

Dear View Ridge Families,

My name is Lisa Kelly and I am writing to you as a View Ridge teacher and parent. It's been a wonderful and unique experience to be a teacher at my children's elementary school. I've been blessed to be in two communities here at View Ridge: caring parents and committed staff. **One of my greatest pleasures has been getting to know our school specialists in art, music, technology, library, counseling and nursing and to see first-hand how they change our students' lives. These are staff that would not all be here without the generous financial support of our families.**

As a kindergarten parent, I loved the adoration my children had for Ms. Lacambra and her movement and music class. As a teacher, I continue to be impressed by her dedication, talents and ability to make each student feel like they are the most important kid in the classroom. As a parent, I've listened to catchy songs hummed around my house, learned in music class. As a teacher, I've watched 4th graders go from excited, yet nervous, beginning instrumental students to confident and accomplished 5th grade band members.



As a parent, I've attended Arts Night, band concerts, and book fairs, and I've admired the oodles of artwork my students bring home each year, masterfully crafted in Ms. Haven's art class. As a teacher, I've watched Ms. Haven inspire students' artistic abilities and coax out confidence they didn't know that they had, as well as noticing fine motor issues before it would be noticed in the classroom.

As a parent, I've been impressed with the technology skills my children and their love of 'computer lab' with Ms. Connors. As a teacher, I've watched Ms. Connors tailor her technology curriculum to best meet the needs of our students, while moving them onto a trajectory of computer science and technology confidence for the 21st century. As a parent, I've seen my children excited for 'library day' and enthusiastically bring home new books they checked out (and then madly search for them before the next library day!). As a teacher, I've witnessed Ms. Young remember what types of books my students love, making valuable suggestions for new books, teach students how to conduct research and make a bibliography and plan author visits.

As a parent, I've been grateful for the way Ms. Hanson, our counselor, has helped my children navigate friendships and social situations and for the times Nurse Karen has tended to my sick child with bandages and kindness. As a teacher, I've been amazed by Ms. Hanson's ability to support so many families at View Ridge and how she intuitively knows how to help a family in crisis. As a teacher, I've been grateful for the support Nurse Karen gives our staff and students, identifying student issues beyond just bumps and bruises and working with teams to support our children as needed.

Over the summer, I came upon an article written by former View Ridge student Bill Gates about how a particular specialist influenced *his* life and his future. He gave credit to a teacher at View Ridge, the librarian, whom he said "stoked my passion for learning" and helped develop his strengths as an elementary school student. "It's remarkable how much power one good person can have in shaping the life of a child," he wrote. **Our staff at View Ridge, including our wonderful specialists, continue to inspire and encourage our children, just as Bill Gates was inspired here at our school so many years ago.** Whether it's in the regular classroom, PE, Art, Music, Technology, Library or the Nurse's office, our children are lucky to have an enriched environment at View Ridge. The generosity of our families makes this possible.

Please, help us exceed our goal of \$95,000 for this Annual Appeal campaign so we can continue to fund staff positions at View Ridge. If we all pitch in a little, we can continue to do a tremendous amount together.

Sincerely,
Lisa Kelly, Fourth Grade Teacher