



WHY I SEND MY CHILDREN TO SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Going the Distance

Our children just began Sacred Heart School in the Fall of 2008. We hope to develop some great stories while attending, and I'm sure we'll have an entire colorful collection by the time the entire family is through.

My husband and I attended Catholic schools. We both experienced the age-old catholic school tradition; to develop, enrich, and value the entire person in a manner of dignity, respect, and standard. We wanted to give this lasting gift to each of our kids, too. Allowing our kids to attend Sacred Heart would also give them the precious ability to speak, learn, and live openly, the truth about this life on earth. I feel like the public school system is greatly limited by this omission. As a large, single-income family living in Prescott Valley, there was much to consider before making this commitment, though. A friend told me about the excellent prices they'd paid for their son's year at Sacred Heart School. And with the tuition help, it was possible. I decided it was worth it. There was another great hurdle, though. The distance.

We lived so far from the school, that we had to consider the bus. This was an intimidating thought, but who could pass up the block-away convenience of a bus stop? I worried about the wide age-span on the bus and the long ride, being that my children were in kindergarten and first grade. The world seems so large and ominous when you are sending your innocent children off to school for the first time. I decided that the bus was small, and that the experience would help develop maturity and perspective.

So off they went on the bus. Everyday they'd bound off the bus, happy as could be—even my sensitive one. A little bit into the school year, I bought my first grader some new “tie” shoes. She struggled with tying her shoes. One morning, she grabbed her laces with authority, and looped them right up. “Clare—how did you learn so well?” It turned out one of the Junior High girls on the bus had taught Clare how to tie her shoes in a much more efficient manner than I had. “She's really nice, Mom, and she's a really stylish girl, Mom. She sat next to me and helped me.” This little story is just a sparkle of the many experiences we've had as members of this gentle and kind community. We are proud to be a part of it. I'm glad I let go, and let my kids go the distance.

Cara M.