

Birchwood School Parent Testimonials

The well-thought out curriculum at Birchwood School offers students a tremendous amount of opportunity to excel on the local and national level — exposing each student to the rigor of competition within a highly supportive atmosphere. I can honestly attest that these opportunities built a foundation of self confidence and ambition in our son that I imagine have only begun to manifest. At the same time, taking advantage of all that Birchwood School has to offer requires a level of commitment that not every family may be prepared to make. For our family — it was highly worth the effort.

Jennifer Stoffel, Marketing and Audience Development Director, Saint Louis Art Museum

The thing that comes to mind with all three of our kids is that they learned how to set goals, and go after them until they got the best. Who they are today stems a lot from their goal setting.

Rob Burkholder, Retired from Sysco in Cleveland

Due to our moving to Cleveland from overseas when our son was 13, he was only able to attend Birchwood for one year. Still at Birchwood, he was exposed to an excellent curriculum including how to do research. This made his adjustment to high school much smoother.

George and Anna Davison, Cleveland residents

For more information about Birchwood School and its programs please contact:

Donna Parrino, Director of Admissions at 216 . 251 . 2321 or visit our website at www.birchwoodschool.org

Birchwood School gave our daughters the equipping and confidence to pursue their educational aspirations. One was able to finish a combined high school/college program at Mary Baldwin and then, at an early age, pursue an MD/PhD at CWRU. The other went on to Hathaway Brown, Princeton and then at Harvard Law. We appreciate their formative years at Birchwood.

Titus and Sharon Chu, Cleveland residents

Birchwood School provided our son with a high quality education. The school stresses diligent work, challenges students to give all that they can to learning, and offers patient guidance and encouragement in a discipline yet nurturing environment. The approach the school takes to learning allows students to succeed and attracts families who value excellence in education. The student body is diverse in terms of race, ethnicity and economic background, which serves to enhance the learning environment as well. The school helps parents guide young learners toward confidence in their abilities, a commitment to colleagues and community, and a love of learning.

Wendy Kellogg, Ph.D., Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University

BW offered our children a complete academic package. It helped George accelerate in his strong area, math but at same time kept a very good balance and helped him advance in other subject. Students participate in a variety of local, regional, and national competitions: National History Day, Power of the Pen, Future Problem Solving to name a few, which gives them a unique experience and prepares them for high school.

Dr. Fadi Bashour OB/GYN, MetroHealth Medical Center

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“ Birchwood’s strong foundation will be with my children always and has set them on a path to be successful no matter where their future takes them. ”

Birchwood School provided a wonderful, stimulating educational environment for two of our children. The excellent teaching, challenging curriculum, and independent research projects such as History Day all contributed to the foundation which has allowed our children to succeed in high school, college, and their professional lives.

We feel greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Debelak and Birchwood’s superb faculty for instilling a strong love of learning in our children and always pushing them to develop their potentials to the fullest extent. We are confident that sending our children to Birchwood was one of the best educational investments we could have made as parents.

Chen Lung Hsieh, Researcher at Case Western Reserve University (Retired) Litao Hsieh, Licensed Independent Social Worker (Retired from Benjamin Rose Institute) (Children: Hawken, CWRU, Yale)

My two sons both attended Birchwood School, and based on their experiences, I would heartily recommend Birchwood to anyone who is seeking a high-quality education for their children. With its small classes and its emphasis on hardwork and good citizenship, Birchwood did an excellent job of preparing my sons not just for high school, but for their lives as adults. The students receive personal attention, and they learn that to succeed, one must work hard. I could not have chosen a better school for my sons.

Jim Henke, Vice President of Exhibitions and Curatorial Affairs, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

Birchwood is a unique combination of a rigorous disciplined curriculum with strong academic 'push' delivered in a warm nurturing environment. The teachers at Birchwood have high expectations for our kids, but know that there will be slips along the way. They teach students how to aim high, and pick themselves up and get back on track when they fall short. One of life's most valuable lessons is how to learn from failure, and to keep going through adversity. The emphasis on contests at Birchwood has provided my children with terrific opportunities to understand the connection between hard work and reward--to learn how to cope with failure and to come back strong the next time round. I love Birchwood's emphasis on basic foundation skills, including the wonderfully rich reading curriculum that includes so many children's classics, and the insistence on complete mastery of basic math skills. This strong foundation will be with my children always and has set them on a path to be successful no matter where their future takes them.

