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Education Guide



A Love for Learning

Raise your child to enjoy school with these suggestions.

7

Learning Styles, Explained

Understanding your child's learning style can help her thrive in school.

8

Choosing a Preschool

The right preschool can start your child on a path to success. Here's what to look for.

15

Spotlights on Private Schools

(Sponsored Advertising)

21

A Private Choice

Our at-a-glance private school directory.

31

Is Boarding School Right for My Child?

Boarding schools build independence and academic excellence.

39

Going Public

Profiles of metro area public schools.

43

Special Needs

Numerous types of therapies can help special needs children.

46

Real-World Learning

Field trips offer unique learning opportunities outside the classroom.

52

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The Education Guide
can also be read online at
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For the Love of Learning: Four Ways to Teach Your Child to Enjoy School



By Christina Katz

Raising engaged students is not only the responsibility of the teachers and the administrators at your school, it's a job that starts at home with every parent. You may have anxiety, fears or merely first-day jitters about your child going to school. If you can muster up your courage and take a one-good-day-at-a-time approach, you'll find that raising a child who loves school is easier than you might have imagined.

1 Share to prepare. Tell your child what you enjoyed about school. If your spouse enjoyed school, encourage him to share stories, too. But if you had a difficult time in school, share those stories with someone else. Talk to another adult about the ways you struggled, and how those struggles might color your expectations of what school will be like for your child. Let your fears and biases go so you won't unwittingly pass them on. Remember, your child is not you. By confronting and releasing any back-to-school skeletons in your closet, you open the doors to a positive school experience for your child today.

2 Step back. Some parents have trouble trusting that a school will care about their child as much as they do. And it's true — teachers won't treat your child like a parent would. They will expect more. And they will care about your child as educational professionals, who want to challenge your child so she can realize her potential. Smart parents know that school is not just about academics. When your child is in school, she is learning how to be a member of a community, how to socialize and enjoy playtime. She is learning how to express herself through art, music and physical activity. So take a leap of faith. Remind yourself that these are trained professionals. Trust them with your child's daily education and well-being. Then your child will experience every day as an adventure in learning and growing.

3 Be positive and proactive. Try to find something to like about your school on a regular basis. If you don't know what to like then you might not be aware enough. Have a working knowledge of the school layout. Introduce yourself to teachers on open house days and meet the front office staff, including the principal. Make sure the teacher knows you are on her team. If you have a miscommunication or misunderstanding, strive to work things out in a calm, proactive manner. Don't hang on to negative perceptions or try to create negative consensus with other parents. Put yourself in the teacher or administrator's shoes before you pick up the phone or shoot off that email. Remember, the way you would like to be treated is the way to behave, always, no matter how you feel in the heat of the moment.

4 Give without strings. Whether you work full time or not, there are typically two types of parent volunteers: those who willingly pitch in and help and those who don't want to spend time at school but do it for their kids. Be honest about the kind of parent you are, so you can find ways to be a cheerful contributor to the school. If you like to pitch in, join the PTA or sign up to be a room parent. You will find plenty of opportunities to contribute, but do so without expectations of payoffs for your child based on your involvement. Remember your role as a helper in the larger scheme of things. Be service-minded, looking for opportunities to match the school's needs with what you have to offer.



What's Your Child's Learning Style?

by Sarah Lyons

Understanding your child's learning style is important so you can help them get the most out of their education while identifying how to handle challenges that may occur because of their preferred style. Don't be surprised if your child uses a combination of learning styles.

■ Visual

Visual learners prefer seeing pictures and images to learn new things. They usually have good spatial awareness skills. Kids with this learning style understand maps and have a good sense of direction. They usually love doodling and drawing. Study habits best for these learners are to write information down, underline or highlight as they read, use colorful diagrams, charts and pictures to enable them to visualize what they want to remember.

■ Auditory

People who are auditory learners are typically drawn to music. They may sing, play an instrument or have the ability to pick individual instruments out of a piece of music. They may hum, sing or tap their feet while they work. Using music and rhythm to remember information can be helpful for kids who have this learning style. It might also be helpful to record and play back things you want to remember, or read and recite information aloud.

■ Verbal

Kids with a verbal learning style can easily express themselves in both speaking and written communication. Verbal learners have a strong understanding of the meaning of words and will consistently seek out new words to master. Try using acronyms or reading information aloud while learning new things. Role playing can also be helpful for the verbal learning style.

■ Logical

Kids with a logical learning style generally excel in math and critical thinking. They can recognize patterns and commonalities in seemingly unrelated content. They often understand and work complex calculations in their head. Problems are usually tackled in a systematic way and they enjoy creating lists, agendas, charts and procedures. Kids with this learning style will retain information if they understand the logic behind it, rather than simply memorizing it.

■ Physical

Kids who prefer using their bodies, hands and sense of touch are physical learners. Many enjoy drama, dancing, woodworking or exercise. They would rather go for a run or walk when something is bothering them than sit at home and think it through. These kids use hand gestures and body language to communicate and are very aware of the world around them. Sitting and listening to a lecture can be a challenge. Try actually incorporating the physical objects they are learning about or allowing movement whenever possible. Writing, drawing, flashcards and frequent breaks can also be helpful. Try standing while reading, using a computer for studying or making review into a gross-motor style game.

■ Social

People who are drawn to the social learning style love working in groups or participating in classes. They enjoy sharing their ideas with others and listening to what others think. Kids with this learning style are good at both verbal and nonverbal communication and understand others as well. People typically like being around the social learner and seek their advice or input when faced with problems. Kids with this learning style will enjoy role playing, studying in groups or sharing what they have learned with others.

■ Solitary

People with a solitary learning style often prefer working alone and enjoy thinking and reflecting on things. They tend to be independent, introspective, and private. They are good at focusing on a task and have strong concentration skills. They may also enjoy keeping a journal to reflect on personal thoughts and feelings. Kids with this learning style prefer to study alone in quiet spaces.

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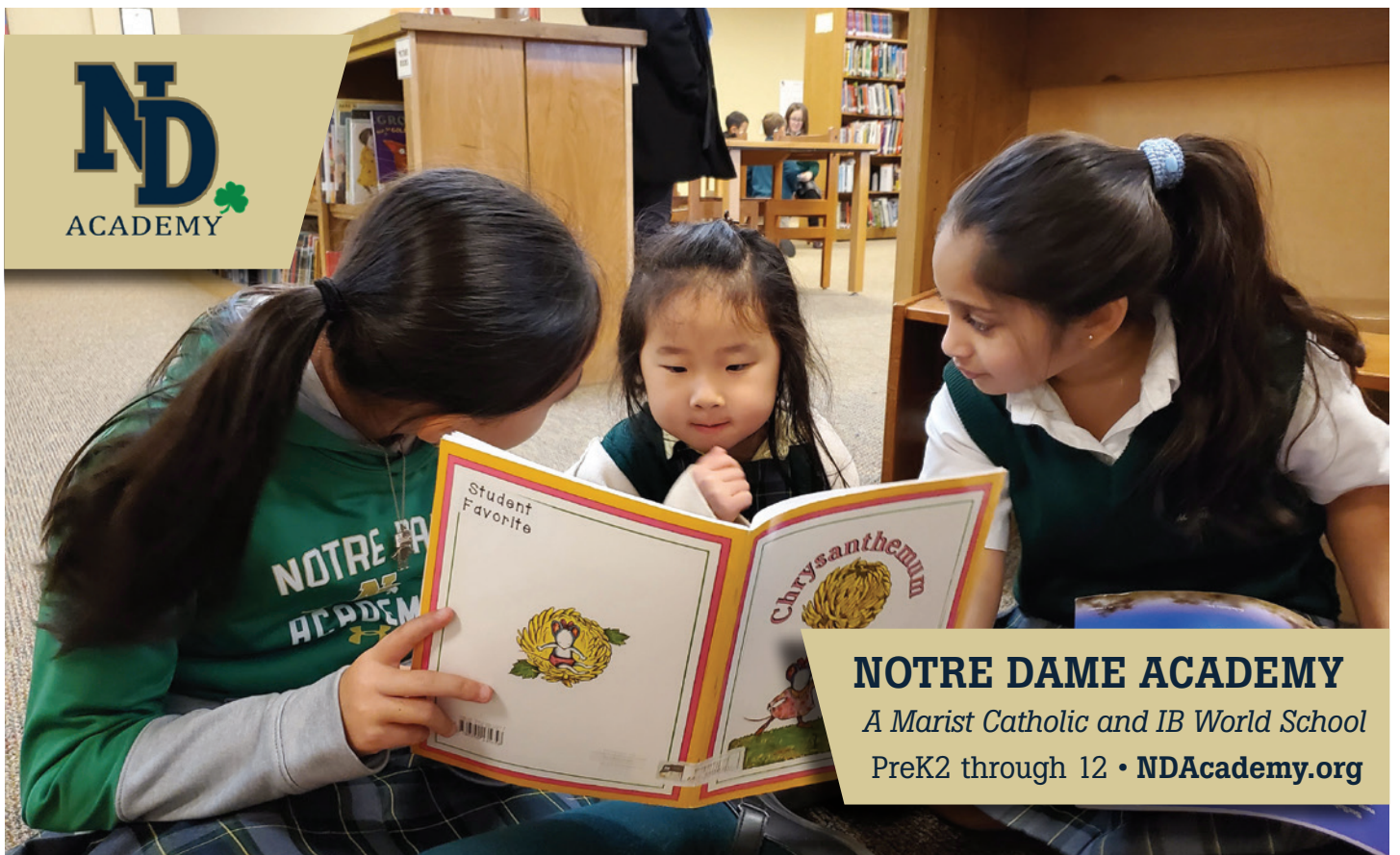
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Get the Most from an Open House

Open houses are the time for parents to learn critical information about a child's potential school. Attend your next open house equipped with what to expect and a list of questions.



Expect to hear a brief history of the school, an overview of educational philosophy, a mission statement and perhaps a list of extracurricular activities. This overview period is a good time for parents to ask about the bus schedule, school lunches, dress code and other general information.

Look past the terms that schools use to describe themselves. Ask for evidence to support the school's claims – SAT scores, attendance records, grade-point averages.

Good questions to ask:

- How much ongoing training do teachers receive?
- How can parents be involved in the classroom?
- If students are put on ability tracks, how is that decided?
- What is the main emphasis of the curriculum?
- Does the school offer free tutoring?

