

Second Place Winner of "This Place Matters" Student Essay Contest

*This School Matters: Interior Elementary School in Interior South Dakota*

Hatlynn Harvey from Interior Elementary School, Interior, SD

When I think of a place that matters to my nine year old heart, Interior Elementary School comes to my mind. I have been going to school here since Kindergarten. It is a small town, country school that has been the center of our community for 84 years.

If the walls of Interior Elementary could talk I am sure we would learn some important history, and funny stories of our community's past. Interior Elementary school is located in Interior South Dakota. Interior is nestled in the heart of the beautiful badlands of western South Dakota. In the late 1800's it was a railroad town. If you walk the gravel streets of Interior you feel the history under your feet. The historic building I am talking about today is Interior Elementary school, built in 1939.

Interior has a current population of 70 people. The big, white school nestled in the center of town, means alot to the generations of people who have made a lifetime of memories, and received an education within the historical school's walls. I myself am the third generation to attend school here. It is one of my favorite places because my grandpa, my dad, and now myself and three sisters go to school here. This is something I am proud of.

Interior school is comfortable to me because I am the lone fourth grader and get to work at my own pace. My classroom is quiet and productive because we do not have 20 children in one room. I also love learning from a teacher for more than one year. My awesome teacher Mrs.Katie teaches second, third and fourth grade.

Another thing I love is the events that happen in our school like the carnival that our Booster Club puts on each year. It is an annual event that has been a highlight of the town for over 80 years. Events like this are important to keep the school and town alive.

For 84 years Interior Elementary school has been a crucial part to keeping the community alive. It means so much to myself, my classmates, the school staff, and most importantly the community. My school, nestled in the middle of town, holds everything and everyone together. I have loved my time at Interior school. This place matters!