

To whom it may concern:

The American School for the Deaf has been an amazing place for our daughter. We adopted her from China when she was 3 ½ years old and at the time of her homecoming she had zero language. She started summer school (preschool) that July and by the time September rolled around she knew enough words to be able to tell us her needs and wants, answer questions, and ask her own questions when she wanted to know about something.

Now, at 10 years old and in 4<sup>th</sup> grade Lexi absolutely LOVES school. She has found a place where she is accepted by everyone and truly looks forward to going to school every morning. Every night at the dinner table she is excited to tell us what happened in her school day. We hear about the classwork she is doing, the bigger projects she is working on, anything different or exciting that is happening (for example, she cannot wait for tomorrow to do students vs staff Disney Trivia in ASL class), and yes, even the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade gossip.

Lexi loves to learn and every teacher she has had at ASD has recognized that and has done their best to meet this need of hers. We absolutely love how the teachers at ASD treat each child as an individual and adapt the curriculum for each child to be able to succeed at their own level. We feel like this is one of the major reasons that Lexi is thriving so much at ASD. The teachers work with each student at such an individual and personal level that they truly understand each student's strengths and weaknesses.

Throughout the pandemic we have been thoroughly impressed with how ASD has handled everything. Whenever there has been a need to do school from home we never felt that her learning was compromised. Her teachers did a tremendous job making sure that the students had a schedule and individual as well as group instruction.

We often have people asking us if it would be easier to have Lexi in our town school, closer to home, and on the same school schedule as her siblings. We always tell them that ASD is where she belongs.

From Lexi (4<sup>th</sup> grade, 10 years old)

I really like ASD because the teachers are nice and they try to make it fun for the students to learn. All the teachers are fun and they push students with their learning. My favorite thing about ASD is that we get to learn all day and that we make friends easily. I love all the projects we do. I like that the teachers are strict but really fair. They are good at handling things. It's fun to learn sign language and I like that we can all understand each other with sign language. I like how the staff supports children when they are struggling. ASD makes me feel happy and proud.

Sincerely,

Damen Polance



Catherine Polance



Proud ASD parents