


Making the Best Choice for Your Child

Private School Applications: Priorities and Considerations

If you're looking to enroll your child at a new private school in the fall of 2017, now is a great time to start the process. There are lots of factors to consider, many of which may not have occurred to you yet. Before diving into the search for a school, look inward, advises Carol Lloyd, executive editor at greatschool.org.

"The very first thing to do, even before knowing what the choices are, is to think about your own parameters. What are the two or three things your child really needs? How far are you willing to travel, and how much are you willing to spend? Then you can start looking around," says Lloyd.

At that point, Lloyd says, it's wise to collect up to seven schools to consider. Go to their websites and figure out what the schools are known for. Then, if they fit your parameters, set up a shadow visit for high school students, and a school tour for younger children.



Children in the Pre-Primary School at Lowell discover binoculars.

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PHOTO COURTESY KERI RASMUSSEN

Story time in the Pre-Primary division of Lowell School.

But it's best to remember, Lloyd cautions, that you are the customer in this process.

"It's really easy to be sucked into the mindset of 'oh, I hope someone chooses my child,' but bear in mind that this is a commitment that is both long-term and expensive," she says. "You are the one that is choosing, not the school. Sometimes students will get into a school and they're so excited to be chosen that they don't notice it's not the right school for them. So it's important to keep a skeptical mindset."

That said, it's just as important that your child puts his or her best foot forward, Lloyd says. Today there is a wealth of

resources, both online and off, that can help you prepare your child for success in the private school applications process.

Doing the research

While friends, neighbors and coworkers are good sources of advice on schools, their opinions will always be colored by their child's particular needs. Doing some independent research of your own will increase the likelihood that your child's needs are met.

GreatSchools.org is one of dozens of free, online resources designed to help parents make informed choices about schools. An independent, nonprofit organization that Lloyd says "reaches over half of American families every year," is a nationwide guide to more than 200,000 private, public charter, and public schools.

Drilling down to the next level reveals sites such as *privateschoolreview.com* and *privateschools.com*, the latter of which not only provides information about K-12 private schools, but gives financial advice as well.



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Second graders dive into a geometry lesson at Lowell School.

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"We're a site that can provide some objective insights into some aspects of how to pay for [your child's] private education as well," says *privateschools.com* creator, Mark Kantrowitz. "We provide more of a big picture perspective, where your neighbors, friends and colleagues will provide you with a more local perspective."

Those interested in a less partial local perspective – and one on which they can even scribble notes - can turn to "A Guide to Private Schools: The Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and Maryland Edition" by education expert and Virginia mother Ann Dolin. A former school teacher, Dolin has been running her own tutoring agency, Educational Connections, Inc., since 1998. She wrote the book in 2013 from notes she made during her visits to area schools and the answers she provided to clients who had questions about getting their children into private schools.

"I wanted to put everything in one place from start to finish, so that instead of going to 15 different websites they can find it all



PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Top and right: Norwood School students focused on learning.

[here]," says Dolin, who is careful to add that parents should engage personally in the process.

"The book really just scratches the surface, though. Parents should go to the schools themselves," she says. "I just wanted to give them a good place to start." ▶



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PRIVATE SCHOOLS**To Coach or Not to Coach:
The Interview**

A key facet of the applications process is the interview, during which school admissions staffs evaluate whether candidates fit in with their school culture and are likely to succeed in studies there, and what they can contribute to the school. Some coaching for the interview is good, both Lloyd and Dolin say.

"It's very important to get them thinking about it in advance. You may have a wonderful kid who loves to read, but in the interview he answers just a little too honestly," Lloyd says. "When the interviewer asks him what he would do with a day off, he may say something like, 'I'd lie in bed all day and play video games – that would be awesome!' But because he hasn't talked it through, he's forgotten in that moment that he loves to read."

There is, however, such a thing as too much preparation, Dolin says.

"You want them to be able to answer questions about 'what are your strengths?"

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What's hard for you? And how can you contribute to the school?" But you don't want them to seem coached," Dolin says. "Schools are really looking to get to know the child, and admissions folks know the kind of child who will succeed at their school. They want to pick that child rather than a child who has been propped up by coaching and really isn't the right fit for the school."

"You want them to be able to answer questions about 'what are your strengths? What's hard for you? And how can you contribute to the school?' But you don't want them to seem coached."

— Ann Dolin

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Testing, Testing

Dolin's tutoring agency and many others in the Washington metro area help students prepare for the Secondary Schools Admission Test (SSAT), required by many of the best independent schools nationwide.

Unlike coaching, which can make a child seem unnatural and less than genuine, many who handle private school applications agree that test preparation is a necessary task. Anne Yount, owner of the Boston Tutoring Center, even goes so far as to label poor test preparation as one of the top 10 mistakes parents make in the private school application process (see related story).

"Private school admissions tests are challenging. Many parents are wrong in assuming that their child's strong performance in school will translate into good test results. It's rare that a child can take the test with no preparation and score at the top level that elite private schools like to see," Yount says.

