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10th Grade

What my Charter School Means to me

To know how I see something, you first must see the contrast. To know how much I love my school, you must know what I've been through before.

When I was in 6th grade, I enrolled into Bryant Middle School in Dearborn. There, I was severely bullied; knocked down so much I felt I could never stand again. By the time my parents and teachers found out, it was already too late. The next year we moved to Brighton; specifically I moved to Scranton Middle School. The school was alright... it definitely was better than the previous. For some reason, though, I still felt the same.

Years passed and I joined Brighton High School: an amazing school with a drama program and honors english classes for freshman. It should've been a place where I could flourish. It should've been a place where I could find myself, be myself even. That clearly didn't happen.

Depression. One word that ended the world I lived in. It almost ended my life. I missed school days, I missed assignments... I had to be sent to Havenwyck Hospital. Missing 8 full days of school after such poor attendance took its toll. I failed two classes, and barely passed the rest. Academically, I failed spectacularly. Personally... I don't even want to think about it.

That's when I enrolled FlexTech High School. A place of learning and acceptance; a place I could be myself. Sure, I still am recovering and I'm still missing days here and there, but it's definitely better knowing I can return to this awesome school.

The teachers I have (Lieberman, Combs, Merwin, Moore: to name a few.), they made coming to school worth it. They actually cared. When I'm having a bad day, they'll be there for me. The missed days didn't matter to them; they still were there, arms wide open. They made me realize: this is where I belong.

I know now more than ever, that I have a future. I can make it. I can go to college, I can work, I can *live*. I don't have to be afraid of the future anymore. I don't have to hold onto my past. They're the reason I'm here today.

That's what FlexTech means to me.