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The Board believes that independent study is a learning activity motivated largely by the learner's own aim to learn for personal satisfaction. It is a course of study which provides the learner with an opportunity to undertake an in-depth study of a particular interest somewhat independent of the class or other group instructional practices. It utilizes the services of teachers and other professional personnel as guides and resources and often involves school and community libraries and informational facilities. A program of independent study recognizes individual differences in interests and abilities and encourages student initiative and self-direction in learning.

A thoughtful independent study program should have the following goals:

1. Expansion of the curriculum to better serve the school philosophy and objectives by providing the opportunity for students to develop their unique skills and interests, self-motivation, and responsibility, and by responding to individual maturation and readiness for new learning experiences.
2. Encouragement of students and teachers to re-evaluate their personal goals, motivation, and involvement in learning.
3. Opportunity for students to accept more responsibility for their education.
4. Response to student needs for deeper research into areas of interest, new skills, new behaviors, variety, relevancy, and renewed interest in learning.
5. Provision of an atmosphere and curriculum conducive to laying the foundations for continued self-education in the future.
6. Opportunities for independent learners to act as tutors, be discussion leaders, or teach within the classroom the new insights and/or skills learned.
7. Participation in community service projects created by students.
8. Opportunities for personal enrichment to community members through viewing or listening to the independent research and projects completed by students and shared with the community.
9. Fostering community pride in the accomplishments of high school students through the provision of visible evidence of student learning.