

Two years ago when my wife and I decided to pull our son Jackson from the Belvidere public schools and it was not an easy one to make. The economic changes within the school district closed schools and would be forcing Jackson into his third school in 4 years. Jackson was always a trooper and held a positive attitude when having to make new friends. Although I knew he would be ok, we decided to look at all the private schools in the area. Toward the end of Jackson's third grade year, we took the time to have him spend a day at each private school we were researching. I remember the day I picked him up from Rockford Lutheran Academy as if it were yesterday. RLA was the last school he shadowed and to be honest we were leaning toward one of the other schools because Jackson had several hockey friends already enrolled there. On our way home, I asked him a variety of questions and the one answer that really stuck with us and solidified our decision to enroll him at Rockford Lutheran was this; I asked Jackson what did he like most about Lutheran and his response was, "I really like the kids, they were all so nice and friendly. They all wanted me to be their friend, they also listen dad! They actually care about school, learning, homework and listening to the teacher. They are all so well-behaved and I have to go here dad." It made a very difficult decision, very easy.

2 years later and now in 5th grade...

We are incredibly sad to be moving away. It actually breaks my heart to think we are leaving Rockford Lutheran. ***We didn't find a school, we found a family.*** As parents we loved the idea of creativity, responsibility, and individuality which is woven into the education Jackson received, but there is more to our experience. It goes back to the word family, seeing how all the parents interact with the school and students every day. We live far away from our family and everyone always made us feel at home even when they didn't know us and we were relatively new to Rockford. After I handed out cupcakes today, I told his fellow classmates that it was because of them and the way they made him feel as he visited that we made the decision to enroll him at Lutheran. Your kids are amazing and we will miss them.

Thank you so much for watching over our son.