

Dear Board Members,

My name is Sonia Nayak. I have 3 children whose lives and academic careers would be greatly impacted if Del Mar Hills Academy were closed.

My 3rd grade son and my 1st grade daughter have been at DMHA since kindergarten. My 4 year-old son already considers DMHA his school. He has been on that campus since he was 1, when his big brother started. Dana, Linda, and Tamara already know and call him by name, as they do my other children. They have already won him over... which is no easy task.

When my children go to school it is like going to their second home. That is so important considering the percentage of waking hours they spend at school. It is in this school-family environment that my children have excelled in school.

Katherine Wiedmann is an amazing teacher who has demonstrated the ability to zone in on every child's strengths and weaknesses. My son has her as a teacher this year for the second year in a row and she and I have seen the amazing growth he has shown because of her teaching and caring.

My daughter is in Mrs. Farmer's first grade class. Lindsay Farmer is known for getting kids excited about reading and I am experiencing that for the first time this year. She has a way of getting through to the students that is just amazing.

Both of my children have had Lisa Mullins and Terra Barton as their teachers. This amazing teaching team has blown us away with their ability to create a loving, caring, and academically strong learning environment. My 4-year old is looking forward to being in "Mrs. Bawton and Mrs. Muwins" class. What is going to happen to their team if our school is closed? It breaks my heart to have to disappoint my little guy that way when he has been getting to know these two amazing ladies his entire life!

Nancy Swanberg, Nicole Nelson, Arah Allard, and Susan Hopper have done an **OUTSTANDING** job of incorporating what the children are learning in class into their science, art, music, and technology lessons. This team of women have gotten my children so excited about each of these subjects that not a day goes by where they say "Oh, I can't wait to ask Mrs. Swanberg about this" or "I can't wait to show Mrs. Nelson this picture I drew" or "Mrs. Allard taught me this song today" or "Look what we did in technology with Mrs. Hopper".

My whole point is that to you it may be just a school full of FTEs and ODCs, but to us it is a second home, an extended family, and a really great school community. Please consider all other cost saving measures before closing our school.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sonia Nayak  
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