

April, 2008

Dear Prospective Family,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to articulate our family's appreciation for the experience our children are currently immersed in at St. Brigid School. My husband and I are both graduates of St. Brigid. In fact we were in class together first through eighth grade and continued to have the distinct opportunity to attend a Catholic high school and university together. We now are proud to have our daughter Julia (fourth grade) and son Grant (first grade) at St. Brigid. Though only 2 ½, our third son, Logan, often inquires when he can go to Julia and Grant's school. Though it will personally be hard for me when my "baby" goes to school, I am thrilled that he will have such a wonderful learning environment to spend his elementary years and know how lucky we are to have a school rich in academic and religious immersion for our children.

Please allow me to share a few stories with you that I hope will illuminate our passion for this school and the Catholic experience our students have the opportunity to participate in each year. We are very lucky to have children who enjoy participating in a variety of activities. Academic achievement is a number one priority in our home and our students have received rich engagement with academic content that is differentiated and engaging. Our fourth grader this year has given a five minute presentation on Condeleezza Rice, created a book box to visually illustrate her comprehension of a chapter book, written her own book of poetry, and studied a saint of her choice that culminated in a final report and costume presentation. Our first grader has blossomed in his ability to read with a confidence level we never expected at this point in his young academic career.

In addition to classroom experiences, our children have had the privilege to participate in after school enrichment programs in Art and Spanish, choir, basketball, volleyball, and even an after school running club. Our daughter has had a part in our parish community performances for the past two years. Additionally my children and our family are part of multiple service projects that the school coordinates.

Though we were always confident that St. Brigid was "our school," this choice was 100% solidified for me on the final day of our daughter's kindergarten year. On this day the physical education teacher coordinates "Wacky Water Days" in which the games are lead by our graduating eighth graders and the students participate in their communities which are a yearlong group of students across grade levels. On this day the communities are led by the seventh graders as they prepare to become leaders for the school in their eighth grade year. I volunteered to help on this day and was overwhelmed by the leadership that emulated from the eighth graders and the caring provided by the seventh graders. Most importantly before anything began, every student gathered together on the parking lot, bowed their heads and prayed. We gave thanks for the beautiful day, for all those who had worked so hard to prepare it, and for those who were in need of our thoughts and love. I looked across that blacktop parking lot, at the faith-based community that literally

surrounded my child, and knew in every fiber of my heart that I had made the right choice for my children.

I hope you will consider making St. Brigid Elementary your child's educational home. Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jackie M. Arnold, Ph.D.
Department of Teacher Education
University of Dayton &
Proud Parent of Two St. Brigid School Children ☺
(937) 229-1788