

Wye River Upper School

... because not all great minds think alike



Amber Coulbourne



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Amber Coulbourne, Student, Stuart M. Bounds Scholarship Recipient, Wye River Upper School

Before I went to Wye River Upper School, I was considering dropping out of school because I wasn't getting good grades. I was having a hard time. My teachers would never answer my questions or explain things to me. I thought what was the point of me sitting here if I am not even learning anything?

In 8th grade my mom suggested that I go to Wye River Upper School and fortunately I was able to get financial aid so I could go there because ever since I started I've gotten good grades. What has helped me is the individual attention. They will sit down with you and explain it in terms that you understand. It was nice. I couldn't believe the fact that they would actually sit there and talk to me. They don't ignore you. They embrace you. They want you to excel at this school.

Like my reading. Before I came to Wye River Upper School I wasn't that good in reading. I was in 8th grade and my reading level was only third grade. They focused on my weaknesses and strengths. They sat down with me. They sent me to reading school. After just a couple of years I was up to a 12th grade reading level. I was surprised my reading level came up that fast.

I love the teachers. They don't care where you sit, if you're in the front of the class or the back of the class. They just want you to learn and are very understanding of what you are going through. Nicole Sophocles is great. I wanted to be a marine biologist. She told me the best colleges to go to and gave me a lot of community service at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. I loved the hands-on learning experiences there. We got to catch fish and determine the species. We took a field trip to Fox Island where it is completely solar powered and that is really important to me now.

I like how they do things differently at Wye River Upper School. Using a laptop really helped me a lot with taking notes in class. I had everything organized in one folder. I also played a lot of morning sports. I played four years of soccer and basketball, and also played lacrosse and tennis.

I took two classes at Chesapeake College, Freshman Seminar on how to get organized and Fitness and Wellness on how to take care of my body and exercise. It was great having the opportunity to see what college would be like. It was fun. I actually received the Stuart M. Bounds Scholarship for the Senior who most exemplifies a commitment to dual enrollment and has enrolled in an institution of higher learning. Now I am off to Garrett College.