

Honorable Mention, Dear George Washington Contest 2013

Jessie Goldblatt, Fifth Grade

Friends Academy

Dear George Washington,

My name is Betsy Abbott from Sherborn, Massachusetts. I am composing this letter because I am concerned about the education system in America. I have two children, William Abbott (8 years old) and Jane Abbott (6 years old). My husband, Samuel Abbott, who was a lieutenant colonel in the Revolutionary War, died one year ago of Yellow Fever. Life is hard for me because I am a woman raising two children on my own.

Money is now a concern for me. I used to have a tutor come three days a week to work with my children but now I can only afford to pay him to come one day a week. Even this is difficult. In school, my children are learning to read and write. But I worry that there are so many more skills that they could be learning to prepare them for their future. My son Adam would like to be a leader of our country, but the schools do not currently teach about government or business. Do you plan to offer teachings of this kind?

I also worry that schools do not provide enough opportunity for girls. Many people think it is not important for girls to learn how to read and write since taking care of the home does not require these skills. I think all children, even girls, should have the chance to go to school. How will girls ever have more opportunity if they are not educated?

Finally, I am curious to know details about what you plan to do with the structure of schools. Will they be organized by age, gender, or religion? There are so many possibilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In sincerest gratitude,

Betsy Abbott