Go Beyond the Open House

Call the prospective school and schedule a time to observe a class in session. This will give you a good idea of the teaching style and classroom setting.

Talk to other parents at the school.

Look at the big picture. Although your child may be entering Pre-K, you may be hoping to stay with the system through high school, so research graduation and college placement rates and scholarship recipients. This information is usually found on the school's website.

– Alexi Wilbourn

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Early education lays the foundation to help your child make a smooth transition from infancy through the school years. Research has found that kids who attend preschool programs are better prepared for kindergarten.

Searching for the right preschool program for your child? Here's what to look for.

A-B-C, 1-2-3

The alphabet and numbers should be a key goal for the school. Research shows preschool programs pay off in academic development. Preschools help children who are ready to advance, but they also help children catch up if they are behind. The more words learned and spoken around your child, the better, as this helps build his vocabulary.

Ask: What is the curriculum for teaching the alphabet and letters? Do expectations vary based on skill level? Are toys and books age-appropriate?

Play Time

Preschools should encourage imaginative and physical play. Free play allows children to think creatively and learn to entertain themselves. Physical play helps learning through physical experience and develop gross motor skills. A child's muscle control develops from large, looser movements to smaller, more precise ones.

Ask: When is playtime scheduled throughout the day? Is the outdoor play area well maintained? Does the classroom have several activity areas?

Cont'd on next page



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Find a Great Preschool

Choosy Kids

Children should have the opportunity to make choices for themselves. This gives him a sense of control. Thinking or cognitive skills develop as he learns to think more complexly, make decisions and solve problems.

Ask: Will my child be allowed to choose some of his own activities during the day? What interesting materials do teachers provide to encourage the development of thinking skills? What questions does the teacher ask to help develop my child's cognitive skills?

Positive Teachers

A positive and nurturing relationship with a teacher may indicate how the child will respond to teachers and school throughout her life. It also predicts children's cognitive advancement in preschool. Research has shown early teacher-child relationships affect the child in many ways, including school adjustment, peer acceptance, school liking or avoidance and more.

Ask: What is the ratio of adult teachers and teaching assistants to children? How does the teacher and teaching assistant interact with the kids? How do they encourage the children's engagement?

Social Graces

Children's social and emotional health affects their overall development and learning. Teachers may use children's books, activities, praise and more to support and reinforce this important concept. Curricula should promote social and emotional learning similarly to the way you would approach it at home, as consistency is essential in a helping preschooler develop his own judgment.

Ask: How does the school address social and emotional development? How does the school handle discipline issues?

Other Questions to Ask:

- Are there sufficient numbers of adults with specialized training in early childhood development and education?
- Does the staff meet regularly to plan and evaluate the program?
- Are parents welcome to observe, discuss policies, make suggestions and participate in the work of the program?
- Do parents and teachers confer regularly?
- Is the school accredited?
- How much will the school cost and what is the admissions policy?
- Does the school have extended hours or after school hours if needed?
- What is the school's policy on illness?

– Emily Webb

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Atlanta Academy, a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, serves over 350 private preschool-8th grade students in North Atlanta. The school's mission, to give every student the individual attention they need to succeed, is at the core of everything they do. Small class sizes allow teachers to understand students' individual strengths and help them discover their own unique talents.

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Beyond the classroom, AIS students participate in award-winning performing and fine arts opportunities, competitive athletics, and global experiential learning. Along with the authorization to offer IB education, AIS is also accredited by the following academic programs: AdvanceED, Agency of French Teaching Abroad (aeefe), Council for International Schools (CIS), European Council for International Schools (ECIS), and Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). For more information, please visit aischool.org.



Atlanta Speech School

The Atlanta Speech School's three pre-schools, K-6 elementary school for children with dyslexia, clinic with a range of services and the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy share one common goal: language and literacy for each child, to provide the strongest possible foundation to construct reading brains. On campus, exceptional professionals tailor the latest cutting-edge research to individual needs, with the relationships, respect and resources so each child can excel. Programs include the Kenan Preschool, which develops children to be exceptionally prepared for school; Stepping Stones, a preschool and transitional kindergarten for children experiencing speech or language delays; the Hamm Center, a listening, spoken language and literacy program for children ages birth to 5 who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families and the Wardlaw School, an elementary school for children with dyslexia. In addition, the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy expands the walls of the school with a mission to ensure that every child has access to literacy the opportunity to decide their own future, regardless of ZIP code. atlantaspeechschool.org. 404-233-5332.



We cultivate a love of learning

Trinity, Atlanta's only private elementary-only school, serves children age three through Sixth Grade **by design**. We believe this configuration best supports children's growth and development. Our entire focus—expertise, facilities, resources—is devoted to these young learners and helping them flourish.

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Spotlight on Private Schools



GRACEPOINT School

Founded in 2012, when two mothers stepped out in faith to provide their dyslexic children with a specialized education in a Christian setting. GRACEPOINT School began with a mere four students and has steadily grown to an enrollment of more than 120 students in grades one through eight. Students receive a comprehensive, high quality education program, combining remediation with enrichment and acceleration. Students typically complete remediation in three to four years allowing them to transition into a more traditional educational environment.



GRACEPOINT utilizes the Orton-Gillingham method, a multisensory approach woven into all subject areas. Their students receive seventy-five minutes of explicit reading instruction daily by a certified Orton-Gillingham teacher. The student/teacher ratio for reading is 5:1, while all other core subjects have a student/teacher ratio of 8:1. The mission at GRACEPOINT is to equip dyslexic students with the skills needed to develop into independent and confident learners. They strive to instill a life-long desire for their students to grow in wisdom and knowledge of the Lord, so that each will fulfill God's purpose and bring Him glory. GRACEPOINT is located in an independent building on the campus of Piedmont Church in Marietta. gracepointschool.org. 678-709-6634.

Holy Innocents' Episcopal School

Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, located just north of Chastain Park and inside the perimeter, reaches across 43 beautiful acres and boasts a state-of-the-art STEM Building, stand-alone Primary School,



Lower School, Middle School and Upper School facilities, a Fine Arts Building, two modern gymnasiums and four expansive athletic fields.

HIES is Atlanta's only comprehensive Episcopal school, with approximately 1,300 students PK3-12. The HIES college-prep curriculum challenges students, encourages collaboration and inspires creative thinking. Course offerings include acclaimed reading and writing programs, foreign language classes for all ages, hands-on science programs, robotics, engineering, film and TV production classes and the Program for Global Citizenship. HIES has one of the region's leading Fine Arts programs and an impressive athletic tradition, with many regional and state championships. For more information, visit hies.org.

Holy Spirit Preparatory School

Holy Spirit Preparatory School is a remarkable institution among the many independent schools in the Atlanta market. The young, accomplished school is one of the few independent Catholic schools in the Atlanta metro area. It serves students from 6 months all the way through 12th grade, so is perfect for families. It keeps getting named one of the top Catholic high schools in the country by the Catholic Education Honor Roll.



Their AP scores are way above state and national averages, and their alumni get accepted to Ivy League schools, military academies, top 25 schools, and universities across the world.

But, really, it's all about fit. Because they maintain a smaller enrollment than most independent schools, they find the right place for each student – channeling them to the right club, the right gifted classes, the right team – and the right college fit after HSP. This school is all about personalized learning, small class sizes, and forming students in “mind, body, and soul” in a family of faith and learning. For more information, call or text admissions at 678-761-7992, or visit holyspiritprep.org.

McGinnis Woods School

McGinnis Woods School is a private school offering a rich Preschool through Middle School Education. The beautiful school campus is located in Forsyth county. The Preschool accepts children as young as 6 weeks old. McGinnis Woods is GAC, SACS, and NAEYC accredited. It is also a member of the Georgia Independent School Association.



The mission of McGinnis Woods is to inspire students with the passion to excel. This is accomplished by providing superior hands-on, minds-on academics and inspiring a lifelong love of learning. Classes with low student-teacher ratios, provide for frequent one-to-one learning. The students learn through a variety of groupings including class lessons, small group activities, STEM activities and “buddy” classes which encourage multi-age groupings. Frequent guest speakers, field trips, character education, leadership opportunities, and community service round out the curriculum. Drama Club, Competitive Sports, Robotics, and Science Olympiad teams train year round. After school programs and Discovery Clubs are also available.

Please visit www.mcginiswoods.org and plan to visit us on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 1-3 p.m. at 5380 Faircroft Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30005 or call 770-664-7764 to set up a tour. Experience the McGinnis Woods difference!



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Arbor Montessori admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, family structure or sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, family structure or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Success with dyslexia starts here

For over 20 years, Swift School has been preparing children with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences to be successful in life.

Swift employs remedial techniques—including the Orton–Gillingham approach—tailored to the learning needs of struggling readers. In addition, Swift provides students the training in executive functioning, social–emotional skills and self–advocacy that they need to be successful after they leave Swift.

Contact us to find out how we can help your child succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Call 678.205.4988 to schedule a tour.



**serving students with
dyslexia in grades 1–8**

300 Grimes Bridge Road, Roswell, GA theswiftschool.org



Spotlight on Private Schools



Montessori School at Emory

Montessori School at Emory was founded over 25 years ago becoming accredited as a Montessori School in 1993. With over 175 students, from 15 months through 14 years, the Montessori School at Emory supports the whole child and prepares them for life through accredited, authentic quality Montessori programs. Children are given one-on-one instruction from their teacher which creates an individualized program that engages their interests and skill levels.

Montessori School at Emory offers several options. Full day, half day, 10 month or year round formats are available. Afternoon enrichment programs are also offered from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., in which children enjoy experiences in the creative arts and sciences such as music, art and foreign language. Also, early morning drop-off is available at 7 a.m. For more information about the Montessori School at Emory, call 404-634-5777 or visit MontessoriSchoolatEmory.com.



Mount Paran Christian School

Mount Paran Christian School exists to provide a stellar academic experience in a Christian environment. It's crucial to guarantee a moral and faith foundation through everything your child learns at school. Through curricular Bible classes, weekly chapel, discipleship groups, and service, faith becomes integrated into who they are. Within small class sizes, MPCS offers 56 AP/honors courses, instructional support, robotics, STEAM starting in PK3, and a 1:1 device program. Our job is to prepare servant-leaders – in the classroom, on the ball field, on the stage, and ultimately in our community.

