

8 September 2011

Hello,

I am a Perpich Center Alumni and the mother of a Crosswinds 6th grader. First I would like to say that these schools are a life changing experience that I would only wish more people could open their eyes and hearts to and see how amazing they are for children who don't necessarily follow the norm in a normal school. All children should be given the opportunity to succeed and thrive in school and for my child the norm was not cutting it.

My child has ASD and needed support that he was not receiving in the St. Paul public schools because they just did not have the time. I as a pro active mother decided I was no longer going to tolerate this injustice of just passing him to the next grade level even though he was behind.

Long story short I got him into Harambee last year and amazing things happened his MAPS test went up 20 points in Math when the average growth is 7 and in Reading he went up 12 points when the average growth is 8. He is now up to grade level THIS IS DUE to the amazing work and dedication that these teachers have in the EMID schools for all these children be they of any background. The teachers of these schools they actually want these children to succeed and will do what it takes and my son is proof of that!

If these schools were shut down it would be detrimental to the success of hundreds of children and their future and the families as well as you and I. The world needs more schools like these if there were maybe the drop out rate would not be so high. There is nothing less educating about these schools if anything they are opening the eyes to these kids that there is more out there to learn be it art or science or people of different backgrounds.

I myself can assure you that if the Arts High School would assume these two fantastic schools that you will not be disappointed yes they may be more geared to the arts but there are so many forms of art that they offer do not be afraid no child must be perfect for these forms of art that they offer. That is why the schools are there for learning and the teachers love to teach I know that myself.

Sincerely Willow