



The twins, Austyn, center, and Caroline Hollemen, view “before Invisalign” images of their teeth with Dr. Andreaus.

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LEFT: Austyn’s teeth, before and after Invisalign. RIGHT: Caroline’s teeth, before and after Invisalign.

Twins Love Their New Look

Twins 16-year-olds, Caroline and Austyn Hollemen, got dazzling new smiles when they discovered that their general dentist, Dr. Steven Andreaus, is also one of the area’s leading practitioners in the use of Invisalign® aligners to straighten teeth.

“We’re having wonderful results with adolescents who are good candidates for Invisalign,” says Dr. Andreaus, a noted cosmetic dentist and one of only 350 dentists in the world who have won accreditation from the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentists. He has for some time been identified as one of the area’s top providers of Invisalign—as the company notes, he is “Among a select group of doctors who have achieved the highest level of Invisalign expertise.”

The twins are seniors at Broughton High School in Raleigh. Before her year-long treatment with Invisalign, Caroline succinctly describes her teeth as “very ugly. My two front teeth were splitting upward into the gum,

pointing in two separate directions, and I had a terrible over-bite.

“We considered traditional wire-and-braces, but I was just going into ninth grade and I didn’t want to do that. And then we found out about Invisalign through Dr. Andreaus. And just a year later, my teeth I’m proud to say are perfect and beautiful! This has had a wonderful effect on all parts of my life—including how I feel about myself.”

Sister Austyn had a similar positive outcome. “The biggest problem for me,” she recalls, “was a big gap between my two front teeth, which I was self-conscious about, but still I smiled. Caroline used to cover her teeth when she smiled. Now she is smiling all the time! And the aligners were pretty comfortable, and really were just about invisible. There was a little pressure at first, but we didn’t experience any pain or discomfort.”

Notes Dr. Andreaus, “Invisalign seems to be an excellent choice for about 80 percent of the people who could benefit from orthodontic work. In using orthodontic braces, it’s possible to move a tooth as much as a quarter of a millimeter every two weeks. Of course that adjustment has to be done by the orthodontist. Invisalign, quite differently, is actually programmed by computer to make exact incremental movements of a quarter of a millimeter every two weeks.

“Invisalign proves to be very beneficial in my cosmetic and aesthetic work. For some patients, as a result of this new product, we don’t need to restore a tooth. Invisalign allows me to take care of their wishes in an aesthetic fashion even as we’re also straightening their teeth orthodontically. The beauty of the procedure, in addition to the fact that it is precise and

quick, is that it really is virtually invisible to see.”

Invisalign received FDA clearance in 1998. “Because it does not rely on the use of metal or ceramic brackets and wires, Invisalign significantly reduces the poor aesthetic and other limitations associated with braces,” says Dr. Andreaus. “Invisalign utilizes advances in 3-D imaging technology to create a series of customized plastic aligners. Patients simply wear each aligner for a few weeks, removing it only to eat, brush, and floss. After as few as 8 or as many as 48+ nearly invisible aligners, the procedure is done. And the results are consistently wonderful. Patients typically finish the process in a year or even less.”

INVISALIGN AND KIDS

Once 12-year molars are beginning to erupt, youngsters may be good candidates for Invisalign, says Dr. Andreaus. “For children who are slow developers with their teeth, they

may have to wait until they’re 13 or older. Early developers may be able to use Invisalign before they’ve just turned 12. The issue is which teeth have erupted in a manner that permits us to start working on them.”

Dr. Andreaus continues to be impressed by the range of problems that can be corrected with Invisalign. “A key issue is compliance. When it comes to Invisalign, the simple fact is the aligners work only if you wear them as prescribed. Parents and practitioner have to make the decision about the likelihood of compliance from their youngster. When kids consider the benefits of Invisalign, they typically get invested: Invisalign aligners are virtually invisible, removable, eliminate the need for metal or braces in the mouth, and allow patients to brush and floss normally during treatment.

“And, as is true with braces, after any orthodontic treatment retainers must be worn to prevent relapse.” *h&h*



Jason Craighead in his Raleigh studio. Work by this talented young artist—described as one of the leading abstract expressionists in the Southeast—will be shown in Dr. Andreaus’s Gallery A beginning with a reception for the artist on Nov. 4. Jason has been named “Best Artist in Raleigh” by Metro Magazine’s annual reader’s poll for five consecutive years. More information: 546-9011.

For more information on dental cosmetic procedures, or on helping to support the “Give Back a Smile” program (which provides free cosmetic dental care to survivors of domestic violence), contact:

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