

Crossroads Connection

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www.crossroadslongmont.org

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A Team Effort Results In Peace... by Janet Streed

Darian and Damian's Story

Adopted twins Damian and Darian Stephen love the fact Crossroads doesn't assign homework. No homework has meant peace for the boys as well as their parents, Eddie and Heather. Heather was in tears when she got the call that her 12-year-old sons had been accepted at Crossroads. She and Eddie had responded to God's call on their hearts to adopt Damian and Darian when they learned the boys were in their fourth foster home. The adoption was final when the boys were 3 ½ years old. A disrupted childhood meant hyperactivity and trouble focusing. That made school a struggle, until this past August, when they started 6th grade at Crossroads.

Peace reigns at the Stephen household in the evenings now. Prior to Crossroads, it was a battle getting the boys to do hours of homework. Desperate, Heather and Eddie had tried everything, including home schooling, public schools, charter schools, everything but on-line classes. At Crossroads, "we found a school that values relationships and gives students who have a bad day a fresh start the next day," says Eddie. Heather appreciates the entire school community and all those who support Crossroads because "they are directly helping us do what we are called to do".

Happy in their forever home, with four older sisters ranging in age from 13 to 19, Damian and Darian like working at their own pace. They like having assignments adjusted if the work is too easy or too hard.

Damian's favorite subject is tech class, and he also likes math, especially division and fractions. If he were in charge, tech class would be longer and science class shorter. He thinks he might someday enjoy a career involving computer information systems, where he could combine his love of computers and math. Darian's favorite subject is computer lab. He also likes English. His least favorite subject is math. He's given thought to being a soldier, a cop, or a mortgage broker. If he were in charge, lunch would be an hour earlier.

No longer desperate, Eddie commented, "Everyone accepts everyone, students take each other at face value, and that makes for one big team." He and Heather appreciate the entire Crossroads 'team' working to provide an educational environment that meets the needs of their twins.



What? No Homework?! ... by Barb Bulthuis **Philosophical Choice Thrills Parents & Students**

In reading the previous article, you might have wondered at the comment that Darian and Damian love not having homework. Homework is a necessary part of the educational process, right? We have all heard that it promotes higher achievement, reinforces learning, and teaches study skills and responsibility. So why doesn't Crossroads give homework?

We have several reasons for the philosophical decision not to assign homework to students at Crossroads School. The first is that research demonstrates that homework does NOT accomplish the goals we have all accepted for years. Alfie Kohn's book, *The Homework Myth*, systematically explains how homework does not meet these goals, and in fact, can undermine learning and family life.

In addition, students at Crossroads School have typically struggled, often for years, with hours of homework every night because they were not as successful in school as their peers. This creates tension between parents and students as parents attempt to monitor and enforce homework completion, and it keeps students from having the physical activity and relaxation time that their growing bodies and minds need. Removing homework from the equation allows students to concentrate well while they are at school without having to add hours of additional work and fighting with parents at the end of the day.

Finally, since Crossroads students work on individualized plans, they are able to make better use of their work time at school. They can slow down or speed up depending on their own ability, rather than being paced by the needs of the entire class. This means they can accomplish enough work during the school day that they don't need homework time to finish.

So homework is not required at Crossroads. That doesn't mean, however, that students never have homework. Students who plan to go back to traditional schools sometimes gradually work back into a routine of homework to help with that transition. High school students approaching graduation may choose to work at home in order to complete all of their credits in time. But rather than a requirement that students dread and avoid, homework becomes a privilege that students can earn!

Food & Fellowship

Join Us for These Fundraising Events!

FEBRUARY: Chick-fil-A (Thurs, Feb 11, 5:30-7:00 pm)

Eat chicken, hang out with Crossroads staff, students, and friends, and turn in your receipt in the basket.

Crossroads receives 20% of proceeds. We hope to see you there!



MARCH: Inta' Juice (Mon, Mar 28, 4-7 pm)

Enjoy a delicious fruit smoothie and benefit Crossroads! The school receive 20% of ALL sales during the fundraiser!

Save the Date: **Annual Friends' Dinner**

Friday, April 1, 6 pm
LifeBridge Church

