
Dr. Thayumanasamy & Gina
Somasundaram
3231 Addison Lane, Tallahassee,
FL 32317

Mrs. Ilona Faust
Principal
Betton Hills Preparatory School
Tallahassee, FL 32308

2/5/2009

It looks only yesterday that our son Vivek was 4 years old and we were looking for a good school for his Pre K4 class. The year, of course was 1999 and we had already visited several schools and were not entirely satisfied with many of them. Finally, based on one my colleague's recommendation we arrived at Betton Hills. You and your friendly staff welcomed us warmly and took us around the school, the playground, and to Mrs. Linda's class. We spoke with Mrs. Linda and spent time observing the class and we were quickly impressed by the individual attention given to each student. By the time we arrived home, we had already decided that Vivek belonged in your school. Now that ten years have gone by and Vivek has successfully advanced through your Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle School education and looking back all those years and thinking about the reasons why we first choose Betton Hills and kept him at Betton is not difficult to fathom.

First and foremost we liked your school's emphasis on the Core Knowledge Curriculum where the children learn simple but essential concepts very early and continue to develop their knowledge on those core areas. Secondly, we were happy to see a good balance between academics, arts, and physical education. We also noticed that Vivek felt that everybody knew his name and he was not just a student with an ID number. This was essential for our immigrant family since we were far from our own and Betton Hills provided him with a sense of an extended family. Similarly, the teachers and staff provided a good role model by being courteous, polite and friendly; the parents' involvement with children's education was also clearly visible.

The school had an established communication system between the teachers, students, and parents by providing us with Monday Letters and Friday Facts (and now Teacher's Pages at the web site). So we were able to track his triumphs and difficulties. In addition, we noticed that many Betton Hills alumni did well in high school and kept coming back to be part of the school functions, showing how well they had enjoyed their stay at Betton.

So, if we have to do it again, we will no doubt choose Betton Hills. Gina and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving Vivek a nurturing environment for the last ten years.

Sincerely yours

Dr. Thayumanasamy & Gina Somasundaram
3231 Addison Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32317