

**You don't have to be popular to feel good about yourself
and to have friends**

When you are popular in school everyone wants to hang out with you, be noticed by you or even be like you. It means that most of the kids respect you and some are jealous. Looks and good clothes also help you to be popular in school. People are going to notice you more if you have good-looking jeans instead of jeans that are old and have a lot of holes in them. Popular kids are usually self-assured, loud and they're the ones that you notice more in groups. Other kids usually try to get the popular kid's attention.

A person usually gains popularity when they have an interesting hobby like sports or music. They can also hang out with some other popular person and gain popularity. Some people do something stupid and make a fool out of themselves which loses them popularity.

Being popular has a lot of advantages like having a lot of friends and good reputation, but it also has some disadvantages like hurting someone by not hanging out with him because your schedule is full or it destroys your grades because you don't have enough time to study.

Being popular is not connected to feeling good and having friends. You can have friends even if you are not popular, also it is better to have a few "real" friends instead of many "fake" friends.

You can feel good about yourself if you go out and have fun, enjoy with your friends, get a hobby, play an instrument, join the sports team and get good grades to take care of your future.

Marin Malbaša, 8th grade

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Everybody wants to be popular. Popularity is like a disease. It's like a goal that everyone has. Looks and fancy clothes have a big role in popularity. You must be rich to have expensive clothes. Kids who are popular are often rude to everyone. They think they are the centre of everyone's world. They think they run the whole school. No, they don't. A principal runs a school, nobody else. When they see a popular person, children suck up to them, want to be their friends because hanging out with a popular person will make you popular, of course.

How to become popular? You have to stand out and make people notice you. Popularity isn't a good thing. When you become popular you get new friends, but you forget the old ones. It's better not to be popular. Then you can see who are your real friends and who really loves you. If you are popular, you don't have friends. All you have is a bunch of two-faced people who like your popularity, not you. Dear children, my advice to you: Be yourself! Love yourself for who you are, even if you're a regular, unpopular person. If somebody doesn't like you for who you are, who cares? Your opinion about you matters. Remember that!

Valentina Hercigonja, 8th grade