Mount Paran Christian School is a PreK3-12th grade private Christian, non-denominational, college-preparatory school. MPCS is committed to excellence in academics, award-winning arts, and championship athletics. Founded in 1976, MPCS is fully accredited (SAIS/AdvancED) and located in the shadow of Kennesaw Mountain on a 68-acre collegiate-like campus. MPCS unites with home and church to prepare servant-leaders to honor God, love others, and walk in Truth. We invite you to experience the difference an MPCS education can make for your family at an Open House or personal tour by visiting mtparanschool.com/experience.



Mount Pisgah Christian School

Mount Pisgah Christian School is a top-rated independent Preschool-12th grade school located in the heart of North Fulton in Atlanta. Known for providing an outstanding college prep education grounded in Christian faith and values, 100% of students are accepted into a four-year college or university.

MPCS is educating with intention through personalized, student-centered learning with small class sizes brought to life in academics, athletics and spiritual life. Recognized for academic achievement, Mount Pisgah offers 19 AP and 15 Honors Classes and is an AP Challenge, AP Merit, AP STEM, AP STEM Achievement and AP Humanities School. The Lower and Middle Schools use the innovative MAP® Growth™ assessment.

Mount Pisgah aims to grow students' relationships with God and each other, guided by a spiritual blueprint integrated into the curriculum.

Extracurricular offerings include 46 competitive athletic programs, band, chorus, orchestra, theatre and visual arts, as well as the Mount Pisgah Arts Academy.

Preschool students benefit from personalized care in a faith-based environment. Academic discovery for ages 2-5 includes STEAM Lab activities, music and Spanish. Visit mountpisgahschool.org.



The Mount Vernon School

At The Mount Vernon School, they know your child should love school and when teachers truly understand their students' curiosities and passions, incredible things can happen. This approach has led MV students to pursue passion projects, collaborate with not-for-profit organizations, and work hand-in-hand with Fortune 100 corporations.

At Mount Vernon, they recognize preschool through grade 12 families are not just a part of the community, they are the community. Events, clubs, and organizations invite families to take an active part in the academic and social development of their children. Students acquire a balance between academic rigor, social/emotional needs, and character development with access to more than 54 sports teams, 90+ arts opportunities, global travel, and numerous student-led initiatives and clubs. The new Upper School building, which opened in August 2019, includes an industry-grade recording studio, a two-story cafe and coffee shop, College Counseling Suite; STEM, Maker, and community spaces; studios for fine arts, digital arts, and dance; a VR/AR lab, and a Black Box theater. To schedule a campus tour visit mountvernonsschool.org/tourmv.



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Spotlight on Private Schools



North Cobb Christian School

“North Cobb Christian School feels like home.” This is the number-one comment made by parents and students about the authentic, faith-based culture in preschool K3 through 12th grade at NCCS. From its founding in 1983 to today’s thriving student body of nearly 1,000 learners on an expansive 50-acre campus, NCCS remains true to the calling of faith and family.



An 11:1 student-to-teacher average and diversely qualified teachers scaffold students to unearth their God-given gifts. NCCS’s arts ensembles and 50+ athletics teams are regionally acclaimed, consistently winning state titles. Lower School offers RISE (gifted program), STEAM, and service projects, while Middle School excels at talent discovery and spiritual development. Upper School students soar academically through five Academies (magnet programs), plus extensive on-campus Dual Enrollment and AP/Honors courses. Innovative college counseling results in top scholarships and a 100% college acceptance rate. Plus, schoolwide weekly chapel, peer mentoring, annual retreats and Spring Term trips allow students to be deeply known and disciplined. Feel the difference through a personalized tour: ncchristian.org/admissions, admissions@ncchristian.org, 770-975-0252.

Notre Dame Academy

Notre Dame Academy is the only Pre-K-2 through 12 Marist Catholic and IB World School in the state of Georgia. Founded in 2005, ND Academy fulfills a longtime need for many families seeking a Catholic education.



ND Academy holds the honor of being named the first Catholic school in the state and second in the nation, to receive authorization from the International Baccalaureate (IB), which helps students “develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.” Founded under the guiding principles of the Marist community, the goal of Notre Dame Academy is to integrate the teachings of the Gospel within the context of academic content.

ND Academy teaches students to identify problems, work cooperatively as a team, listen to others, take risks, and present their ideas. The academic program, combined with prayer and the teachings of the Catholic Church, provides students with a foundation and prepares them to excel in the global economy with awareness and sensitivity to the needs of others. Schedule a visit today at ndacademy.org/admissions/visit.

Pace Academy

In 1958, an interfaith group of community leaders envisioned a learning environment open to fresh ideas and debate. Pace Academy today is exactly what its founders had in mind.

With 1,115 students in Pre-First through 12th grade, Pace strives to create prepared, confident citizens of the world. Student-teacher relationships are at the heart of the Pace experience, so the school maintains a student-teacher ratio of 9:1 and an average class size of 12.



Pace develops children’s passions and strengths through academics, athletics and the arts, while providing global perspectives in the classroom and an integrated experience after the bell rings.

Through the Isdell Center for Global Leadership (ICGL), Pace students come to view the world through a global lens. The ICGL builds on an innovative academic curriculum and explores an annual, school-wide theme. Curricular and co-curricular activities, scholars in residence, fellowships, internships and international study tours support education around these themes.

Through the ICGL, Pace students, guided by an outstanding faculty, develop a deep understanding of the world and the people around them. Pace graduates want to be successful and realize that true success means making a difference.

For more information, visit paceacademy.org.

Swift School

Swift School is an independent school serving students in grades 1–8 with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences. Swift’s programming is designed to remediate the language learning challenges faced by these students while capitalizing on the strengths of dyslexic learners. At Swift, dyslexia is viewed through the lens of leading-edge brain science and seen as a brain type with great advantages.



Swift uses the Orton-Gillingham approach to teach students how to decode and understand language and helps students develop interpersonal skills that will allow them to thrive in life beyond Swift. With small class sizes, Swift’s Lower Division provides students a high degree of individualized instruction. The Middle Division offers a challenging program to prepare students for high school. In addition to classroom instructors, the Director of Learning Support and speech-language pathologists support Swift students. Swift offers after school clubs for Lower Division students and interscholastic sports for Middle Division students.

Swift School is located in Roswell off GA-400 at exit 7. Contact them at 678-205-4988 or visit theswiftschool.org to learn more.



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We believe their education should be, too.

At North Cobb Christian School, we excel at individualized learning. We've made the profound discovery that when children are fully challenged, loved, and known, amazing things happen. Namely, they become whom God created them to be.

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Spotlight on Private Schools



Trinity School

Established in 1951, Trinity School is known for its challenging academics, amazing arts program, state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor learning spaces, and community that cares like no other. Serving children age three through Sixth Grade, Trinity devotes everything we have – expertise, facilities, resources – to helping children flourish during these critical developmental years.



Trinity has a unique and balanced approach to education. We cherish the magic of childhood, encouraging students to try things they never imagined and cheering mightily when they succeed. They have ample opportunity to follow their interests and find their passions. In addition to strong foundations in math, language arts, science, and social studies, students are given an abundance of choice – in art, community service, engineering and design, technology, World Languages, music, and physical education – always with the support of teachers who are experts in elementary education.

Encouraged to use their imagination, discover new ideas and approaches, and experiment, Trinity students gain a lifelong love of learning, confidence in their abilities, and strategies to adapt to new situations and an ever-changing world. Discover more at trinityatl.org.

Wesleyan School

Wesleyan School believes faith and intellect are great partners with each other. At Wesleyan, it's not a matter of choosing faith or intellect, but rather using both to create the best possible education for your child. The leadership and faculty work to provide students with an atmosphere that is challenging, reinforces the value of hard work, and emphasizes character and integrity above accomplishment. Wesleyan School has made a commitment, in the midst of a rapidly changing culture, to never waiver on our core principle of dedication to Jesus Christ. This is at the heart of everyday life at Wesleyan as students learn and faculty strive to model the school J.O.Y. motto – Jesus, others, and then yourself.



Enrolling grades K-12, Wesleyan School prepares students for each stage of life and provides them the opportunity to see all the possibilities that lie before them. Located just outside of I-285 in Peachtree Corners, Wesleyan offers bus routes throughout the metro Atlanta area. Application deadlines along with information about admissions events and campus tours can be found online at www.wesleyanschool.org.

Westminster

Westminster is a coeducational Christian, independent school serving bright and motivated students, who are curious by nature and nurtured by challenge. The School was founded in 1951 to develop leaders of conscience who will be a positive force in the world. With an enrollment of 1,870 students in grades pre-first through 12, Westminster fulfills its mission through a curriculum that engages children across the key dimensions of their growth – academic, physical, and spiritual.



The School's dynamic curricular offerings are complemented by extracurricular opportunities including unique service learning projects that partner the students with nonprofit organizations locally and abroad; a dynamic arts program that includes music, visual arts, and drama; a nationally recognized athletic program with more than 84 teams across 17 sports; and interdisciplinary global programs spanning five continents. Westminster students are encouraged to deeply investigate and explore their passions under the guidance of gifted faculty members.

Learn more about Westminster's academics, faculty, extracurricular activities, and admissions process at westminster.net.

Whitefield Academy

Whitefield Academy is a Christ-centered, college-preparatory school serving more than 850 students in grades PreK through 12. Located just off I-285 in Smyrna, Whitefield maintains a solid academic reputation with its numerous AP and honors courses, and a rigorous curriculum that sets the framework for 100 percent of its graduates to matriculate to colleges and universities. In fact, graduates from the past three years have averaged more than \$6.1 million in scholarships, annually.



The Whitefield learning environment facilitates discovery of student talents and interests that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. With more than 50 sports teams, including 20 varsity teams, Whitefield athletes have multiple opportunities for both participation and success – over 100 Whitefield alumni have moved on to NCAA competition in their chosen sport. In addition to academic and athletic prowess, Whitefield's award-winning fine arts programs and first-rate Innovation Lab are allowing students to explore and develop their passions in theater, music, and visual arts, as well as STEM subjects such as engineering and robotics.

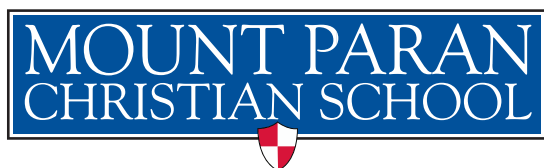
For more information, visit whitefieldacademy.com.



