

Greetings,

If you are reading this, then you must be looking at options for your child as they prepare to enter 7th grade. These options were not available to most of us at this age. It is not unusual to assume that the middle school closest to your neighborhood would best serve your student. We were looking at this same situation with our son, when presented the wonderful opportunities at McMillan.

Our nephew, who would have gone to the same middle school as our son, was attending McMillan as a magnet student. He constantly talked about the great experiences he was having there. He is a good student and a good kid, so his comments made us want to take a closer look. With some uncertainty as to what we would find, we attended the openhouse they hold in March. Any doubts we had were soon erased.

It all starts with the principal, Dr. Bigsby. His passion and excitement are contagious. He spoke of wanting each student to not only to succeed, but to excel. The expectation is for each student to reach their full potential, and nothing less. It is a speech you need to hear for yourself. Then we toured the facilities, and met the staff. Current students were on hand, and as we talked to them it was easy to see this is a middle school of the highest quality. It was an easy decision for us all to make that our son's future was very bright if his future included McMillan.

The second person you need to be acquainted with is Jill Best. She is the Magnet Coordinator, and plays a huge roll in helping your student get acclimated. Last year Ms. Best started a jump start program in June for the incoming magnet students to get to know each other and their surroundings. I am sure she would be more than happy to explain it all to you. Our son was very fortunate to be able to participate in the first year of this program, as it made a big impact in getting ready for the upcoming school year.

At the time of this writing we are almost half way into the school year, and could not be happier with the results. Our son comes home with such enthusiasm for what he is learning that his 1st grade sister can't wait until she is old enough to go to McMillan. He "loves the teachers", he "loves the classes" and he "loves the food"! The staff is first class and is not only committed to Dr Bigby's vision of excellence, but they deliver it.

We have been happy with the bus service; it picks up and drops off our son up just a few doors from our house. We have also been pleasantly surprised with regard to student behavior. The students that are there are serious about wanting to learn. In one of our son's class the average grade is 97%. They go above and beyond what is expected to provide a comfortable and safe environment for someone to reach their potential as a student and as a person.

You probably have some reservations of your own; this is a big transition for your child. It would be hard for me to believe that anyone anywhere would be better equipped to handle this transition than the staff at McMillan. It is also hard to believe they could get a better education anyplace else. Come see for yourself what all of the buzz is about. Meet the staff, see the facilities and talk to the students. If you do this, I am confident you will want to consider McMillan for your child.

The Craigs