

# As you walk through the halls at Antioch Community High School . . .

*it's not uncommon to hear someone wish to go home. Every high school student wishes he or she could spend the days listlessly lying around in bed. But what if you could stay home? What if another option was open to you – HOMESCHOOLING?*

The choice is being made more frequently, though it's typically the parents' decision to make. The fact is, home schooling is not so different as you'd think.

"The educational program can be really tailored to learning styles," said Rebecca Rupp, columnist for Home Education Magazine. "It's much more individualized."

The Illinois Supreme Court declared home schools operational in 1950 through the ruling of "People vs. Levisen." The only true requirements for home schools are that they follow a similar curriculum to that of a public school and are taught in the English language.

Colleges prefer to see a more structured curriculum, but freedom is allowed in various teaching strategies such as 'unschooling', in which children are encouraged to learn about the world through experiences in nature.

"Practically everybody homeschools in a different way," said Rupp, who raised three boys as 'homeschoolers'. Rupp admitted that the college process was no more difficult to complete than it is for public school kids. All high school age students are still re-

quired to complete standardized testing, including the ACT and the SAT. Homeschooled teens may be advised to complete the SAT II: Subject Tests beyond the rudimentary tests.

Public school kids are required to take the same standardized tests and carry out the application process for college, but it is typically easier as a transcript is already kept as a record at the school.

As for the social aspects, home school teens are involved in a number of activities that allow them to form relationships with their peers. Volunteer work is a mainstay in their activities, though many teens are also active in church youth groups, support groups, art classes, music programs, and various other clubs. They are actually exposed to a greater variety of ages than public school teens are.

"If I didn't have my friends, I wouldn't be as motivated to succeed," said ACHS junior Sarah Stampfl.

In a recent survey conducted at ACHS, the majority of students felt that homeschooling would not suit them. Socialization was the greatest reason.

**...HOME VS. SCHOOL**

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**A CHOICE NOT SO CLEAR:** Are students really getting the most out of their education, based on the atmosphere? Today's students may have more options than they think . . .