

TO: San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed

RE: Public comment on Proposed Rocketship #8 on the Tamien site

Dear Mayor Reed,

My name is Maria Claudio. The first thing I'd like to tell you is that my daughter studies at Washington Elementary School, and is in third grade. I have known of the school since before my daughter was born, and my husband and I would always say that when she grew up, she would go to Washington. This is a school that offers many programs for my daughter and also for us as parents. My daughter participates in some of these programs. One story is that my daughter was found to need glasses, when she was in second grade. My friend told me that she would smile more once she could understand more of what was going on. Thankfully, I knew of a glasses club, and this club helped her feel equal to the kids who didn't have to wear glasses. She is very happy, and my husband and I are so thankful for the glasses club. Thank you, Glasses Club!

Another club is a lunchtime club that my daughter attends. This club is for girls who want to learn more about having good manners, talking with adults, and learning how to do crafts. She comes home each time after this lunchtime club saying she's had a great time and feels very happy. We parents feel that there are many programs, and those are just two examples. Others are the Mother to Mother club, "Adelante" club, Washington Walks With You, a parenting class called "Plan Parent Junior", and many more interesting clubs. I'd like to say personally that Mother to Mother is a very important program that helps us and we help each other to be the best parents for our kids. We want them to have a better future in school, and we feel that this school has all the qualities my husband and I want.

My concern is that my third grader will soon need to go to middle school and will have to take the bus, because we live far from the closest one. I have two other younger children and I don't drive. I would like to ask that it's better to build a middle school for our community, and this would make all the parents very happy. I want to thank you for taking the time my letter. I am a mother who simply wants her daughter to someday be a professional and help this country. Sincerely,

Maria Claudio