"Math topics are often one to two years ahead of the level at which most public and private school students



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PHOTO COURTESY KERI RASMUSSEN

Above: 8th graders build prototypes of biochar stoves in Lowell School's Fab Lab.

are working, so preparation is wise. Most students can also benefit from preparation for the essay, given that they are required to write it in a tight timeframe. In short, the more practiced students are with the test material and format, the better they'll do." ►



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Making Private School Affordable

Private school educations are expensive, but that doesn't mean they're out of your reach. If you start early and do your research, there are many avenues of assistance in covering your child's tuition expenses. Start by asking the schools you're interested in about what they offer in terms of financial aid, scholarships, payment plans and loans. The options below can augment your search.

Financial Aid

Each school you consider can provide the details you need to apply for financial aid. If you'd like to study up in advance, *admissionsquest.com*, a website helping families to choose boarding schools, paints the big picture in "Understanding Private School Financial Aid: What it is & How to Apply."

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) offers a one-stop-shop



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on the national level for private school financial aid applications through its Schools & Student Service division. Parents start there by filling out a Parents' Financial Statement (PFS).

"The [PFS] is your gateway to financial aid from the nation's leading private and independent schools," says the organization's website, ssbynais.org. "We estimate the amount you can contribute to school expenses and forward that estimate to the schools where you're applying. It's one form, for one fee, for any number of siblings, for any number of schools."

Scholarships

When it comes to scholarships, it's most important to talk with schools directly about what they have to offer. Scholarships are often provided by the school's community, alumni, endowments, or grants given to the schools to allocate as they choose.

There are, however, organizations that provide nationwide and regional scholarships to students attending private schools. Two of the largest are the Children's Scholarship Fund, scholarshipfund.org, which awards scholarships for children in K-8 schools, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation,

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jkc.org, which is dedicated to "advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need" from the 7th grade through graduate school. More information on private school scholarships is available at privateschools.com.

Residents of Washington, D.C. can apply for scholarships under the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which awards scholarships to expand educational opportunities for the children of underserved families. For more information, visit dcscholarships.org.

Loans and Payment Plans

Many private schools can offer assistance with loans and payment plans. If these aren't available at your chosen schools, your bank is a good next step. A collection of organizations also provides loans for K-12 education, including Sallie Mae, the Student Loan Network, Lake Trust Credit Union, Tuition Management Systems and Your Tuition Solution. For more information, visit the loans page on privateschools.com. ▶

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The 10 Biggest Mistakes Parents Make: Avoiding Missteps on the Way to Private School



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Anne Yount, founder of the private school admissions process service, the Boston Tutoring Center.

In 2002, Anne Yount was a young mother in Boston who had just been laid off at a failing education dot com. Her son Justin was 11, which meant it was time to think about middle and high schools that would be the best fit for his skills and interests. Instead of looking for another job, Anne cleared off her dining room table and began researching the options. Nothing about the process was easy, she says.

"Parents will start this process on their own without any idea of how hard it can be," she says. "The complexity of the applications, the essays, and the interviews are just like applying to college."

Unlike most parents, Anne had unlimited time to devote to the application process for a collection of schools. It was a luxury that paid off when Justin received acceptance letters to several, including admission to the 7th grade class entering Boston Latin School in 2003. A public exam school founded in 1635, Boston Latin School is America's oldest educational institution. In 2015 it was ranked 38th among the nation's top 100 high schools by U.S. News & World Report.

Once Justin was in, Anne realized she

had a new skill set that could help other students besides Justin to achieve success in the private school admissions process.

"Many parents don't prepare and they are just devastated — and their child is devastated — when they don't get in anywhere," she says. "That's when I get a call saying, 'we want to try this again.'" — Anne Yount

"If I could do it with him, I could do it with anybody," she says with a laugh. "Other peoples' kids are a lot nicer to me!"

Still working from her dining room, Anne founded the Boston Tutoring Center, bostontutoringcenter.com, and its private school admissions consulting service, which offers help with school research and selection, interview preparation, and assistance with applications and essays.

She also started building two websites. The first, bostoniseeprep.com, helps children studying for the tests to get into

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

private schools and public exam schools. The second, *bostonprivateschoolsearch.com*, provides resources to parents researching private schools and gives them access to advice from other parents and experts in the area.

Nearly 14 years later Anne and her staff of tutors have outgrown not only her dining room, but three other offices, and are now in their fourth location in West Roxbury, MA. Her services have helped more than a thousand families place their children at



It's important to prepare your children for private schools' pre-admissions exams early on.

schools of their choice, she says. But for every family she helps, she knows there are many more that don't succeed.

"Many parents don't prepare and they are just devastated — and their child is devastated — when they don't get in anywhere," she says. "That's when I get a call saying, 'we want to try this again.' But sometimes they've already missed the boat and they can't get into any of the schools they want. So I really try to educate people about the fact that this is not a process to be taken lightly."

Anne now does business with families nationwide, and is writing a book titled "Private School Admissions: Mistakes Parents Make." It's a collection of stories and advice gleaned from 14 years of interviews and work experience, with both parents and private school officials ranging from admissions and guidance counselors to teachers, administrators and principals.

