

Adrienne Barnes
Parent of Erin (K) and Brooke (5th)
Attended ICS from 2nd-6th grade [1973-1978]
Interview November 11, 2009, Mad Hatter Café, Durham

Adrienne was born and raised in southern Durham near NC Central University. After ICS, she attended Shepard Junior High School and then Hillside High School. She currently works at Duke as a.....and has two children who currently attend Immaculata. A self-described "spirited child," Ms. Barnes was taught by Glenda Moser in the 2nd grade.

"I have wonderful memories of Immaculata."

"Things that I learned at Immaculata took me all through college."

Ms. Barnes was baptized at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church when she was 7. I asked her what it was like attending a Catholic school as a non-Catholic.

" I did not see the difference. I never felt like we were segregated out. I did have to get used to the (differences in the) Lord's Prayer, but I never felt like I was an outsider. ...There was a spirit of inclusivity at Immaculata. As an African American, there were so many opportunities for us to be separated. When I went to high school, it was quite a bit of a culture shock as an African American child going to a predominantly African American school. I learned to look at people for who they are, not what they look like. I can pass that on in my children. ...To me, the common thread in my experience was the Christian thought. I felt accepted at Immaculata."

Ms. Barnes discussed the "core values" she feels she learned at ICS and why she sends her children there now:

"There was no question in my mind they (my children) would attend Immaculata. ...Education and a spiritual foundation. ...Spirituality is something you connect with everyday not just on Sundays. I wanted it to come from someone else. I wanted them to be surrounded by it, almost like an immersion program. The Catholic traditions and methods are different, but the message is the same, to be spiritually grounded in the One true God. The Immaculata Way says it all. It was not written (when I attended school), but it was practiced. "