

December 18, 2008

Dear Prospective McMillan Students and Parents:

We are so happy that you are reading this letter! It means that you are considering sending your son or daughter to McMillan Magnet Center. Our daughter is currently a McMillan 7<sup>th</sup> grader and our son, now a sophomore, also attended McMillan. We know, without a doubt, that sending our children to McMillan was the right and best choice for them and for our family. Both attended Harrison Elementary, a small and tight-knit school community. In making the decision to attend McMillan, they left their friends behind to strike out on their own, so to speak. Almost all of their friends chose to go to their home school. This is a very scary and courageous thing to do for kids this age. We can tell you that our daughter has never been happier and well-adjusted. Our son was the same. They both have thrived at McMillan and had opportunities and experiences that they would not have been offered otherwise. They have spread their wings and not only learned to fly, but are soaring! We can't say enough good things about McMillan!

Our son attended McMillan a few years ago and is now a sophomore at Roncalli Catholic High School enrolled in all honors classes. We chose Roncalli because of the small size of the school. Our family is definitely not financially wealthy and we typically couldn't afford tuition at a private school. However, because of his education and the academic challenges that were offered him at McMillan, he was one of Roncalli's top scorers on the entrance exam and was offered almost a full-ride scholarship to attend the school. He has received awards for high scores on the ACT test taken when he was a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at McMillan. We are very proud of his accomplishments, but a lot of the credit goes to McMillan for the top-notch education he received. McMillan also offered wonderful social opportunities for our son, which is a big concern for children at this age. Even though he chose to attend Roncalli and his friends chose other schools, his main circle of friends are those he met at McMillan. This group of kids has remained close and sees each other socially often. My bet is that they will be friends for life.

Our daughter is currently a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at McMillan and is experiencing all the same opportunities. She is doing extremely well academically and enjoys the activities offered. She especially loves the Intro to Architecture class as part of "Project Lead the Way" and being part of the McMillan Ambassador program. She would not have had these opportunities at any other middle school. Her transition from elementary school to middle school has been truly amazing and we have seen such growth in our daughter. She has always had a good sense of who she is, but McMillan is helping her grow even more into a confident, independent young lady. As with our son, we are proud of her, but credit must also go to McMillan. We believe that neither of our children would not be who or where they are in life without having attended McMillan.

The teachers and staff at McMillan are some of the best in OPS. You won't find better. They love McMillan and they love the kids and it shows in their interactions with students and parents. Dr. Bigsby is the best middle school principal we've met and his dedication to the school, the students and his staff is unmatched by anyone! This filters down to his teachers and staff. Jill Best really is the best! She goes out of her way to make you feel welcome and a part of McMillan. She is so sincere. We've never met anyone like her. Everyone at McMillan helps the kids reach for and achieve big dreams. They do bring out the best in the kids! We've toured every middle school in the district and not found another school that matches the school spirit at McMillan. The students are very proud of their school! That says a great deal about McMillan.

Please know that we completely understand how you must be feeling and what you are going through. Choosing a middle school is a big decision for you and your child. It not only affects your child, but your entire family. Regardless of the school you choose, it is somewhat like taking a leap of faith. Your child is going from a controlled elementary school environment to a larger, more uncertain middle school environment. McMillan maybe seems like a huge leap of faith, but it is a wonderful place. If you choose McMillan, you, your child and your family will never be sorry or regret your decision.

Sincerely,  
Raylyn and Mike Ramsgard