

Kyle Ward  
564 War Eagle Way  
Thomas Jefferson Charter School  
10<sup>th</sup> grade  
208-629-9768

Kyle ward

English

10<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Edge

Charter schools are important to our community because they give an outlet for choice and help to create better schools. My parents had a choice to pick the school they thought was best for me. Charter schools create competition amongst all public schools. Regular public schools do not like being compared to public charter schools because test scores at charters in Canyon County typically have been higher. So, guess what has happened? Test scores in all public schools have risen. Competition has helped. Therefore, I believe charter schools have created better schools because school size has been reduced. How can we wonder why large schools have more discipline problems when they house over one thousand kids? Why are the charter school teachers better? Why do they actually know your name? Smaller schools are better.

When I started school, I went into a charter. I spent my first seven years in a Harbor School. Then my dad got a different job; I transferred to a public school where I attended two years. I have to say that in the end, the charter was better for me academically and socially. When my parents had the choice to put me onto a charter as I started high school, they jumped on the opportunity. I was not too happy about the decision but now that I have seen both sides of education, I have come to the harsh reality that charters really are better for me and my education.

Charter schools create competition amongst public schools. Like two athletes, they are competing to be the best. Test scores are just like the "game", they decide who really the best are. In this case, most charters in Idaho do better on tests. But regular public school students have benefited. Test scores throughout the state have improved. This shows that kids are learning more. Competition has

caused all schools to try harder to prove a point that they can do just as well. To me, this is a good. Whether people like charters or not, they have created competition which has improved learning for students.

Have you ever felt like a sheep being herded through a very narrow space and half the people you pass you have never even seen before? Well, this is how a 5A student feels. Everywhere you go, you meet and see new people and then you may not see the same person again until next week. Bigger is not better. When I was in middle school, half the teachers I had did not even remember my name and that was just middle school! I could not imagine how I would feel in a high school where all you are is the number on your I.D. card. Relationships are important. The better you are treated, the more likely you are to cooperate and learn. Every teacher I have I can talk to about school and life because they know me and I know them. At the charter, I feel like I actually am somebody. I learn and I matter.

I have to admit that I did not want to come to the charter for high school. I did not think I would like it. But after the first week, I got used to it and I realized this Charter would make my future better. I am taking Anthropology, Sociology and even Philosophy as a sophomore and I actually understand what I am learning. My regular public school does not offer classes like these, not to mention that I have great teachers. I am better off in a charter.