

## **Great Elementary Our school of Choice!**

Malcolm X, said "*Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.*" As an Educator, when I became a mother, of a baby boy the thoughts of where he would go to school became something I began thinking about very early because as Malcolm X, said it is the passport to his future. Then like that, the time came when we had to find a school for him to attend. We tried three nursery schools and one by one, we had to change them. Why you might asked? Well! He just was not happy after a while and did not want to go school anymore.

I knew Great Oaks Elementary School existed, but I also knew at the time he might be too young to attend. However, something kept saying go visit and so I decided to visit the school to see if by chance they had a class for him. We visited the school and you had to be there to see the joy on our son's face. Then I heard he had to be fully potty trained my heart sunk. He did not want to leave, he cried. I told him not to worry he will come back. The summer after he turned four I brought him back and rest they say is history.

We choose Great Oaks, because of the school's history of producing scholars who were well rounded. Scholars who excelled at playing a musical instrument, playing chess and having experiences that most schoolchildren do not have due to the different inter school activities and trips that are planned. We choose great Oaks because we knew that our son would be in a nurturing environment where teachers care, not just for their classroom students but also for all students.

The decision to send our son to Great Oaks Elementary School has allowed him to excel not only academically but also spiritually, mentally and physically. He began playing chess at five. I doubt it very much that if he was in a public school setting, that he would be allowed to play chess at that young age. In Great Oaks as long as the child is willing and able the experiences are open. He developed a love for words, after he won his first Spelling Bee Competition in kindergarten. He seldom forgets a word once he learned it and for sure, he will use those words in and out of school. When it comes to the Bible lessons taught, they became practical in our home through the many sermons he preaches to his dad and I at the dinner table. By the time, he got to third grade playing music on the piano and steel pan became a joy because of the exposure he received as a GOES student.

Great Oaks Elementary school has helped our son to develop into the child that he, and I am so grateful to teachers for the hard work they put in and have put into making him the scholar he is today. The road was not always easy, but we worked as a team and he is now in the fourth grade. I like our son we love our school community very much. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for this institution of learning. Our school community is small, but our village is a beautiful place. I pray that God will continue to bless our school community so it can continue to educate and develop strong, educated Black minds for the future. Great Oaks Elementary School we chose you again!

With Warm Regards,

Natasha Lake and Kevin Prass Sr.