

**Stephen and Karen Vladeck**  
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March 15, 2026

By email: [ozah@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ozah@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
Montgomery County, Maryland  
100 Maryland Avenue, Room 200  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Re: Special Exception Application of Holton-Arms School, Case No. CBA-1174-E**

To the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings:

We are writing to share our family's experience with Holton-Arms and to express our strong support for the School's request for a Special Exception Major Modification.

Our daughter Maddie is currently in fourth grade and began attending Holton in third grade. Our family lives in the Palisades in Washington, DC, and one of the primary reasons we chose Holton was the availability of the School's bus transportation system. As two working parents, one of us in DC and the other at the Sidwell Friends Upper School, the bus makes it possible for our daughter to attend Holton without requiring a daily commute to campus.

Maddie rides the bus every morning and most afternoons when she does not have theater or other after-school activities. The stop at Arizona Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard is about a five-minute walk from our home, making it extremely convenient. In fact, when we purchased our house we specifically looked at where the Holton bus stops were located and chose a home within walking distance.

The bus has also been a wonderful experience for Maddie socially. There are roughly 15 girls who board at her stop each day, and she enjoys spending time with students from different grades.

Beyond the convenience for families, the bus system makes Holton accessible to many students who live outside Montgomery County. For working parents like us, it eliminates a school commute in addition to our workday commutes. Instead, Maddie can ride safely and reliably, typically arriving home around 4:15 in the afternoon.

Our family also feels strongly about the value of secular all-girls education. We previously lived in Texas where Maddie attended an all-girls environment, and when we moved to Washington we wanted to continue that experience. Holton provided the only secular all-girls lower school option that met what we were looking for, and it has been an excellent experience for our daughter.

For these reasons, we strongly support Holton-Arms School's request to amend its special exception and allow the school to continue serving more students while offering transportation options that make attendance possible for families like ours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen and Stephen Vladeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Karen and Stephen Vladeck**