



I go to Bryant

TRUE LIFE

William Cullen Bryant Alternative High School is one of the twenty-nine high schools in Fairfax County. For as long as I've known, Bryant has had a stigma attached to it. Derived by fear or simply being uninformed and fueled by stirring misconceptions, Bryant is thought to be an inferior and constantly hectic school of anarchy by

many students of other high schools. However, after spending a day at Bryant shadowing senior Vanesa Cabrera, I know that is not the case. Rather, Bryant Alternative School is full of self-motivated, responsible, hard-working students who, for some reason or another, have been placed in a program that has more flexibility

and thus aims to give students with various circumstances a "non-traditional" way to have access to the same opportunities as strictly-scheduled and managed "traditional" schools. Bryant is not what rumors make it out to be.

« Frida Salmoran, news editor



"We have kids from all over the county, so we have a lot of different perspectives from kids with different feelings about their community. Once the kids come here, there is a sense of camaraderie here. They all march to a different drum. Project Opportunity is a teen mothers program. They come having a baby, a job, and they take care of all their duties before they come to school. It's a tribute to them. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work with them"

Carmen Urso
Counseling at Bryant since it was built (27 years)

"I like working here. The small class sizes allow me to help each students' needs. My experiences have been really positive because students who want to pass are hardworking, and I like the community collaboration"

Hannah Poole
First year English teacher

"I would say it's surprisingly calm here"

Rachel Albert
Art teacher

centerspread



"When I first came to Bryant, I thought it was going to be, like, bad school, bad kids. But it's not really bad. The teachers help you a lot. It's a good school; there's nothing to be scared of"

Anthony Almanzar
Senior

"It's like any other school. You can't expect paradise; everyone sees problems at school. [When I came here] my eyes opened to life"

Senior

"Everybody [here] has something to lose. This is your last chance. Bryant is your opportunity to fix what you messed up"

Delicia Jones
Senior

"We cover material that is just as rigorous as any school in Fairfax county. The difference is the flexibility"

Patricia Yanosek
English teacher

"I love walking down this hallway. It's a reminder to 'never stop dreaming.' Everyone has a crazy story. People normally don't just come here. I went to Annandale. I was an honor roll student. I wasn't doing anything bad. I wanted to come here. Annandale's classes were too big and the girls didn't like me. I was over the whole experience. The teachers here are like your family. There was this one time that I REALLY needed money. I was broke. A teacher offered to lend me the money. They actually care about YOU as an individual here"

Vanessa Cabrera
Senior

"What I like about Bryant is that we are making an impact on students and helping them reach a goal. Some of these students, if we did not have an alternative program, would not be able to receive their high school diploma. The teachers work closely in building positive relationships with students. It gives me joy that we help these students to get a high school diploma no matter what barriers they may face in their lives"

Larry Jones
Principal