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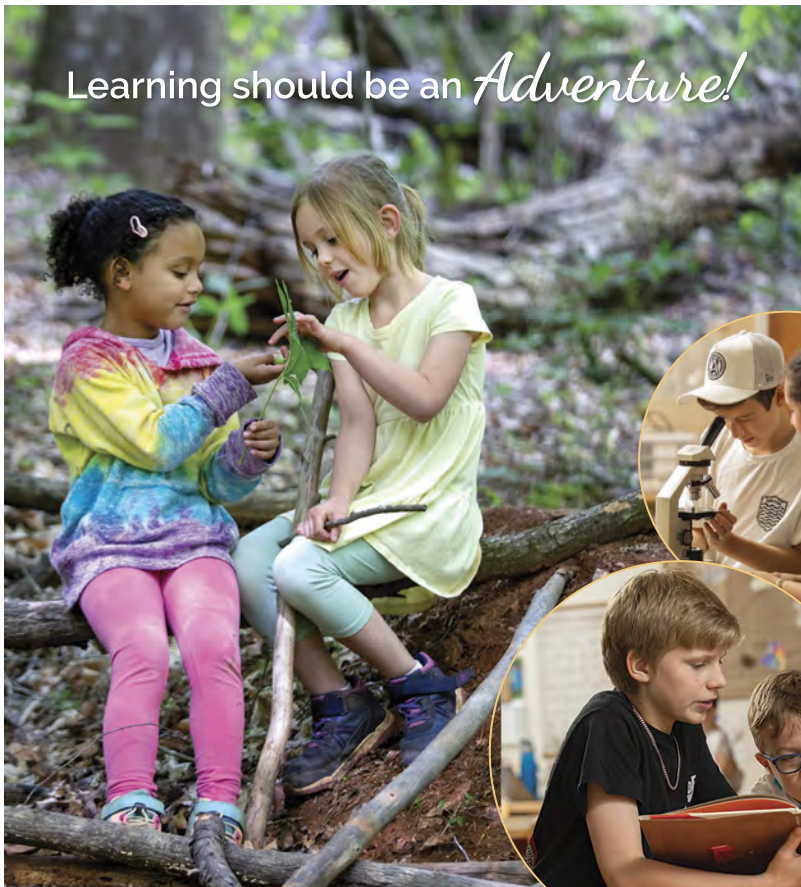
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Atlanta Parent's Education Viewbook

2024



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Atlanta Parent's Education Viewbook

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The Education Viewbook
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How to Find the Perfect Preschool for Your Family

by Tali Benjamin

Finding a preschool may seem stressful but when you focus on the right things, you can find the perfect place for you and your kids. The result will be just the right amount of socialization, learning, independence and fun for your tot. It will also give you some kid-free time to work, run errands or relax. Plus, you might make a friend or two of your own!

Here are six main things to consider when looking at preschools for your child:

■ Curriculum

Preschool is your child's first foray into learning, so it's important to be sure the educational philosophy fits your child's personality and is in line with your desires. Some preschools focus more on academics and getting kids kindergarten ready. Others concentrate on the arts, social skills or nature-based learning.

■ People

When you tour the school, look at the kids' faces. Are they smiling? Do they seem happy to be there? Do the same with the teachers. Are they engaging their students? Do their interactions seem gentle and kind? Also, consider cultural diversity. Preschool is a great time for your child to be introduced to people from various backgrounds and to learn about what makes other cultures special. Find a current parent or two to speak with to get their opinions and see if your family will feel comfortable being part of this larger group.

■ Environment

Your child will be spending a few hours or most of the day at preschool, so you want to be sure the facility provides a safe, clean learning environment. Many preschools opt for minimal decorations and muted colors so that young learners don't get overwhelmed by their environments. Consider the classrooms. They should be well-organized and have age-appropriate toys and learning stations. Outdoor play is essential for preschoolers, so be sure there is a secure space for this as well.

■ Schedule

You have to find a preschool with a schedule that aligns with your family's needs. Many Atlanta-area preschools offer two-, three- and five-day-a-week options, as well as half- or full-day programs. Think about what your child would benefit from most, as well as what your needs are. Building to full-time is also something to consider if you have the flexibility and aren't sure how your child will adjust to preschool.

Cont'd on next page





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■ Cost

When considering preschools, cost is obviously a factor. If you are on a budget, opt for fewer days a week if that helps make preschool more realistic. Most schools post tuition rates online, but if you cannot find them, ask. And, be sure to find out if those costs are all-inclusive or if there are other fees for lunch, field trips or other items. Being comfortable with how much you are spending on preschool is key to it being a positive experience for the whole family.

■ Location

Choose a preschool that is convenient to your routine. Depending on your situation and the length of your commute, that could mean opting for a preschool closer to where you work instead of close to home. If you work from home or are a stay-at-home parent, a preschool within a 10-minute or so radius is ideal.

Finding the perfect preschool for your family doesn't have to be stressful when you take into account these important decision points. Be honest with yourself about what you want for your child and what will work best for you as well. The preschool years are some of the best, so enjoy them!

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Accreditation is also important.

■ Organizations that oversee the efficacy of preschool programs can be a helpful tool in your search. Check for accreditation when choosing a school for your child. Certain specialty preschools, such as Montessori, may have additional accreditations from their national or international association as well.

■ **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):** This non-profit organization promotes high-quality learning by connecting practice, policy and research. Accredited preschools have met national standards of quality and educator preparedness.

■ **The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start):** This state government agency was created in 2004 to meet the childcare and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. Accredited preschools have met specific safety and programmatic requirements.



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PRESCHOOL

FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL: Understanding the Educational Choices

by Emily Webb

Navigating the education world isn't as easy as it used to be. There are so many types of schools available, each with their own philosophy and structure. Private schools in metro Atlanta can be very specialized and each set their own tuition and admissions processes. Even within public school systems, schools can offer different classes and distinct opportunities.

You should speak with other parents who have similar values, visit schools to see if you think your child would be happy, and consider practical things like location and costs. To help make your journey to the right school shorter, here's a guide to demystify school choice.



Charlotte Mason

A British educator and philosopher in the late 19th and early 20th century, Charlotte Mason designed, developed and promoted a relational education in a living environment filled with books, experiences, nature and ideas, where the child is viewed as a person and the educator as one who cooperates with God. A relational education begins by recognizing that children, as persons, are born into and meant for relationship with themselves, with others, with the world around them and with God.

Charter Schools

Charter schools are public schools that operate with freedom from many of the local and state regulations that apply to traditional public schools. Functioning as a public school, they are tuition-free and do not have admissions criteria beyond residency. Charter schools are autonomous and allowed to make their own decisions, operating under the terms of a charter, or contract. There are 115 charter schools in Georgia, according to the Georgia Department of Education, and during the 2021-2022 school year, 60,039 students were enrolled in Georgia public charter schools, according to the Georgia Charter Schools Association.

What to look for in choosing a school:

- Qualified teachers and administration.
- Curriculum and learning environment that suits your child.



Faith-Based Schools

A faith-based or religious school is a school that identifies with a specific religious group, such as Catholic, Jewish, Protestant or Episcopal. These schools are always private institutions, although not all private schools are religious. You will usually see a school's religious affiliation listed within its description, and these schools have curricula that include teachings of faith along with the traditional curriculum.

