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Free or Paid Education

Public vs. Private Schools

Private vs. Public Schools

As an eighth grader at MBMS, some have to make a hard choice; should they go to Mira Costa or attend a private school instead. Though many factors can make one lean either way, Mira Costa seems like a better choice.

Mira Costa, being a public school, enrolls everyone in Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, some kids in North Redondo. It requires no tuition because it is funded by the government. Mira Costa is also ranked in the top 75 high schools in Southern California at number 72 out of 1,255 high schools. Though bigger than most private schools, Mira Costa caters to many different learning levels, with different level classes for different learning speeds.

Private high schools, such as Loyola, Marymount, Notre Dame, and St. John Bosco are Catholic affiliated while Chadwick and Harvard-Westlake are unaffiliated with religion. They require tuition, some higher than others, but are usually more than $15,000 per year. Private schools have smaller classes and a hand-picked student body. They aren’t involved with the state of California’s education plan, so they don’t have to worry about teaching students every single standard the state requires.

However, Mira Costa and private high schools aren’t much different in grades and scores. Private schools, because they aren’t involved with the California Education Department, don’t always take the same tests as Mira Costa does, making it very hard to compare the two. Private schools aren’t required to release their test scores also, sometimes to hide that their scores are worse than a local public school in their area. Mira Costa is also local, while many private schools are more than a half an hour commute out of Manhattan Beach.

So, while many say that private high schools are better than Mira Costa, they’re wrong. Students don’t receive that much better of an education out of a private high school than they do at Mira Costa. All they’re doing is wasting money and an hour of their life in a car every weekday. Once students are in the public school system, they should stay in it.