



NATIONAL
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

DR. PETER R. GREER
HEADMASTER

The Montclair Kimberley Academy

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For the Record

I write to commend the work of Kevin Graham of the Lookout Management group. Kevin and his team assisted The Montclair Kimberley Academy during school year 2002-2003. By use of a survey form, MKA wanted to learn how the parents really felt about the school, to enable the community to make improvements and to validate what we thought we did well. This data would also be baseline in anticipation of regularly scheduled parent surveys over the next several years.

The Montclair Kimberley Academy is the largest independent day school in New Jersey. The community includes 1,030 students and over 700 families. There are three campuses, grades Pre-K to 3, grades 4-6, and grades 9-12.

Kevin was asked to help MKA prepare over 100 questions for a *parent survey*. Kevin was then asked to assist MKA in the distribution and retrieval of submitted surveys. Kevin and his team then put together 1) the raw data; 2) an analysis of the raw data; 3) and about 1000 pages of other data for use by my administrators and faculty, et al. There was also a typed listing of all the random comments by our parents. Fully 67% of our parents responded to the survey.

What did we learn about Kevin and his team?

- We learned that whenever we contacted Kevin by email or phone, he got back to us within an hour with useful information. He even responded on Saturdays!
- We learned that Kevin knows schools. His experiences in education and his experiences working with over 30 schools in the United States and Canada make him well-qualified, interesting, and extremely helpful.
- We learned that Kevin makes terrific, i.e., professional and sensitive, presentations to Trustees.
- We learned that Kevin continued to be willing to assist MKA without additional pay. We had several questions and Kevin answered those and informed us that he was available at any time down the line as we laid plans for improvement and at the time we made presentations to faculty and parents.

In my almost 40 years as an educator at public, private, and postsecondary levels, I have had times when I wondered about my decisions to hire consultants. Not this time. My administrators and I are extremely happy with Lookout Management. We are happy because we received constant assistance, constant goodwill, and because we will be able to use the data put together by Kevin in ways that will improve both the perception and reality of our school.

We are grateful to Kevin Graham.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter R. Greer
Headmaster

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