
EMID Schools

1 message

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To all EMID Board members:

My husband and I live in Woodbury. We are very concerned at the possibility of Crosswinds closing after this school year, and strongly encourage you to seek other alternatives to keep EMID schools open long term.

Our son attended Harambee and is now starting his 7th grade year at Crosswinds. We are a multiracial family, as my husband and I are white, and we adopted our African American son, having cared for him (a foster child/ward of the state of Illinois) since he was 2 days old. We chose EMID schools because children are taught from a multi-cultural perspective, and a respect for all cultures is incorporated into the entire curriculum. Teachers and staff are constantly being trained on how to incorporate diversity into all subject areas. Teachers are also trained how to address any conflicts in the classroom relating to racism, prejudice, discrimination. EMID schools have provided our son with same race role models, and wonderful friends of all races. He is learning life lessons that we, as white parents, could never teach him. My son said that he has not experienced prejudice or racism at his schools, while we know of several minority children attending other schools in Woodbury who have experienced very hurtful and damaging prejudice. *EMID schools have sheltered/protected him from racism at a critical time in his development, when racism could damage his identity and self esteem for the rest of his life.*

EMID was formed with a goal of integrating urban and suburban students, as the students, teachers and families all learn from each other... about the values held by different cultures and communities. When we understand what is important to other cultures and communities, we know how to better communicate, work together for common goals, and how to support each other. These are profoundly important skills to have in today's globalization, and in daily cooperation with people of all cultures in our local communities and workplaces.

We strongly believe that these goals of integration are just as important as reducing the achievement gap. Many EMID students of color are making greater gains in test scores than students of color attending some urban schools.

Sincerely,

Joanne & Timothy Wunsch
