

## Our Renewed Faith in Education

Laura and I believe that the choice you make for your children's education is one of the most important decisions that you will ever make in your life. We agonized over what would be the best for our children – in fact, we explored just about every option possible. From our local public schools, to charter schools, to private schools, we researched and interviewed with most of them.

We surprised ourselves when we kept coming back to a small not-for-profit private school in our conversations. What attracted us to this relatively unknown school at the time? Well, we had interviewed with some of the more high profile private schools and decided that we wanted one that was more interested in the children than it's own outward appearance – after all, what makes a school is not the bricks and mortar that houses it; like we teach our children, it's what's inside that counts!

One aspect that especially caught our attention at Mountain View Academy was the way the kids were interacting with each other and their teachers. We were invited to visit the school and sit in the back of the morning assembly to observe for awhile. We soon found that they were like one big happy family. OK, just a façade for our sake, right? Wrong. We took it upon ourselves to peek into different classrooms to get the 'real' picture... and the atmosphere was the same. We were even invited to put our oldest son in for a short free trial period, in order to get his impression of the school – to get HIS impression of the school – now that really is being all about the children!

We enrolled our son and, a few years later, also enrolled our youngest son. Even though there was absolutely no bullying, no drugs and no fights, we constantly wondered, as parents often do, if we had made the right decision. What confirmed it for me was when I went to pick up the boys from school one day and, as we walked down the hallway together, several students in grades above my kids stopped to say "Hi" to them. Later, I asked how they knew those older children and they had various answers: "I sometimes play soccer with Chris at recess", "Robert's class sometimes comes to work with our class on projects" and, "Sarah is on student council". Wow! Not only is the faculty creating a safe, nurturing environment for our kids, they are also breeding a culture of community, teamwork and humanity, all helping to build our children's self-confidence!

I remember growing up in an education system with social hierarchies and age discrimination. It wasn't socially acceptable to talk to the kids in the grades below you, and you were scared of the kids in the grades above you. What a different environment it is at MVA! Our children are both thriving in their education and actually love going to school – they love it! How many kids do you know that truly love going to school?

We now have 100% conviction in our choice. Every time we go to the school, we are constantly reminded of the exact reasons that we chose this school in the first place.

Thank you, MVA, for giving our children the best platform possible for achieving anything that they desire in the future!

Sincerely,  
Nick Thompson