Homeschool

Homeschool programs allow children to be educated at home. Georgia's home study law requires homeschool parents/guardians to provide a basic academic educational program which includes mathematics, English/language arts, science, social studies and reading. Parents/guardians decide which curriculum is best for their child, and you must submit a Declaration of Intent by Sept. 1 or within 30 days after a home study program. You may employ a tutor. Parents must have a high school diploma or GED. Some families group together to form homeschool pods or learning pods.

Hybrid Schools

Hybrid learning environments combine virtual learning and face-to-face classes. Students come into school at least one day a week with a schedule that includes days of remote learning.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Schools

This educational program allows children to take risks, collaborate with others and acquire deep knowledge through a Program of Inquiry or Unit of Inquiry that focuses on trans-disciplinary models. The four stages of IB learning: Primary Years Programme: Ages 3-11; Middle Years Programme: Ages 11-16; Diploma Programme: Ages 16-19; Career-related Programme: Ages 16-19 with a focus on career-specific learning. It is offered in 98 schools across the state, both public and private.

Language Immersion Schools

In Georgia's dual language programs, students spend at least half of their school day in the target language and the other half in English in order to help students achieve higher proficiency in the second language. Programs across Georgia include immersion in Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Korean and Japanese. These schools can be public or private.

Magnet Schools / Programs

With magnet education, learning is centered around one big theme. Magnet schools are free public schools operated by school districts allowing kids to focus on a specific learning track. For example, Fulton County high school students have the option to enroll in one of their four magnet programs, if they are interested in mathematics and science, visual or performing arts, international studies, business or STEM.

Montessori Schools

Developed and named for Dr. Maria Montessori, Montessori education is a child-focused approach that is student-led and self-paced but guided, assessed and enriched by teachers. Students are taught in a multi-age classroom, and individual students follow their own curiosity at their own pace.

Nature-Based Schools

Nature-based schools have the same academic standards of a traditional school, but nature is at the core of the school's philosophy, curriculum and classroom design. These schools can be public or private, and are typically focused on the early education years, starting at the preschool level. The natural world is infused into the teaching of every subject, outdoor time is extensive, and activities are based on seasonal happenings.

Private Schools

Private or independent schools are, by nature, schools of choice. Families can choose their child's learning environment based on matching their family's world view, religious values or education philosophy. Private schools can set their own admissions standards. There are 720 private schools in Georgia.

Cont'd on next page

■ School culture and values that your family can embrace.

■ Transportation accessibility and travel time.

■ Helpful extracurricular options like clubs and after care.

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FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL

Public Schools

Public schools are generally primary or secondary schools that educate all students without charge. They are funded in whole or in part by taxation. There are currently 181 school districts across the state of Georgia containing more than 2,200 schools and employing more than 114,800 teachers who educate approximately 1.6 million students every day.

Reggio Emilia Schools

The Reggio Emilia Approach has its first traces in the mid-19th century and is based on a poem written by Loris Malaguzzi entitled "No way. The Hundred is There," which depicts children as having multiple ways of thinking and doing that need to be nurtured rather than corrected. The approach values children as active protagonists in their growing processes with progettazione/designing, the hundred languages, organization, environment and spaces, participation, learning as a process of construction, formation/professional growth, educational research, evaluation and educational documentation.



Special Education Schools

Special education schools are private and public schools that serve students with special needs. Some focus on multiple needs; others on specific learning differences. These can include communicative, physical and social learning differences like ADHD, autism and hearing impairment. Teachers are educated to meet the specialized learning needs of students. They often have an extensive support staff of guidance counselors, psychologists and social workers.

Virtual Schools

Virtual or online schools are educational programs that are attended remotely. Schools or academies may be public or private. For example, the Georgia Virtual School is an internet-based public school housed in the Georgia Department of Education that serves public, private and homeschooled students throughout the state.

Waldorf Schools

Waldorf schools offer a developmentally appropriate, experiential and academically rigorous approach to education by integrating the arts in all academic disciplines. Waldorf education aims to inspire life-long learning in all students and to enable them to fully develop their unique capacities. Founded in the early 20th century, Waldorf education is based on the insights, teachings and principles of education outlined by world-renowned artist and scientist Rudolf Steiner.

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Private Schools: A Close-up View



Choosing the right private school for your child may feel challenging. The following pages will give you a more in-depth view of academics, student life, athletics and more at some of Atlanta's best private schools. Discover more and find a school that checks all the boxes for your family.

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



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respect for others, and accountability to core values. College-prep academics are at the honors level and above in high school and advanced levels in the middle grades. Using superior content and proven methods, students cultivate subject mastery, critical thinking skills and ownership of knowledge. Capstone is a school whose structure works best for students who desire the camaraderie of a classroom setting but require a flexible schedule to pursue outside interests and quality family time. Courses exceed standards while meeting three days a week. This is accomplished without sacrificing learning and eliminates the wasted time and stress of a traditional school schedule. The core belief at Capstone Academy is that students who are balanced and understand their own power, can explore their education and pursue their passions with authenticity.

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At Davis Academy they celebrate both the ways their diversity makes the school vibrant and the individual differences that make their school community so unique. With a retention rate of 97%, The Davis Academy community is comprised of families from across the globe, nation, and 31 metro Atlanta zip codes. Davis graduates attend the most prestigious public and private high schools in Atlanta. Students know who they are and continuously make a difference in their communities and the world.



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Founded as a model of
diversity in 1991.

The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) is a Quaker school where joyful learners come together in small, diverse classes and gain the confidence to become their best selves as students and engaged citizens. FSA offers an exceptional education with differentiated, developmentally-based instruction in small, diverse classes for PreK3 – Grade 8. Not only are students prepared for academic success at higher levels, but they are also empowered with the conscience, conviction and compassion to make a difference in a challenging world as peacemakers and advocates for social justice.



Founded as a model of diversity in 1991, FSA is one of 78 Friends Schools nationwide and the only Friends School in Georgia. Beyond excellent academic preparation for high school and college, FSA provides a place for the discovery and use of individual voices and gifts. It teaches an active and informed sense of social responsibility and the experience of living and learning in a diverse community of equals. Schedule a tour and learn more today!



Scan the QR Code to learn more about our upcoming tours!



Discover more at friendsschoolatlanta.org



FSA DISTINCTIVES

- Differentiated Developmentally-Based Instruction
- Orton-Gillingham Approach Incorporated Into Early Literacy
- Vibrant and Diverse School Community Where Differences Are Embraced and Celebrated
- 1:1 School Issued Technology Devices to Grades 2-8
- Service-Learning Program
- Core Curriculum Supplemented with a Wide Array of Co-Curricular Activities
- Incorporation of Quaker Values of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship (SPICES) into All Aspects of the Life of the School

EDUCATING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



the
galloway
school

Founded 1969

PreK3 – Grade 12

750 Students

215 Chastain Park Avenue, NW

Atlanta · Fulton County

404-252-8389

gallowayschool.org

Galloway students confidently embrace challenges while developing the knowledge, skills, and cultural competence to thrive in their chosen pathways.

Located in beautiful Chastain Park, The Galloway School is an independent day school that serves a diverse student body of around 750 students in Pre-K3 through 12th grade. At Galloway, learning is joyful, individuals are valued, and self-discovery is encouraged. Galloway students confidently embrace challenges while developing the knowledge, skills, and cultural competence to thrive as enlightened contributors in their chosen pathways.



Galloway offers an environment of high expectations and low anxiety that encourages students to grow by teaching them to challenge themselves today and for the rest of their lives. Throughout their time at Galloway, students not only develop an abiding love of learning but learn to embrace it as a life-long endeavor.

