

Harvest vs. River, Just One Gal's Opinion

By Gracie, 8th grade

Ever since the beginning of the school year, there has been much discussion about the conjoined campus of Harvest and Rive Middle School. From what I have heard there have been many different view points on the matter. Some students have said they absolutely love it and think it's an awesome idea yet others hate the fact that we are sharing campuses, and then of course there are those who just don't care either way. For me personally, it is just a new experience that I have yet to give a view point on. Either way there are those of you who do have an opinion. I am going to share my thoughts and views on this subject and explain how my ideas have changed about it throughout the school year.

When I first heard that Harvest and River would be sharing campuses my immediate thought was that "this just isn't going to work." I guess you could say I came into it with a negative frame of mind which wasn't too open-minded of me. I thought the whole situation as one big disaster. How would the Harvest students influence our River School students? Would we share the same philosophies? Would River School just be like any other middle school now that we were sharing our campus with another school? I was afraid that River School would be changed in a negative way, and that was the last thing I wanted to happen.

So the first few weeks of school began, and things were going pretty smoothly. Then a couple of fights occurred among Harvest students, then a few kids started picking fights with our students, and saying things like we were the "weird school" and we didn't belong". After that, a few River School students started picking on other River School students. Everything I least wanted to happen was happening, I didn't want Harvest to change River, or the students, and that seemed to be the way things were going.

I started talking to my parents about it and told them how I didn't like what was happening. In other words, that by River treating other River School students poorly was stooping down the level of other middle schools. Harvest seemed to be having a few bad effects on River.

Listening groups came around, and I talked to a couple of my teachers about it. They gave some very valuable advice, and really opened my mind about the whole situation. They told me that River School was the same as it had always been. Our philosophies hadn't changed, our teaching methods were still going the same way, and it was just the student that seemed to be acting differently. But then I thought, is it really fair to blame the behavior of some students on Harvest? I mean sure, some of our students are acting differently in some ways but who knows, maybe these students would have turned out the same way whether or not Harvest had showed up. It wasn't like I had to interact with the Harvest kids. I guess since I came in to the situation with a closed mind I wasn't willing to open to other ideas.

Either way, whether you like the Harvest and River situation or you don't, you still have to keep in mind that the Harvest Students might not be comfortable with it either, and that we were all going to have to adjust to the situation. It may take time to get used to it, but I think that in time Harvest and River can all be one big happy community.