

Make a Boat and Sail

Independent Study Mentorship

Weekly Report 1: August 21- August 27, 2017

Entering a world of professionalism after being conditioned by the environment of a public high school has been shocking. Being informed of the logistics and behind the scenes work that goes into becoming a well rounded and educated individual at the age of sixteen has been in all honesty quite intimidating. However, as the week has progressed on, the daunting concept of embarking upon a far fetched dream has slowly begun to make its way towards becoming a reality.

At the start of the week, a very hefty load of information was handed out to ISM students; weekly assessments, reports, calendars, speeches, and more. A myriad of assignments seemed to have morphed themselves into one endless sea threatening to swallow students. It was a lot to take in. However, this program is showing itself to be full of surprises. Step by step the assignments and projects shrunk in size and hostility due to the guidance of previous ISM students. These students helped explain that the ISM course is not about impressing the teacher or making an A' but rather about finding your pathway in life through the counsel that the program lays out for you. Their tip: find what you love and pursue it.

Keeping this tip in mind, the next few assignments seemed more doable. A mission statement and quote were all that were needed in beginning the early stages of building a study topic. But what was a mission statement and how could you chose a quote that would serve as motivation when work and research begin to morph back into an endless sea of worries? This heavy question was answered by Mrs. Julie Martin Leslie, a previous ISM teacher and all around insightful woman, who helped turn the focus from career pursuits to dream chasing. Mrs. Martin Leslie pushed students to reevaluate their passions, find their talents, know their personalities, and seek their dreams. Developing a topic of study for ISM should not be based upon what you think will give you the highest income and what will answer to the expectations of others, but rather your topic of study should be inspired by what you want to put back into the world.