

I am a Graduate as of 2014 from Middle College, and I can honestly say that this is shocking and quite disappointing news.

I attended West Seattle High School for my freshman year and absolutely dreaded it. I felt I couldn't get any help from teachers, that they did not care for my struggle or success and that I could have been bullied by the majority of the student body for openly asking questions. I almost failed. During my Sophomore and Junior year I attended The Nova Project, which was just fine but I needed more personal support and structure. Again, almost failed.

In September 2013, the decision was made to attend High Point Middle College. It was small, but that's what made it great. You had peace and quiet to work, teachers that could give you the time of day and actually cared about how you do. They were not just your teachers, but also your friends. Boo Balkan Foster, Alonzo Ybarra, Camille Paul and Andrea Chorney were people who I relied on for an entire year to graduate. It was definitely a feat.

I had to obtain quite a lot of credits in order to graduate, it was no where near easy. I could have never graduated without the help and guidance of my teachers.

I was no ordinary student, I had ADD and Dyslexia to add to everything else. This was a secret that I was always embarrassed to even mention, I didn't want to be treated differently or given special treatment. All the schools that I had attended previously had not understood that its harder for me to understand things sometimes. Once I had started at HPMC, no one made fun of me, people understood that I might need more time, and everyone, even the students were very supportive.

I know this is long, but there's just so much to say. So I'll put this simply. I had a wonderful experience there that had changed my life for the better in many ways. Its just a shame that many, many, many students are losing the opportunity to grow, make bonds, and still learn and graduate.

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