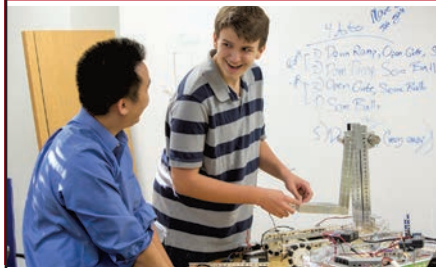
The book is still a work in progress, but Anne has already written the section on the top 10 mistakes parents make in trying to place children in the schools of their choice: ►

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TOP TEN PITFALLS

1 Getting a late start.

Parents should start researching and visiting schools at least a year before they plan to apply – that's two years before their child would enter a new private school. The process is daunting, and it takes time to research schools, determine which schools are a good fit for your child, and prepare your child for the test. Often parents see their child's peers applying to private school and they jump on the bandwagon at the last minute, not wanting to be left behind. These families usually do not have a good outcome.

2 Picking a school for the wrong reasons.

The school may have a great reputation and it may be one of the top schools in the area. A large percentage of the school's graduates may go on to attend Ivy League schools, and your neighbors and friends may send their children there. This doesn't mean it's a good fit for your child. Be realistic about your child's strengths and weaknesses, and what they need. Square pegs don't fit in round holes.



Exploring schools should be a family affair.

3 Applying to too many schools.

Applying to eight schools is a lot of work, and a quick way to drive you and your child crazy. Chances are these schools are very different from one another, and several are not a good fit for your child. If you get an early start and do your research, you should have a manageable list of schools to apply to - three to four at most.

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TOP TEN PITFALLS



Make sure your child is just as involved in the private school search as you are.

4 Setting your child up to fail.

Parents are sometimes unrealistic about their child's chances of gaining admission to very competitive schools. These schools are not a good fit for their child, but they insist on applying anyway. They have no "safety" school or "likely" school on their list, only "stretch" schools. Their child receives a pile of rejection letters and no acceptance letters. This demoralizes the child, who feels like a failure that no school wants. Avoid this situation at all costs.

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5 Picking a school based on sports or other activities.

Your child is going to school to get an education, not to specialize in a sport or an activity. Many parents believe that if their child is successful playing a sport, they will receive a scholarship in college. According to the National College Athletic Association, however, the chance that your child will be offered an athletic scholarship is less than two percent.



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TOP TEN PITFALLS

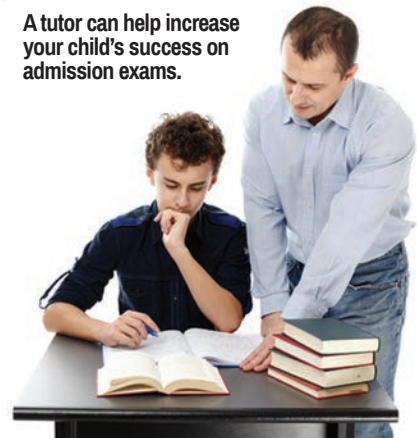
6 Thinking that a private school is a good fit for a child with special needs.

Some private schools are geared toward educating students with special needs, but most are not set up to adequately assist in this regard. Parents can assume that smaller classes and increased personal attention at private schools mean these schools will also be able to meet their child's special needs. Often this is not the case. Be honest with schools about your child's needs. They'll tell you what they can and cannot accommodate, and you'll avoid the trouble of looking for a new school because your original choice couldn't meet your child's needs.

7 Failing to prepare your child for the test.

Private school admissions tests are challenging. Many parents are wrong in assuming that their child's strong performance in school will translate into good test results. It's rare that a child can take the test with no preparation and score at the top level that elite private schools like to see. Math topics are often one to two years ahead of the level at which most public and private school students are working, so preparation is wise. Most students can also benefit from preparation for the essay, given that they are required to write it in a tight timeframe. In short, the more practiced students are with the test material and format, the better they'll do.

A tutor can help increase your child's success on admission exams.



TOP TEN PITFALLS

8 Trying to pull strings to get your child into a private school.

Parents often wonder whether they should ask friends, neighbors and colleagues who have relationships with private schools to write recommendation letters for their child. When asked this question, admissions staff agreed almost unanimously that parents should only submit recommendations from people who know their child well. If the person you would like to write the letter only sees your child in the picture frame on your desk at work, don't ask.

Be honest with a school about your child's needs. They will tell you what they can and cannot accommodate.

9 Not asking for needed financial aid.

Many families fail to ask for needed financial aid when they apply to a private school because they're afraid it will hurt their child's chances of being accepted. Be honest about your need for financial aid - if you don't apply for it for your child's first year, you're likely to be ineligible for it in the years that follow. Many schools send applicants a letter explaining that if they don't apply for financial aid the first year, only a major change in circumstances - generally a job loss or a death in the family - will qualify them later on. Don't put yourself in a position of having to take your child out of a beloved school because of financial issues.

10 Inundating the admissions office with information.

There's a saying in admissions offices: "The thicker the folder, the thicker the kid." Don't try to impress admissions staff by sending videos of student performances, school papers, copies of awards, and too many recommendation letters. The interview is a good time to highlight these accomplishments.