Graduates attest that Galloway's focus on the journey of learning and personal development is what makes the school truly different, and the results speak for themselves. Galloway graduates are mature, independent, and confident individuals who are well prepared for college and for a life lived as enlightened citizens who think independently, care deeply, and engage responsibly. For more information, call 404-252-8389 or visit gallowayschool.org.

Galloway students confidently embrace challenges while developing the knowledge, skills, and cultural competence to thrive as enlightened contributors in their chosen pathways.



the
galloway
school

Schedule your family's tour at gallowayschool.org/visit! PRE-K3 – GRADE 12

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



Founded 1959

PK3 – Grade 12

1,395 Students

805 Mount Vernon Highway NW

Atlanta · Fulton County

404-255-4026

hies.org

Holy Innocents' Episcopal School develops in students a love of learning, respect for self and others, faith in God, and a sense of service to the world community.

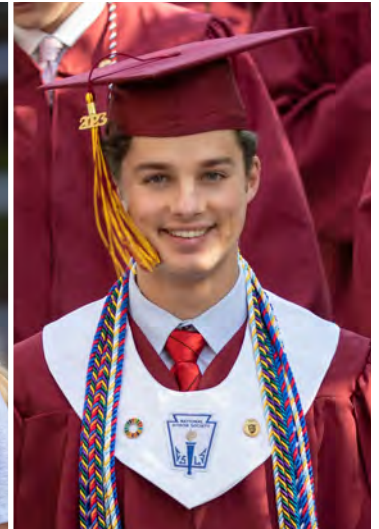
HIES is one of the nation's largest Episcopal schools, enrolling 1,395 students in grades PK3-12. Here, in a uniquely vibrant learning community, filled with encouragement and every imaginable opportunity, students are able to pursue their passions and are challenged to reach their full potential.



Located just north of Chastain Park and inside the perimeter, HIES reaches across 43 beautiful acres and boasts a state-of-the-art STEM Building, stand-alone Primary, Lower, Middle and Upper School facilities, a Fine Arts Building, two modern gymnasiums and four expansive athletic fields.

Their 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 INNOCENTS'
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Where students pursue their passions and are challenged to reach their full potential.

PK3-12 | hies.org | 805 Mount Vernon Hwy, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



HOLY SPIRIT
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Founded 1996

6 Months – Grade 12

350 Students

4820 Long Island Drive

Atlanta · Fulton County

678-761-7992

holyspiritprep.org

HSP prepares children with an education rooted in the Catholic faith and Christ's promise of eternal life.

Holy Spirit Preparatory School is a classical Catholic school serving students 6 months–12th grade. The curriculum combines the best of classical pedagogical traditions in a joyful, engaging, and thoroughly Catholic environment. Through these means, Holy Spirit Prep seeks to enkindle in students the desire to pursue excellence in every endeavor they undertake and provide them with all the tools necessary to lead successful, rewarding lives in a manner consistent with the sublime end for which they have been created: eternal life with God.

This vision deeply informs the curriculum and animates their efforts to help students grow in virtue and to know and love truth, goodness, and beauty, the three divine attributes upon which all authentically classical, Catholic education is grounded. "A saint," the beloved late Pope Benedict XVI observed, "is one who is so captivated by God's perfect truth and beauty as to be progressively transformed by it." HSP strives to provide a learning environment that advances this noble aspiration, so the students are fully prepared to go into the world firm in faith, joyful in hope, and active in charity. Schedule a tour and learn more today.



Apply Now for 2024-2025!

Joyfully serving students from 6 months through the 12th grade



PRESCHOOL



LOWER SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



UPPER SCHOOL

Classical, Catholic, & Complete



HOLY SPIRIT
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

www.holyspiritprep.org
678.761.7992

Lovett

Founded 1926

Kindergarten – Grade 12

1,640 Students

4075 Paces Ferry Road NW

Atlanta · Fulton County

404-262-3032

lovett.org

Students are offered experiences that deepen their cognitive, emotional, and social skills while inspiring an enthusiasm for learning.

Founded in 1926, The Lovett School is Atlanta's independent, coeducational day school of choice for families who value a multi-faceted approach to the education of the whole child – where intellectual rigor, social-emotional learning, and character development are purposefully cultivated and inextricably linked.

Students find joy and purpose by immersing themselves in intellectually rigorous, hands-on learning environments. Classrooms anchor the development of strong character and spark the discovery of individual passions and collective purpose. Students are offered experiences that deepen their cognitive, emotional, and social skills while inspiring an enthusiasm for learning.

Lovett's academic offerings are complemented by dynamic arts programming, competitive athletics teams, and purposeful civic engagement opportunities. With a student body of 1,640 students, Lovett is a community of belonging that develops students of honor, faith, and wisdom with the character and intellect to thrive in learning and in life.



**“An education of doing and creating”
— Eva Edwards Lovett**

At Lovett, students from kindergarten through 12th grade find joy and purpose by immersing themselves in intellectually rigorous, hands-on learning environments. Classrooms anchor the development of strong character and spark the discovery of individual passions and collective purpose. By design, students are offered experiences that deepen their cognitive, emotional, and social skills while inspiring an enduring enthusiasm for learning.

[Learn more at lovett.org](http://lovett.org)

LIVE IT. LEARN IT.
Lovett

4075 Paces Ferry Road, NW
Atlanta, Georgia, 30327
(404) 262-3032

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



Founded 1999

Infants – Grade 8

400 Students

5380 Faircroft Drive

Alpharetta · Forsyth County

770-664-7764

mcginniswoods.org

McGinnis Woods School located in Forsyth County offers a rich Preschool through Middle School education. McGinnis Woods is Cognia, GAC, and NAEYC certified and a member of the Georgia Independent School Association. Instruction at McGinnis Woods is hands-on with a focus on STEM learning. The school is a 1:1 iPad environment that features small class-sizes with teacher assistants and superior academics that inspire a lifelong love of learning. Classes are engaging and provide for differentiation and personalized attention. Guest speakers, field trips, character education, leadership opportunities and community service round out the curriculum. Competitive Sports, Robotics, Science Olympiad and Drama teams train year-round. After school and Discovery Clubs are also available. Visit www.mcginniswoods.org to set up a tour to visit today!



McGinnis Woods is a nurturing environment where students matter most and are inspired to learn, explore, and give back.

Discover the McGinnis Woods Difference

A quarter century of inspiring students with the passion to excel



- Private non-parochial education for infants through 8th grade
- Nurturing environment featuring outstanding teachers, small class sizes with assistants, 1-to 1-iPad environment, hands-on academics, STEM, frequent field trips and after-school programs.
- After-school sports, robotics, Science Olympiad and drama.

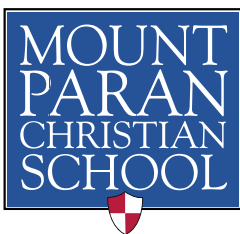


CELEBRATING
25 YEARS
MCGINNIS WOODS SCHOOL
1999 - 2024



5380 Faircroft Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30005 • www.mcginniswoods.org • 770-664-7764
Cognia, GAC and NAEYC Accredited

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



Founded 1976

PK3 - Grade 12

1,315 Students

1275 Stanley Road

Kennesaw · Cobb County

770-578-0182

mtparanschool.com/experience

Voted "Best Private School" and
"Best Preschool" in Cobb county.

