

To whom it may concern:

My name is Steve Bertke, and my wife and I currently live in a house in Norwood. Our current house is the first home either of us have owned and we have gotten married and welcomed our first son (Gus) during our 4 years living here. We are currently expecting our second child (Georgia) in March and have been discussing the idea of moving out of Norwood and into a neighborhood with slightly better school options.

We are in a good situation in that we are not in big rush to move since our son is currently only one and half, and school is still a few years out. We chose Norwood four years ago with a slightly different set of priorities. We liked that it was an urban area close to many shopping/dining options, close to work, close to downtown and close to all major highways. We are currently a 10 minute walk to Rookwood and the new development on Xavier's campus as well as only a 15 minute walk from Oakley Square and a 20 minute walk from Hyde Park square. However, now with a growing family, our priorities are slightly shifting. We still would love to maintain our urban lifestyle but also will need a slightly larger home as well as quality education options for our children.

This has led us to start looking in Hyde Park, Oakley and Mount Lookout with the idea of sending Gus and Georgia to Kilgour Elementary or Hyde Park Elementary and with the long term hope of sending our kids to Walnut Hills High School. In addition to these areas, we have also been considering living in Clifton, in the Gaslight District north of Ludlow. After looking at several houses in each of these areas, my wife and I came to the conclusion that we love Clifton. We love the old architecture and large homes in the area. Also, it is close to many dining and shopping options as well as being close to downtown, close to the highways, close to many wonderful parks and close to the Cincinnati Zoo, which is currently our go-to option for getting Gus out of the house on a nice day. The only thing that Clifton is missing (which is our priority number 1) is a good school option. While Fairview German Language School would be a great option, due to its lottery system for enrollment, it cannot be considered a guarantee.

With so much to offer for young professionals, Clifton is missing a major piece to retain growing families. Having a guaranteed quality school option would make our decision of where to move much easier and we hope you take our viewpoint into consideration.

Thanks,

Steve and Kristen Bertke