Marie Kittredge, Executive Director, Slavic Village Development



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Birchwood School was a unique environment where both our children learned the value of education and character. After being in a number of schools, our children found home away from home. The teachers set high academic standards and provide the nurturing environment to achieve it. Birchwood is a place where excellence is the norm and each child is not only encouraged to achieve it but succeed in their efforts. The teachers are our true partners because they do not consider the children as “students” but as their own wards and help us raise wonderful civic-minded, outstanding citizens of society. A follow up of the Birchwood Alumni will clearly demonstrate and underscore our opinion about this school. If there is one thing we miss at Birchwood, it is the lack of a high school!

Srinivasan Dasarathy MD
Gastroenterology/Hepatology/Cleveland Clinic, Asst.
Prof. School of Medicine CWRU
Jaividhya Dasarathy MD MetroHealth
Medical Center, Clinical Instructor - CWRU

Birchwood has been a complement to our home life. As parents, our primary task is to recognize and develop our children's unique gifts. Birchwood helps us do that because: We as parents share common values with Birchwood: integrity and personal responsibility, consideration of others...the selling point for us was the notion of character development in an academic environment. For the child well suited to a traditional academic environment, Birchwood is tops in Cleveland.

Ohio City Residents

Birchwood School offers a warm and close-knit community which allows our daughters to learn in an environment which encourages diligence and academic rigor. The curriculum is individually tailored to each child, allowing our daughters' creativity to flourish and intelligence to shine. We feel fortunate to be able to provide our children with a first-class education in the city of Cleveland.

Mike Kovach, Cleveland detective, and Tina Kovach

Birchwood has provided for my daughter and for other students a unique and excellent education. The academic program challenges students to build good work habits, good character and foster an achievement ethic. The results are students who succeed in high school with a firm educational foundation for the rest of their lives. The strength of the program can be seen in the many academic contests that are won by Birchwood students.

Ray Pianka, Judge - Cleveland Municipal Court,
Housing Division

The teachers are our true partners because they do not consider the children as “students” but as their own wards and help us raise wonderful civic-minded, outstanding citizens of society.



Birchwood School has been a wonderful experience for our three children. The school's focus is to teach students to learn and achieve through organization, goal setting, character role modeling and a strong work ethic. I feel very fortunate that my children were able to attend this school from 1st through 8th grade. Through these years they learned many of the components that will make them successful in life. My only wish is that their future education will be as nurturing and supportive. As students that have attended Birchwood School we would like to emphasize our father's sentiments by also adding, Birchwood has had a great effect on our growth from the students we were to who we are now. All of us look back on Birchwood memories with nostalgia. We don't know how to compare any school to our experience at Birchwood. Its education and educators have truly changed our lives.

Kelsey Rose, Anastasia Rose, Nikolas Rose
Peter G. Rose, M.D. Tenured Professor Reproductive
Biology, Oncology and Surgery -CWRU School
of Medicine Director of Gynecologic Oncology,
The Cleveland Clinic

My wife and I would like to testify that Birchwood School gave our daughter such a wonderful opportunity in life. Because of the Birchwood staff's high level of commitment to teaching as well as their insight and experience in regard to the potential and development of the students, our daughter developed the love of learning, a creative and exploratory mind, and, maybe most importantly, the ethic of hard work and independent learning. This was the solid foundation she needed for her eventual pursuit of academics at Hathaway Brown High School and, later at the University of Pennsylvania. All of this prepared her for her later achievements in life which included a Fulbright Scholarship, a masters degree from the University of Cambridge,

“The curriculum is individually tailored to each child, allowing our daughters' creativity to flourish and intelligence to shine.”

and a research fellowship at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She is now intending to go to medical school. We would have to say that all of this would not have been possible without her building block experience at Birchwood School. We give great thanks to Birchwood School.

L. & J.B.

Birchwood School incorporates all kinds of off-campus competitions to their academic program. Both of my sons got much benefit from those. They learned to make a plan, to achieve goals step by step. They learned to work with partners, to consult adults, to interview related outside personnel. They learned how to do research from community resources, to present their work via written and multimedia. They learned how to talk to adult judges and give oral presentations in front of groups with different ages and sizes. My sons also had unforgettable memories of going to ball games with the principal and fellow classmates. To me there are two things I will never forget: first I happened to see teachers praying for students after school in an empty classroom. Second, a teacher came to me when I picked up my son after school and praised my son for his courage of admitting his wrong doing. I felt not only the teacher's love for students, but her value was beyond right and wrong.

C.C. - Cleveland (two sons at University School and Princeton University)