Mount Paran Christian School provides an elevated experience in academics, award-winning arts, and championship athletics – all with Christ at the center. Within small class sizes (12:1 student-teacher ratio), MPCS offers 56 AP/honors courses, instructional support, robotics, Spanish and STEAM starting in PK3, and a 1:1 device program. It's crucial to guarantee a moral and faith foundation through everything your child learns on the school journey. Through curricular Bible classes, weekly chapel, service, and discipleship groups, faith becomes fused into who they are. Highly-qualified teachers know and love each student to raise up servant-leaders – in the classroom, on the ball field, on the stage, and ultimately in the community.

Mount Paran Christian School is a PreK3-12th grade private, covenantal Christian, non-denominational, college-preparatory school. Founded in 1976, MPCS is fully accredited (SAIS/Cognia/CESA) and located in the shadow of Kennesaw Mountain on a 68-acre college-like campus. MPCS unites with home and church to prepare servant-leaders to honor God, love others, and walk in Truth.

Discover next-level Christian education at an Open House or Tuesday Tour. Chart your path at mtparanschool.com.



MOUNT PARAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



MOVE mountains



TUESDAY TOURS

Chart your Christ-centered school journey @ mtparanschool.com

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



THE MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL

Founded 1972

Preschool–Grade 12

1,250 Students

510 Mount Vernon Highway NE

Atlanta · Fulton County

404-252-3448

mountvernon.school.org

We don't have to wait and see
what the future holds. We can design
a better world together, today.

The journey for all students to become college-ready, globally competitive, and engaged citizen leaders begins in Preschool and continues through Grade 12. Along the journey, The Mount Vernon School builds foundational literacies, skills, attributes, and meaningful relationships.

Based on a strong foundation of core educational methods, they combine inquiry-based learning with design thinking, enabling students to strengthen problem-solving skills. This blended approach encourages non-linear thinking, global connections, brainstorming, prototyping, and iterative solutions while ensuring lasting context for learning.

Over the course of four years, the college counseling team cultivates strong relationships with every Upper School family, in order to find the optimal college fit for each student. Alumni have attended colleges all over the country as well as abroad, in addition to all 14 universities in the Southeastern Conference. "We don't have to wait and see what the future holds. We can design a better world together, today." Visit mountvernon.school.org/admissions to learn more.



Discover where **KNOWLEDGE** meets
Maximum
IMPACT

 **THE
MOUNT
VERNON
SCHOOL**

*Schedule
a call* 

Plan Your Visit | www.mountvernon.school.org

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



**NORTH COBB
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**
ncchristian.org

Founded 1983
Preschool K3 - Grade 12
1,200 Students
4500 Eagle Drive
Kennesaw · Cobb County
770-975-0252
ncchristian.org

Students thrive amidst a
strong family culture with an
11:1 student-to-teacher average ratio.

North Cobb Christian School partners with parents of over 1,200 students in preschool K3 - 12th grade to inspire the pursuit of wonder, safeguard innocence, and discover the truth of God. This is school ... the way it should be. Since its founding in 1983, NCCS remains true to the calling of providing an authentically Christian, academically excellent education that honors each student's unique genius. Students thrive amidst a strong family culture with an 11:1 student-to-teacher average ratio.

Limitless opportunities to shine include 54 championship-caliber athletic teams, 17 award-winning arts ensembles, 5 Academies (magnet programs), and a robust array of clubs and enrichment programs. Proactive college counseling results in top scholarships and a 100% college acceptance rate. Plus, weekly chapel, discipleship groups, fall retreat, and Spring Term mission trips encourage solid biblical foundations. An independent school consulting firm recently reported, "The strength of NCCS is their Christian mission. Of all the schools we have worked with globally, NCCS's Christian mission is one of the strongest we have seen." To tour: 770-975-0252, admissions@ncchristian.org, nccchristian.org/admissions.



opportunities to thrive



At North Cobb Christian School, students aren't just taught -- they're taught to **thrive**. Here, students are connected with authentic opportunities to develop their **God-given gifts** through over 50 championship athletic teams, 17 award-winning arts ensembles, and customized academic tracks. At NCCS, students learn that they're **uniquely made** to light up the world for Christ.

call to tour

770-975-0252 | nccchristian.org

UNCOMPROMISING BIBLICAL VALUES + STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES | K3-12TH GRADE

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



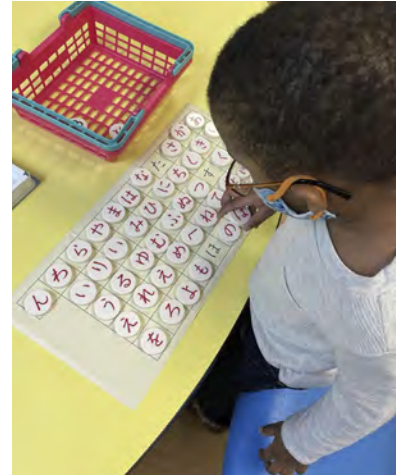
Founded 2011
Pre-K2 – Grade 3
3940 Cascade Road
Atlanta · Fulton County
404-865-1463
omnischoolatl.com

Preparing students to be active
and engaged in the world with an
international advantage.

OMNI International School is a language immersion school for students PK2 – Grade 3. The focus for all grades is a full immersion of the Asian (Japanese or Chinese) and English languages with Spanish integrated as a 3rd language beginning at kindergarten. With this approach, each child will have a solid footing in their native tongue and the foundation needed to build on other aspects of their language development, while becoming trilingual.

The OMNI Schools delivery of a well-balanced, rigorous academic curriculum is taught with a global perspective. In keeping with the ideals of globalization, they are answering the need and desire for quality schools with an emphasis on foreign language, while teaching children to become critical thinkers in a global economy.

On day one, OMNI works jointly with families to foster a love of learning and pride in belonging ... in multiple languages. Schedule a tour today and learn more about OMNI and their language immersion program.



CHINESE, JAPANESE, AND SPANISH IMMERSION Taught by Native Instructors | PK-2 Years Old – 3rd Grade



Trilingual Students | Rigorous Academics
Above Average Test Scores
STEAM² for All

(Science Technology Engineering Arts/Agriculture Music)

“In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future.

The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.”–Eric Hoffer

3940 Cascade Road, Atlanta 30331 | 404-865-1463 | omnischoolatl.com

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



Founded 1958

Pre-First - Grade 12

1,150 Students

966 W. Paces Ferry Road NW

Atlanta · Fulton County

404-262-1345

paceacademy.org

Pace students, guided by an outstanding faculty, develop a deep understanding of the world and the people around them.

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.

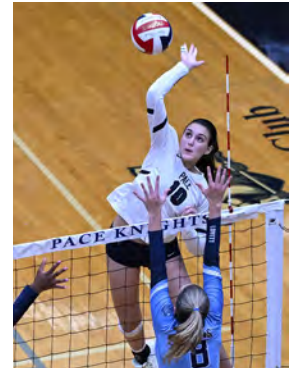
With 1,150 students in Pre-First through 12th grade, Pace strives to create prepared, confident citizens of the world. Student-teacher relationships are at the heart of the Pace experience, so the school maintains a student-teacher ratio of 9:1 and an average class size of 12.

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 realize that true success means making a difference.

For more information, visit paceacademy.org.



PACEACADEMY.ORG/ADMISSIONS



**CONNECTING LEARNING
TO LIFE AT EVERY LEVEL**

WE THINK BIG

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



Founded 1963
18 Months – Grade 8
275 Students
5750 Long Island Dr. NW
Atlanta · Fulton County
404-252-3910
springmont.com

Springmont's learning environment empowers students to be inquisitive, knowledgeable, independent, compassionate and effective.

