

December 2008

Dear Prospective McMillan Families,

Soon it will be time to make a decision for your 6<sup>th</sup> grader regarding middle school. Many of you plan on utilizing the neighborhood middle school, as did we. When asked, we just assumed our son would attend the “home” school-there didn’t seem to be much choice. We all had loved the atmosphere at Adams Elementary and figured that no middle school would have a nurturing environment like Adams. We worried about the transition to middle school. Any magnet choice would be out of our neighborhood and would require a bus ride. Why bother?

One day, our son came home from Adams all excited about the McMillan Middle School presentation. He talked about the students’ enthusiasm, the after-school activities, and the emphasis on math, science, and computers. We perked up and listened. Science had always been a favorite subject for him. Why not check out McMillan?

Open house night arrived and we were impressed with the school building itself. We knew, however, that the most important thing is what goes on inside that building. What would the students and staff be like? Boy, were we impressed! The helpful enthusiasm of the student ambassadors was contagious. The teachers and administrators we spoke with were caring and straightforward in addressing our concerns. The entire building was buzzing with energy and excitement. We try not to be “jump on the bandwagon” types. We try to weigh all the pros and cons before making decisions. But, sometimes, you just have a gut feeling that you can’t ignore. You just “feel” that something is right. That was how we all felt after leaving open house that night. We were confident that McMillan was the right place for our son.

Now, the first semester is almost over for our 7<sup>th</sup> grader. He is involved, happy, and interested in his classes. He has gained new confidence in subjects that were not his favorites before. He has new friends and enjoys riding the bus. As parents, we appreciate that he is getting a well-rounded education, from current events and literature to algebra and electronics. Frequently, out of the blue, he will mention how much he likes McMillan and how glad he is that he attends middle school there.

Over the course of the semester, we have come to know Dr. Bigsby, Ms. Best, and our son’s teachers. They are caring and concerned, yet still expect the best from all of the students. They provide a nurturing atmosphere that we did not expect in a middle school. We could not be more pleased. We both believe that McMillan was a great choice for our son and we hope you will consider it for your student.

Sincerely,

Mary and Dennis Picken