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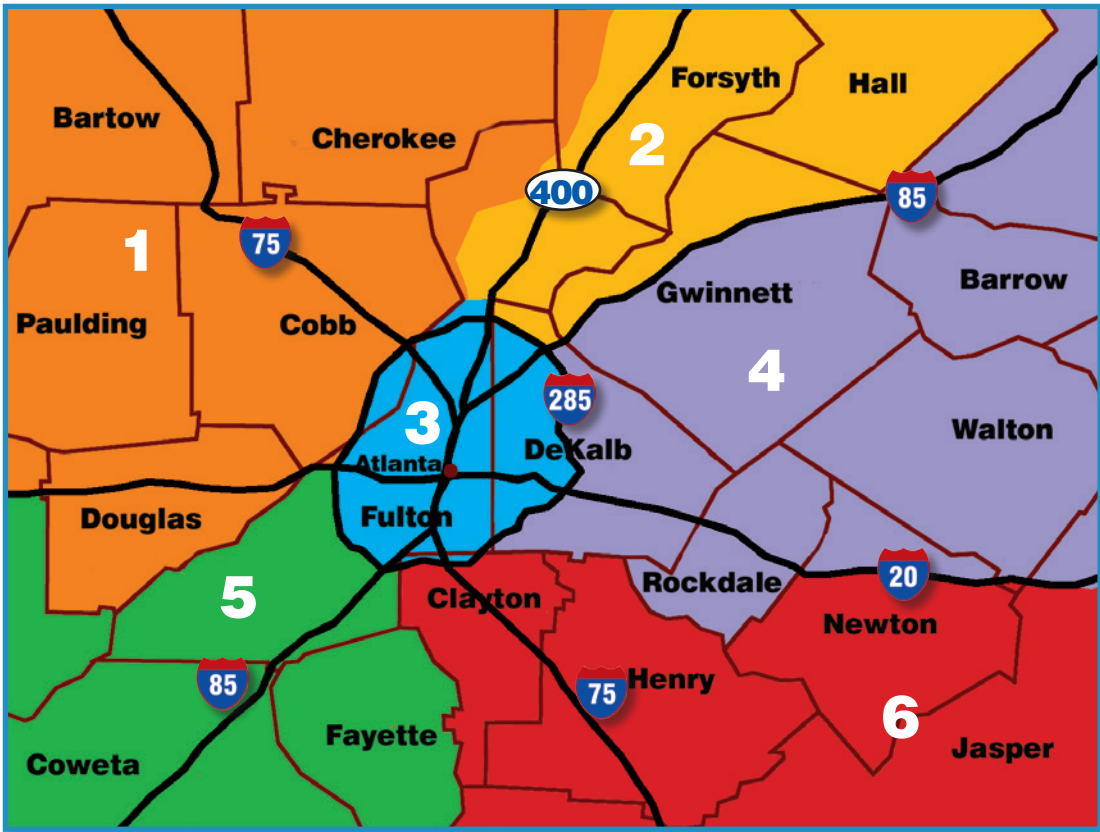
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Private Schools At-A-Glance

Our comprehensive directory of private schools in metro Atlanta lists schools that have 200 students or more. Montessori schools have 100 students or more, while special needs schools have 50 students or more. To be included, schools must go at least through third grade. Our advertising partners are also included.



This map has been divided into color-coded zones. In our directory, each school listing has a corresponding color to help you easily locate private schools in relation to your neighborhood. Schools are listed alphabetically.

Region	Location/Neighborhoods
1	Acworth, Austell, Canton, Cartersville, Douglasville, Kennesaw, Lithia Springs, Mableton, Marietta, Powder Springs, Smyrna, Woodstock
2	Alpharetta, Cumming, Duluth, Gainesville, Johns Creek, Milton, Norcross, Roswell
3	Atlanta, Buckhead, Chamblee, Doraville, Dunwoody, Midtown, Sandy Springs, Vinings

Region	Location/Neighborhoods
4	Auburn, Buford, Conyers, Covington, Dacula, Decatur, Gainesville, Grayson, Hoschton, Lawrenceville, Lilburn, Lithonia, Loganville, Monroe, Norcross, Snellville, Stone Mountain, Sugar Hill, Tucker
5	College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Fayetteville, Hapeville, Newnan, Peachtree City, Sharpsburg, Tyrone
6	Forest Park, Griffin, Hampton, Jonesboro, Locust Grove, Lovejoy, McDonough, Monticello, Morrow, Riverdale, Stockbridge

Need-to-Know Information About Metro Atlanta's Private Schools

Schools At-A-Glance							2020 Directory
School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation	
Academe of the Oaks 146 New St., Decatur (DeKalb) academeatlanta.org	3	404-405-2173	9th-12th	80	\$18,500/yr.		
Alpharetta Christian Academy 44 Academy St., Alpharetta (Fulton) alpharettachristianacademy.com	2	770-475-5762	18mos.-5th	300	\$2,400-\$9,950/yr.	Baptist	
Annunciation Day School 2500 Clairmont Rd. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) annunciationdayschool.org	3	404-565-2850	Preschool-8th	150	\$4,000-\$10,500/yr.	Christian	
Arbor Montessori School 2998 Lavista Rd., and 1434 Scott Blvd., Decatur (DeKalb) arbormontessori.org	3	404-321-9304	18mos.-8th	265	\$11,250-\$19,825/yr.	Montessori	
Atlanta Academy 2000 Holcomb Woods Pkwy., Roswell (Fulton) atlantaacademy.com	2	678-461-6102	Preschool-8th	350	\$10,460-\$16,335/yr.	non-denominational Christian	
Atlanta Girls' School 3254 Northside Pkwy. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) atlantagirisschool.org	3	404-845-0900	6th-12th	216	\$26,330/yr.		
Atlanta International School 2890 N. Fulton Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) aischool.org	3	404-841-3840	K3-12th	1,320	\$23,932-\$27,320/yr.		
Atlanta Jewish Academy 5200 Northland Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) atljewishacademy.org	3	404-843-9900	3mos.-12th	430	\$16,000-\$24,000/yr.	Jewish	
Atlanta Montessori International School 1970 Cliff Valley Way NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) amischool.com	3	404-325-6777	8wks.-15yrs.	230	\$12,000-\$20,000/yr.	Montessori	
The Bedford School 5665 Milan Rd., Fairburn (Fulton) thebedfordschool.org	5	770-774-8001	1st-9th	145	\$19,550-\$19,950/yr.	Learning disabilities	
Blessed Trinity Catholic High School 11320 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) btcatholic.org	2	678-277-9083	9th-12th	1,000	\$13,100/yr.	Catholic	
Brookwood Christian School for Dyslexia 4728 Wood St., Acworth (Cobb) brookwoodchristian.com	1	678-401-5855	1st-12th	60	\$18,500/yr.	Learning disabilities/ Christian	
Cambridge Academy 2780 Flat Shoals Rd., Decatur (DeKalb) acambridgeacademy.org	1	404-241-1321	2yrs.-8th	225	\$8,000-\$9,500/yr.		
Center Academy 3499 South Cobb Dr., Smyrna (Cobb) centeracademy.com	1	770-333-1616	4th-12th	30	\$7,000-\$15,480/yr.	Learning disabilities	
Cherokee Christian Schools 3075 Trickum Rd., Woodstock (Cherokee) cherokeechristian.org	1	678-494-5464	K5-12th	400	\$4,500-\$13,750/yr.	non-denominational Christian	
The Children's School 345 Tenth St. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) tcsatl.org	3	404-873-6985	3yrs.-8th	390	\$4,570-\$23,569/yr.		
Christ the King School 46 Peachtree Way, Atlanta (Fulton) christking.org	3	404-233-0383	K-8th	561	\$9,350-\$12,830/yr.	Catholic	

Schools At-A-Glance

2020 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Cliff Valley School 2426 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) cliffvalley.org	3	678-302-1302	3yrs.-8th	375	\$7,524-\$18,824/yr.	
Community Christian School 2001 Jodeco Rd., Stockbridge (Henry) communitychristianschool.net	6	678-432-0191	6wks.-12th	770	\$7,000-\$10,000/yr.	Christian
Cornerstone Christian Academy 5295 Triangle Pkwy. NW, Peachtree Corners (Gwinnett) cornerstonecougars.org	2	770-441-9222	K-8th	379	\$11,518-\$14,900/yr.	Christian
Cornerstone Schools 4888 Browns Bridge Rd., Cumming (Forsyth) cornerstonesch.com	2	770-205-8202	Infant-12th	300	\$8,500-\$11,000/yr.	
The Cottage School 700 Grimes Bridge Rd., Roswell (Fulton) cottageschool.org	2	770-641-8688	4th-12th	260	\$22,000-\$27,000/yr.	Learning differences
Covenant Christian Academy 6905 Post Rd., Cumming (Forsyth) covenantrams.org	2	770-674-2990	K4-12th	251	\$7,800-\$8,400/yr.	Christian
Covenant Christian School 3130 Atlanta Rd., Smyrna (Cobb) ccssmyrna.org	1	770-435-1596	K4-8th	135	\$6,692-\$10,654/yr.	Christian
Crabapple Montessori School 12387 Crabapple Rd., Alpharetta (Fulton) crabapplemontessori.com	2	770-569-5200	18mos.-12yrs.	180	\$7,000-\$12,000/yr.	Montessori
Creekside Christian Academy 673 Peachtree Pkwy., Cumming (Forsyth) and 175 Foster Dr., McDonough (Henry) creeksideacademy.org	2 6	770-961-9300	K3-12th	825	\$5,500-\$6,790/yr.	Christian
Cumberland Academy of Georgia 650-A Mt. Vernon Hwy. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) cumberlandacademy.org	3	404-835-9000	4th-12th	100	\$25,000/yr.	Asperger, high-functioning Autism
The Cumberland School 2356 Clay Rd., Austell (Cobb) cumberlandchristian.org	1	678-426-1600	PreK-12th	250	\$4,920-\$9,990/yr.	non-denominational Christian
Davis Academy 8105 Roberts Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) davisacademy.org	2	770-671-0085	PreK-8th	500	\$18,503-\$25,840/yr.	Jewish
Dominion Christian School 4607 Burnt Hickory Rd., Marietta (Cobb) dominionchristian.org	1	770-420-2153	6th-12th	180	\$8,900-\$9,900/yr.	Christian
Eagle's Landing Christian Academy 2400 Hwy. 42 North, McDonough (Henry) elcaonline.org	6	770-957-2927	PreK3-12th	996	\$4,068- \$13,944/yr.	Christian
Eastside Christian School 2450 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta (Cobb) eastsidechristianschool.com	1	770-971-2332	K-8th	200	\$6,500-\$9,800/yr.	Christian
Eaton Academy 1000 Old Roswell Lakes Pkwy., Roswell (Fulton) eatonacademy.org	2	770-645-2673	K-12th	150	\$12,500-\$25,000/yr.	
The Epstein School 335 Colewood Way NW, Sandy Springs (Fulton) epsteinatlanta.org	3	404-250-5600	Infant-8th	404	\$7,295-\$23,900/yr.	Jewish
Fellowship Christian School 10965 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) fellowshipchristianschool.org	2	770-993-1650	K4-12th	876	\$7,950-\$18,648/yr.	Christian
Foundations for the Future School 1500 Stanley Rd., Kennesaw (Cobb) foundationsschool.com	1	770-429-4799	6wks.-6th	250	\$9,000-\$11,000/yr.	