As the oldest Montessori school in the Southeast, Springmont offers students 18 months through Middle school an authentic Montessori education. Individualized, hands-on learning is balanced with social/emotional well-being, inspiring the diverse and inclusive community of learners to become creative, independent, and globally minded.

Multi-aged classes and specially designed materials are complemented by highly experienced and caring teachers who guide students' curiosity towards meaningful, collaborative discoveries. Large, light-filled classrooms and a beautiful campus with natural areas, class gardens, and farm animals afford rich outdoor experiences.

Springmont's Middle School prepares students for success in Atlanta's premier high schools and life beyond academics. Opportunities to hone time-management skills, experience active leadership roles, and work both independently and in diverse groups allow students to become engaged learners. Springmont School – Extraordinary by Design.



18 MONTHS – 8TH GRADE

Springmont's authentic Montessori experience balances academic learning with social/emotional well-being. Highly experienced and caring teachers guide individualized learning that inspires students to become creative, independent and globally-minded.

Tours by Appointment
Applications Due Feb. 1
404.252.3910



www.springmont.com

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

TRINITY SCHOOL

Founded 1951

PreK3 – Grade 6

594 Students

4301 Northside Parkway NW

Atlanta · Fulton County

404-231-8100

trinityatl.org

Trinity students gain a lifelong love of learning, confidence in their abilities, and strategies to adapt to new situations and an ever-changing world.

Established in 1951, Trinity School is Atlanta's only elementary-only independent school and serves children age three through Sixth Grade. Students enjoy small class sizes, low student-to-teacher ratios, state-of-the-art technology, and flexible indoor and outdoor learning spaces on a beautiful 43-acre campus. Offering high-quality, multi-sensory differentiated learning in a nurturing environment, Trinity is known for its challenging academics, amazing arts program, and community that cares like no other.

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



Start at Trinity, thrive for life.

Trinity School serves children age three through Sixth Grade and cherishes childhood while preparing students for the future. Our small class sizes, early childhood and elementary education experts, and innovative programming are just some of the reasons your child will thrive at Trinity, Atlanta's only elementary-only independent school!

Discover more at
trinityatl.org/admissions

TRINITY
SCHOOL

Established 1951

flourish



4301 Northside Parkway NW, Atlanta • 404-231-8118

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The Walker
School



Founded 1957

PK3 – Grade 12

960 Students

700 Cobb Parkway North

Marietta · Cobb County

770-427-2689

thewalkerschool.org

With an average class size of
15 students, each child is challenged,
supported and encouraged to explore
all opportunities on the campus.

At The Walker School, meaningful relationships inspire transformative learning, and students are encouraged to share their individual talents in a wide variety of activities. Walker is a remarkable community where students from age 3 through high school are offered a challenging yet supportive educational experience.



Students are involved not only in the classroom, on the athletic fields, or on the stage, but also beyond the campus in the broader community. In addition to providing a first-class academic program and offering a wide variety of extracurriculars for their students, The Walker School is a large and connected community with abundant opportunities for families of all faiths and cultures who want to be engaged in the life of the school.

Walker is located two miles from Marietta Square and offers more than 20 bus routes in the metro area. Schedule a tour to learn more today.

The Walker
School



PK(3)-12

700 Cobb Parkway N.

Marietta, Ga. 30062

Open to all faiths

WHERE WILL WONDER LEAD YOU?



Sandra
Tulane University

“Walker fostered my love of learning by teaching me how to speak up for myself and establish lasting relationships with my teachers and peers.”



Nikhil
Univ. of Pennsylvania

“The most important things that I have learned at Walker are the importance of challenging yourself and pushing yourself to be the best that you can be.”



Andrew
University of Georgia

“Walker made it easy for me to introduce myself to a variety of activities, clubs, sports and people.”

RANKED #1 PRIVATE SCHOOL IN COBB COUNTY

Visit thewalkerschool.org/admission
or call (678) 540-7229 to learn more.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WESLEYAN SCHOOL

Founded 1963

K – Grade 12

1,206 Students

5405 Spalding Drive

Peachtree Corners · Gwinnett County

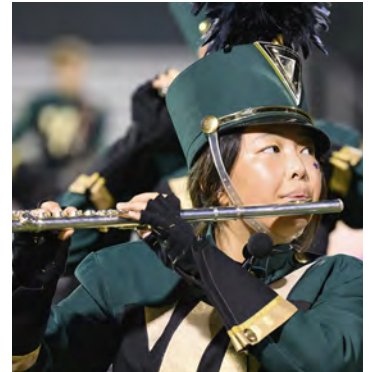
770-448-7640

wesleyanschool.org

Wesleyan strives to provide students with an atmosphere that is challenging, reinforces the value of hard work, and emphasizes character and integrity above accomplishment.

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 the 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 wesleyanschool.org.



WESLEYAN SCHOOL

**Where authentic
Christian mission
and academic
excellence aren't
mutually exclusive**



WHY WESLEYAN?
Scan to learn more!

EXPLORE WESLEYAN AT
WWW.WESLEYANSCHOOL.ORG/ADMISSIONS

WESTMINSTER

Founded 1951

Pre-First – Grade 12

1,880 Students

1424 West Paces Ferry Road NW

Atlanta · Fulton County

404-355-8673

westminster.net

Serving bright, motivated students who are nurtured by challenge, Westminster develops leaders of conscience who will be a positive force in the world.

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 1,880 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.



Tomorrow calls for a **new kind of leader.**

Every day, we connect bright, curious students with a community of support and opportunities that awaken their aspirations so that they can lead positive change in the world.

Learn more at westminster.net

Love. Challenge. Lead. Change.

1424 West Paces Ferry Road, NW | Atlanta, Georgia 30327

PRIVATE SCHOOLS



A Christ-Centered College Preparatory School

Founded 1996

PreK – Grade 12

960 Students

1 Whitefield Drive

Smyrna · Cobb County

678-305-3000

whitefieldacademy.com

Whitefield Academy offers a challenging and meaningful curriculum that encourages curiosity and a passion for learning.

At Whitefield Academy, students receive an academic education that is founded on intellectual rigor and Christ-centered principles. Serving 960 students in grades PreK through 12, Whitefield Academy offers a challenging and meaningful curriculum that encourages curiosity and a passion for learning through its solid academic reputation with its numerous AP and honors courses.

The college preparatory education is built on Christ-centered values and beliefs, enabling students to succeed in both college and life. Whitefield teachers engage deeply with their students in the pursuit of knowledge and Truth with shared experiences, grace, and accountability.

With more than 50 sports teams, including 20 varsity teams, Whitefield provides multiple opportunities for both participation and success. Whitefield's acclaimed fine arts program and top-notch Innovation Lab empower students to pursue their interests in theater, music, and visual arts, as well as STEM subjects such as engineering and robotics. To find out more, please visit whitefieldacademy.com.



Whitefield
ACADEMY

FALL 2024
APPLICATIONS &
EVENTS NOW LIVE!

Scan the code to schedule your visit and learn more about our Christ-centered, college preparatory approach to education.



WOODWARD ACADEMY

Founded 1900

PreK – Grade 12

2,685 Students

College Park and Johns Creek

Fulton County

404-765-4000

woodward.edu

Woodward Academy is the most diverse and inclusive independent school in Atlanta where students learn organically from exposure to perspectives different from their own. From pre-K to senior year, Woodward creates opportunities for each child to thrive, whether they excel in math, get inspired by robotics, or flourish in literature and art classes. Students learn how to think about and engage in the world around them, making a commitment to do their best, and gaining the confidence to make a difference. They do that through their 25 AP classes, a renowned Transition Learning Support Program for students with mild learning differences, more than 100 student clubs and cocurriculars, 75 yearly arts performances, and 18 varsity sports.



