UNSCHOOLING SCHOOL

Creating an alternative to school, within school

There is an urgent need to transform all schools into spaces that nurture kids' natural abilities to learn as they grow. Humans have thrived because we learn, not because we teach. Our world needs creative problem solvers who understand how they learn, how to communicate, and are adept at collaboration. So how do we change an education system that was partially designed to mimic the factory model, in order to produce obedient workers? We demand an education model that ignites our inborn abilities, and a system that provides spaces, tools, and support to allow kids to do what they naturally do; educate themselves.

Of course, we can create alternative schools that are self-directed and we can demonstrate that allowing kids' ownership of their education leads to success. We can and we have. But the system itself has not changed.

Three key realities thwart the opportunity for this change:

- 1. Not all kids can attend these enlightened schools.
- 2. We already pay for public education.
- 3. Not all parents are able to unschool at home.
- 4. So what if we made space for change within schools by choosing not to comply with the age-segregated, curriculum-driven, testing, grading, and homework-laden nonsense? What if we insisted that our children be allowed to choose what they want to do at school? What if we let them know that there are lots of different avenues to gain acceptance into College or University or start careers? What if we revealed to them that marks on a transcript are only one of many options?

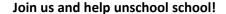




Thus Unschooling School: an initiative to create an alternative to school, within schools.

UnschoolingSchool.com will:

- Provide tools, coaching, and create a community so parents and kids can continue to participate in the public system, while firmly resisting its unnecessary regimen and coercion.
- Help parents/kids look at school as a smorgasbord of resources to choose from based on curiosity and passion.
- Furnish parents with the courage to trust their kids and allow them to opt-out of lessons, homework, and testing, and instead give them the freedom to spend time at school doing more of what they enjoy.
- Outline a new designation for students: The <u>Free Learner</u> (or FL). Similar to LD, kids designated FL will also require accommodation in the class and school. The accommodations will vary and depend on the wishes/interests of the FL child and parent(s).
- Share worksheets and templates for educating teachers and principals and explaining what the Free Learner designation means and what accommodations their child will require.
- Become a forum for FL kids and their parents to network, exchange and share ideas and help build the
 Unschooling School community, eventually creating Unschooling-Schools everywhere.



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