What do Ark Independent Studies Students say about their experience?

“Independent Studies is the best school choice I’ve ever made. The teachers are there to encourage you, to keep you motivated, to bring out the best in you.” –A.

“I learned that I have a lot of potential inside me. The I.S. program helped me become more responsible and taught me how to focus and comprehend much better.” –M.

“I honestly don’t believe I would be here to graduate if my I.S. teacher had not pushed me to use my creativity, see my potential, and not give up.” –H.

“At this point, I truly feel at home in my place of learning.” –B.

Where is Ark Independent Studies located?

Ark Independent Studies High School is located in the former Bricmont Library of the Branciforte Small Schools Campus, at the corner of Water Street and North Branciforte Avenue. The campus is the former site of Branciforte Elementary School.

Learn more about Ark Independent Studies on our website at:

www.arkis.santacruz.k12.ca.us
What is Ark Independent Studies?

Ark Independent Studies is an accredited high school in the Santa Cruz City School District.

Students meet weekly with an instructor on a one-to-one basis. During that time, the students are given specific assignments, and course work is corrected and evaluated. Students do their course work during the week at home. Assignments are tailored to fit the individual student’s interests and learning style.

All Independent Studies teachers are fully credentialed, with a broad range of teaching experience and expertise.

Who may enroll in Independent Studies?

Independent Studies is available to self-disciplined and motivated students, in grades 9-12, who are working toward a high school diploma. Priority is given to students in grades 10-12.

What types of students benefit from Independent Studies?

Independent Studies is designed for students who are self-directed and able to work in an independent mode. This program is especially appropriate for students who:

• need to have a job
• are involved in some specific sport/activity that interferes with a regular school day
• are traveling
• are pregnant or are new parents
• are taking classes at Cabrillo
• need to focus on earning credits to be at grade level

What are the requirements of Independent Studies?

Students must take a minimum of four classes each semester and do a minimum of 20 hours of academic work per week. If students have a regular job, they still must complete 20 hours of academic work per week. Elective credit can be earned for a job or for P.E., but these courses cannot be used to fulfill the 20-hour requirement.

What is the curriculum offered in Independent Studies?

Independent Studies offers a complete course of study for a high school diploma. We have over sixty courses, offering the same or similar curriculum as the comprehensive high schools in our district.

Students are challenged at their ability level, and courses are based on the California State Content Standards.

Some types of courses are not available, such as lab science, foreign language, or vocational training. Arrangements with Cabrillo College, ROP, or adult education can meet those needs.

You can see a partial list of our course offerings on our website at: www.arkis.santacruz.k12.ca.us

Does Independent Studies offer a diploma and a graduation ceremony?

Independent Studies (I.S.) offers a regular diploma from Santa Cruz City Schools. A graduation ceremony, complete with cap and gown, is held each June.

Independent Studies requires the same academic credits for graduation as do the comprehensive high schools in our district, but it requires fewer elective credits than those schools. Students are also required to complete a Language Arts Portfolio and a Senior Project.

Please note: A diploma from Independent Studies is valid, and is accepted by all community colleges and employers. However, most public four-year colleges do not accept Independent Studies students directly. To attend a regular four-year university, I.S. graduates first complete general education requirements at a community college, then transfer to a university for their second two years. Please check with a high school counselor, if this will be an issue.

How do students enroll in Independent Studies?

If, after reading this brochure, you are sure that Independent Studies is the program for you, call Ark Independent Studies at 429-3898 ext.329, and make an appointment with an Ark counselor. Your school counselor will advise you regarding check out procedures at your current school.

Attend the enrollment meeting with a parent or guardian, and bring the following:

• a copy of your latest transcript
• a copy of your immunization records and a copy of your birth certificate
• a transfer form from your current SCCS high school, or a drop form if you are leaving a school outside SCCS