

Andrews Osborne Academy

An independent study program allows students to explore their interests.

While students in most high schools spend free periods in study hall, Christopher Casey tinkers with computers. "I'm very interested in information technologies, computer systems and computer networking," says Casey, a junior at Andrews Osborne Academy who is participating in an independent study with David White, the school's technology director.

"Any problems with systems, servers, computers — I help fix the issue," Casey says. He recently solved a network connectivity glitch with some of the school's Macintosh computers. It's a natural fit for Casey, who started a small business fixing personal computers with a friend.

The school's independent study program, where students devise coursework to fit their interests, is just one example of why students thrive at the college preparatory day and boarding school.

"Andrews Osborne is a diverse school," says Casey, who transferred from a public high school as a sophomore. "There's a lot of individual attention. You can talk to any of the faculty, and you don't get lost [in the shuffle]."

Casey appreciates the small class sizes, which averages 10 to 15 students. He gets one-on-one attention from teachers, such as his physics teacher James Barbarich.

"He's one of the greatest science teachers I've ever had," Casey says. "One time, I walked into class and saw him on Rollerblades. [He was illustrating] friction and different dimensions of motion. I look forward to that class every day."

Last semester, Casey excelled in one of Andrews Osborne's more innovative courses, Entrepreneurship, taught by head of school Charles Roman. "He taught us the building blocks of small companies and how they interact with other businesses," Casey says. Students also wrote a business plan, which helped Casey develop marketing strategies for his computer services business.

Although academics are paramount, extracurricular activities are important at Andrews Osborne, too. Casey is co-captain of the boy's varsity tennis team, which was formed last year. "It was great to be a part of that first team, and it's cool to interact with kids outside of the classroom," he says. "You can do so many things at Andrews Osborne."



Andrews Osborne Academy junior Christopher Casey has gained experience fixing computers thanks to an independent study with the school's technology director.

school highlights

- **Location:** Willoughby
- **2009-10 enrollment:** 327
- **2010-2011 tuition:** \$12,600-\$17,600; financial aid available
- **Visit:** andrewsosborne.org