

Robert Land Academy - the best school of choice for your son.

By Ludmila 2021

Even though every child is loved by their parent(s), and they are raised in the best way possible, we can still see such negative traits as disrespect, ungratefulness, refusal to accept parental values in our children. I believe that nowadays generation has more freedom than we used to have in the '90s and before, it also has to do with the fact that the technology has made a major breakthrough and the children absorb way more information from the outside world (i.e. the internet), than we, the parents, used to get from our environment. Children lose a sense of responsibility and understanding of what is important in the real-life, because of the various video games and TV access available to them. The majority of the children cannot focus on a book (because it is easier to watch a movie), and thus they lose the sense of imagination and dreaming because the images are already depicted for them on a screen. This new life makes children, especially boys, lose focus and interest in school, they don't want to try and write better, because the Public School System will put a stamp on their Student Record: "Learning Disability in writing" and will provide them with a computer to type (instead of writing by hand). Some boys are so smart, that they will manipulate the system further – "they gave me a computer, so they will give me whatever I want, I just have to push harder". And then such boys get diagnosed with ADHD (since they are unable to focus on a teacher). Of course, because they are watching a video gamer on YouTube – on whom they are focused 90% of the time!

This was the life of my son before he went to Robert Land Academy. He was intelligent enough to push the system in such a way, that they would leave him to do whatever he liked: play video games at school and doing so on the school computer.

Multiple fights to get him out of this addiction, and pills prescribed by doctors for his ADHD did nothing. The addictive behaviour turned into almost violent, the moment when the computer was taken away from him. The final step I made was typing "military school" on the Google search bar, and Robert Land Academy was one of the first searches, so I clicked...and my journey into success and freedom began! Now thinking back, I can tell you that I had a life "before" and a life "after" Robert Land Academy.

Here I provide you with 10 reasons why your son should go to Robert Land Academy.

Reason one: Ideology of the school. The ideology of the school resembles the ideology of life in the 90's or before, where there was no technology and the children knew how to write with a pen, and how to read a book from page 1 to the final page. In Robert Land Academy everyone is treated like a mature person and is valued the same. There is no yelling or drama associated with bad choices – just physical workout and responsibility - not only for personal choices but for the choices of other students. All of this teaches responsibility, discipline, strong character, masculinity, strength, and respect.

Reason two: Competitive environment. Everyone wears the same clothes, from underwear to the uniform and shoes. The only thing that the boys can compete among themselves is the values given by their families, family genetics physical and academical, and acquired knowledge from the outside world (extra-curricular activities, experiences etc). Each boy has a chance to show off the talents they have and

to use them towards competing with other students. The moment someone gets something new (a medal or an award, or is promoted) the other boys want to get the same because they want to stand out too. In the academy, each boy gets to show all the inner values they have and make their families proud. Each boy gets a goal and they reach this goal because they have a very strong stimulus – competition with the classmates. Real-life situations in the academy develop the frontal cortex of the brain, unlike video games with immediate scoring. Achieving in person, in front of classmates, being praised by teachers, colleagues, and parents – that’s what boys thrive for in RLA.

Reason three: Learning being responsible. The boys learn responsibility not only for themselves but also for their peers. Such issues as “bullying”, “discrimination”, “racism” are taken in the academy very seriously, and there are many speeches and campaigns ran to make the boys understand these topics and treat others with respect. This teaches them to make friends with everyone, to help others, so everyone succeeds as a group.

Reason four: Academics. Robert Land has high standards for academics. The level of education is exceptional. If a student is struggling, instead of giving up on a student and giving him the mark he deserves (which I saw in a public school), they focus on the problem, teach the student to properly address it, and help the student techniques so he can raise his marks himself. And this is priceless because these are skills for life.

Reason five: Letters. Oh, letters, the lovely letters! Every Monday morning, I open my email hungrily, because I am about to receive another letter from my son. My son never even texted me properly on the cellphone before the academy. At Robert Land, from the first week, he began writing letters to me, by hand. It brought me back 30 years when I used to write letters to my friends and grandparents. A very beautiful and unique experience. Moreover, I had a breakthrough! We speak the Russian language at home, but his written Russian is not good, and despite that, I’ve kept writing to him in Russian. His written replies to me were only in English. One day I open his letter and it is written only in Russian! I was proud! This was a breakthrough for a child who was born in Canada.

Reason six: Ranks and pride. The newly arriving students, regardless of age, become recruits. Equal ranks. It takes hard work, inner strength and vigilance to achieve each rank. And yet, every week you see students achieve medals and move up the ranks. Not because they have to, but because they WANT to! And you, as a parent watch your boy and your heart is filled with pride.

Reason seven: Inner peace in your heart. When was the last time when you sat quietly and your heartfelt inner peace and your felt that everything is okay with your son and you knew that even though he is away, he is okay? I was inseparable from my son. I am a single mom, since his birth. I love him very much! Yes, it was a difficult decision to have him go to such a distant and strict place. But guess what? My heart knows I did the right thing and I feel that I am in the most appropriate state of mind. I know he is eating healthy, getting plenty of exercises, his educational plan is going well, his hygiene is fine (because they teach them to take care of themselves). There are always people to watch after them, the nurse is always there for emergencies, and the routine is always the same. He is in the safest place that he could be, besides home.

Reason eight: Self-discipline for us, the parents. After I’ve sent my son to the academy, I felt a little guilty, and I decided to support my son by waking up at the same time as he does (6:30 am), and writing my letters by hand, instead of typing on the computer. I started watching my diet and eat healthier –

because they eat healthily. I began exercising again because my son came home looking slimmer than he's ever been and taller. It made me feel that I need to make my son proud, by showing him MY achievements while he is away. There was a lot of break-through in my attitude towards parenting. I've realized that it was my fault I allowed him to talk to me the way he used to. I am taking parenting classes and working on changing my language with my son and my attitudes towards him, so what the academy input into him will stay with him forever.

Reason nine: Respect for your son. What a transformation this year has been for my son! I've sent a boy to the academy, and he returned a man. Tall, slim, wide shoulders, straight stance, confident look, and the urge to help his mom. Such an accomplishment deserves respect, from me, as a parent. It is easy to talk to him as a mature person now because this is who he became. I love asking him for help because he doesn't refuse anymore like he used to. I use only a quiet voice at home and respect his arguments. Disagreements are solved by discussions. When I trust him – he knows it, and in return, he does what is required of him.

Reason ten: Physical fitness and routine. Healthy body, healthy mind. The amount of exercise the boys get at the academy is age-appropriate. The boys need this physical challenge because they grow and the testosterone's physiological effect can be used appropriately in sports and competitions.

In Robert Land Academy, my son re-evaluated his attitudes towards his family, his mother and his home. I feel proud for these changes that happened to him and me, as a parent. 2020-2021 school year was not easy for the boys, the lockdowns and strict regulations of COVID protocols were challenging, and despite the cancellation of many events and cancellation of stand-downs, Robert Land Academy kept their spirits high and the boys stayed strong, because they were together, and were supported by strong, experienced staff. I am thankful for all that Robert Land Academy has given to me and my son. It will be cherished forever!



Photo: before (left) and after (right) Robert Land Academy