

My name is Rochelle Beerli, and my children have been at GHA for 3 years now. When we started our first child at GHA in the middle of the school year, it was simply out of duress. He was currently in the first grade at a local private school, and he was going nowhere fast! I was growing very discontented with the academics he was being introduced to, and even worse, his attitude was very distracted. He was quickly becoming the “problem child” of the class, but looking back, I now realize this was all due to boredom.



Our first days at GHA were remarkable: they were able to evaluate him and place him in the appropriate class. There was no turning back for us.

Throughout the rest of the school year, his work and his attitude continued to improve, because he was finally being challenged at school. There were no walls and no ceilings to keep him down. The sky was, and is, the limit for students at GHA. Now that he is beginning his third year, he is working ahead of his grade level in subjects and has a wonderful sense of

independence. The wonderful literature curriculum and reading comprehension teaching at GHA has helped him become a strong and engaged reader. He has found a confidence in learning and he is no longer hesitant to succeed.

Two years ago, our then 4-year-old daughter started at GHA. Within a month, she was reading! The school’s phonics program is fantastic, and learning to reading was a monumental achievement for her. She is doing wonderfully well and is being challenged every day. In first grade now, she is exposed to French, and has chosen to learn violin through the schools’ program. Like our older son, she is also able to work according to her ability-with nothing holding her back!

Located in the countryside of Gilroy, GHA has plenty of rural land to explore and play. In the spring of 2007, students worked outside on ‘edible garden’ project. This project included children selecting their vegetable or flower of choice, tilling their designated plot, planting, watering, and maintaining the plot, until they achieved success. We had zucchinis the size of bats, and tomatoes a plenty.

I think the “secret” to GHA’s academic success is the environment. It is very welcoming, and ties in the full spectrum of what children need to thrive. It’s anything but typical, and that’s what is so appealing to us! Gavilan Hills Academy is the best thing that ever happened to my children’s education!

Sincerely,  
Rochelle Beerli