

Hi,

My name is Winona Hiserote. I am a parent with two children at Alliance Charter Academy in Oregon City. I have attached a letter for you regarding our experience with the school. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,  
Winona

I could not ask for a better school for me and my children. I have come to realize that in the vastness of ways to the minutest of ways, that we are all so different and unique in our own special sort of way. When one thinks of school it is usually about the children, what school do they go to, what grade are they in, who is their teacher and so forth. When I think of school I think of children but I also think of our teachers, our ESs, administration and parents who all come together to make school work.

The uniqueness of ACA is the very essence of why this school works and works well. My children are 6 and 8, first and third grade, respectively. From the time they were born until today and for the rest of their lives they will be different. They couldn't be more opposite of each other, their personalities, the classes they enjoy, the music instruments they play and so on.

ACA allows each of them to learn in their own way. While still focusing on the core curriculum my children can also take classes that foster their strengths, loves and interests. To successfully navigate school and life it is of utmost importance that our children not only succeed in the didactic portion of education but to succeed in finding who they are. With all of the elective classes that are offered in addition to the wealth of core classes my children, everyday, eagerly tell me they love school and they can't wait to go back to school after a break.

What has been so valuable to me is the ability for each of my children to take elective courses that interest them, having teachers who love what they do and want to see the children succeed in school, a school that respects and encourages parents to take an active role in their own children's education and our ES. We honestly couldn't do any of this without Kathleen. Kathleen is amazing! She loves what she does and I feel very fortunate to have her guiding us through each grade. She constantly keeps me up to date with requirements, from classes, to curriculum, to samples to the Smarter Balanced test. I am really very fortunate to have an engaging ES, she is invaluable, truly. One instance I wanted to share, specifically, which I love, is my younger child, Ellie, who is in the first grade was in her ES meeting. A tenth grader who has her ES meeting after Ellie, came in early. Ellie asked the tenth grader, "Would you like to play 'Shut the Box'?" (a mental math boardgame) And they did. I loved it! The uniqueness of ACA allowed my first grader to interact with a tenth grader in a wonderful, supportive and non-intimidating way.

I am really so thankful for ACA. I see my children thriving because ACA gives them the opportunity to learn in an encouraging and supportive environment while being themselves.

Best regards,  
Winona Hiserote