

Home-school vs. public school



Photo illustration by Ryan Mehaffey and Nicholas Grindley

Communities torn over most proper and beneficial form of schooling

By Ryan Mehaffey

With the amount of home-schooled students in the United States today it is apparent that many parents are asking themselves whether or not they should send their children to public schools.

There are various reasons for parents to keep their kids out of public schools.

Some reasons include the fear of what goes on in public schools and another common reason is for religious reasons.

An anonymous source that has been a teacher in the public school district for many years also has had experience home-schooling with her four kids.

She found home schooling quite beneficial

"I wasn't happy with the school system where we were living at the time," said the source. Some parents feel that they can do just as good of a job with their kids as the school system can.

According to the source, you

only need to have a high school diploma to teach home-schooled students in the state of Illinois.

"The state has relaxed rules where you don't have to report or check in," said the source. Some organizations make students send in material every couple of weeks for an update.

The biggest advantage and

“ When [teaching] is one on one I can help my child right away.

-Anonymous source

main reason that the source home-schooled her children was because of the difficulty that teachers have to target where a certain student is having trouble.

"When it is one on one, I can help my child right away," said the source.

Another local student, Mark Snyder, who is involved in a home-schooling organization, touched on the other reasoning for home-schooling.

"My mom wanted me to learn through good Christian values,"

stated Snyder. "Science makes so much more sense when it is taught through a Christian perspective."

According to Snyder, the teaching of evolution is a very common reason for students to be home-schooled.

He also mentioned that not being exposed to many of the issues surrounding public schools

was also a factor in his parent's decision.

Snyder belongs to a program that is supported by Abeka Book Company and is run through the Pensacola Christian Academy in Pensacola, Florida.

The academy sends materials all over the world.

According to Snyder, once every nine weeks, students send in the entire semester of course work, along with quizzes, tests, and homework.

When a student reaches graduation time, the academy has a massive graduation ceremony where students from all over the globe come to graduate.

Between both sources, there were hardly any thoughts

of disadvantages to home schooling.

The common myth is that the students are stripped from social aspects growing up.

According to Snyder, there are many home-schooling groups in the area that come together for the sole purpose of giving the students a social life.

"The groups get together about once a week and do activities," said Snyder. "I remember one time dissecting a pig and another time when we put on a puppet show."

Snyder did see it as a disadvantage that he could only see his friends once a week, but it was made up for through his athletic activities.

"I could see it affecting some kids if they didn't see friends in practices for sports." Snyder took care of his physical education credits through playing ice hockey and racing BMX.

"Testing has shown that home-schooled students are more sociable than public school students," said the anonymous source. "They have more one on one experience with adults and can connect better."



•"It would be hard to get up and have a time constraint on getting gone early in the morning."

•"I would sit in class for about an hour or so."

•"I'd get done around about three and then go straight to work."

•"After work I would come home and have to do homework all night long."

•"After all of the homework I would go to bed and get up and do it all over again."

•"I'd probably die of dehydration because I couldn't get up and get a drink whenever I wanted to."

•"Your mind strays more when you are comfortable and I think that a public school classroom would be very uncomfortable."

Seventeen year old home school student Mark Snyder (top) and junior Matt Keller (bottom) share their thoughts about homeschooling and public schooling.

•"I would enjoy being able to wake up earlier."



•"It would be pretty sweet to be able to get up and grab something to eat or drink whenever you want."

•"I could take breaks to play video games or watch T.V. whenever I wanted."

•"The curriculum would be more basic and less in depth."

•"I'd probably be doing schoolwork for about four or five hours a day."

•"It would be weird to not have the opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities."

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