

April 18, 2021

Dear Ms. Anderson,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I write about Saints Philip and James School. We have two daughters who, in addition to having received an exceptional education at SSPJ, continue to be proud that SSPJ was their second home. Currently, we have a young son enrolled at SSPJ, and we are confident that he too will receive the same excellent education. SSPJ provides a challenging, rewarding and most importantly, faith instilled education in a safe and comforting environment. Students are encouraged and fully assisted, by the extremely caring, dedicated and devoted teachers, to not only reach their highest academic potential, but also their spiritual one. They are shown by example what it means to truly be Apostles of Hope and followers of Jesus.

I am pleased as a parent to see the same academic and spiritual blossoming in my son, a second grader at SSPJ. During this Covid-19 pandemic, I was very thankful that Ms. Anderson, Principal at SSPJ, went above and beyond to ensure that all her students never missed one beat in their education while learning remotely online. Technologically, SSPJ was prepared to offer the same quality of education virtually. Although the teachers had to quickly adapt to this virtual teaching, they did an exceptional and commendable job! My son was not only taught to read online, but at a higher level than I had ever anticipated. The same was true in Mathematics. Even though he had only experienced a year and a half of in person teaching at SSPJ, he already had acquired the skills he needed to prosper online. It warmed my heart to see him learn remotely with the same enthusiasm on his face. He was taught so well virtually, that I was willing to continue his SSPJ remote learning for the next school year, despite the fact that Ms. Anderson made sure all the required safety guidelines for return to in person learning were fully met. We are grateful that SSPJ gave us the option, given my high risk for severe Covid, to keep our son home during this uncertain time.

Students who graduate SSPJ are at an extreme advantage because they are so successfully prepared for their futures. They not only acquire the essential educational knowledge, but also vital moral values. They achieve a strong faith in God, and also an important and priceless faith in themselves. SSPJ graduates know that all their hard work and determination has paved an easy road to a prosperous and bright future. I can honestly attest to this because I have witnessed this personally, not only in my two daughters, but also their classmates.

I will never forget the pride I felt for SSPJ students on the day when my oldest daughter and her classmates were about to take the Catholic High School Entrance Exam. As a parent, I recall how grateful I was that day that I had entrusted my children's education to SSPJ. The SSPJ students all came well dressed, standing proud with enthusiastic smiles on their faces. Each and every one of them gave me a warm respectful greeting. I wished them all well on the exam while confidently knowing no wishes were needed. I knew they would all easily "ace" the exam, and they all did!!! I went home that night and wrote a letter to the principal stating what I had witnessed, commended her and expressed my gratitude. I felt the same pride two years later when my youngest daughter and her classmates were also eagerly offered acceptance to the high schools of their choice ( including Chaminade, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, St Anthony's, etc.). High schools know the huge benefit SSPJ students will bring to their communities and reputation. These students continue to excel and be Apostles of Hope, enrolling in prestigious top rated universities choosing rewarding careers.

I wholeheartedly and with absolutely no hesitation recommend SSPJ to any parent that desires to give their child a most valuable key to a beautiful future. The tuition of SSPJ is definitely worth every penny, and what each child receives in return is priceless!

May God Bless SSPJ with many more successful years!

Maria Likourezos