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### Essay Contest – What My Charter School Means To Me?

Dear Reader,

Have you ever felt as if you didn't belong somewhere or as if you were a *fish out of water*? I came a long way, about 12,346 km, from Karachi, Pakistan and felt as if I was the fish struggling to just get back into my lake to survive, but it was too far. I had to put up with bullying because of the way I looked and because of the way I dressed. That was before my parents had enrolled me in South Canton Scholars Charter Academy. I have never been bullied for all the years I've been in this school and that means for five whole years I stayed in peace, never have I ever been worried about anyone liking or bullying me because everyone in that school stands up for one another. For example, just a few months ago, during tech someone asked why they couldn't take a test again because they had gotten a 60%. Everyone was quiet because they were working, but a girl stood up and said it was because Nokhez, I, said we couldn't. I was in panic mood because it wasn't I who said that, but the teacher did. Some students heard what the girl had said and said back to her, "that's not true, Mrs. Glass told us *not* to take the quiz again, so Nokhez was just following rules, unlike you, who should have listened."

I have my sad days and by great days. This school means everything to me. Away from home this is my second home, I know it may sound cheesy, but it's true. My teachers are the best because they do everything in their power to construct a better student. Yesterday I was a girl who was rude, felt as if she didn't belong anywhere, and doubted herself because she thought everything was impossible, but today I am a girl who believes that she can do anything because her teachers have told that the word impossible says I'm possible! Even if kids may not like SCS because they think it's small and like a prison, it's still a safe, successful school. In my mind it's the biggest most best school I have ever been to and I've been to 4 schools, so I not lying.

A great school takes a great amount of responsibility. Counted, we have a total of 40 staff members in our school. With 10 grade levels and 30 students in each class, that would mean 300 students to take care of. WOW! Must be a load of trouble, but it's not. Teachers and other staff take care of problems very maturely. If a student was to take it's tiger out during a class, no teacher would look as if they are going to erupt like Mt. Vesuvius, but they would try and calm the child down and take the other kids to some other classroom until the problem was all sorted out.

With parties to have fun, quizzes to be relaxing, and tutoring to help kids this school is a big accomplishment. It's just great seeing the teachers help open the door for you when you come from the driveway and the teachers saying good morning with their glistening smiles, I love walking in that school. The teachers in SCS motivate me to do my best even after failing a test, they tell me that no matter what I tried my best and that's what really counts. They make funny jokes to keep students lured into a topic and they act just like we would to make students know that a teacher isn't boring and old, but fun and is just like you. Also known as making students feel safe.

Great teachers, feeling safe, having fun, and having friends is what makes my charter school great. My grades have improved so much over the last years. I have discovered many talents I had in me that I had never noticed before. Such as poetry, which now I love so much! My school also is the best

because our teachers make compromises. Such as, just three days ago, my homeroom teacher, Mr. Owens, asked us when our autobiography, a project we've been doing for last three months, was due, and we said tomorrow, so he said that our homework for Math is now due on Monday because he rather us stay up until 11:00 rather than 12:00. Great people make great teachers. It's ever really easy going back to school, but once you know the perfect school for you, you want to go back everyday. Ever since I've been to SCS, I want to go back to school everyday, even during the summer, sometimes! ;) I can feel the success in the reach of my hands and all thanks to SCS! This is what my charter school means to me, the whole world!