

Option Enrollment: Good decision after homeschool, private school

When Covid-19 hit, schools all around the world rapidly started to close down. The small, private school I went to was no exception.

Trinity Lutheran went from social distancing in class to masks and then finally to online schooling. It took more than a year for them to finally reopen and eliminate the preventative policies that they had put in place.

My parents, being relatively uncomfortable with the environment created by the pandemic, pulled me and my three siblings out of Trinity.

That's when the opportunity to opt into Mead Public arose.

According to the Nebraska Department of Education, "the Enrollment Option Program allows a student entering kindergarten through 12th grade to attend a different public school district other than the school district they reside in."

The NDE opened the door for opportunities such as better extracurriculars, achieving more playing time, escaping bullies or reducing commute time.

The private school I came from didn't offer FFA, Skills USA or even One Act. Transferring to Mead meant I was introduced to these skills.

Open enrollment has allowed me to start enjoying school; from extracurricular opportunities to making new friends, the change has been positive.

How did we decide on Mead? Well, I actually live in the Fremont district.

Our options were between the smaller schools in our area such as Mead, Yutan or Wahoo, who all have less than 400 students enrolled, and Fremont, with 5,000-plus attendees.

After Trinity and before Mead, my 6th grade year, we homeschooled. I struggled tremendously. I needed a real teacher; I needed someone who could show me how to reduce fractions or count neutrons, someone to answer my questions in person.

That meant the choice was easy; choose the smaller school that's closer to what I've always known.

Having the option program meant that I could attend Mead. I was able to receive intentional one-on-one help, rather than say in Fremont with 30+ students in each classroom with teachers scrambling to reach everyone.

Not only was I able to come by the help I needed, but I was introduced to programs like journalism and SkillsUSA, furthering my academic abilities.

The Option Enrollment Program gives students the opportunities to shine their brightest, taking full advantage of their talents.

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