



Devorah with her husband Jerry and their children Nat & Noa.

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-Devorah Signer Hill

September 30, 2016

Dear Billings Community,

I write this letter today to ask you to join me in supporting Billings Middle School, where our son just started his second year, 7th grade.

Simply put, we are thrilled to be a part of the Billings community. We knew that a private school would be our preference, but we had no idea where we'd fit in or what would be best for our kid. And then we visited Billings.

Billings has an ambitious goal: to give every student an extraordinary and unique middle school experience. And, turns out, the school delivers!

By design, Billings faculty and staff stretched, supported and inspired our son in many, many ways over his sixth grade year -- ways that will guide his transition to teenage-dom and adulthood. The school offered up many opportunities for growth: academic, social, emotional and physical. Some moments were subtle, some obvious, but through it all, our son *opted in*. This may not sound like much, but **it was a beautiful, unexpected thing to behold**, and my husband and I will cherish these memories for the rest of our lives. Dance and sing in the

musical? OK! Go on a class trip to Canada? You bet! Go out for cross country? Sign me up! Learn to cross country ski? I'm in! Attend the school dance? Why not!

After a stimulating and fun sixth grade year, we remain honored to partner with Billings in guiding our son through his early adolescent years. This is largely because we know that at Billings, middle school will not be a dreaded time of change to simply endure but, rather, a time for our son, and perhaps our entire family, to grow through a broad range of experience in the school's unique community of positive, ethical engagement. On top of it all, **Billings faculty and staff are smart, creative and amazing professionals who obviously love these kids!** (For that, I say a special thank you!)

But...all of this magic is not free. It takes a lot of money for Billings to hire and retain the best teachers, serve up an excellent education and offer robust tuition assistance. Like most independent schools, there is a gap between what it costs to provide this extraordinary education and what tuition covers. At Billings **that gap is \$2,400 per student.** Tuition is intentionally lower to make sure that as many families as possible can have access to a Billings Middle School education. So please join my family, other Billings families, alumni, and 100% of the staff, faculty and board of trustees by making a gift or pledge today! It's easy: give online or return your pledge form to the front desk in person or by mail.

Warmly,

Devorah Signer Hill

P.S. Did you know that this year is the 20th Anniversary of Billings? Give today to ensure that Billings thrives for another 20 years!

