

# Frequently Asked Questions about Tamiscal Independent Study

## What is Tamiscal? Where is it located?

- Tamiscal is a small, alternative high school located at 305 Doherty Drive in Larkspur (near Redwood HS)
- Tamiscal houses the Pathways program, the Counseling Enriched Classroom, and the Independent Study program
- We have students from all across the district attending our school
- When at max capacity, we have around 150 students across our 3 programs

## Who is the Independent Study Program a fit for?

- Students who can work successfully on an independent basis in a less structured environment
- Students who prefer a small school setting
- Students who have unique academic, social, extra-curricular, or medical needs
- Students who want a flexible schedule

## Who is the Independent Study Program NOT a fit for?

- Students who have credit deficiencies in several areas, particularly English and social studies
- Students who do not work well in a flexible environment, with fewer student-teacher check-ins per week
- Students who cannot self-manage and who do not work well independently

## What can I expect as an Independent Study student?

- College-prep academic classes, which will prepare students to graduate and be career/college-ready
- Small classes and personalized learning experiences (all classes under 15 total students)
- Positive school culture and climate due to the unique setting
- Caring and flexible teachers and staff

## What do I give up?

- Tamiscal does not offer the range of elective offerings that the big schools can provide, due to its size
- We do not offer sports, clubs, or many extracurriculars on campus, but students can do this at their home school
- The social environment is different due to kids coming and going from campus on a fairly regular basis, however, we do have structures to support social connections such as advisory and a study space on campus

## Can I participate in athletics, extracurriculars, dances, and the graduation ceremony at my homesite?

- Yes! As a Tamiscal student, you will continue to have access to all extracurriculars including athletics, clubs, dances, etc. as well as walking in the graduation ceremony at your home school.

## What does a typical week look like for a student?

- At least 4 classes in core academic areas
- 1-1, 1-2, and small group classes
- Classes meet 1-2 times per week for 1-2 hours each
- Each class requires 5 hours of work outside of classes
- Grade-level advisory classes (1 hour/week)
- Supervised Independent Study (up to 4 hours/week)

## Can IS students take classes at College of Marin? At my home school?

- Yes, as long as it fits in your schedule

## How does this impact my diploma?

- You will complete your remaining graduation requirements, and earn your diploma on time

## How does this impact college applications?

- Tamiscal has access to a College and Career Counselor to help with post-high school planning
- Students will be eligible for the same colleges as they would be at any of our schools

## How can I be admitted to Tamiscal, or find out more?

- The process begins by contacting your school counselor at your home school
- If a fit seems appropriate, the home school submits a referral to Tamiscal, including a student letter and academic transcripts to date. If a student has an IEP, the IEP team must support the move prior to a referral.
- If a fit seems appropriate, Tamiscal will set up an Intake meeting
- Tamiscal enrolls students at the beginning of each semester and after each semester's first marking period (S1, R1, S2, R4).