Schools At-A-Glance

2020 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Fulton Science Academy 3035 Fanfare Way, Alpharetta (Fulton) fultonscienceacademy.org	2	678-366-2555	PreK-12th	675	\$12,500-\$14,000/yr.	
The Galloway School 215 W. Wieuca Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) gallowayschool.org	3	404-252-8389	3yrs.-12th	750	\$16,999-\$29,075/yr.	
George Walton Academy 1 Bulldog Dr., Monroe (Walton) gwa.com	4	770-267-7578	K3-12th	780	\$4,640-\$13,350/yr.	Judeo-Christian
Grace Christian Academy 355 McDonough Rd., Fayetteville (Fayette) gracechristian.info	5	770-461-0137	K3-12th	200	\$4,635-\$6,946/yr.	Christian
GRACEPOINT 570 Piedmont Rd., Marietta (Cobb) gracepointschool.org	1	678-709-6634	1st-8th	123	\$23,500/yr.	Dyslexia/Christian
Greater Atlanta Christian School 1575 Indian Trail Rd., Norcross (Gwinnett) greateratlantachristian.org	4	770-243-2000	PreK-12th	1,669	\$17,915-\$23,095/yr.	Christian
Harvester Christian Academy 4241 Central Church Rd., Douglasville (Douglas) harvesteracademy.com	1	770-942-1583	K4-12th	261	\$5,850-\$9,065/yr.	Christian
Hebron Christian Academy 775 Dacula Rd., Dacula (Gwinnett) hebronlions.org	4	770-963-9250	PreK-12th	986	\$6,000-\$12,000/yr.	Christian
The Heritage School 2093 Hwy. 29 N, Newnan (Coweta) heritageschool.com	5	770-253-9898	3yrs.-12th	457	\$4,850-\$17,700/yr.	
High Meadows School 1055 Willeo Rd., Roswell (Fulton) highmeadows.org	2	770-993-2940	3yrs.-8th	340	\$6,720-\$20,480/yr.	
Holy Innocents' Episcopal School 805 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) hies.org	3	404-255-4026	PreK3-12th	1,340	\$11,950-\$28,920/yr.	Episcopalian
Holy Redeemer Catholic School 3380 Old Alabama Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) hrcatholicsschool.org	2	770-410-4056	K-8th	452	\$8,670/yr.	Catholic
Holy Spirit Preparatory School 4465 and 4449 Northside Dr., and 4820 Long Island Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) holyspiritprep.org	3	678-761-7992	6mos.-12th	460	\$2,705-\$24,780/yr.	Catholic
Horizon Christian Academy 1270 Sawnee Dr., Cumming (Forsyth) hcaga.org	2	678-947-0711	K-12th	230	\$8,000-\$11,000/yr.	Christian
The Howard School 1192 Foster St., Atlanta (Fulton) howardschool.org	3	404-377-7436	K-12th	298	\$33,675-\$35,350/yr.	Learning disabilities
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School 2855 Briarcliff Rd. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) ihmschool.org	3	404-636-4488	K-8th	477	\$8,030-\$10,520/yr.	Catholic
International Montessori Academy 1240 Euclid Ave. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) imontessoriacademy.com	3	404-474-6375	8wks.-6th	76	\$13,201-\$20,400/yr.	Montessori
Intown Community School 2059 Lavista Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) intownschool.org	3	404-633-8081	K-8th	220	\$7,500-\$10,950/yr.	Christian
Jacob's Ladder Neurodevelopmental School and Therapy Center 407 Hardscrabble Rd., Roswell (Fulton) jacobs laddercenter.com	2	770-998-1017	PreK-12th	150	\$20,000-\$50,000/yr.	Special needs

Schools At-A-Glance

2020 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Killian Hill Christian School 151 Arcado Rd., Lilburn (Gwinnett) khcs.org	4	770-921-3224	K4-12th	410	\$6,000-\$12,900/yr.	Baptist
King's Ridge Christian School 2765 Bethany Bend, Alpharetta (Fulton) kingsridgecs.org	2	770-754-5738	PreK-12th	766	\$6,500-\$21,200/yr.	Christian
Lakeview Academy 796 Lakeview Dr., Gainesville (Hall) lakeviewacademy.com	2	770-532-4383	PreK3-12th	560	\$9,244-\$17,725/yr.	
Landmark Christian School 400 Windgate Rd., Peachtree City (Fayette) and 50 SE Broad St., Fairburn (Fulton) landmarkchristianschool.org	5	770-306-0647	K3-12th	1,064	\$6,825-\$18,690/yr.	Christian
Loganville Christian Academy 2575 Hwy. 81, Loganville (Walton) lcalions.com	4	770-554-9888	PreK-12th	520	\$4,450-\$10,300/yr.	Christian
Lovett School 4075 Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) lovett.org	3	404-262-3032	K-12th	1,620	\$25,400-\$29,530/yr.	
Marist School 3790 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) marist.com	3	770-457-7201	7th-12th	1100	\$20,030/yr.	Catholic
McGinnis Woods Country Day School 5380 Faircroft Dr., Alpharetta (Forsyth) mcginniswoods.org	2	770-664-7764	Infant-8th	375	\$10,125-\$14,225/yr.	
Midtown International School 1575 Sheridan Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) midtowninternationalschool.com	3	404-542-7003	K-12th	240	\$23,000-\$24,000/yr.	
Midway Covenant Christian School 4635 Dallas Hwy., Powder Springs (Cobb) midwayschool.org	1	770-590-1866	K3-8th	300	\$1,600-\$6,900/yr.	Christian
Mill Springs Academy 13660 New Providence Rd., Alpharetta (Fulton) millsprings.org	2	770-360-1336	1st-12th	260	\$20,280-\$26,000/yr.	Learning disabilities
Montessori Academy at Sharon Springs 2830 Old Atlanta Rd., Cumming (Forsyth) montessoriacademygeorgia.com	2	770-205-6277	6wks.-18yrs.	218	\$8,650-\$13,050/yr.	Montessori
Montessori Academy at Vickery 6285 Post Rd., Cumming (Forsyth) montessorivickery.com	2	770-777-9131	18mos. - 9yrs.	170	\$8,000-\$13,000/yr.	Montessori
Montessori School at Emory 3021 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur (DeKalb) montessorischoolofdecatur.com	3	404-634-5777	15mos.-8th	200	\$11,940-\$19,680/yr.	Montessori
Mount Paran Christian School 1275 Stanley Rd. NW, Kennesaw (Cobb) mtparanschool.com	1	770-578-0182	PreK3-12th	1,100	\$3,874-\$19,632/yr.	Christian
Mount Pisgah Christian School 9820 Nesbit Ferry Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) mountpisgahschool.org	2	678-336-3400	6wks.-12th	900	\$2,600-\$20,845/yr.	Christian
The Mount Vernon School 471 and 510 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) mountvernonschool.org	3	404-252-3448	Infant-12th	1,002	\$9,260-\$25,250/yr.	Presbyterian
Mt. Bethel Christian Academy 4385 Lower Roswell Rd., and 2509 Post Oak Tritt Rd., Marietta (Cobb) mtbethelchristian.org	1	770-971-0245	PreK-12th	620	\$10,700-\$15,600/yr.	Methodist
North Cobb Christian School 4500 Eagle Dr., Kennesaw (Cobb) ncchristian.org	1	770-975-0252	PreK3-12th	900	\$5,000-\$15,000/yr.	Christian

Schools At-A-Glance

2019 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Notre Dame Academy 4635 River Green Pkwy., Duluth (Gwinnett) ndacademy.org	2	678-387-9385	PreK2-12th	460	\$8,000-\$16,000/yr.	Catholic
Old Suwanee Christian School 4118 Old Suwanee Rd., Buford (Gwinnett) oldsuwanee.org	4	770-945-5451	K3-12th	175	\$7,400-\$7,550/yr.	Baptist
Omni International School 3940 Cascade Rd., Atlanta (Fulton) omnischoolatl.com	5	404-865-1463	PreK2-6th	65	\$10,500-\$12,250/yr.	
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School 861 Hwy. 279, Fayetteville (Fayette) mercycatholic.org	5	770-461-2202	9th-12th	250	\$12,600/yr.	Catholic
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School 1320 Hearst Dr., Atlanta (DeKalb) olaschool.org	3	404-364-1902	PreK4-8th	550	\$8,950-\$10,450/yr.	Catholic
Pace Academy 966 W. Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) paceacademy.org	3	404-262-1345	Pre1-12th	1,115	\$25,800-\$29,715/yr.	
The Paideia School 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) paideiaschool.org	3	404-377-3491	3yrs.-12th	1,006	\$13,143-\$26,172/yr.	
Peachtree Academy 1801 Ellington Rd., 1760 Ebenezer Rd., Conyers (Rockdale); 10125 Hwy. 142, and 14101 Hwy. 278, Covington (Newton) peachtreeacademy.com	6	770-860-8900	6wks.-12th	700	\$5,500-\$7,800/yr.	
Perimeter School 9500 Medlock Bridge Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) perimeterschool.org	2	678-405-2300	K-8th	523	\$6,320-\$13,055/yr.	Christian
Pinecrest Academy 955 Peachtree Pkwy., Cumming (Forsyth) pinecrestacademy.org	2	770-888-4477	PreK3-12th	662	\$9,180-\$18,470/yr.	Catholic
Porter Academy 200 Cox Rd., Roswell (Fulton) porteracademy.org	2	770-594-1313	4yrs.-14yrs.	60	\$20,476/yr.	Speech and language, occupational therapy
Providence Christian Academy 4575 Lawrenceville Hwy., Lilburn (Gwinnett) and 7340 McGinnis Ferry Rd., Suwanee (Forsyth) providencechristianacademy.org	4 2	770-279-7200	K-12th	700	\$8,790-\$18,000/yr.	Christian
Queen of Angels Catholic School 11340 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) qaschool.org	2	770-518-1804	K-8th	490	\$8,425/yr.	Catholic
Rivers Academy 38 North Main St., Alpharetta (Fulton) and 1934 Cliff Valley Way, NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) riversacademy.com	2 3	Alph: 770-475-0081, Atl: 404-458-5160	4th-12th	400	\$9,252/yr.	
Riverstone Montessori 455 Casteel Rd., Marietta (Cobb) riverstonemontessori.com	1	770-422-9194	2.5yrs.-9th	120	\$9,955-\$17,473/yr.	Montessori
The SAE School 6688 Mableton Pkwy., Mableton (Cobb) SAESchool.org	1	678-239-3200	Preschool-8th	300	\$10,700/yr.	
Sage School 800 Satellite Blvd. NE, Suwanee (Gwinnett) sageschool.net	4	678-318-3588	K-6th	50	\$22,600/yr.	Dyslexia