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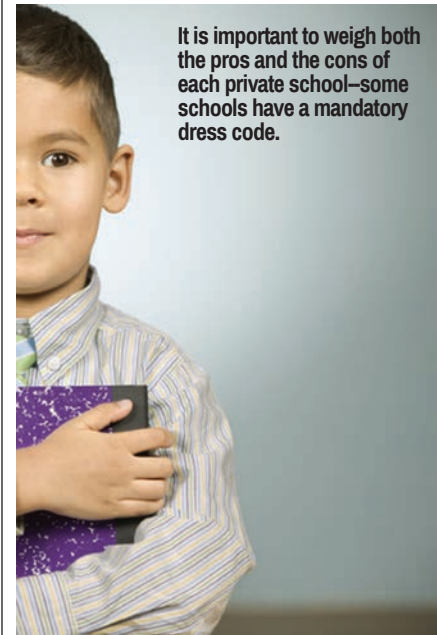
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**Private School Varieties
— Some Choices in a
Nutshell**

So you've decided on private school, but that's just one piece of the puzzle, really. Not so long ago, the term "private school" referred mainly to parochial or boarding schools. Uniforms were expected and students of the same age studied the same curriculum.

Today, there is a broad variety of choices in the structure and style of private schools, each with its own approach to teaching, curriculum, classroom configuration, dress code, and academic year schedule. We asked the leaders of seven unique Washington-area private schools to summarize the top reasons parents place their children with them. Here's what they told us.



It is important to weigh both the pros and the cons of each private school—some schools have a mandatory dress code.

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Burgundy Farm Country Day School
"Country day schools may have differing philosophies of education, from progressive to more traditional, and offer different curricula, but the country day school movement originally emphasized that the environment in education matters. These schools give children room to learn and grow outside the four walls of a classroom, with spaces that excite imaginations, inspire, activate and

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

create joy in learning.

Burgundy's main campus is 26 pastoral acres of a former dairy farm with many different routes to travel among its 12 buildings and lots of woods and interesting areas for exploring and learning. Regular trips to our 500-acre West Virginia campus and a new Outdoor Classroom & Discovery Playground enhance the daily experience. By playing and working together in this environment, our students and teachers build a genuine democratic learning community in which each member is respected for who she or he is. By interacting with it every day, students learn respect for themselves, their peers, and the natural world as they find their place in the world."

— Jeff Sindler, Head of School

**Friends Schools,
Sandy Spring Friends School**

"Sandy Spring Friends School's culture — rooted in the idea that collaboration engenders achievement — can be traced to our Quaker heritage and abiding belief in Quaker values. Our college preparatory program emphasizes deep understanding throughout the curriculum while encouraging collaboration, instilling confidence, fostering practical experience, and cultivating respect for others. Our students grow and learn in an atmosphere of acceptance, where their voices are heard and where, in the words of our school motto, they are able to 'let their lives speak.'

Friends schools are known for an inquiry-based educational approach that values collaboration, reflection, a culture of respect, service to others, and a true partnership between students and teachers. Students benefit enormously from the personal connections they make with their teachers, coaches, dorm staff, and peers. This allows them to take academic risks knowing they will be supported, and inspires them to be both lifelong learners and their true and best selves." — Tom Gibian, Head of School

**International Schools,
British School of Washington**

"International schools such as The British International School of Washington, are a wise choice for a vast range of resident and travelling families.

Why do I say this?

Language immersion at WIS now begins at age 3 with Preschool!

The Washington International School Early Childhood program— Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten—offers both French and Spanish immersion programs to children of ALL language backgrounds.

Learn more at www.wis.edu/earlychildhood.



WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Preschool through Grade 12 | IB Primary Years Program and IB Diploma Program
SMALL-GROUP TOURS AVAILABLE THROUGH MID-DECEMBER. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

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Think differently. At The Nora School, these are words we take to heart. This small, college preparatory high school, grades 9–12, works to bring out the best in students with diverse learning styles since 1964.

THE NORA SCHOOL ⇨ WWW.NORA-SCHOOL.ORG

Yes. The Langley School just might be the right choice for **your child.**



Join us for an Admission Information Session

Friday, December 4, 9:00 a.m.

RSVP to admission@langleschool.org

THE LANGLEY SCHOOL

Where vital academics meet a deep respect for childhood

Preschool through grade 8 in Northern Virginia

Learn more at www.langleschool.org





GRACE
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL
www.geds.org

Join Us for an Open House!

DECEMBER 3 | 9:00am JANUARY 23 | 11:00am

TOURS | Every Thursday | 9:00am
call to schedule

A coeducational, Episcopal school in Kensington, Maryland, serving students from age three through fifth grade.

For more information:
Call 240-292-5237 or
Email tmullen@geds.org
9411 Connecticut Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895



CHARTERED 1852
ST. TIMOTHY'S
SCHOOL



FALL OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 11:00 AM

ADMIS@STT.ORG 410-486-7401 WWW.STT.ORG



PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There are some compelling, simple answers:

- International curricula with genuine inquiry at the heart of all that is happening
- Small classes
- Outstanding teachers with huge commitment, excellent training, and a wealth of experience
- Fantastic diversity of cultures
- The encouragement of service as an ideal

But the main attraction for parents is bigger than the sum of these parts and it is this:

We must fully prepare young people for a global future where change will be constant.

