

Why did you choose Covenant School Del Norte?

Our family chose Covenant School Del Norte in 2005 at the recommendation of friends who had a child attending Covenant at the time. We did NOT "shop" schools or interview various settings - we knew the moment we walked through the doors at Covenant that this would be our home!

At what age did your child(ren) start at Covenant School? And, tell us about your experience since starting.

Our son began at Covenant when he was 11 months old. Our intent during our pregnancy was to start our baby in a child care program when he/she was 3 or 4 months old when we both returned to work. As life goes, his arrival date was not in our hands, but in God's. Our baby arrived 6+ weeks early and due to a compromised immune system, his pediatrician and his cardiologist recommended we avoid a day care setting until he was one year old.

When we were able to begin his Covenant education we were welcomed with open arms, loving caregivers and a perfect environment for our preemie! He thrived from day one. The care providers in the infant room patiently listened to our "1st time parent" concerns appreciated our worries and told us about every step of his day from moment to moment! We will eternally be grateful for Jean Trujillo's impact on his life and ours. In fact, when we became pregnant with our second child, before we had shared our news with our family, we made sure the same staff would be in the 'Infant Room' - the care is that good and that important to us.

Our second child, a daughter, began at Covenant at 3 months old. And again, we have watched her thrive, develop and grow in the nurturing environment that is like family to us. Although we have family locally we don't have help with our children from them. That said, Covenant is one big group of Grandma's, Aunt's and Uncle's greeting them with love, encouraging our children, engaging with them, empowering them and teaching them!

What has been your favorite experience in Covenant's program?

Probably our favorite experience has been the joy in seeing other families who we have referred to Covenant be rewarded in seeing their children develop. And the most favorite experience of all is relative to one family.

This particular family had a son two years after our son started at Covenant. They chose to send him to another day care/preschool. In the first month at the other school they described to us the setting, the lack of care by the providers, how dirty their child was at the end of the day and more. We promptly referred this family to Covenant and after a short wait, their son started. But the impact to this family wasn't truly felt until the birth of their second child. A daughter, who, shortly after birth and to their great surprise would be diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Our most favorite experience of all is knowing this family received years of loving care for both of their children at Covenant - I hesitate to think what the other environment might have been like for their special needs child. We find wonderful fulfillment in knowing the love, education and most importantly COMFORT they had in the Covenant team. That is by far the best experience for our family - seeing happiness in others we love.

What do you love most about Covenant School?

Relationships. Bottom line. The relationships we have built will last a lifetime. The care givers, teachers, staff and kitchen workers at Covenant are not faces we pass and smile at daily to be courteous; these are relationships that impact our lives daily.

The examples are endless and are NOT solely focused on our own personal experiences but how the lives of many are touched. A director who shows support on "off work hours" for other Covenant children and their families at support events - Breast Cancer walks, Down Syndrome fundraisers. A preschool teacher who is a second parent to our children, providing care and love in our home. An entire Covenant community, bonded together, making meals for a mother of three suffering a tremendous cancer bout. And not to be forgotten, the sweet 2 yr old girl, who our 3 yr old son "fell in love with" 6 years ago. Today this "couple" is verging on mid-school age and the relationship we made with her family has created an ongoing bond and network of friends that extends way beyond our Covenant years.

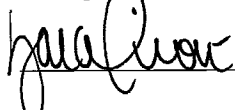
When our family "leaves" Covenant in August 2014 when our daughter begins Kindergarten, it will have been the longest educational/care setting we will ever know in our lives. 9+ years is a gift we will never receive again at one school. As heartbroken as we will be to transition to the next step in life, we will have forever memories and most importantly relationships that will live on, well beyond our years attending Covenant.

In general terms, to whom would you recommend Covenant School?

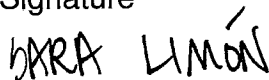
We recommend Covenant to anyone with a child. I can count how many friends we have who were "against day care" until they enrolled their children at Covenant and learned this setting is not "day care" it is as close as you can come to having family care for your children.

If you child(ren) are Covenant School graduates tell us about their experience of going on to kindergarten.

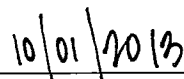
Our son began Kindergarten four years ago after graduating from Covenant. We were not fully aware of the impact of his education at Covenant and what he had learned until the first Parent Teacher Conference when his teacher told us about him excelling in class and that he was being referred to the Gifted Program for Evaluation. He tested well and today spends as much time in a Gifted learning setting as he does in his regular classroom. Thanks in large part to Covenant!



Signature



Name (Please print)



Date