

March 22, 2011

My daughter, Elizabeth Ward, is in her first year at Common Grounds. Before she came to Common Grounds, she was shy and unmotivated. Now Liz can't wait to get to school in the morning and participates in many activities.

Academically, she has excelled far above our expectations, due to the strong curriculum offered and the academic support she and every student receives.

At Common Grounds, the student's plant gardens and they cook and eat food they grow offering every student breakfast, snacks and lunch at no cost.

Elizabeth has already satisfied her community service goal of 15 hours and still wants to participate in other programs. They are urged to help others, care for animals and respect our land.

Common Ground offers a great educational experience and they are given less assistance than public schools, which isn't fair. Had my daughter gone to public school, she would have been lost in the system and not have been exposed to the opportunities she has at Common Grounds. If all the students chose public school, the funding would not be an issue and you have had to pay the full amount per student.

Children learn from example. What message are you sending in the inequality of funds? Common Grounds deserves the same funding public schools receive, the students deserve the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheri Ward".

Cheri Ward
998 Campbell Ave
West Haven, CT 06516