Schools At-A-Glance

2020 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Saint Francis Schools 13440 Cogburn Rd., and 9375 Willeo Rd., Alpharetta and Roswell (Fulton) saintfrancissschools.com	2	770-641-8257	K-12th	768	\$11,000-\$20,500/yr.	
Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic School 7171 Glenridge Dr. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) saintjude.net	3	770-394-2880	K-8th	480	\$8,9867-10,855/yr.	Catholic
The Schenck School 282 Mt. Paran Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) schenck.org	3	404-252-2591	K-6th	250	\$35,400/yr.	Dyslexia
Shallowford Presbyterian School 2375 Shallowford Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) shallowfordschool.com	3	404 321-3061	15mos.-5th	234	\$1,035-\$6,300/yr.	Presbyterian
Springmont 5750 Long Island Dr. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) springmont.com	3	404-252-3910	18mos.-8th	240	\$10,500-\$21,200/yr.	Montessori
St. Benedict's Episcopal School 2160 Cooper Lake Rd., Smyrna (Cobb) stbs.org	1	678-279-4300	Infant-8th	500	\$7,930-\$13,200/yr.	Episcopalian
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School 1618 Ben King Rd., Kennesaw (Cobb) scsiena.org	1	770-419-8601	K-8th	314	\$7,490-\$7,990/yr.	Catholic
St. John the Evangelist Catholic School 240 Arnold St., Hapeville (Fulton) sjecs.org	3	404-767-4312	PreK-8th	300	\$8,085-\$9,600/yr.	Catholic
St. Joseph Catholic School 81 Lacy St., NW, Marietta (Cobb) stjosephschool.org	1	770-428-3328	PreK4-8th	430	\$7,099-\$9,230/yr.	Catholic
St. Martin's Episcopal School 3110-A Ashford-Dunwoody Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) stmartinschool.org	3	404-237-4260	Preschool-8th	630	\$12,700-\$23,350/yr.	Episcopalian
St. Paul Lutheran School 700 Ardenlee Pkwy., Peachtree City (Fayette) school.stpaulptc.org	5	770-486-3545	12mos.-8th	240	\$1,825-\$7,400/yr.	Lutheran
St. Pius X Catholic High School 2674 Johnson Rd., NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) spx.org	3	404-636-3023	9th-12th	1100	\$13,325-\$14,875/yr.	Catholic
St. Thomas More Catholic School 630 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur (DeKalb) stmga.org	3	404-373-8456	K-8th	485	\$8,222-\$11,314/yr.	Catholic
Strong Rock Christian School 4200 Strong Rock Pkwy., Locust Grove (Henry) strongrockchristianschool.com	6	678-833-1200	PreK3-12th	843	\$7,000-\$14,000/yr.	Christian
Sugar Hill Christian Academy 4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., Sugar Hill (Gwinnett) sugarhillchristian.org	4	678-745-4121	Preschool-12th	463	\$2,359-\$10,138/yr.	Christian
Swift School 300 Grimes Bridge Rd., Roswell (Fulton) theswiftschool.org	2	678-205-4988	1st-8th	208	\$29,470-\$30,470/yr.	Dyslexia and language based learning differences
Tabula Rasa Language Academy 5855 Riverside Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) and 1430 Riverside Pkwy., Lawrenceville (Gwinnett) trlanguages.com	3 4	404-409-0827	Infant-5th	250	\$9,000-\$14,000/yr.	
Torah Day School of Atlanta 1985 Lavista Rd., NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) torahday.org	3	404-982-0800	K-8th	345	\$13,000-\$15,000/yr.	Jewish

Schools At-A-Glance

2020 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Trinity School 4301 Northside Pkwy. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) trinityatl.org	3	404-231-8100	3yrs.-6th	561	\$18,650-\$26,650/yr.	
Village Montessori 1610 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) vmschool.com	2	770-552-0834	18mos.-8th	150	\$5,100-\$14,500/yr.	Montessori
The Waldorf School of Atlanta 827 Kirk Rd., Decatur (DeKalb) waldorfatlanta.org	3	404-377-1315	PreK-8th	240	\$8,240-\$18,440/yr.	
The Walker School 700 Cobb Pkwy., Marietta (Cobb) thewalkerschool.org	1	770-427-2689	PreK-12th	900	\$10,610-\$24,390/yr.	
The Wardlaw School of the Atlanta Speech School 3160 Northside Pkwy. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) atlantaspeechschool.org	3	404-834-7622	K-6th	192	\$37,786/yr.	Dyslexia
The Weber School 6751 Roswell Rd., NE, Atlanta (Fulton) weberschool.org	3	404-917-2500	9th-12th	258	\$29,750/yr.	Transdenominational/Jewish
Wesleyan School 5405 Spalding Dr., Peachtree Corners (Gwinnett) wesleyanschool.org	2	770-448-7640	K-12th	1,179	\$17,440-\$24,900/yr.	Christian
Westminster 1424 W. Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) westminster.net	3	404-355-8673	Pre1st-12th	1,870	\$26,370-\$30,330/yr.	Christian
Whitefield Academy 1 Whitefield Dr., Mableton (Cobb) whitefieldacademy.com	1	678-305-3000	PreK4-12th	850	\$10,000-\$24,000/yr.	Christian
The Wood Acres School 1772 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta (Cobb) woodacresschool.org	1	770-971-1880	2yrs.-8th	350	\$4,700-\$13,000/yr.	
Woodward Academy 1662 Rugby Ave., College Park and 6565 Boles Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) woodward.edu	3	404-765-4001	PreK-12th	2,505	\$18,300-\$28,800/yr.	

While every effort has been made to provide accurate, up-to-date data, please confirm information when contacting schools.



Open House Directory

Get the Most Up-to-date list of School Open Houses at atlantaparent.com

Atlanta PARENT

To be listed in our Open House Directory, call 770-454-7599.

Going Away to Learn: A Look at Boarding Schools

Many families choose boarding schools because of smaller class sizes or a curriculum and teaching style that encourages good character and academic excellence. Some of the advantages of boarding schools include:

- **A School For Every Child:** The most conventional school form is college prep, which can be co-ed or single sex. Military schools mimic the structure and discipline of the armed forces. Arts-based schools prepare students for careers as professional dancers or musicians. Religious schools emphasize faith. Other schools are designed for kids with special needs.
- **Smaller is Better:** Typically, boarding schools have a much smaller class ratio than public schools. The student/teacher ratio is often no more than 10 to 1.
- **Academic Challenge:** Boarding schools tend to have an intense academic curriculum. Educators have advanced degrees, and kids are challenged to excel.
- **Independence with Rules:** Boarding students get to experience life away from home in a structured atmosphere before facing the temptations that come with the fewer rules of college life.



Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School

- **Ethnic Diversity:** Many schools strive for a student body that is racially, economically and socially diverse, offering financial aid to maintain that balance. Students are exposed to kids and cultures they might not encounter in their communities and learn to appreciate and embrace differences.
- **A Community of Lifelong Friends:** Because the students, faculty and administrators are interacting at all hours of the day, students learn from intense bonding experiences. Sharing in the common goals and traditions of the school fosters strong friendships.
- **A Safe Environment:** Many schools have tight security and because of the close-knit nature of the campus, visitors or strangers are likely to be spotted.

– Sharon Morioka and Amanda Allen

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A Typical Day at Boarding School

Wonder what your child's daily schedule will look like at boarding school? Students develop a sense of independence with the absence of parents, but administrators are quick to step in and lend a helping hand. Young men and women thrive in this environment, and learn to manage their time wisely. Here is a look inside:



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7-8 a.m.:	Rise and eat breakfast
8-8:20 a.m.:	Chapel or school meeting
8:30-Noon:	Classes and mid-morning break
Noon-1 p.m.:	Lunch
1-3:30 p.m.:	Classes
3:30-5:30 p.m.:	Extracurricular activities, study time or advisor conferences
6-7 p.m.:	Dinner
7-9 p.m.:	Study hall
9-10 p.m.:	Personal time
10-11 p.m.:	Lights out

On weekends, students visit family or friends or participate in scheduled activities such as field trips. Some schools require attendance at a church service.



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A group of about ten students and one adult, all dressed in winter gear, are posing on a snowy, icy landscape that appears to be a glacier. Large, white, 3D letters spelling 'WE THINK BIG' are superimposed over the background. The students are smiling and looking towards the camera. One student in the foreground is crouching, while others are standing or kneeling. The overall tone is adventurous and inspiring.

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In March, students and faculty explored Patagonia during an Isdell Center for Global Leadership (ICGL) study tour.

