

CLS Open House February 13, 2011

Good afternoon, my name is Steve Logan and I am the proud parent of Elisabeth Logan who is a sophomore this year at CLS. This is also Elisabeth's 3rd year here. She came here directly from the fifth grade and entered CLS as a prep student in the fall of 2008.

Some of you may be in a similar situation with your children that we were in from a timing standpoint. However, our story may be a little different on how we arrived on enrollment at CLS. So let us give you a brief background on the Logan's. In my line of work we have moved a lot which was normally every 2 years or so between cities which made every choice that we made in our children's education very important. We located our new house in each city by researching the local school systems to seek out the best. Our children have been blessed with being "academically inclined" and have all done well in school. With the help of our "moves" our oldest daughter had the opportunity to graduate from high school in 3 years, which she did, and has now passed the Bar and is a practicing attorney at the age of 24. Our oldest son just graduated in 3.5 years from college and is preparing for grad school with the goal of being an orchestral percussionist. Our middle son, Will, is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee and Kevin, our 16 year old, is a junior at Ryle in Northern Kentucky.

As with all of our moves, when we made the move to Kentucky, the guiding light for us was the schools. We headed for what we thought were the best public schools in the area. Our 3 boys as well as our youngest daughter all attended public school here. Two of the three boys are musicians who live for either symphonic or marching band. Therefore, music in high school has been very important for them. They were fine with minimal homework because it meant more time for practice. However, our middle son, Will, is more like our daughter who is here at Latin School. We did not discover Latin School until Will was a junior, at which time it was really too late for him to make the change but in the end Will's experience and opinion really guided us with the choice to send Elisabeth to Latin school.

At the end of her 5th grade year we had an uneasy feeling about sending Elisabeth on to our local Middle School where 2 of our boys had already gone. She was at the top of her class in 5th grade and we were fearful that she would not be challenged enough and would disappear in the huge crowd in 6th grade. Lisa was proactively searching for a solution and spoke to some friends who already had children at CLS. Lisa took Elisabeth to her entrance test in June after 5th grade was over. Once we received the news that she had passed the entrance exam, the decision was before us.

As we mentioned earlier, Will and Elisabeth are very similar in their strengths. Because they are so much alike, my wife Lisa asked Will what he thought about the opportunity for Elisabeth to skip 1 or 2 grades and to attend Latin School. At that time he had just returned home from Kentucky Governor's school and was heading into his senior year of high school. After much consideration, he went to Lisa and said, "she should go now", meaning right from 5th grade. Lisa had been sold on the idea of sending Elisabeth to Latin School almost right away and now had the backing of our middle son in her corner. She met with Carl Goodmonson and was introduced to Christy Boehmker and Kathy Metzger in the office who all made her feel at ease with their sincerity and confidence about Latin School. However, I still had reservations and needed more information as I was really unnerved about sending our 11 year

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old daughter to high school. I was even more unsettled that she would graduate at 16 and go to college with 20 year-olds.

Lisa and Elisabeth both worked very hard to convince me that not only was Elisabeth ready, but would excel beyond her years at CLS. They convinced me to meet with Stephanie Tewes and to speak with Carl. After meeting and discussing our concerns, I was convinced that this would be good for all of us based on their confidence.

Now here is the part of my story that you will more than likely hear over and over again when your child comes to Covington Latin, and yours will most likely be one of these stories that you will tell during CLS Open House in 2 or 3 years from now. Elisabeth started CLS that fall and felt almost immediately at home. What I learned quickly was that Elisabeth, who never had to work hard in school, rose to the occasion because simply being in this school was a powerful incentive. Her desire to stay at CLS with her group of peers really motivates her to work hard. As parents, we only need to provide her with some basic structure and guidance, but her successes created a sense of mastery and self-esteem that excelled her even further. I can say that Covington Latin has been one of the best things that have happened to Elisabeth.

The benefits of attending Latin school continue to reveal themselves to us more year after year. Our first real Latin school experience was in July before school started her prep year. A friend had mentioned playing a sport here might be an option. Lisa emailed to get information and when the Volleyball coach said, "Bring her on down, we'll teach her" (our child had never played volleyball before). We felt that we were in the right place. At the large middle school she would have attended she would have NEVER attempted a sport outside of gym class. At Latin she has played volleyball as well as tennis and learned the importance of teamwork and has learned that she is more of an athlete than she ever imagined. These are both things she would have missed without the welcoming environment of Latin School. By the way, the addition of sports only honed her time management skills even further!

Elisabeth has grown into the responsibilities that this school requires and is independent with her schedule and school work. She has strived to keep up with the work load and the academics, as is the case with most all of her peers. She has excelled each year that she had been here. For me, it has been most rewarding as I often talk with Elisabeth about my Bible Study group topics especially when I am leading the discussion. This always leads to an exceptional conversation regarding Our Lord and makes me very proud to be able to give our daughter the opportunity to learn more about Jesus every day.

In addition, what we love as parents here is the family-like atmosphere of the school. That is especially important when you are turning over your 11 year old to a high school setting. It's pretty easy to get to know everyone in the class, including the parents. We have found that this school and the activities are very easy to get involved in. It has helped Elisabeth as well as Lisa and I to meet new friends.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the quality of the teachers and staff and the level of respect that they show towards the students. The competence and responsiveness of the administration trickles

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down throughout the whole school. It is very clear that they have the best interest of the students at the forefront and aside from being among the most dedicated professionals; they are genuinely nice people whom we have found very easy to talk with. It's really great when everyone knows your student and YOU by name.

The unique experience of CLS and the traditions create a sense of cohesiveness that we feel are unmatched at other high schools. It's probably stating the obvious that we are extremely happy with our decision to send Elisabeth to Latin School. We continue to enjoy watching our daughter grow in knowledge and character in response to the environment that she is in now.

We look forward to seeing you here in the years to come. Go Latin!