

Parent: Tammy

Why the Science School when the local high school is 10 minutes away? Here is our family's experience which I am happy to share.

The Science School at OSC may be run under the regular school system with a standard curriculum; the experience for the students is anything but ordinary.

During the months when my son was there, the tidbits coming back from school is void of the usual "funny" teenager antics. Instead, I heard about the exciting projects students were designing and hoping to vie for a spot at the Science Centre's display floor. Sometimes, it could be the latest breakthrough in a science field learned in a special seminar, or it was the fulfilling volunteer work with visitors at the OSC. Yet another time, it was the "awesome" treats teachers brought in for the students on Muffin Monday.

The most fascinating phenomena was the study parties students took turn to host before tests. I was fortunate to have witnessed one of these parties. After seeing the pizza disappearing down and hearing the laughter coming up from the basement, I was curious what went on. A discreet quick peek found a make shift board filled with formulas and calculation, and everyone around it deep in animated discussion. As a parent, that was a scene I will not soon forget.

My teenager has always liked school but his attention was definitely more focused on the extra-curricular activities. I have never seen him so inspired to learn, and so excited about any project coming from the academic realm. Every morning he proudly donned dress pants and a shirt to go to this beautifully designed public "attraction". He was making the most of his last high school year. The friends he made at the Science Centre, now spread across vast distance in different universities, remain the ones he cherished the most.

My son sums it up as "the Science Centre is the one true preparation that enabled him to handle the vigor of first year university". As for me, it was a treat to meet the educators and staff at the graduation. They are not only knowledgeable and passionate about what they teach, but also refreshingly candid. One can only wish that more schools were like this one.