A typical Woodward Academy graduating class attends more than 100 different colleges and universities and devotes 5,000 hours to community service.

A typical Woodward Academy graduating class attends more than 100 different colleges and universities, devotes 5,000 hours to community service, and earns more than \$25 million in scholarship awards.

To learn more, visit woodward.edu.



UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITIES
in academics, the arts, and athletics is
THE **WOODWARD WAY**

WOODWARD ACADEMY
woodward.edu/inquire





2024: School Tours and Open Houses

If you're considering a private school, connecting with the school's students and professionals by attending a school tour or an open house are wonderful ways to see if the school is the right fit for your child. Many metro Atlanta schools offer private tours, virtual tours, live video conferences, phone meetings and smaller open houses.

■ **Start by doing your research.** Narrow down the options until you have a short list of schools that seem the best for your child by looking at websites, FAQs, pre-recorded videos and social media pages.

■ **Create a list of questions** you plan to ask each school. What questions do you or your child have that you can't find answers to on the website? Responses can help you narrow down or rank the school options that you're interested in.

■ **Schools may have different options** that you can register to attend, with each session being important for different reasons. Pay attention to the options offered, so you can decide what makes the most sense for you to attend. Signing up for a phone conference may be a better fit before registering for a campus tour, if you decide your family is still interested in the school.

■ **At a tour,** whether it's virtual or in-person, expect to tour the school, learn more about the community, talk to school professionals, and ask questions.

■ **At an open house,** expect to hear words of welcome from administrators and a plug from the PTA. Schools usually include a brief school history, an educational philosophy, a mission statement and a list of extracurricular activities or clubs. This

overview period is a good time for parents to ask about the bus schedule, school lunches, physical education requirements, dress code and more.

■ **After the school session,** look at SAT scores, attendance records and grade-point averages. Follow up with phone calls and emails if you have questions.

■ **If it's not part of the tour,** schedule a time to observe a class in session. This will give you a good idea of the teaching style and classroom setting. Are the desks arranged in groups or in rows facing the teacher? What materials does the classroom have for the students? Are the students enthusiastic about learning?

■ **Talk to other parents** about the school. Most parents are happy to share their thoughts.

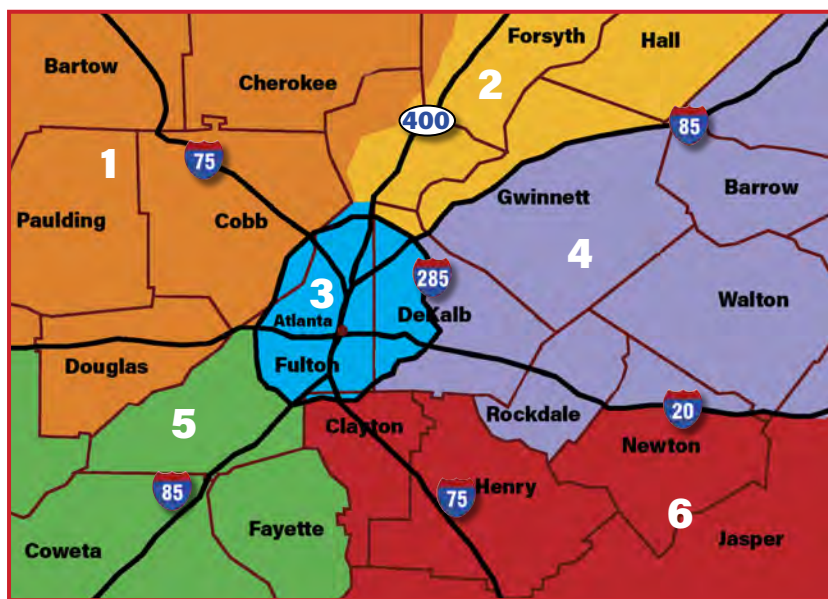
■ **Some schools offer programs** that allow you and your child to learn more from a student's perspective. If not, ask administrators if they can connect your child with a student at the school.

■ **Look at the big picture.** You may be hoping to stay with the system through high school, so research graduation and college placement rates. This information is usually found on the school's website.

– Emily Webb and Alexi Wilbourn

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.

- 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
- 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

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Alexsander Academy 1260 Upper Hembree Rd., Ste. B, Roswell (Fulton) alexsanderacademy.org	2	770-777-0475	1st-12th	25	\$19,500-\$27,500/yr.	Learning differences
Alpharetta Christian Academy 44 Academy St., Alpharetta (Fulton) alpharettachristianacademy.com	2	770-475-5762	PK-5th	325	\$3,000-\$12,300/yr.	Christian
Arbor Montessori School 2998 Lavista Rd., and 1434 Scott Blvd., Decatur (DeKalb) arbormontessori.org	3	404-321-9304	18mos.-8th	255	\$11,735-\$21,995/yr.	Montessori
Atlanta Academy 2000 Holcomb Woods Pkwy., Roswell (Fulton) atlantaacademy.com	2	678-461-6102	Preschool-8th	395	\$12,410-\$17,920/yr.	non-denominational Christian
Atlanta International School 2890 N. Fulton Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) aischool.org	3	404-841-3840	K3-12th	1,330	\$28,569-\$32,615/yr.	
Atlanta Jewish Academy 5200 Northland Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) atljewishacademy.org	3	404-843-9900	3mos.-12th	440	\$18,550-\$28,945/yr.	Jewish
Atlanta Montessori International School 1970 Cliff Valley Way NE, and 1215 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) amischool.com	3	404-325-6777	8wks.-12yrs.	180	\$17,550-\$25,680/yr.	Montessori