International schools are, in my experience in leading in three nations, tremendous at preparing young people academically, socially, physically and spiritually for the challenging transitions they will have to make in their adult lives.

What could be more important?"

– *David Rowsell, Principal*

K-8 Schools,

Alexandria Country Day School:

"K-8 schools provide an environment that is uniquely suited to students moving from childhood through adolescence. Insulated from the social pressures of a high school population, K-8 schools are able to provide a space where children can develop confidence, self-awareness, and independence as they prepare for entry into diverse and selective high schools that are well suited to each individual. As a small, K-8 school, Alexandria Country Day School provides a challenging and forward thinking academic program in a nurturing and community-minded environment. ACDS students are known for their maturity, academic readiness, and uncommonly strong communication skills, born of a formal public speaking program, extensive experience applying technology in their learning, and continuous engagement in service.

– *Scott Baytosh, Head of School*

Montessori Schools,

Oneness Family School

"Parents choose Oneness-Family School because our international Montessori program creates a positive social environment where everyone can be successful, where everyone is appreciated for their uniqueness, and

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

where students are encouraged to follow their passions and to think big.

As a result, Montessori students emerge with a strong personal center of gravity, a highly developed emotional intelligence, the ability to generate new ideas and strong communication skills.

At Oneness-Family School our strong focus on individual learning paths in a communal learning environment encourages students to be the drivers of their own education and at the same time collaborate with others. They learn to create solutions to questions or conflicts and to make connections between what they are learning and real-world experiences. In Montessori, every kid is smart; they're just smart in different ways.

Whether it is in name or in principle, Montessori is the future of education. It is no accident that the founders of Google, Amazon and other companies were once Montessori kids.

Montessori continues to spawn the innovators, entrepreneurs and global citizens of the 21st century. Just look into a Montessori classroom – and it's easy to get a glimpse into the future."

– Andrew Kutt, Head of School



PHOTO COURTESY KERT RASMUSSEN

Defying gravity on the LEGO wall in Lowell's Pre-Primary School

Small, Independent, and Educationally-Progressive Schools: Howard Gardner School

"It is our mission to help bright, creative, non-traditional learners use their unique strengths to thrive academically, intellectually, and emotionally. HGS provides a level of flexibility and adaptability that is not seen in a larger or more traditional school. In addition to the individualized attention and instruction that a five-to-one student to faculty ratio

a/s ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

We're Transforming the Classroom Experience.

Standing desks and ergonomic stools enhance student learning.

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Nov. 11 Dec. 8 Jan. 8 & 12

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K-8 ■ Coed ■ Nonsectarian

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Alexandria, VA 22301

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An MSDE & OSSE Approved Non-Public School

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HOLTON

© Jeff Mauritzen HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 8, 2015

2 to 4:30 p.m.

Holton-Arms is an independent day school in Bethesda, Md., for girls in grades 3 through 12.

www.holton-arms.edu

LOWELL SCHOOL

Learn More!

Come, learn about our programs for children ages 2 1/2 through 8th grade.

Tours run October-January.

Bus service available to and from stops in DC and Maryland.


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- Christian education - small, diverse classes
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**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY,
JANUARY 30TH, 2016
9 A.M. TO NOON**

825 South Taylor Street Arlington, VA 22204 703-892-4846 www.osva.org



www.thesienaschool.org



TOUR DAY:
Wed. 9:30am

1300 FOREST GLEN ROAD, SILVER SPRING, MD 20901
301.244.3600 • fax 301.244.3601
Serving bright college bound students with language-based learning differences in grades 4-12.





www.brooksfieldschool.org

NORWOOD
Excellence in K-8 Education

Learn more about our child-centered program at www.norwoodschool.org



**Experience Norwood
Saturday, November 14
1:00-3:00pm**

TOURS • ACTIVITIES • CONVERSATION
ADMISSION INFO • STUDENT SHOWCASE

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Bethesda, MD 20817
Bus transportation available
How you lead your life matters.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

provides, our students have a myriad of opportunities that they would not have in typical traditional or public schools, including: 36 field trips per year, weekly internships, weekly service learning, multi-day travel learning, community leadership, college prep curriculum taught to their learning styles, and an involvement in and ownership of their own learning process."

– Eric Johnson, Head of School



Outdoors Club, The Nora School

**Waldorf Schools,
Washington Waldorf School**

"The Washington Waldorf School is a pre-K through grade 12 school that prepares young people for the future by developing their capacities for creative imagination, critical thinking, and active engagement in the world. We offer a developmental approach where academics are integrated with the arts, practical skills, and movement throughout the curriculum, resulting in an environment that excites and engages students.

Our teachers carefully tailor their lessons to developmental phases. For example, early childhood programs are play-based, with lots of time outdoors. In the early grades, we deliberately introduce academics using art, stories, and movement to build strong foundations for learning. Academics become more demanding through the middle school years, and by high school the academic curriculum is rigorous.

Waldorf graduates are well known for their insight, self-confidence, communications skills, entrepreneurial spirit, and social intelligence, and are sought by many of the nation's best colleges and universities. They thrive in a variety of careers, including business, education, healthcare, the arts, sciences, and more. Waldorf is a genuine alternative that truly works."

