



Located at: Helena College

1115 North Roberts, Room 004

Helena, MT 59601

Phone: 406-447-6380

Fax: 406-447-6394

<http://accesstosuccess.helenaschools.org/>

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER- DECEMBER 2017

Wow, it is already December and a bittersweet month here at Access to Success. It will be an amazing month of holiday fun with friends and family, but we also have to say good-bye to a wonderful group of graduating students. TJ, Pat, Vennessa, Chase, Brittney, Treven, Justin, Wyatt, Caden, Alex, Jaydon, Corte, Terrin, Colton, Brook, Isaac, Tatum, Oren, Ashley, Taggart, Sarah, Will, Orion, Emily, Tristana, and Amanda we couldn't be more proud of you and excited to see what great things you will do next!

Enjoy your break and have a wonderful holiday season. Don't forget that Spring 2018 classes will start on Friday, January 12th, 2018!

Class Spotlight: Social Studies

10 Things You Should Do During the Holiday Break

1. Apply for scholarships
2. Clean your room
3. Turn off your phone, look at a real human and have a conversation
4. Do at least one push up or sit up. But seriously, don't hurt yourself

5. Read a book
6. Volunteer for a few hours
7. Tell a friend or family member how much they mean to you
8. Read the news. No seriously, read the news.
9. Go see Star Wars: The Last Jedi at least once, but highly recommend 3-4 times
10. Have fun, please be safe, and know that we love you all



unity, strength, solidarity

Comments from soon to be Access to Success Graduates:

I have been at Access for a year and I am so thankful that this program has given me a 2nd chance! All the staff at Access are amazing and so caring. I am going to miss being in this program. ~Brittney Feistner

Access to Success is the best school I've ever went to. I'm so glad I got the opportunity to go here. They have the best teachers around. I've never had teachers

History Lesson

On this day in 1915 the KKK receives a charter (making it an official group) from Fulton County, Georgia.

that were more willing to work with me as well as be as interested in what I have to say and my stories. These teachers actually care about you and how you're doing. They won't let you fail, only you can let yourself fail. I recommend this program to everyone. I think there would be a lot less kids dropping out if all schools were like this one. ~Chase Estes

I've only been at Access for a few months, but I wish I had known about it earlier. One of the most comforting notices I've seen is the teachers. I always felt like traditional teachers played the name game. The more popular you were, the more they worked with you and seemingly cared about you. At Access, the teachers help and care about everyone equally. The students here are also unlike traditional school. When my counselor first told me about Access, I expected the worse. I was given vague

****Access to Success is a high school completion program in the Helena School District. We provide students, 16 and over, who have dropped out the opportunity to earn their diploma. ****

information and it almost seemed as if she didn't want me to go at all and to be honest if I knew of another choice I might not have. I thought that my worth would be instantly judged as it had been in the past, and I expected that I wouldn't talk to anyone or the teachers. I expected to just get my diploma and leave without looking back. The first few weeks I intended to do just that, I stuck to old habits. "Don't talk to people and don't say anything you don't have to." I told myself almost constantly and it definitely prohibited me from realizing that the people in the program are actually really nice. Then Sam gave us a life map project and I dreaded it. I wasn't sure if I should've been honest about my life or not, but I decided to do it anyways. After a few people, I realized that everyone had gone through things similar to myself. Which made me feel a little less out of place and a little less wary of the people around me. Now that I am almost graduated, I know I am gonna miss Access. I didn't get to know all of the students or all of the teachers, but I wish I would've. I'm glad to have been given a second chance

and glad to have met some amazing people. If I had to give a word of advice; don't use your first assumption as a basis for how you experience something new. ~Oren Schwartz

How cool is Access? Access is an amazing program in so many ways. This program is a great program because every student here is mature and there is a no bullying policy. Other schools I went to the students were very disrespectful and discriminated everyone and the teachers did nothing. Here at Access all the students are nice and you can tell they are here for the education. The teachers that I have are absolutely amazing. My old school, the teachers were biased towards the students when it came to sports, popularity, and even gender. Here at Access the teachers treat every student the same no matter the appearance physically, socially, and mentally. Coming to this school for my senior year made me wonder why I never went here sooner. Thank you Access to Success for the opportunity and such a respectful and fun environment to be in. ~Tristan Williams

Access was a great for me. It works out so much better than regular school, from the class sizes to the relationships that you develop with your teachers. Teachers get to know each student individually and their personalities, which I thought was one of the best things about it. I was worried about starting because of how regular traditional high school went for me. But the office staff and all the teachers were so nice and welcoming and ready to help with anything we needed help with, and they made that clear when we first meet them at orientation. Every staff member here at Access is great, caring, and makes things fun. I found out there was nothing to worry about probably about a week or so after starting. It was such a great journey finishing high school here, I wouldn't have been able to do it any other way. I am going to miss all of the great caring teachers and staff here at Access. Thank you all so much for making high school so much easier to deal with and for truly caring about each of us. ~Terrin Martin