Schools At-A-Glance					2024 Directory	
School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Blessed Trinity Catholic High School 11320 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) btatholic.org	2	678-277-9083	9th-12th	1,000	\$18,400/yr.	Catholic
Brookwood Christian School for Dyslexia 4728 Wood St., Acworth (Cobb) brookwoodchristian.com	1	678-401-5855	1st-12th	80	\$21,000/yr.	Learning disabilities/ Christian
Capstone Academy 1934 Cliff Valley Way, Atlanta (DeKalb) capstoneacademy.com	3	404-458-5160	5th-12th	140	\$14,850/yr	
Cherokee Christian Schools 3075 Trickum Rd., Woodstock (Cherokee) cherokeechristian.org	1	678-494-5464	K5-12th	376	\$10,000-\$15,625/yr.	non-denominational Christian
The Children's School 345 Tenth St. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) tcsatl.org	3	404-873-6985	3yrs.-8th	370	\$16,036-\$26,105/yr.	
Christ the King School 46 Peachtree Way, Atlanta (Fulton) christking.org	3	404-233-0383	K-8th	570	\$10,900-\$14,775/yr.	Catholic
Cliff Valley School 2426 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) cliffvalley.org	3	678-302-1302	3yrs.-8th	430	\$7,856-\$19,652/yr.	
Community Christian School 2001 Jodeco Rd., Stockbridge (Henry) communitychristianschool.net	6	678-432-0191	6wks.-12th	800	\$11,172-\$12,694/yr.	Christian
Cornerstone Christian Academy 5295 Triangle Pkwy. NW, Peachtree Corners (Gwinnett) cornerstonecougars.org	2	770-441-9222	K-8th	459	\$15,778-\$18,559/yr.	Christian
The Cottage School 700 Grimes Bridge Rd., Roswell (Fulton) cottageschool.org	2	770-641-8688	3rd-12th	280	\$24,500-\$29,500/yr.	Learning differences
Covenant Christian Academy 6905 Post Rd., Cumming (Forsyth) covenantrams.org	2	770-674-2990	K4-12th	254	\$7,680-\$10,200/yr.	Christian
Crabapple Montessori School 12387 Crabapple Rd., Alpharetta (Fulton) crabapplemontessori.com	2	770-569-5200	15mos.-12yrs.	220	\$10,000-\$17,000/yr.	Montessori
Creekside Christian Academy 2455 Mt. Carmel, Hampton and 175 Foster Dr., McDonough (Henry) creeksideacademy.org	6	770-961-9300	K3-12th	825	\$7,895-\$9,985/yr.	Christian
Cumberland Academy of Georgia 650-A Mt. Vernon Hwy. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) cumberlandacademy.org	3	404-835-9000	4th-12th plus college	100	\$28,700/yr.	Asperger, Autism, Learning differences
Davis Academy 8105 Roberts Dr., Atlanta (Fulton) davisacademy.org	2	770-671-0085	PreK-8th	500	\$17,120-\$30,690/yr.	Jewish
Eagle's Landing Christian Academy 2400 Hwy. 42 North, McDonough (Henry) elcaonline.org	6	770-957-2927	K3-12th	952	\$6,480- \$16,200/yr.	Christian
Eastside Christian School 2450 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta (Cobb) eastsidechristianschool.com	1	770-971-2332	K-10th	287	\$12,000-\$16,000/yr.	Christian
Endeavor Montessori 48 Perimeter Center East, Atlanta (DeKalb) endeavormontessori.com	3	770-637-4644	6 wks.-6 yrs.	160	\$15,300-24,360/yr.	Montessori

Schools At-A-Glance						2024 Directory
School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
The Epstein School 335 Colewood Way NW, Sandy Springs (Fulton) epsteinatlanta.org	3	404-250-5600	3mos.-8th	480	\$9,200-\$29,200/yr.	Jewish
Fellowship Christian School 10965 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) fellowshipchristianschool.org	2	770-993-1650	PreK-12th	1,068	\$4,911-\$21,357/yr.	Christian
Foundations for the Future School 1500 Stanley Rd., Kennesaw (Cobb) foundationsschool.com	1	770-429-4799	6wks.-5th	207	\$17,472-\$25,941/yr.	
The Friends School of Atlanta 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur (DeKalb) friendsschoolatlanta.org	3	404-373-8746	PK3-8th	173	\$17,594-\$27,695/yr.	
Fulton Science Academy 3035 Fanfare Way, Alpharetta (Fulton) fultonscienceacademy.org	2	678-366-2555	PreK-12th	960	\$15,000-\$18,000/yr.	
The Galloway School 215 Chastain Park Ave. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) gallowayschool.org	3	404-252-8389	PreK3-12th	750	\$19,125-\$32,725/yr.	
George Walton Academy 1 Bulldog Dr., Monroe (Walton) gwa.com	4	678-635-3800	K3-12th	790	\$6,500-\$15,500/yr.	Judeo-Christian
GRACEPOINT 1407 Cobb Pkwy. N., Marietta (Cobb) gracepointschool.org	1	678-709-6634	1st-8th	130	\$26,500-\$27,000/yr.	Dyslexia/Christian
Greater Atlanta Christian School 1575 Indian Trail Rd., Norcross (Gwinnett) gac.org	4	770-243-2000	PreK-12th	1,807	\$18,165-\$28,700/yr.	Christian
Harvester Christian Academy 4241 Central Church Rd., Douglasville (Douglas) harvesteracademy.com	1	770-942-1583	K4-12th	364	\$5,110-\$10,830/yr.	Christian
Hebron Christian Academy 775 Dacula Rd., Dacula (Gwinnett) hebronlions.org	4	770-963-9250	K4-12th	1,320	\$8,990-\$14,990/yr.	Christian
Heritage Preparatory School 1700 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta (Fulton) heritageprep.org	3	404-815-7711	PreK-12th	275	\$9,770-\$21,500/yr.	Christian
The Heritage School 2093 Hwy. 29 N, Newnan (Coweta) heritageschool.com	5	770-253-9898	PreK3-12th	450	\$5,725-\$20,277/yr.	
High Meadows School 1055 Willeo Rd., Roswell (Fulton) highmeadows.org	2	770-993-2940	3yrs.-8th	350	\$7,646-\$23,342/yr.	
Holy Innocents' Episcopal School 805 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) hies.org	3	404-255-4026	PreK3-12th	1,395	\$19,000-\$33,590/yr.	Episcopalian
Holy Redeemer Catholic School 3380 Old Alabama Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) hrcatholicsschool.org	2	770-410-4056	K-8th	475	\$10,525-\$12,225/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	350	\$6,310-\$26,000/yr.	Catholic
Horizon Christian Academy 1270 Sawnee Dr., Cumming (Forsyth) hcga.org	2	678-947-0711	K-12th	367	\$9,150-\$14,250/yr.	Christian

Schools At-A-Glance					2024 Directory	
School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
The Howard School 1192 Foster St., Atlanta (Fulton) howardschool.org	3	404-377-7436	K-12th	358	\$35,590-\$41,780/yr.	Language and learning based differences
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School 2855 Briarcliff Rd. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) ihmschool.org	3	404-636-4488	PreK4-8th	510	\$9,368-\$11,952/yr.	Catholic
International Montessori Academy 1240 Euclid Ave. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) imontessoriacademy.com	3	404-474-6375	8wks.-6yrs.	120	\$15,100-\$22,700/yr.	Montessori
Intown Community School 2059 Lavista Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) intownschool.org	3	404-633-8081	K-8th	205	\$8,700-\$12,800/yr.	Christian
Killian Hill Christian School 151 Arcado Rd., Lilburn (Gwinnett) khcs.org	4	770-921-3224	K4-12th	425	\$6,700-\$14,300/yr.	Baptist
King's Ridge Christian School 2765 Bethany Bend, Alpharetta (Fulton) kingsridgecs.org	2	770-754-5738	PreK-12th	941	\$6,500-\$24,770/yr.	Christian
Lakeview Academy 796 Lakeview Dr., Gainesville (Hall) lakeviewacademy.com	2	770-532-4383	PreK3-12th	519	\$8,278-\$21,005/yr.	
Landmark Christian School 50 SE Broad St., Fairburn (Fulton) landmarkchristianschool.org	5	770-306-0647	PreK3-12th	927	\$9,000-\$21,700/yr.	Christian
Loganville Christian Academy 2575 Hwy. 81, Loganville (Walton) lcalions.com	4	770-554-9888	PreK3-12th	640	\$6,750-\$12,600/yr.	Christian
The Lovett School 4075 Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) lovett.org	3	404-262-3032	K-12th	1,640	\$30,110-\$34,950/yr.	
Marist School 3790 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) marist.com	3	770-457-7201	7th-12th	1,100	\$22,630/yr.	Catholic
McGinnis Woods School 5380 Faircroft Dr., Alpharetta (Forsyth) mcginniswoods.org	2	770-664-7764	Infant-8th	400	\$11,025-\$15,575/yr.	
Midtown International School 1575 Sheridan Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) misatl.org	3	404-542-7003	K-12th	200	\$24,930-\$26,208/yr.	
Midway Covenant Christian School 4635 Dallas Hwy., Powder Springs (Cobb) midwayschool.org	1	770-590-1866	PreK4-8th	300	\$2,260-\$7,750/yr.	Christian
Mill Springs Academy 13660 New Providence Rd., Alpharetta (Fulton) millsprings.org	2	770-360-1336	K-12th	278	\$31,212/yr.	Learning differences
Montessori Academy at Sharon Springs 2830 Old Atlanta Rd., Cumming (Forsyth) montessoriacademygeorgia.com	2	770-205-6277	13mos.-12yrs.	200	\$11,810-\$18,900/yr.	Montessori
Montessori Academy at Vickery 6285 Post Rd., Cumming (Forsyth) montessorivickery.com	2	770-777-9131	13mos.-9yrs.	175	\$11,650-\$20,520/yr.	Montessori
Montessori In Town 1192 Arkwright Pl., Atlanta (DeKalb) montessorintown.com	3	404-784-1038	14mos.-6th	135	\$12,100-\$17,400/yr.	Montessori

