

My husband and I decided to send our 5 year old son to St. Michael's Catholic School for preschool as he was not old enough in September to attend Kindergarten. Grand Forks Public school does not offer any type of preschool for children. We are products of Grand Forks Public School I attended south end schools and my husband attended north end schools. We have both lived in Grand Forks our entire lives and could not imagine raising our children anywhere else. When it came time for our son to start kindergarten we made the decision to stay at private school because of so many reasons. Class size was a major part in our decision along with how much we feel in love with the option to raise our children in a school that believes the same morals we believe in. We later had another child who has attended St. Michael's preschool starting at 3 years old. We believe we have made the right decision for our family by choosing private school. I am not going to lie to you that it hurts me to think that I am paying a lot of money for my child to have the education I believe they deserve. I cannot tell you how much passing this bill would impact so many lives. We have worried about sending our child to public school and wish we could afford to continue on 6<sup>th</sup> thru high school with our children but realistically we cannot afford it. Please take into consideration how much each family would benefit from passing this bill. Thank you for your time and God bless you.

Nichole Montgomery