– Jennifer Page, Faculty Chair



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AIDAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL
AGE 18 MONTHS – 6TH GRADE

Aidan is a nurturing independent school that offers an authentic Montessori education, where children develop a lifetime love and motivation for learning.

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202-387-2700

BEAUVOIR, THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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beauvoirschool.org
202-537-6493

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON
2 YEARS OLD – IB

As part of a worldwide family of 42 international schools, British International School of Washington prepares students for successful futures by providing a high-quality, international education, enriched by unique and transformative learning experiences through our Global Campus. BISW challenges and inspires young people to be ambitious for themselves, their school, their community, and their world.

BISWashington.org
202-829-3700

EDMUND BURKE SCHOOL
GRADES 6 – 12

Excellent academics, arts and sports, and a commitment to social justice in an inclusive co-ed college prep school.

burkeschool.org
202-362-8882 / Fax: 202-362-1914

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lowellschool.org
202-577-2000



Students at Norwood School

Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence

PRESCHOOL-GRADE 8
*Nurturing academic excellence
and the confidence to*
THRIVE



"The meaning of 'knowing' has shifted from being able to repeat information for a test to being able to find information, evaluate it, and use it effectively. Through our inquiry approach to learning, students develop questioning, research, and communication skills so they are prepared to solve problems, create solutions, and tackle real-life questions and issues."

-- Peggy Otey, Head of School

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Academy
EST. 1941

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**EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD
TODDLER TO 6TH GRADE**

OPEN HOUSES

November 6, December 4, January 8, 2016



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"Grace is the place for my child."

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Alexandria, Virginia



- Music, Drama, Studio Art, and Integrated Technology
- Service Learning Projects
- Character Development
- Preschool - 3 years old by August 31st
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Open House

November 11, 2015 & January 20, 2016
9:30-11:30 a.m.

or call 703-549-5067 to schedule a tour
www.graceschoolalex.org
3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305

Sheridan
SCHOOL

Register for an Open House
in November or January
or schedule an
Information Session and Tour,
October through December.

Visit SheridanSchool.org
Or call 202.362.7900

Grades K-8 • Washington, DC



Celebrating 50 Years

Contact Susan Arzt, Director of Admission
& Financial Aid to schedule a visit.
301-654-2626 sarzt@concordhill.org



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- Preschool - 8th Grade
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- 4th - 8th BYOT
- Excellent teacher/student ratio
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- Educating students in Northern Virginia through 8th grade since 1953


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www.LCDS.org • Loudoun Country Day School
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guidance@schoolcounseling.com




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www.theharborschool.org

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www.burkeschool.org

— OPEN HOUSE —
Saturday, December 12, 1-3:30pm



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K- GRADE 8

Progressive, student centered, nurturing and challenging concept-based curriculum viewed through a multi-cultural lens.

sheridanschool.org
202-362-7900

ST. PETER SCHOOL
PRE-K - GRADE 8

At St. Peter School, a National Blue Ribbon school on Capitol Hill, our students take part in a rigorous pre-K through Grade 8 academic program, learn to be contributing members in a global society, and are prepared for the future with a solid, well-rounded education. Instilled in each student is a foundation for lifelong intellectual growth and spiritual formation.

stpeterschooldc.org
202-544-1618



IB Montessori High School

Opening Fall 2016 in Bethesda
Enrolling Now.
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WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL (AGE 3)-GRADE 12

Culminating in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, WIS is multilingual and multicultural in both belief and practice and educates students to be responsible and effective world citizens.

wis.edu
202-243-1815

MARYLAND
CHARLES E. SMITH JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
GRADES JK-12

A JK-12 independent school that engages students in an exemplary and inspiring general and Jewish education. We are a welcoming community united by our shared Jewish values with a comprehensive, inquiry-based academic program that challenges students to think critically and look from within.

cesjds.org
301-692-4870

I AM A LIFELONG LEARNER. A FUTURE LEADER. A GLOBAL CITIZEN.



Empowering leaders to serve with faith, intellect, and confidence.

I AM A STONE RIDGE GIRL.

OPEN HOUSES
ALL-SCHOOL · November 11, December 9, and January 7, 8:45 AM

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart is a Catholic, independent, college preparatory school for girls, Grades 1-12, with a co-educational Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten, located in Bethesda, MD. Northern Virginia bus transportation available.

WWW.STONERIDGESCHOOL.ORG



CHELSEA SCHOOL
GRADES 5-12

Chelsea School is an MSDE & OSSE approved non-public school serving students with specific language-based learning differences and ADD/ADHD in a rigorous, college preparatory environment with a complete pathway in advanced technology, a 4:1 teacher-student ratio, and a multi-sensory approach to learning.

chelseaschool.edu
240-467-2100 X303

**CONCORD HILL SCHOOL**

AGE 3 - GRADE 3

Since 1965 - early childhood; small classes/ two teachers; a dynamic academic and social curriculum that prepares our students to be responsible and respectful. Call to schedule a parent visit.

concordhill.org
301-654-2626

**Students at Norwood School****ELIZABETH SETON HS**

GRADES 9 - 12

Elizabeth Seton HS is a learning culture where all the resources, opportunities, and staff are directed toward preparing young women to succeed in college, career, and life. A rigorous college-prep curriculum and pre-career programs prepare graduates to take their places as tomorrow's leaders.

setonhs.org
301-864-4532 / Fax: 301-864-8946
Email: mlandini@setonhs.org

GERMAN SCHOOL WASHINGTON, D.C.

