



It's with mixed emotions that we are sending you this letter. January, 2023 will be our children's last semester attending Charlotte Prep. Three children, Harrison (Freshman at UF), Olivia, and Preston (current CP 8th graders), each from age 3 to age 14, have given us 33 “years” of excellent academic and character-building experiences.

While searching for the right educational environment for our oldest child in 2007, we found what was then called Charlotte Academy. We quickly realized what a hidden gem we had stumbled upon. There are many beautiful memories we look back on, from the multi-sensory Montessori classrooms with our children’s nurturing teachers to the enriching academic rigor of the middle school program. Watching our kids participate on Charlotte Prep athletic teams or give back through programs like Builders’ Club, Charlotte Prep has left an indelible impression on our children.

It’s hard for us to imagine a year without Charlotte Prep as we have been very involved with the school since Harrison started in 2007. Since 2008, Jamie has become synonymous with CAPA and all the fun experiences (Fall Festival, Spirit Week, Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, etc.) they organize for the students and teachers each year. In our final year, she’s co-chairing the annual event fundraiser in March. Michael volunteered his time spending nine years on the board, with three as president, which included interviewing and hiring Peggy Fear as our head of school (“One of the easiest decisions in the history of hiring,” he likes to say).

When the school first started competing with athletic teams against other schools in 2018 and when Harrison was an 8th grader, we “challenged” Peggy with an idea. We would donate a van if the school matched that gift and purchased another one. Those two vans have taken countless Charlotte Prep students to sporting events, the symphony, ECHO science farm, to name a few activities over the last six years.

We’re very excited about our school's direction and some of the fantastic plans the leadership team (Peggy, Katie Forbes, Eric Bishop) has in store for the future. However, they are going to need all our help to make their vision a reality.

The plans to add a track, athletic fields, and scoreboards, expand the pavilion to nearly double its size, and relocate it (making it much more practical for student and parent usage such as school dances or veterans day programs), are all part of a plan to make the school campus even more of a central place in our children’s lives. Having a campus where we can host athletic events and play intramural sports in front of our Charlotte Prep family without driving anywhere is a far cry from the school that had a little over 100 students just six years ago. (We are at 280 now with a waiting list).

While the van “challenge” was something we made to Peggy back in 2018, this next “challenge” is something we are making to anyone who is reading this letter (current families, former families, alumni, grandparents, and community leaders).

The “Landsberg 33” challenge match is a 33-day drive (each day to represent one academic “year” our children were at Charlotte Prep) where our family will match all new donations to Charlotte Prep (up to \$100,000).

Let us walk you through some examples of how this would work:

- a) If you haven’t given any money in the past two years and you give \$500- we will match the new \$500.
- b) If you typically give \$1000 in the past and you give \$2000 during this challenge- we will match the new \$1000.
- c) If you gave \$500 earlier in 2022 and give another \$750 during these 33 days- we will match the new \$750.
- d) Remember no new contribution is too small.

The new enhancements for the school will cost over \$200,000, and we have been assured we can start as soon as we have the money. We aim for Charlotte Prep to find over \$100,000 in new contributions (from anyone, such as current families, former families, alums, grandparents, and community leaders), and our family will match that dollar for dollar. For example, if Charlotte Prep only gets \$60,000 or \$80,000 in new donations, the match will only be \$60,000 or \$80,000. We would like everyone who is able to step up so we can get to at least \$100,000 new contribution mark, and we can provide the entire match.

Charlotte Prep holds a special place in our hearts for what it has done for our children inside and outside the classroom. So many of the people who touched our children’s lives from Charlotte Prep were instrumental in helping them grow to be who they are today. This challenge match program is in honor of all those staff members (past and current) who have supported our children and will help Charlotte Prep maintain its edge in recruiting staff and students going forward. It’s also done out of respect for the many families who were here before we were and planned for growth and opportunities their children would never see.

“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit”- Greek Proverb. Please give to our school and help Charlotte Prep continue its path to greatness.

Let’s go Dolphins!

Best Wishes,

Michael & Jamie Landsberg