

A Day in The Life of Being in Inclusion

My name is Marc Castro. I'm 16 years old. I live in Queens with my parents. I have 1 brother and sister. Before coming to the inclusion program in Francis Lewis, I attended Birch for 3 years. At first, Birch worked for me because I felt safe. Entering my third year, things changed. I felt the rules were very restrictive. I was being treated like I had a behavior problem. I had nothing in common with the other kids. I wasn't being challenged enough. I'm extremely glad to be here at Franny Lew. I have more freedom and independence. Classes are mostly interesting. I take art, global studies, computers, Spanish, forensics, gym, and law. The staff is wonderful. Brian and Eileen are always there for me. Any questions or issues are taken care of right away. I'm also glad I'm taking classes in a general population setting. Here, I get treated fairly. While I was still in Birch, I used to take a school bus. Now, I take a city bus. It makes me feel like a real adult.

Travel Training

When I was told I could do travel training, I felt excited. I was tired of depending on a school bus to take me to school. I knew I could be on city bus and was glad other people felt the same way. I followed all the steps and rules given to me by my trainer, Gus, such as what to do if I missed a stop or took the wrong bus. It's great to be treated like a young man. I feel very confident. I like being on my own.

Student Council

When I was offered to join the student council, I just felt so proud. I like that I was able to listen to what was going on in the school. It gives me the opportunity to get to know the students of Francis Lewis. I get to listen to what they have to say. I hope that in the near future I'd like to be able to contribute some ideas of my own even though I'm new. This gives me the chance to learn more about the school and its students. I'm also glad that I'm part of a very important function.

Office Work

I like working at Catholic Medical School. I do office work such as filing and shredding which I find to be very easy. I sometimes get to meet and talk with the staff. The office is a quiet place which is something I enjoy. I also like that I'm doing a job and I can do it well. Office work is fine with me.