

My family has been lucky enough to have been involved with Charlottesville Day School from the beginning. When my daughter was going into first grade we had a rude awakening to our limited options to her immediate schooling needs. Rumor had it a new school was opening. Feeling nervous, wondering if taking a chance on a new school would be too risky, I still went in for an interview with the founder of the school. From the minute I walked in to the school that had not even opened its doors, I could feel the passion, warmth and inspiration. That along with the educators that had been chosen to help this school off the ground was phenomenal. I had no doubt about where my children would have the chance to thrive.

My husband and I's instincts were right. I drop my children off to a warm secure second family everyday school is in session. Not only are my children thriving in so many areas they would have never had a chance to in any other school. They have become part of a community that ensures respect for others as well as for themselves.

I have always believed that our children should have a chance to find themselves with the help of options and gentle guidance. This has been very true at CDS. My fourth grader has learned so much through involvement, not just with her head in a text book. When she is in school she is enjoying herself so much so doesn't feel learning is a chore but that it is a privilege.

I also am thrilled about the way CDS lets my children interact during the day when and if needed. There are times on the playground, book buddies and just simply in the hall that the older children get a chance to be loving role models for the younger children, again just adding to the feeling of community and family.

These are only a few examples of why my passion for CDS runs so deep. The trust I feel for the founders and the educators at Charlottesville Day School have not only enriched my children's lives but in has spread into my husbands and I's and even on to the children's grandparents.

Thank you CDS!!!

Candace Grierson

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