**What the locals have to say**

Recently, I posted a question on social media encouraging feedback from families about local schools. Here’s an excerpt of what they had to say:

“We moved out of another county specifically for our son to go to another school. Finding the right house was our challenge. Academically, all of the schools are on par with each other. They all have equitable programs. Some tend to excel more than others in a particular area (i.e. sports, band, and theater), but that being said they all offer the same opportunities. I’ve known people who love a particular school, while others didn’t have the same experience. It’s what you make of it and finding the right fit for what works for your family.”

“My kids are at Clara Byrd Baker Elementary and it is an excellent school. We just moved here last summer and it is my understanding that most all of the schools in WJCC are great.”

“I do not think you can go wrong with any school in this area.”

“My two kids attended James River Elementary (as magnet students in the IB program), then Toano Middle, then Warhill High. They had wonderful teachers, administrators, friends, and experiences at all three schools.”

“Lafayette High School has been the best educational experience that our children have had in all of their years of public school. The Lafayette staff is amazing and has created a culture of school pride and family that I have not witnessed in many years. The same can be said for D.J. Montague Elementary.”

“I’ve had the pleasure of having four children graduate from Lafayette High School. It is a wonderful school all around. Helps create successful adults.”

“My kids attended D.J. Montague Elementary and we LOVE that school. Couldn’t say enough about it. Had an exchange student at Lafayette High too and she absolutely loved it.”

“There really is no “better” school and you really cannot say that there is a wrong choice. The entire district is good and overall we have been pleased with our experience.”

“There is SO much misleading info, on the internet, about our schools! The misleading information stating that that Matoaka Elementary, Hornsby Middle and Jamestown High are the best schools is just flatly WRONG. All of our schools are great! My children went to D.J. Montague Elementary, Toano Middle, Providence Classical School (a private), Williamsburg Christian Academy (a private) and Lafayette High. ALL of my three children got into fantastic colleges and were offered thousands of dollars in scholarships. Our town is special and each neighborhood and each school has its special fit. My advice is to always look for the special place that works for you and yours.”

“I’ve worked in five different school divisions in Virginia. I have never seen teachers who care as deeply for their students as my colleagues at Berkeley Middle. My own children went there and graduated from Lafayette High. They both have graduated from college and are currently considered essential employees in a nationwide company.”

“My kids are at Matthew Whaley Elementary and Lafayette High and both schools have been great. Matthew Whaley is uniquely situated in the historic area and its proximity to downtown and William & Mary is a significant advantage. It has a diverse student population and wonderful, dedicated teachers.”

“I believe any school is as good as the parents that support it. You must participate in your child’s education, if you look at “good schools” look at the parent participation. It matters what happens at home. WJCC schools are all good.”

“We moved here about three miles from Jamestown High, assuming we would be zoned for that school. My son is an academic student and I was really hoping to get the benefits of their reputation. Well, turns out we were zoned for Lafayette High. I have to say I was pleasantly surprised at the atmosphere there. Coming from Florida, there was a lot of violence, bullying, etc. My son is going into his senior year at Lafayette and he has gotten a great education, lots of AP classes and he’s on track for the early College program. The teachers and administrators have been great and I have been quite happy with his years there.”

“My son attended Rawls Byrd (now Laurel Lane Elementary), Berkeley Middle and graduated from Lafayette High. He graduated from college last year and is employed as an engineer. We could not have asked for more attentive and dedicated teachers and administration. Very pleased. My stepchildren attended Walsingham Academy (private), Hornsby Middle and Jamestown High. Again, same experience. You can’t go wrong in WJCC schools. They just need to move to Williamsburg, regardless of the school district. They won’t be sorry!”

“I was born and raised in Williamsburg. My siblings and I went to Norge Elementary, Bruton Heights (which is now defunct), James Blair Middle and Lafayette High. I enjoyed them all. My girls went to Williamsburg Christian Academy (private), Stonehouse Elementary, Toano Middle and Warhill High. I was pleased with the level of education they have received. We loved Stonehouse!”

“Our kids went to Stonehouse Elementary, Toano Middle and Warhill High. We have had great experiences at all of them. I also don’t think other schools are ‘superior’.”

“We were deciding between two houses, and visiting what is now Laurel Lane Elementary sealed it for us. We loved Laurel Lane, Berkeley Middle, and Lafayette High.”

“Any parent that cares enough about their child’s education to choose a home that has good schools clearly cares about their child’s education. That itself will result in a successful education for the child, regardless of which school in WJCC they attend.”

“We have/had great experiences with Matthew Whaley Elementary, Berkeley Middle and Jamestown High! I think you can’t go wrong with any WJCC school. We have friends in all of them and hear great things from them.”

“I say all the time, in EVERY school there are amazing teachers teaching right next door to not so great teachers! My two kids have attended at least 15 different schools so far, and we have ALWAYS found this to be the case, no matter what rating/reputation the school has had…I say go for a home that fits your needs and your price range and that any WJCC school will fit the bill.”