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Public School Profiles

A snapshot of school districts in metro Atlanta



DeKalb County School District

Atlanta Public Schools

404-802-3500

www.atlantapublicschools.us

Atlanta Public Schools is the sixth largest school system in Georgia with 51,551 students. There are 5,294 teachers, of which 60% have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 91 schools and programs; 45 elementary; 11 middle; 12 high schools; 3 alternative programs; 18 charter schools

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Kindergarten, 25 to 1; Grades 1-3, 26 to 1; Grades 4-5, 33 to 1; Middle, 33 to 1; High, 33 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$15,658 (FY2018)

Bartow County School System

770-606-5800

www.bartow.k12.ga.us

There are approximately 13,400 students attending Bartow County's 20 schools (K-12), with 72% of 1,043 PSC certified teachers holding advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 12 elementary; 4 middle; 3 high schools; 1 college and career academy

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 18 to 1 (average)

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$10,000

Buford City Schools

770-945-5035

www.bufordcityschools.org

There are 4,966 students enrolled in Buford City Schools. 78% percent of the 299 teachers have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 2 elementary; 1 middle; 1 high school

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 16.61 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$10,882

Cherokee County School District

770-479-1871

www.cherokeek12.net

CCSD has 42,300 students attending 42 schools and centers. There are 2,700 teachers in CCSD, of which 70% have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 23 elementary; 7 middle; 6 high schools; 3 alternative centers; 3 preschool centers

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 16 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,827

Clayton County Public Schools

770-473-2700

www.clayton.k12.ga.us

Clayton County has the fifth largest school system in Georgia with more than 55,000 students. Of the district's 2,997 teachers, 63% have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 38 primary/elementary; 16 middle; 12 high schools; 1 District-approved charter school; 1 psychological education center; 1 multi-purpose education center; included are: 20 Special Programs/Magnet Opportunities

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 18.16 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$8,772

Cobb County School District

770-426-3300

www.cobbk12.org

Cobb County has about 113,000 students attending 112 schools. There are 9,471 certified employees, which 23% have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 67 elementary; 25 middle; 17 high schools; 1 special education center; 1 adult education center; 1 performance learning center; 6 Magnet programs; 1 independent charter school

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** Varies by school. Meets or is lower than state mandated numbers

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$8,953.06

Cont'd on next page

Public School Profiles

Coweta County School System

770-254-2800

www.cowetaschools.net

Coweta County has 22,770 students and about 3,122 employees, 55% of whom are certified teaching employees. 60% of Coweta's teachers hold advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 19 elementary, 6 middle, 3 high schools; 1 College and Career Academy charter school (serving grades 8-12 with traditional and non-traditional learning models); and the school system's Donald W. Nixon Centre for the Performing and Visual Arts

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Kindergarten: 20 to 1 with paraprofessional; Grades 1-3: 20 to 1; Grades 4-5: 24 to 1; Grades 6-8: 28 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,156 (FY2018)

City Schools of Decatur

404-371-3601

www.csdecatur.net

City Schools of Decatur have 5,696 K-12 students attending 9 schools. Of the district's 440 certified teachers, more than 84% hold advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 10 total; 1 early childhood learning center; 5 kindergarten-second; 2 third-fifth; 1 middle; 1 high school

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** Meets or is lower than state mandated standards

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$13,500

DeKalb County School District

678-676-1200

www.dekalbschools.ga.org

DeKalb County School District is the third largest school system in Georgia with 98,957 students. More than 6,000 teachers and about 65% hold advanced degrees

■ **Number of Schools:** 139 schools. School choice options are available in nearly 50 schools to include theme, magnet, IB, charter and Montessori options

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** N/A

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** N/A

Douglas County School System

770-651-2000

www.dcssga.org

There are approximately 26,600 students attending Douglas County's 35 schools. 70% of the 1,940 certified staff have advanced degrees

■ **Number of Schools:** 20 elementary, 8 middle, 5 high schools; 1 Success Center; 1 Academy at CCI

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** Meets or is below state mandates

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,029



Gwinnett County Public Schools



Forsyth County Schools

Fayette County Public Schools

770-460-3535

www.fcboe.org

Fayette County School System has 20,542 students. 76.34% of the 1,494 teachers have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 14 elementary; 5 middle; 5 high schools; 1 alternative school; 1 open campus high school

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 16.74 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$10,166 (based on 2018)

Forsyth County Schools

770-887-2461

www.forsyth.k12.ga.us

More than 50,500 students attend Forsyth County's 39 schools. There are over 3,665 certified employees in the system.

■ **Number of Schools:** 21 elementary; 10 middle; 6 high schools and one 9-12 college and career academy

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 20 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$8,220

Fulton County Schools

470-254-3600

www.fultonschools.org

Fulton County has more than 93,500 students and 6,800 certified staff members at 106 schools. 65.48% of the staff have advanced degrees

■ **Number of Schools:** 59 elementary (many with Pre-K programs); 19 middle; 18 high schools (2 with open campuses); 10 charter schools

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Kindergarten, 22 to 1 with paraprofessional; Grades 1-3, 23 to 1; Grades 4-5, 30 to 1; Middle, 30 to 1; High, 32 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$11,461 (estimated)

Gainesville City School System

770-536-5275

www.gcassk12.net

8,073 students attend Gainesville City's 8 schools. 523 teachers are employed by the system, and 53% of them have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 6 elementary; 1 middle school; 1 high school

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Pre-K: 26 to 1; Grades K-5: 14 to 1; Grades 6-8: 16 to 1; Grades 9-12: 18 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,017

Gwinnett County Public Schools

678-301-6000

www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

With more than 180,000 students attending 141 educational facilities, Gwinnett County is the largest school system in Georgia. The average GCPS teacher holds a Master's degree and has 13 years of experience.

■ **Number of Schools:** 80 elementary; 29 middle; 23 high schools; 9 other educational facilities

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** Varies by classroom, per Strategic Waivers School System contract

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,960

Hall County Schools

770-534-1080

www.hallco.org

There are 27,188 students enrolled in Hall County's 37 schools. There are 2,125 certified staff, and 70% of those have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 20 elementary; 8 middle; 7 high schools; 1 college & career academy; 1 alternative learning center

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 18 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$8,700

Public School Profiles

Henry County Schools

770-957-6601

www.henry.k12.ga.us

There are 43,000 students and 2,960 certified teachers in Henry County Schools. 75% of the certified employees have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 28 elementary; 11 middle; 10 high schools; 1 alternative school; 1 charter college and career academy; 1 6-12 online school (Impact Academy)

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Kindergarten, 24 to 1; Grades 1-3, 25 to 1; Grades 4-8, 32 to 1; Grades 9-12, 34 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,016

Marietta City Schools

770-422-3500

www.marietta-city.org

Some 8,900 students attend Marietta City's 12 schools. There are 1,400 employees with 75% of certified staff holding a Master's degree or higher.

■ **Number of Schools:** 1 preschool; 8 elementary (one is grades 3-5 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Magnet school); 1 6th grade academy; 1 middle; 1 high school

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 20 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$11,967

Paulding County School District

770-443-8000

www.paulding.k12.ga.us

The Paulding County School District has 34 schools, 30,226 students and 1,905 teachers. 67% of the teachers hold advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 19 elementary; 9 middle; 5 high schools; 1 alternative learning center

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 23 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,092

Rockdale County Public Schools

770-483-4713

www.rockdaleschools.org

There are 16,569 students attending Rockdale County Public Schools. Approximately 68.4% of the 1,398 certified personnel hold advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 11 elementary; 4 middle; 3 high schools; 1 college and career academy; 1 alpha school; 1 open campus; 1 magnet school; 11 school choice programs

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 11.83 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$10,467.95



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Special Needs Schools: Finding the Right Fit

Education for children with special needs presents challenges that often can be hard to navigate. With hundreds of programs to choose from and various therapies to think about, how do you know which decision is best for your child? When choosing a school for your child with special needs, whether public or private, here are some questions to think about:



- How is the school organized into departments? Is it by age, ability or subject groups?
- How does this change as my child gets older?
- How many staffers are there in the school?
 - a. teaching
 - b. non-teaching/support staff
 - c. employed to work with children with special needs
- What will the school do to make sure that all the staff knows about my child's individual needs?
- How many children will be in my child's class?
- How will the other children be helped to understand my child's special needs?
- How will my child be helped to make friends?

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- When and how often are children taught out of the classroom?
- How does the school arrange extra support for children who need it?
- How does the school help children learn how to behave and make the school a happy place?
- How does the school deal with bullying?
- How is the children's work assessed for progress?
- What happens if the staff feels my child is not making adequate progress?
- What should I do if I feel my child is not making progress or if I have any concerns?
- How does the school make sure that all children have equal opportunities to take part in school trips?
- How will my child be encouraged to take part in out-of-class or out-of-school activities such as clubs or sports events?
- How often are written reports sent home?
- How will I be involved in the individual planning for my child's special educational needs?
- How will I be kept up to date about what is happening in school? Does the school produce a regular newsletter?
- What health or medical facilities does the school have?
- How will my child get to know the school routine, especially in the first few days after starting?
- How will the school make sure my child has the chance to take part in all areas of the curriculum?
- Are all the areas of the school accessible to my child or will adaptations be necessary?

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Common Therapies for Kids with Special Needs

Numerous types of therapies, from physical therapy to play therapy, can help special needs children.

Occupational therapy (OT):

OT focuses on helping children cope with emotional, social and physical difficulties. It builds a foundation for the types of skills that children need to accomplish everyday tasks.

Physical therapy (PT): Through the use of exercises and physical activities, PT manages and improves patients' physical limitations and helps them achieve the highest level of function possible. It is a tried-and-true form of therapy for children with conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida or traumatic brain injury.

Speech therapy: Children with speech delays, past hearing loss, craniofacial disorders, functional articulation and/or phonological disorders often benefit from speech therapy. Treatment may incorporate reading, recognition games and other activities.

Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT):

CBT is a structured form of therapy used to treat depression, anxiety, phobias and other mental disorders. Treatment helps patients unlearn unwanted behaviors and discover new ways of responding to situations.



Play therapy: Play therapy draws on the curative powers of play to help children with a broad range of social, behavioral, emotional and other developmental issues. The use of toys and activities have been shown to promote creative problem solving, improve social skills and foster learning and acceptable behaviors. — Kate Wicker

Specialized Therapies

Other specialized forms are also available to children with special needs.

■ **Hippotherapy:** The word means "treatment with the help of the horse" and is often used to help improve posture, strength, balance, coordination and attention span.

■ **Music therapy:** This creative therapy uses music and music activities to address an individual's physical, emotional, cognitive and/or social needs.

■ **Aquatic therapy:** Also known as hydrotherapy, this discipline uses pool sessions to facilitate rehabilitation and helps children achieve a greater range of motion than with land-based therapy.

■ **Dance therapy:** This creative therapy uses choreographed or improvised movement to promote healing, release tension and anxiety and help develop gross motor skills, coordination, balance and flexibility.

■ **Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT):** This medical treatment delivers pure oxygen at higher-than-normal pressures to patients sitting or lying in a special chamber. It helps improve speech, memory and other cognitive abilities in patients with brain deficits.



