

March 24, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Approximately thirteen years ago, my wife and I had a decision to make: to send our children to public school or to send them to Cathedral. After weighing the arguments on both sides of the issue, we decided on Cathedral.

Little did we know, we were making a life-altering decision.

Clearly, when we decided to send our 2 children to Cathedral preschool, kindergarten, elementary and, finally, middle school, we had certain expectations. It's a joy for me to be able to say that Cathedral, at every turn, exceeded those expectations beyond anything we could have hoped.

Cathedral provided what I like to call a "complete" education. Not simply the "3 R's" of reading, writing and arithmetic – but they added a fourth R called Respect. And, most importantly, the fifth R: Religion. Cathedral not only taught our children those basic building-blocks in education that everyone needs to succeed in the world – they also taught them what it means to be a "whole person". The school actively talks about God, Jesus, and love for others as well as yourself. It's sad that these concepts have become foreign in the public school system. In an era where it's become taboo to even mention the word Christ or Christmas in a public setting, Cathedral celebrates the birth of Jesus as it was meant to be celebrated – with song, laughter and praise. But, religion in Cathedral doesn't end on December 26th. The children attend mass on a weekly basis and develop a deep, long-lasting relationship with Christ. This is one of the fundamental tenets of Cathedral school and one of the biggest (and most unexpected) benefits of sending our children there.

The "Cathedral Family" is so much more than we'd ever expected or hoped for. From Principal Johnson, to the teachers and the staff, they know nearly *every single child in the school by name* as well as most of the parents. The staff earns the respect of the students simply by showing respect to the students and to one another. The Cathedral teachers and staff are role-models and understand their role in shaping their student's lives. And, if a student has a problem in class, the parents are alerted and corrective measures can be immediately taken before an issue gets out of control. I guess the best (and simplest) way to say it is like this: "The teachers and staff of Cathedral school truly care about each and every child in the school".

And, it shows.

I certainly don't mean to minimize the importance of the education a child enrolled in Cathedral will receive. Let's face it – that's the primary reason for choosing one school over another: the quality of the education your child will receive. In my opinion, the quality of the education my children received at Cathedral was second to none. They've both gone on to be high achievers at SHS – active in many extra-curricular activities and consistently achieving “honor roll” marks. But more than that, they're “good kids”. I'd like to think my wife and I had a little something to do with that... however, I also know we owe a good deal of that upbringing to Cathedral school.

You might well be thinking, “This just sounds too good to be true”. And, if you are, indeed, thinking that, I wouldn't blame you a bit. Thirteen years ago, I probably would've thought the same thing. But, my family has lived it. We've experienced first hand the incredible impact an institution like Cathedral had on our children – and our entire family. It's amazing – and I'm proud to share our story with anyone who cares to listen.

Cathedral, for us, turned out to be more than just a school. It turned out to be family, friends, academics, religion, sports, music, fun, learning *and living* – and SO much more.

It's been my pleasure to write this letter and would recommend anyone who has even a fleeting interest in Cathedral school to give it a chance. Talk to the principal. Talk to the teachers and staff. Talk to the students and their families...

You just might find that you make a life-altering decision as well.

Sincerely,

Glen R. Bayless, AWM
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(and proud Cathedral parent!)