

My Experiences Home Schooling

By Charlotte Chadwick

Home schooling is a great option for skaters who are serious about their sport. It allows skaters to skate the later, less crowded sessions while still enabling them to excel in their schoolwork.

Although home schooling can have its ups and downs, such as the always present distractions at home, like the phone ringing or the dog barking, it is great for those who are diligent, hardworking, and just need some extra time to dedicate toward their passions.

I started home schooling in 9th grade mostly in order to skate more and at later times, but also because I just wasn't interested in the high schools I had to choose from. Now I am in 11th grade and am very happy about my decision to home school, although I do miss the friends I left behind.

Within the three years I have been home schooling I have had mostly good experiences, but some not so great ones as well. In my first year of home schooling

Home school can be as hard as, if not harder than, public schools. This is because I want to leave all my options open for what college I am going to attend, so I have decided to follow the more challenging UC bound curriculum.

I am given four weeks worth of work at a time and I am responsible for pacing myself to complete the work on time. This requires a commitment of a lot of my time to schoolwork; however, my home schooling allows flexibility to schedule my lessons with me on less crowded sessions.

Through home schooling I have even been able to add a weekly private ballet lesson to my schedule, which has helped improve my artistry in my skating.

My first home schooling experience was through another charter school for my first year and a half. Brett Ryan, another skater and his mother Wendy, related their positive experience with The Learning Choice Academy where I am now enrolled.

The school is great and there is an office right near the rink, so it is a lot easier to meet with my Educational Partner (EP: a credential teacher who oversees all my work), as well as stay connected to what is happening at the school. I have a wonderful EP who is very laid back and supportive.

This year I decided to take physics class that is held once a week at the office near the rink in order to get to know other high school students. Even though I have some friends at my school, I mostly rely on skating as my main social life because I don't see the friends I have at school very often.

Since I only have one more year of high school I am planning to continue home schooling next year. After that if I get accepted, I am planning to go to Point Loma Nazarene and major in nursing.

Although this is my plan, I have not really had enough experience in the medical field to know if nursing is the right career for me. However, I do feel home school is helping me to prepare for college because I am accountable for getting my work done on my own.

Home schooling forces me to be responsible for dividing up my schoolwork and staying on top of all my assignments, just like I will be in college.

Overall, home schooling has been a wonderful way for me to be able to balance my skating and my schoolwork. I am able to take advantage of the later freestyles and I don't have to worry about missing school on the day of a competition or test.

Home schooling has helped me to balance my skating and school work and in doing so I have the time and energy to excel in both - receiving a great education getting good grades and continuing to take my skating tests and enter local competitions.



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