COEDUCATIONAL, AGE 2 - GRADE 12

The best of U.S. and German academic education in a truly international environment. Students graduate with German International Abitur. Strong focus on STEM & foreign languages. Knowledge of German not required for admission to pre-K and K. Bus service to DC, MD, VA. Extended care until 5:00pm.

dswashington.org
Email: admissions@dswash.org
301-767-3807

GRACE EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

AGE 3 - GRADE 5

Founded in 1960, Grace is a coeducational, Episcopal School in Kensington, MD, that provides every student the opportunity for academic excellence in a caring, nurturing, moral environment that embraces diversity and promotes creativity, self-confidence, and service to others.

geds.org
301-949-5860

THE HARBOR SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL THROUGH SECOND GRADE

Developing the mind and the creative spirit. Our belief that all children are brilliant and delightfully unique compels us to find, nurture and sustain the passion that allows each child to shine. Accredited by AIMS and focused exclusively on early childhood.

theharborschool.org
301-365-1100
Email: info@theharborschool.org

HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

GRADES 3-12

Since 1901, Holton-Arms has prepared young women to lead lives of positive influence in an ever-changing world, embrace intellectual curiosity, embolden creative thinking, and develop tenacity of purpose in all that they do. Holton students embody the school motto: "I will find a way or make one."

holton-arms.edu
301-365-5300

MCLEAN SCHOOL

K-12

McLean School is an independent, co-education, K-12 day school serving the Washington, DC metropolitan area. McLean School has for sixty years been helping students realize their full potential by providing a comprehensive college preparatory program that emphasizes small classes, differentiated instruction, and individualized program enhancement. We embrace both traditional learners and ones with mild to moderate learning differences. Many of our students excel in some areas while benefiting from support in others.

mcleanschool.org
240-395-0698 / Fax: 301-299-1639

THE NORA SCHOOL

GRADES 9 - 12, COED

Small classes make a big difference, especially in high school. The Nora School is an intentionally small, independent college-preparatory high school that works to bring out the best in students with a variety of learning styles. Celebrating over 50 years with the same mission. Think Differently.

nora-school.org
301-495-6672 / Fax: 301-495-7829

NORWOOD SCHOOL

GRADES K - 8

Norwood uses the proven power of a K-8 education in a diverse, inclusive, and connected community to inspire joy in learning and engage the whole child in a challenging and dynamic academic program. Norwood's motto is: How you lead your life matters.

norwoodschool.org
301-841-2130 / Fax: 301-841-4636

ROCHAMBEAU,**THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

Rochambeau offers a transformative environment where students learn, grow, and are prepared to succeed in an ever-changing world. Obtaining a High School Diploma and the French Baccalauréat, they can continue their education anywhere in the world. Rochambeau graduates are bicultural and multilingual. French immersion programs are available for non-French speakers.

rochambeau.org
301-530-8260

PHOTO COURTESY KERI RASMUSSEN

**4th graders at Lowell School examine animal life from the Chesapeake Bay****SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL**

GRADES PRE-K - 12

Coed, college preparatory, outstanding academics, arts, athletics; Quaker values; 140 acre wooded campus. Optional boarding 9-12. Summer camps. International/ESL programs.

ssfs.org
301-774-7455 / Fax: 301-576-8664

THE SIENA SCHOOL

GRADES 4 - 12

Co-ed college preparatory school serving bright students with language-based learning differences and average to above intelligence.

thesienaschool.org
301-244-3600 / Fax: 301-244-3601

ST. TIMOTHY'S SCHOOL

GRADES 9-12

Leading college preparatory boarding & day secondary school for girls offering the IB Diploma. New, state-of-the-art academic facility and dining commons; exceptional opportunities in academics, athletics, and the arts; all iPad environment.

stt.org
Email: admis@stt.org

STONE RIDGE SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

PREK - GRADE 12

A Catholic, independent, college preparatory school for girls, Grades 1-12, with a coeducational Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and early childhood program, located in Bethesda, MD. Empowering leaders to serve with faith, intellect, and confidence. Member of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools.

stoneridgeschool.org
301-657-4322

WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

NURSERY (AGE 3) - GRADE 8

Coeducational day; strong academics balanced with arts, sports, foreign language (from pre-K), technology, and a spirit of community. Foreign study trips included in tuition; excellent graduate outplacement for students who are kind, confident and prepared.

w-e-s.org

VIRGINIA**ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**

A Montessori program dedicated to the arts and outdoors, with extended day available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

acdsnet.org
703-837-1303

**BASIS INDEPENDENT MCLEAN
PRE-K - GRADE 12**

BASIS Independent McLean is a school that is redefining education with a liberal arts, STEM-focused curriculum that educates students to the highest international standards, subject expert teachers who are knowledgeable and passionate, and a joyful learning culture where intellectual pursuits result in extraordinary outcomes.

