

To the Moms and Dads who are choosing a school right now,

First, I want to tell you that it matters what school you choose. Your children will spend more time at school than they will anywhere else over the next decade or so. Who they become will partially be determined by the experiences they have there so it matters a lot where you send them. It mattered a lot to me. It mattered so much to me that I was willing to drive a long way and pay a lot of money to send them to my first choice. I don't know where you will end up but I would love to share just a few reasons I chose Christ's Church Academy for my children.

An Appetite for the Word & Presence of God

1. I looked at the teachers and administrators...but not in the typical way. Most schools have great teachers. There aren't too many people who go into that profession and don't care a great deal about kids. I don't want my kids to just have great memories of their teachers though. What I looked for is where are the teachers leading my kids for answers? Who are they looking to for answers? Here's what I know about CCA. These teachers trust God's word and they pray. They pray for our kids but they also pray for themselves. I want my children to have an appetite for God's word and for His presence. The people pouring into my kids are pointing them to Jesus and Jesus will be there for them long after they leave CCA.

An Aptitude for Learning

2. I investigated whether the people there were more passionate about teaching or learning. This makes a Big difference. I had no idea about the coronavirus when I was choosing a school but I did know this. Most of what our kids are learning in school today will be obsolete when they graduate. It is less important to me the specific content or grades my kids get now than the aptitude they gain for learning. I want them to know how to learn and adapt. They can only learn this from people who are willing to do that themselves and have a context for doing it. If the teachers and staff at the schools you are considering aren't passionate about learning themselves, walk away and fast. The coronavirus is just one small test of this and I have never been more confident in my choice. The teachers at CCA stepped up and are passionately and patiently riding the virtual school bike as they build it. They are quite literally modeling the way for our students to learn how to learn.

An Attitude of Grace

3. I talked to the upperclassmen. Begin with the end in mind, right? Here's the thing. A lot of people ask what colleges students end up at and about SAT scores and the like. CCA looks good here but no offense, that's not my top priority. I wanted to see who these kids were becoming...and it was easy to tell. I taught high school and college and I have seen and known a lot of young people. Many of these middle and high school students stood out to me the first time I met them. They look you in the eye. They offer to help. They create clubs to serve God by serving others. A lot of them come to school early for Z Period to praise God together. I want my children to have an attitude of grace and humility and I want them to be passionate about serving the Lord. I felt that from the teens I knew my kids would look up to if I enrolled them at CCA and that was important to me.

The Unknown X-Factor

So I knew my end in mind was that my kids would develop an appetite for God's word and presence, an aptitude for learning and an attitude of grace. What I didn't factor in was the trump card and believe me, there is always a trump card. Whether you are looking at houses, cars, schools or whatever, there is that thing that you didn't expect to matter but it does...a lot. For me, the trump card was this. When it came down to the final few schools, one thing kept bringing me back to CCA. The other schools that were checking the boxes for me felt like Christian prep schools. They were good schools and the kids seemed nice but I kept coming back to this feeling that I wanted to send each of my children someplace where he would grow to be more of himself rather than more like everyone else. That was my trump card and in the end that is what made me feel 100% confident in choosing CCA for my kids.

My Hope for You

I don't know what you are looking for in a school but I would encourage you to begin with the end in mind. Who do you want your kids to grow up to be? I am confident that I have put my children in the best environment I can to become the people I am praying they will become. I hope you find the school that checks all your boxes, even the trump card, especially the trump card. It matters.

Blessings,

Kelly Horne