

GRADUAL RELEASE IN STUDENT LIFE

Learning independence is the true work of adolescence. Just as our students come from vastly different educational backgrounds and experiences, so do they arrive with differing independent living skills.

Our student life model focuses on the gradual release concept. This provides students with more support initially as they learn to live independently and then gradually allows each student to do more on his or her own with less help and support from adults.

For instance, study hall for our youngest students takes place in the dorms, where there are several teachers on hand to help with questions and to make sure all assignments are done to completion.

As each student learns routines and strategies that enable them to complete homework more independently, they are able to earn different privilege levels that correspond to less support, more independence, and greater autonomy.

Then as students progress, they transition to studying independently either in their dorm room or at the PJM STEM Center. Eventually, some students may no longer need to check into study hall altogether.