**McLean.BASISindependent.com
571-205-7079**

**BROOKSFIELD SCHOOL
PRE-K-GRADE 4**

A Montessori program dedicated to the arts and outdoors, with extended day available from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**brooksfieldschool.org
703-356-5437 / Fax: 703-356-6620
Email: brksfield@aol.com**

**BROWNE ACADEMY
PRE-K - GRADE 8**

Celebrating 75 years. Small classes, extraordinary teaching, and a nurturing community empower students to be critical thinkers and ethical leaders. We emphasize excellence, diversity, character and community.

**browneacademy.org
Email: admission@browneacademy.org
703-960-3000, ext. 1006**

**BURGUNDY FARM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
GRADES JK - 8**

Inclusive, nurturing environment engages the whole child. Innovative, hands-on approach cultivates independent thinking, academic excellence, respect and responsibility.

**burgundyfarm.org
703-960-3431**

**FLINT HILL SCHOOL
JK - GRADE 12**

An Apple Distinguished School, Flint Hill offers a challenging college preparatory curriculum that includes a 1:1 technology program; 26 AP offerings; language courses in Mandarin, Spanish, French, Latin and Greek; and extensive exposure to art, drama, music, dance and athletics.

**flinthill.org
703-584-2310**

**GRACE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL (ALEXANDRIA)
PRESCHOOL- GRADE 5**

For more than half a century, we've fostered an enthusiasm for learning through our program of academic excellence in a nurturing environment. Students receive individual attention in small classes and are inspired to learn and develop — intellectually, physically, and spiritually.

**graceschoolalex.org
703-549-5067**


**THE LANGLEY SCHOOL
PRE-K - GRADE 8**

Founded upon a deep respect for childhood, The Langley School knows children's social and emotional acuity is critical to their academic success, and we intentionally nurture both in equal measure. Langley's preschool through grade 8 program shapes poised and kind learners who are prepared to thrive in the nation's top high schools.

**LOUDOUN COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
PRE-K - GRADE 8**

Award winning school featuring low student-teacher ratio. Curriculum includes art, technology, languages, athletics, vocal & string instruments. BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) program in middle school. Emphasis on critical and creative thinking. Outstanding field trips.

**LCDS.org
703-777-3841**

**MADEIRA SCHOOL
GRADES 9-12, BOARDING AND DAY**

Madeira's 376-acre campus is located 15 minutes from Washington, D.C. in McLean, Virginia. Offering a rigorous academic program and the unprecedented opportunity for juniors to intern for five weeks on Capitol Hill and for seniors to create custom internships as part of the award-winning co-curriculum program. Madeira's mission is "Launching women who change the world."

**madeira.org
703-556-8273**

**NYSMITH SCHOOL
3 YEARS - GRADE 8**

Top 10 in the world, fun, award-winning program, up to 4 grade levels of diversification in reading and math classes, daily science, computers, logic, foreign language, much more. 1:9 ratio, Minimal homework and repetition. Hands on experiential learning. 2014 Tommy Award from TJ for the "disproportionate" achievement of Nysmith Alumni.

**Nysmith.com
703-552-2912**

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL
PRE-K-GRADE 8**

Providing Christian education in the heart of Arlington for over 60 years. Rigorous academics, Saxon math, small classes. Diverse student body, affordable tuition, extended daycare optional. Close to the Pentagon.

**osva.org; Email: office@osva.org
703-892-4846**

**THE POTOMAC SCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 12**

An independent, co-ed college preparatory day school, founded in 1904. Beautiful 90-acre campus just 3 miles from DC. Guided by the principles of academic excellence and personal character, Potomac prepares students to lead exemplary lives. Small classes; richly varied curriculum; extensive bus service in DC, MD, and VA.

**potomacschool.org
703-749-6313**

**RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY GRADES 6-12,
PG CO-ED DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL WITH
AIR FORCE; JROTC (GRADES 9-12 ONLY).**

Graduating classes average over \$6.6 million in college scholarships. Flight program; small classes; AP and college courses; marching band, middle school, JV, and varsity sports. United Methodist Church-affiliated.

**rma.edu
800-272-1172**

**WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
NURSERY (AGE 3) - GRADE 8**

Coeducational day; strong academics balanced with arts, sports, foreign language (from pre-K), technology, and a spirit of community. Foreign study trips included in tuition; excellent graduate outplacement for students who are kind, confident and prepared.

w-e-s.org

PENNSYLVANIA
**SHADY SIDE ACADEMY
PRE-K-GRADE 12**

A college preparatory, leadership institute, comprised of a middle school and high school. Located in Wayne, PA, 12 miles from Philadelphia, VFMA students are immersed in an educational experience centered on academic excellence, personal motivation, and character building that help students reach their academic potential to achieve success in the classroom and beyond.

**vfmac.edu/academy
email: admissions_academy@vfmac.edu
610-989-1300**

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CONSULTANTS**
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SCHOOLS, BOARDING SCHOOLS, COLLEGE,
THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS**

The School Counseling Group utilizes a collaborative and compassionate approach to guide and support families through the process of finding the best educational and therapeutic placements for children, adolescents, and young adults.

**schoolcounseling.com
guidance@schoolcounseling.com
202-333-3530**