

October is Bullying Awareness Month

Local SA Family Selects Grapevine Colleyville ISD Virtual School to Avoid Teasing

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For Immediate Release

San Antonio - Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's iUniversity Prep, a tuition-free, state-accredited virtual learning school, is an option for students who struggle with bullying at school. All students living in Texas who are in fifth through 12th grades are eligible to enroll in iUniversity Prep. Some parents report bullying as a reason for making the switch from bricks and mortar schools to online education. According to the American Medical Association, approximately 3.2 million youths are victims of moderate to serious bullying each year. October is National Bullying Awareness Month, and Grapevine Colleyville ISD's iUniversity Prep wants families to know about its free online school that is available to Texas families with children who are the targets of physical and emotional abuse. Additionally, iUniversity Prep is the state's highest performing virtual public school, according to the Texas Education Agency.

"Some of our parents chose iUniveristy Prep because their children were being teased and bullied at school. They were concerned for their child's self-esteem or safety, but they can't homeschool because they have to work. iUniveristy Prep gives parents the best of both worlds. Their students learn from home, or any place with an internet connection, and are taught by certified teachers," Kaye Rogers, Ph.D., Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Director of Virtual Education.

Lecia Zinna enrolled her 13 year old daughter, Nina, in iUniversity Prep this year in order to avoid the challenges she faced last year. "She was getting picked on every day at school. Kids were always causing her grief, and her self-esteem and grades were suffering," Zinna said. A friend of her daughter's attended iUniveristy Prep last year, and Zinna decided to enroll her daughter into the free virtual public school for her eighth grade year. "I can't homeschool because I work, but iUniversity Prep was a great option for us because I home office," she said. "Nina was so unhappy last year and we thought she might have to attend summer school because of her grades. She's doing much better this year, and has an "A" in Pre AP Algebra. We're so pleased," Zinna explained.

"Many children excel in a bricks and mortar school environment, however, some of our students come to us because they are shy, or are teased, or they just don't fit in. iUniversity Prep gives students an environment to learn where all they have to focus on his their education. There's no concern about what clothes they're wearing, which clubs they belong to, or who they sit next to at the lunch table," Rogers said. Children in fifth – eighth grades can still transfer in this school year. Students in ninth – 12th grades can be put on a wait list for Spring enrollment. To register for iUniversity Prep call.

About iUniversity Prep

iUniversity Prep opened in August 2013 as GCISD's newest school. The academy is a tuition-free, online public school operated by Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and is one of only a handful of public virtual education solutions in the state offering elementary, middle and high school programs. It provides rigorous academics under the guidance of engaging instructors all within a collaborative school community. iUniversity Prep offers an inspiring, flexible learning environment that encourages and prepares students to be college and career ready by supporting learning through technology, fostering citizenship, and teaching the importance of mutual respect in a virtual environment. Enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year is open now. Visit iuniversityprep.org for more details.