

Good Morning Mr. Todd,

I would like to take a moment to tell you about our first year in your school district. I am sure you hear a lot of complaints from people, but I assure you this is not an email like that.

I have 3 children, two of which are enrolled in PCS middle school level, and elementary - the oldest well he's in the service and graduated from Howell and I used my own HPS experience and my experience with my oldest in how this year went for us.

Yes, we are new to PCS and I was unsure on how I would feel about it being from Howell, very familiar faces and all of that.

Plus a traumatic dynamic change for my children made me nervous to leave HPS, but I felt they needed a new start, new beginning and new memories.

With only honesty I can tell you that I was impressed with PCS overall, even down to the commencement ceremony.

Starting back to registration last August – the central office was very helpful as was the building secretary (Anne) at Pathfinder and of course I got to meet Mr. Ray that day as well. Very helpful, took time to explain how things worked at the school, the laptop program and even Anne's daughter took my student around the school to show off the gym, library, cafeteria, where most of the 7th grade classes would be.

Mr. Ray, as well as Anne both know who I am - not in negative way we had a few interactions with other student issues, bus ride issues and rule challenging. They were on board with how I wanted to handle things, and added some guidance.

My daughter is a very nice young lady, but she didn't seize all the opportunities that her teachers gave her this year. She is smart, just made some poor academic choices and doesn't apply herself as she should. That was her choice, as poor as it was she knows she didn't try and didn't follow through on her side.

See, the opportunities are there – as this is what I am getting to. Her teacher base this past year, oh how I liked them.

The communication, the chances, all her teachers were about accountability on the student. Which works for me, as I am an old school parent, I don't enable nor do I want to be my children's friend, its all about choices for the child and consequences.

This is how life works. By making excuses for children, not holding them to their choices is a disservice to them.

I went to parent teacher conferences for Pathfinder, did not get to all her teachers as there were too many parents.

Maybe this coming 15/16 it can be broken into 2 nights, and A-L one night then M-Z another? I don't know, just a thought.

You have excellent teachers at Pathfinder- in my opinion. The ones I did get to meet with – I did let them know how much I appreciated the communication and accountability for my daughter.

My youngest, well he's a boy for one and is just in the beginning of his school years...in a classroom of mostly boys and a handful of girls at Farley.

His teacher had her hands full. And, he needs very little encouragement to go astray, make not so good choices...so it seems.

Math seems to be his thing, writing and reading typical boy hard to get them interested in that.

All the teachers, and staff I have come across at this level – which wasn't hardly but a few- were helpful, informative and generous with their time to answer any questions I had.

I love the interactions between the schools, and home. It really is superior to any communications in my previous years, outside of a handful of teachers I have come in contact with since my children started school.

There is a level of caring, and sincerity for the children to succeed in PCS that I don't think I have felt outside of those handful of teachers that we became close to over the years.

This email I know comes at a time when it appears PCS have concerns about enrollment, but being from Howell for just shy of all my life and graduating from Howell myself anyone who would leave to think they may have a better shot at a better education is fooling themselves the ability to learn is based on the student and how much they want to invest in themselves. Not based on the district in which they attend. PCS offer a top notch education, up to date educational tools - students just have to be willing to put the effort in and parents need to support the teachers at home.

Looking forward to 15/16 school year!

Thank you for your time.