

For submission:

In 2003, my daughter was in junior high and we were very excited about the prospects of her attending Simsbury High because it had a superior record of educating high school students. Yet something was missing. More and more, we as Americans were asked to embrace a global economy. While we couldn't quite tackle the global aspects, we did tell our daughter that she could consider regional high schools which at least better represented American diversity.

After a presentation at the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science, she learned that she could obtain a superior math and science education in a diverse setting with like minded students from various backgrounds. She was hooked.

Each day of high school, she would begin at Simsbury with English, Social Studies and Language and then mid-day take a bus into Hartford. She had the best of both worlds. Her life was extremely well rounded by attending two high schools and this provided a great foundation for college. However, she endured extremely long days. Simsbury shared a bus service with Granby. There was only one bus to and from school and when it passed through Granby first, it made a 35 min bus ride closer to 60 minutes. While my daughter did it, I can speak for other kids who were not willing to lose 10 hours on a bus each week. It is a great sacrifice for kids since they would otherwise do extracurricular activities.

My daughter is now a freshman at Cornell and I am pleased to say that three GHAMAS students in the year behind her were recently admitted to Cornell early decision. I can tell you that this is an astounding number from one high school given the current level of competition for college seats.

Please continue to break down all barriers that would inhibit kids from congregating at magnet schools, including the complaints about the transportation.

Sincerely,

Cathy Bartell

West Simsbury