

April, 2009

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

April, 2009

Dear Prospective Family,

Hello! My name is Kari Higgins and my husband, Mike, and I are the proud parents of a kindergartener at St. Brigid School. I hope you'll take a few minutes to read our story about how we decided to make an investment in our son, Logan's, future and why we're glad we did.

I was raised in the Catholic faith and attended St. Albert the Great and Archbishop Alter High School. Both schools were excellent in preparing me for "life in the real world" as well as shaping my faith. My husband is not Catholic and he attended schools in the Xenia Community Schools system. Mike has a daughter from a previous marriage who attends a public junior high school in Xenia. From the time Logan was born, Mike and I vacillated among whether to enroll him in the public school system, St. Brigid, or another local private school. In fact, we had him signed up at all three! In the end, we decided that making an educational investment by partnering with St. Brigid School would be the best thing for Logan.

Since joining St. Brigid School, Logan is excelling, both intellectually and developmentally. It has been a blessing having the St. Brigid School family join with me in teaching Logan about his faith and his Church. He has a small class and is friends with all of his classmates. A friend of mine with a child in public schools commented to me this past winter that Logan seems to have really "matured" since attending St. Brigid.

Logan's kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Cassidy, has been extremely helpful. She is accessible to me by phone, email and conference and I truly feel I've been able to work with her to help Logan achieve his educational and developmental needs both at home and at school. I work full time but have been able to come to Logan's class for a half hour each week and spend time with the kindergarteners. This has been a blessing in my life...I not only get to see firsthand what a great education Logan is receiving but I get to go back to kindergarten for a little bit! Speaking of me working full time, St. Brigid has a wonderful after school program that Logan attends for a nominal fee. That way, he can have structured play with familiar caregivers and fellow students until Mike or I pick him up. He doesn't have to go to an off-site daycare or private sitter.

Logan and all of the students from K-8 are involved in something called "Communities". Each community is comprised of kindergarten through eighth graders working together on various projects...many involving service to others. The eighth graders are "leaders" in the group and not only does it teach the children to apply what they're learning in the classroom; it also teaches them to think critically.

In short, Mike and I are very happy with our decision and we are committed to sending Logan to St. Brigid for the duration of his elementary education. I know that finances are

hard for everyone right now but this kind of an investment for your child will come back with great returns!

I wish you the best of luck in your selection for your child's education.

Sincerely,

Kari Higgins