a right. I did not fully understand that until a few weeks into this semester when I was told that since I am 18, I could very well just leave if I did not choose to kick it into gear and do my required work. It is true that it is a privilege to be here; otherwise I would have no chance at a diploma this time around.

The teachers here play an integral part in their students' educations. Without Julie and Caryn and their loving yet blunt nagging, I know I would not have as much work done as I do now. I have always liked that the teachers here will sit down and help a student with their work, rather than the old "look it up in the textbook" that I had grown accustomed to at the high school. Small schools are not always the option in most places, so we are lucky to have that here at Chautauqua. This is another reason why attending this school is a privilege.

I spent too many years at Big Bear High School feeling bitter and out of place. When I came to Chautauqua High School, I gained a whole new perspective on my education and what kind of a person I want to become. I am grateful to those who helped me at the high school, but I am even more grateful to those at CT who helped me and many others through our education and our transition into adulthood. My only regret is that I did not come here sooner; my last semester has been unforgettable thanks to my new friends and my teachers. Thanks to Chautauqua, I firmly believe that everyone deserves a second chance and can rise to the occasion when given that extra push.