

February 20, 2009

I am a product of public magnet schools; but, that was 25 years ago in New York City. Today, I believe that public schools in Florida leave a lot to be desired. The concept of teaching for a test and eliminating humanities (music, art, home economics, etc.) because of budget cuts is not acceptable to me. So when Kennedy turned three I decided to look for a private school.

Kennedy was accepted into the PK4 program of the first private school on my list. I was as happy as a mother could be. My child would receive a quality education which included humanities.

Then one day Kennedy's daycare teacher left on maternity leave and a new teacher arrived. I asked Kennedy about her new teacher and she replied "Oh mommy, she is nice, she has long hair, and she is brown like me." I froze dead in my tracks. For some reason it never occurred to me that my three year old daughter was already identifying with race/color. I had to rethink my private school selection. A school for Kennedy, not only had to provide book knowledge and humanities; but also provide diversity and cultural richness. These are the qualities I found at Betton Hills Preparatory School (BHPS).

BHPS provides a warm, loving, nurturing environment where your child can learn and maintain their individuality. All are accepted and taught to embrace each other's differences.

BHPS is Kennedy's home away from home and she has asked to remain there until she graduates from the eighth grade and moves on to high school. I pray every day that I will be able to accommodate her request.

We love BHPS!

Karen Nelson
A Proud BHPS Mom