

To whom it may concern. I live in Madison, Ohio (Lake County) with my husband and three children. My husband and I both went to Catholic School and valued our time there. Combined we have had 28 years in Catholic Education.

My husband and I chose to send our children to Saint John School in Ashtabula because, the district in which we live had a declining school system. We had moved to Madison when my oldest was 2 years old. At the time, we didn't know that he had Autism. When he was diagnosed in 2007, we knew that our public school system would be able to provide the help that he needed. With the closing of a Catholic school in our county, we felt this was his best option. As time went on, we saw something change in the school district. We were finding that his teachers didn't seem to want to be there for him, but rather for the athletes.

When he was in 8th grade, 2017, he was bullied by a teacher. At that time, we decided that the public school district, did NOT have his best interest in mind. When speaking to the high school staff at Madison, we asked how they would handle someone who may have difficulty keeping up with the material. Their response was, "Oh well, we can't slow down for him. We would just pass him through". Now, my son is high functioning and fully capable of doing the work. They chose not to help. Our only option at that time was to pull him and our daughters from a failing school district. Saint John is not an elite school, and doesn't discriminate on the basis of income, race, or religious backgrounds. Saint John has many students who are serviced through an Individualized Service Plan (an IEP), like my son.

We chose to send our children to Saint John School in Ashtabula County. We couldn't be happier with how our children have succeeded here. With Ed Choice as an option for many students in the school, this keeps our school open. Although we are not recipients of the state scholarship, however, we WHOLEHEARTEDLY BELIEVE it is vitally important to our school and to the students.

The Ohio Legislative body made a **promise** to keep EdChoice as an option for those who do not want to keep their kids in a failing school district. How will they learn? By having a choice as to where families send their children, it is so important that you DO NOT LET THEM DOWN!!

We are proud **SAINT JOHN HERALDS** and we are counting on you as our legislative body, to keep your promise to these kids!!

Sincerely yours,

Therese and John Biggins
Saint John School Parents