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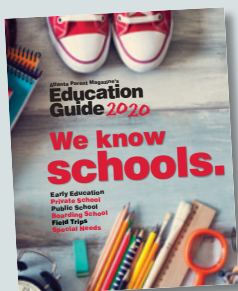
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Get to Know Your Child's Teacher

by Ashley Talmadge

Research shows students have fewer behavioral problems and perform better academically when parents develop a relationship with their child's teacher. Teachers pay more attention to students whose parents are involved, and are more apt to identify problems in the early stages when intervention is more successful.

Sally McEntire, mother of two, has made a practice of nurturing the parent-teacher relationship early on. She says, "I don't want the teacher to hesitate talking to me if they have concerns regarding my child."

Here are some suggestions for building that parent-teacher relationship:



■ **Introduce yourself.** Face-to-face contact is best, but a brief email or handwritten note is always an option. You want the teacher to connect your child specifically to you.

■ **Tell the teacher about some of your child's interests and strengths without bragging.**

Help the teacher understand what motivates your child. For instance, "Katy enjoys figuring out how things are put together and is involved in a robotics club," will be better received than, "Katy's robotics team won at the regional tournament last year, and she was chosen 'Most Valuable Member' of the club."

■ **Describe challenges without relieving your child of responsibility.**

Approach the teacher as a partner. Instead of, "Danny has trouble keeping track of things, so don't be surprised if he loses his homework," try, "Danny has difficulty with organization. Here's what has helped at home, and I'd be happy to hear your suggestions."

■ **Offer to volunteer.** Let the teacher know if you have particular strengths, interests and preferences. Do you like working directly with students? Or would you rather prepare materials? If your schedule doesn't allow you to be in the classroom, can you help out on an occasional field trip?

■ **Help without helicoptering.**

When volunteering in the classroom, be present without being your child's personal assistant. Look for opportunities to help other students or prep materials while observing your child. Or if your child is distracted by your presence, perhaps you can assist in the library, lunchroom or another classroom.

■ **Show an interest in the teacher's life outside of school.**

Connect with her as a person. Is she a birdwatcher? Quilter? Fan of a professional sports team? As McEntire says, "I take time to get to know them, find something in common, even better, find something my kid and teacher have in common or can talk about. I want the teacher endeared to my child."

■ **Keep the teacher in the loop.** Convey circumstances likely to affect your child's classroom performance. A recent illness, lack of sleep, side effects from medication, an impending move, a death or divorce in the family – all can impact a child's conduct and achievement. A heads-up allows the teacher to be proactive. As McEntire concludes, "Because I have spent time building a relationship with the teacher, when difficulties arise, it is much easier to approach them about it. Instead of having a personal conversation with someone I don't know, I am talking with someone I have a rapport with."

■ **Be respectful of the teacher's time.** Remember how many other students are in the class, and understand that the teacher doesn't have time for extended daily encounters with parents.



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■ **Anniston Museums and Gardens (Alabama):** Visit a natural history museum, a museum of rare artifacts and a botanical garden, which offers several ways to incorporate this location into curriculum or at-home learning. exploreamag.org

■ **Bodies The Exhibition:** See the human anatomy in a new way with this exhibit of more than 200 dissected and preserved bodies. premierexhibitions.com

■ **Children's Museum of Atlanta:** Spend the day in play with engaging STEAM exhibits geared toward kids through age 8 – learn about food production, travel the world and more. childrensmuseumatlanta.org

■ **College Football Hall of Fame:** Hands-on exhibits bring the excitement, history and stars of college football to life – kids love the indoor playing field. cfbhall.com

■ **Fernbank Science Center:** Give your kids the stars with a visit to the science center, where planetarium shows explore the wonders of the universe. fernbank.edu

■ **High Museum of Art:** Explore the large collection of art from a variety of time periods. The expanded Greene Family Learning Gallery has lots of ways to create and play. high.org

■ **Mercedes-Benz Stadium:** The STEAM-based educational tour for grades 3-12 teaches students about the stadium's LEED Platinum Certification, architectural and engineering elements and artwork. mercedesbenzstadium.com/tours

■ **Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory:** School programs at Carlos introduce students to art and its connection to the world. Explore the art and culture of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, South Asia, the indigenous Americans, and 19th and 20th century sub-Saharan Africa. carlos.emory.edu

■ **The Rock Ranch:** This 1,500-acre agritourism destination founded by the late S. Truett Cathy of Chick-fil-A, gives kids a taste of life on the farm and a working cattle ranch with hands-on activities. therockranch.com

■ **The Southern Museum:** Learn about the Civil War and the Great Locomotive Chase (and see The General locomotive), and explore the history of railroads and Georgia's early industrialization. southernmuseum.org

■ **Stone Mountain Park:** Hands-on, interactive educational programs for all ages, including Science in Motion with displays of cars, planes and space capsules, visit the dinosaurs in the Fossil Gallery, gaze at the stars in the Tellus Observatory and more. stonemountainpark.com/education

■ **Tellus Science Museum:** Explore an 800-square-foot solar house and learn about technology, see Science in Motion with displays of cars, planes and space capsules, visit the dinosaurs in the Fossil Gallery, gaze at the stars in the Tellus Observatory and more. tellusmuseum.org

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■ **Zoo Atlanta:** A visit to the zoo is more than just seeing exotic animals – it's a chance to learn about their natural habitat and habits, their diet and care, and much, much more. zooatlanta.org

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■ **Science Made Fun:** Hands-on programs excite and inspire by making kids real scientists conducting real experiments. Age-appropriate programs are available for preschool through middle school. sciencemadefunatl.net

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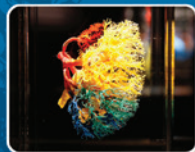
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Plan Ahead

- **Pick a destination** that fits the area of interest you plan to explore.
- **Schedule the trip as far in advance** as you can. Some venues offer group discounts, so ask how many you need in a group to qualify. For popular destinations, visits made early in the week will be less crowded.
- **If you're taking a group**, talk with your guide in advance to tailor the visit to your group's interests.
- **Make sure you have enough chaperones** for your group – a good ratio is one adult per five children – and make sure the chaperones know the itinerary, have a list of each child's name and a list of the items each child should see, and they know where and when to meet if the group splits up.
- **If taking a large group**, outfitting the kids in their school shirts or fluorescent T-shirts will help chaperones keep track.
- **Before the field trip**, gather information from the destination's website, read books, watch videos or take virtual field trips. Make sure the kids have a good basic knowledge of the place they'll be visiting and why they'll be there.

One week ahead

Call the location and confirm the trip. Make sure of the directions, and ask if there are directions that will avoid traffic snarls. Be sure you know where to park, particularly if you'll be arriving by bus. Set some ground rules for behavior for your group, and make sure everyone knows them – and the consequences of acting out. Decide how you'll do lunch – you'll need to make reservations in advance with the venue or a restaurant for a large group, or you might ask each child to pack a sack lunch.

– Sue Price and Amanda Miller Allen

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Advertiser Index

Early Education

Arbor Montessori School	17
Gems Learning Academy	14
The Jewish Early Childhood Council of Atlanta	63
KinderCare Learning Centers	16
MJCCA Preschools	14
Seeds of Wonder Journey School	17
The Suzuki School	15

Charter Schools

International Charter School of Atlanta	45
---	----

Private Schools

Academe of the Oaks	9
Arbor Montessori School	24
Atlanta Academy	61
Atlanta International School	6
Atlanta Montessori International School	2
Atlanta Speech School	13
Carlisle Montessori School	13
City Academy of Atlanta	30
Endeavor Montessori	20
Montessori at Sharon Springs	2

Montessori at Vickery	2
The Galloway School	19
High Meadows School	18
Holy Innocents' Episcopal School	18
Holy Spirit Preparatory School	3
International Montessori Academy	22
McGinnis Woods Country Day School	45
Montessori School at Emory	19
Mount Paran Christian School	30
Mount Pisgah Christian School	10
The Mount Vernon School	20
North Cobb Christian School	28
Notre Dame Academy	10
Omni International School	4
Pace Academy	42
Springmont	28
St. Benedict's Episcopal School	11
St. Martin's Episcopal School	26
Tabula Rasa - The Language Academy	4
Trinity School	22
The Walker School	9
Wesleyan School	11
Westminster	42

Whitefield Academy	26
Woodward Academy	61

Boarding Schools

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School	40
Riverside Military Academy	41
SOAR Academy	39

Learning Differences/ Special Needs

Atlanta Pubic Schools	47
Brookwood Christian School	49
Center Academy	49
Cumberland Academy of Georgia	47
easterseals North Georgia Children Services	48
GRACEPOINT	12
Porter Academy	49
Sage School	46
Special Needs Schools of Gwinnett	49
Swift School	24

Field Trips

Anniston Museum and Gardens	54
Bodies the Exhibition	54
Children's Museum	58
College Football Hall of Fame	Back Cover
Fernbank Science Center	58
High Touch - High Tech	59
Kuumba Storytellers	57
Mercedes-Benz Stadium	55
Michael C. Carlos Museum	56
The Rock Ranch	58
Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History	56
Stone Mountain Park	57
Tiny Towne	59
Zoo Atlanta	53

Tutoring

Beth Bristow Tutorial Services	6
Vnaya Online Tutoring	12

Additional Resources

Dynamo Swim Center	59
Georgia Lottery Corporation	62
Mercer University	40
Posh Playdates	59



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Professor Caleb Jackson



Caleb was born to teach. In fact, every kid he plays with leaves knowing a little more about something. One thing he doesn't know yet is that his dream of being a professor can one day come true, because you play the Georgia Lottery. For the past 25 years, the Georgia Lottery and you have been helping our students reach their true potential. That gets an "A" in Caleb's book.

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The Jewish Early Childhood Council of Atlanta

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<div>14</div> <div></div> <div>Etz Chaim Preschool EtzChaim.net 770-977-3384</div>			<div>6</div> <div></div> <div>The Weinstein School AtlantaJCC.org 678-812-3833</div>
<div>13</div> <div></div> <div>The Sunshine School AtlantaJCC.org 678-812-3708</div>			<div>7</div> <div></div> <div>B'nai Torah Preschool BnaiTorah.org 404-257-1733</div>
<div>12</div> <div></div> <div>The Epstein School EpsteinAtlanta.org 404-250-5600</div>			<div>8</div> <div></div> <div>Beth Jacob Preschool BethJacobAtlanta.org 678-244-6659</div>
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