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Spectrum High School
10th Grade

At eight-fifteen on the dot, my first year at Spectrum High School began. I trudged from class to class, hating every minute of it. Having come from an awesome school prior to Spectrum, I was really skeptical of this new charter school in my area. However, throughout the last two years, Spectrum has exceeded almost all of my expectations. Spectrum's teachers are absolutely amazing, and I love that community outreach is a huge deal at our school. One thing that Spectrum could improve on is getting a real building; it's a total downer that we don't have our own gym or fields.

When asked what my favorite thing about Spectrum is, I immediately reply with, "The teachers." All of my teachers truly care about my fellow classmates and me. Although they are there to teach us biology or English, they also want us to succeed outside of the classroom. One of my favorite teachers, Mr. Bubna, teaches biology. Almost every day, he has a different "life lesson" for us. On topics such as stem cell research and abortion, he opens up discussion and makes us back up our opinion with more than "That's just what I think." Now, I have never liked any kind of science class, but when it's time to grab my stuff for biology, I get excited because I know that I will learn more than just the structure of a root. My teachers are constantly challenging me to go past the surface and care more about others around my school and the world. Community outreach (C.O.) is another big reason I like Spectrum. At the beginning of the year every student had to choose a C.O. group in which to participate. I chose the health awareness group. We are working on putting together a fitness day for the community. I think it's awesome to be able to inspire people like that; encouraging them to live a healthy lifestyle. The ability to help others out is a responsibility, and I'm glad that Spectrum requires us to get out of our little boxes to show the community that we care.

One of the big things that I don't like about Spectrum is that we don't have our own building. Sports are a huge part of any high school, and it's disappointing to not have a gym or fields. I play soccer for Spectrum, and it was so sad to not be

able to have any real home games. Our school lives and breathes basketball, and it's really awesome to see everyone come together to cheer for the Sting, but I wish we had our own home gym. I think one thing students could do to solve this problem is to get the word out about our school to the community. If we could get sponsors or investors, money wouldn't be such an issue, and we could have our building. Another thing we could do is show that we truly love our school and want to support it no matter what. I hope that in the future, Spectrum will have a building and we will be able to attend every game and match to cheer on our team.

Spectrum High School is an awesome school! I'm really glad I came here to experience meeting new people and reaching out to even more people. Although there are still things to improve, I am glad I have the privilege to attend a charter school like this, and I hope that around America, more teenagers and families will see what charter schools, like mine, are doing, and get involved too!