

February 25, 2008



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Good Day!

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of recommendation to those looking at Team Mastermind and Mindy Degraff's insightful, dynamic, creative curriculum.

San Francisco de Asis Catholic School began their relationship with Team Mastermind four years ago when our Parent/Teacher Group hired Mindy & her staff to teach their teamwork, creative thinking, problem solving seminars to our 4th - 8th grade students, later expanding to include 2nd & 3rd grades as well. For the first 3 years, Team Mastermind was taught on a weekly basis in the classroom with outstanding success. Two out of those three years, our students were so enthusiastic that an 8th grade team formed to compete in the Odyssey of the Mind competitions, traveling to World's each year.

For the 2007-08 school year, we looked at the option of taking the curriculum in-house to better suit our schedule and needs. Fortunately for us, Mindy had completed the publication of this teamwork curriculum. Our Parent/Teacher Group and school staff jumped at the opportunity to purchase the seminars. We have been very pleased.

One of the nice options we've had since purchasing the program is the ability to personalize the teaching to our needs. In junior high, we opted to move into the second set of seminars before finishing the first book as the topics of tolerance, positive attitude, and perspective among others were the focus we needed to concentrate our efforts. With the well written, easy to follow and abundant materials offered in each seminar we are not only able to offer the weekly classes but also incorporate the lesson throughout the week into topical discussions & projects in Religion, writing prompts in English, as well as current events, history and other subjects.

The seminars are thought provoking and offer all that is needed as an instructor to turn the classroom into an energy-filled, thoughtful, team oriented experience. As a parent who has been involved with the program since it's inception and who currently shares the teaching responsibilities with another parent/teacher, I can offer my heartfelt enthusiastic recommendation. Additionally, watching the students expand their creative, problem solving boundaries has been exciting and rewarding. We, as a school community, feel that offering the children these skills to practice now and take forward in their personal "toolbox" sets them up for success when coupled with their academic endeavors.

I am happy to offer additional detailed thoughts should you wish to contact me. My home number is 928-774-9059 and I can also be reached via e-mail at mfleishman@npgcable.com. Best wishes to you as you explore Team Mastermind.

Sincerely,

Midge Fleishman

First Catholic School
circa 1895



St. Anthony's
1911-1953



Nativity School & Guadalupe School
1953-1976



St. Mary's School
1976-2009



San Francisco de Asis Catholic School
2009



A tradition of quality Catholic Education in Flagstaff for over 112 years