

I Am Thriving At My Public School: Here Is Why

"It's so upsetting to see all these articles about public schools that are failing." States my creative writing teacher. "They're everywhere, all the parents are giving up on public education and taking teachers out of jobs!"

"American public education is broken. Since the pandemic began, students have experienced severe learning loss because schools remained closed in 2020—and even in 2021 when vaccinations were available to teachers" states Michael Bloomberg in the Wall Street Journal.

We don't hear nearly enough stories about successful public schools. I did extensive research through the New York Times, The Guardian, and The Wall Street Journal, but nothing positive came up. Morale is low right now because of the pandemic. Mental health has come to the forefront of everyone's life. According to Sarah D. Sparks on edweek.org, "A new analysis of research across 11 countries including the United States in the journal JAMA Pediatrics finds widespread anxiety and depression among those 19 and younger in the earliest days of the pandemic." People aren't hearing the positive things about public schools. I am submitting to this contest to change that.

I go to The School for Creative and Performing Arts. The teachers nurture my creative talent, helping me be the best version of myself. I came from a small district on the West side of Cincinnati, so I wasn't sure if I was going to make many friends in a big public school in the center of downtown. When we came back from remote learning in March of 2021, I quickly bonded with the creative writing class, as there were only twelve of us. These people became my "pack", helping me through the pandemic. My creative writing teacher is leading me down the path that will leave me successful and happy in the future.

Being in the creative writing major, I am able to submit writing pieces into 1310, the school's literary magazine. A piece of mine was chosen to be published in the magazine my very first year at SCPA. I was able to start making a name for myself at such a young age.

Creating the 1310 magazine twice a year does cost money. SCPA is lucky enough to have many sources of income such as tickets for our many productions that our dancers and actors put on. According to the principle, Michael D. Owens, "Our students really require additional funding in order to make the magic happen here." The creative writing department is able to pay PhD students from the University of Cincinnati to come and talk to us about their careers. I feel honored to have these people listen and care about what a fifteen-year-old has to say.

I can see a bright future for myself, and I have people all around me supporting me. We need more narratives out there like mine. Stories like these can put a smile on someone's face, let them know that the education America's children are receiving isn't totally hopeless.