



## TRANSCRIPT

Copyright © 2017 Orange County Department of Education. All Rights Reserved.

### **Title: Otto Fischer School**

- As a parent, you'd be wondering how does my son or daughter continue their education since they can't go to school, on the outside? Well, Otto Fischer School is a school inside of juvenile hall that is here by law, and it is just like a public school. With highly qualified teachers, all state-standards based curriculum. We work very closely with probation for all the different services here. If your son or daughter is sick, we have a medical unit. If your son or daughter needs to see the dentist, we have a dentist on site. If they need to see a mental health person, we have counsellors.

- It provides a WASC accredited quality education for the students while they're there, it does provide the technology, the hands-on state of the art features that any other high school would have, or junior high, to prepare our students so that when they return to wherever they were, that they're actually at the same location of education that they can continue forward and graduate on time.

- Otto Fischer school looks like any other regular school. You'll see student work up on the walls. You will see technology, which is a huge piece for us here. And besides that, you would see students engaged, doing more of a student-centered activities, rather than teacher-centered activities. Our curriculum here is focused mainly on character based literacy and we use project based learning as our model. The difference that we have than the public school is we have a smaller class size. In a public school, you may look at 30 to 35 students in a classroom, while your son or daughter will be in a classroom of 10 to 12 students. We also have an elective program here that incorporates the fine arts, with poetry, writing their own music, learning how to put music together, creative writing skills. They love the wood shop, they make an array of different things for their parents, sometimes they're jewellery boxes, sometimes they're shelving, sometimes they're little trinkets, and a lot of our students are very good with their hands, so the wood shop provides them an opportunity to really develop a life skill which is one thing we focus on. We want them to walk out of this place and really be able to work with people better, to understand themselves better, and to really feel good about themselves and good about having a future plan.

- While your student's at Fischer School, you'll be able to take their coursework just as if they were in a regular high school, and be able to transfer those units back to their home school so that they can just continue on as if they've never been gone.

- We have a wraparound program here. We have a family liaison that works with parents, we have the transition specialist set up meetings when the students get out and go back to district

or residence. They set up those meetings to make sure they get back into school. We have IEPs for our special ed students that we invite the district or residents out to. We have a huge safety net that goes from our place, out into the community, so students just don't leave our facility and wonder where do they go now? They have set up meetings, and we take care of that piece for them.

- The Orange County Probation Department and Orange County Department of Education has had a very close bond between them. Not just as this site, but overall. What they're doing and what we're doing mirrors each other. When you think about your son or daughter being in here, and your fears, your angst, your anxiety, of what's happening, to know that these programs are in place really can put your mind at ease. Because we don't want them to fall through the cracks. We really want to make them productive adults, because these are young men and women, and that's why we focus so much on the character.

###