

January 27, 2011

Mr. Derek Swales, Principal  
Santa Clarita Christian School  
27249 Luther Drive  
Santa Clarita Christian School

Dear Mr. Swales,

The following letter elaborates why my husband and I believe that Santa Clarita Christian School is the best possible fit for our daughter. Please forgive us for putting our explanation in letter format (the application specified "brief"); however, we honestly felt that the small area provided wouldn't be enough to convey our true feelings to you.

When my daughter arrived almost 5 ½ years ago, we were awed at the precious gift and great responsibility that we'd been given. We made a promise to God that we would take our new role as parents seriously, and raise our beloved daughter to have faith and joy in knowing that she, too, is His child and would be raised learning, knowing and understanding His absolute love for us. So began our quest to find what we felt would be the best possible education for our daughter, a journey that has taken us over 3 years to complete, through dozens of types of education styles and facilities, and more phone calls, interviews and open houses than we can remember.

Public schools in Santa Clarita are quite good; better than most, in fact. Unfortunately, they are still vulnerable to pressures from the state of CA. not the least of which are budget cuts. The demands put on teachers are criminal; they are overworked, and even now are being asked to provide many of their own materials. Class sizes keep getting larger. Enjoyable, extracurricular activities like music, art, drama and physical education are being cut, to the children's detriment. And perhaps most importantly, there is no moral or religious reinforcement in our public schools.

So private schooling seemed like a better alternative for us, but this option raised a whole new set of questions and concerns. Was the school accredited? If so, by whom? We're not sending our child to school simply for bragging rights, and we don't believe that just because a school costs a lot of money means that our child is receiving the best possible education.

My husband and I want a learning environment:

- Where our daughter can grow strong in our Christian faith. Where she can feel comfortable asking questions, and learn how to apply God's word to her daily life rather than simply memorizing Bible passages. To learn what God's plan is for her, and have the courage to follow the plan.
- Where our daughter can be around other like-minded children and their families. Where people are embraced and celebrated for their differences, not ridiculed because of them.
- Where our daughter feels like a member of a family. Where she is given responsibilities and accountability, yet rewarded with acknowledgement, respect and love for a job well done. Not singled out or doted upon, but not lost among the masses, either.
- Where teachers are there because they love what they are doing, and they believe that this is God's plan for them – not just a temporary job until they are able to find something better, or simply because it's the only thing they know how to do.
- Where our child receives not only spiritual guidance, but moral and character development as well. We want our daughter to not merely appreciate how truly blessed she is in so many ways, but also how to accept her own shortcomings, as well as other's. How to appreciate God's work in the smallest and simplest of things, and how to recognize miracles happening everywhere around us. How to be empathetic, kind, polite, and generous, and how to love God and Jesus with all of her heart. How to

give and accept love freely, and how to be realistic without being cynical or fearful. Where our daughter can learn what it takes to be a good person, a good friend, and a good Christian. Where she can learn to become a positive influence on others, a good role model, and a good productive member of her community. We want our child to experience true, pure joy, and learn how to determine what priorities really matter most in life, and how to dismiss the rest as irrelevant.

- Where our daughter will be given opportunities for growth and advancement where she is strong, and where she'll be given the patience and encouragement in areas where she is falling short. Where there are opportunities for extracurricular activities, such as sports, music and art.
- Where parental involvement is welcomed and appreciated, because we want to take an active, visible role in every aspect of our daughter's education.
- Where our child can be excited about learning. Where she can have a passion for knowledge, and come to see school not as a necessity or a requirement; rather, as a privilege, a blessing and a reward.
- Where our daughter can receive a superior education at a highly accredited institution that actually follows through with its promise of a child's readiness for college.

Our search, Mr. Swales, has ended with Santa Clarita Christian School.

We sincerely hope that you'll consider our daughter for Kindergarten enrollment for the 2011-2012 year.

Thank you for your kind consideration and for letting us express our (not brief!) passion for our daughter's education.

Sincerely,

From a prospective family