Schools At-A-Glance

2024 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Mount Paran Christian School 1275 Stanley Rd. NW, Kennesaw (Cobb) mtparanschool.com	1	770-578-0182	PreK3-12th	1,315	\$4,641-\$23,515/yr.	Christian
Mount Pisgah Christian School 9820 Nesbit Ferry Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) mountpisgahschool.org	2	678-336-3400	Infant-12th	1,000	\$17,850-\$25,095/yr.	Christian
The Mount Vernon School 471 and 510 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) mountvernonschool.org	3	404-252-3448	PreK-12th	1,230	\$28,255-\$32,375/yr.	Christian
Mt. Bethel Christian Academy 4385 Lower Roswell Rd., and 2509 Post Oak Tritt Rd., Marietta (Cobb) mtbethelchristian.org	1	770-971-0245	PreK-12th	698	\$13,320-\$19,455/yr.	Christian
North Cobb Christian School 4500 Eagle Dr., Kennesaw (Cobb) ncchristian.org	1	770-975-0252	PreK3-12th	1,200	\$7,660-\$18,960/yr.	Christian
Notre Dame Academy 4635 River Green Pkwy., Duluth (Gwinnett) ndacademy.org	2	678-387-9385	PreK-12th	320	\$10,200-\$19,084/yr.	Catholic
Omni International School 3940 Cascade Rd., Atlanta (Fulton) omnischoolatl.com	5	404-865-1463	PreK2-6th	75	\$7,075-\$14,500	
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School 1320 Hearst Dr., Atlanta (DeKalb) olaschool.org	3	404-364-1902	PreK4-8th	583	\$11,287-\$12,787/yr.	Catholic
Pace Academy 966 W. Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) paceacademy.org	3	404-262-1345	Pre1-12th	1,150	\$31,970-\$36,800/yr.	
The Paideia School 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) paideiaschool.org	3	404-377-3491	3yrs.-12th	1,015	\$13,143-\$30,378/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	PreK-12th	352	\$5,900-\$12,000/yr.	Christian
Perimeter School 9500 Medlock Bridge Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) perimeterschool.org	2	678-405-2300	K-8th	498	\$9,236-\$17,268/yr.	Christian
Pinecrest Academy 955 Peachtree Pkwy., Cumming (Forsyth) pinecrestacademy.org	2	770-888-4477	PreK-12th	516	\$10,830-\$21,795/yr.	Catholic
Porter Academy 200 Cox Rd., Roswell (Fulton) porteracademy.org	2	770-594-1313	4-14yrs.	70	\$21,500/yr.	Speech and language, occupational therapy
Providence Christian Academy 4575 Lawrenceville Hwy., Lilburn (Gwinnett) providencechristianacademy.org	4	770-279-7200	PreK-12th	681	\$8,760-\$20,940/yr.	Christian
Queen of Angels Catholic School 11340 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) qaschool.org	2	770-518-1804	K-8th	490	\$10,430-\$12,130/yr.	Catholic
Rivers Academy 38 North Main St., Alpharetta (Fulton) riversacademy.com	2	770-475-0081	5th-12th	261	\$12,725/yr.	
Riverstone Montessori 455 Casteel Rd., Marietta (Cobb) riverstonemontessori.com	1	770-422-9194	2.5yrs.-9th	120	\$10,980-\$18,300/yr.	Montessori

Schools At-A-Glance					2024 Directory	
School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
The SAE School 6688 Mableton Pkwy, Mableton (Cobb) saeschool.org	1	678-239-3200	Preschool-8th	370	\$12,600-\$14,400/yr.	
Sage School 2435 Tech Century Pkwy. NE, Lawrenceville (Gwinnett) sageschool.net	4	678-318-3588	K-6th	95	\$27,400-\$28,000/yr.	Dyslexia
Saint Francis Schools 13440 Cogburn Rd., and 9375 Willeo Rd., Alpharetta and Roswell (Fulton) saintfrancisschools.com	2	770-641-8257	K-12th	750	\$16,500-\$27,000/yr.	
Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic School 7171 Glenridge Dr. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) saintjude.net	3	770-394-2880	PreK-8th	483	\$10,915-\$13,265/yr.	Catholic
Saint Thomas More Catholic School 630 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur (DeKalb) stmga.org	3	404-373-8456	PreK-8th	475	\$9,600-\$13,200/yr.	Catholic
The Schenck School 282 Mt. Paran Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) schenck.org	3	404-252-2591	K-6th	250	\$42,400/yr.	Dyslexia
Shallowford Presbyterian School 2375 Shallowford Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) shallowfordschool.com	3	404-321-3061	2yrs.-8th	250	\$2,025-\$10,000/yr.	Presbyterian
Springmont School 5750 Long Island Dr. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) springmont.com	3	404-252-3910	18mos.-8th	260	\$12,475-\$27,000/yr.	Montessori
St. Benedict's Episcopal School 2160 Cooper Lake Rd., Smyrna (Cobb) stbs.org	1	678-279-4300	Infant-8th	650	\$9,000-\$16,000/yr.	Episcopalian
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School 1618 Ben King Rd., Kennesaw (Cobb) scsiena.org	1	770-419-8601	K-8th	314	\$8,998-\$10,500/yr.	Catholic
St. John the Evangelist Catholic School 240 Arnold St., Hapeville (Fulton) sjecs.org	3	404-767-4312	PreK-8th	280	\$9,460-\$11,275/yr.	Catholic
St. John Neumann Catholic School 791 Tom Smith Rd., Lilburn (Gwinnett) sjnracs.org	4	770-381-0557	PreK-8th	335	\$9,828-\$12,260/yr.	Catholic
St. Joseph Catholic School 81 Lacy St. NW, Marietta (Cobb) stjosephschool.org	1	770-428-3328	PreK4-8th	415	\$8,750-\$11,354/yr	Catholic
St. Martin's Episcopal School 3110-A Ashford-Dunwoody Rd., Atlanta (DeKalb) stmartinschool.org	3	404-237-4260	PreK-8th	625	\$15,110-\$26,780/yr.	Episcopalian
St. Mary's Academy 861 GA. 279, Fayetteville (Fayette) mercycatholic.org	5	770-461-2202	PreK-12th	340	\$9,500/yr.-\$16,300/yr.	Catholic
St. Paul Lutheran School 700 Ardenlee Pkwy, Peachtree City (Fayette) stpaulptc.org	5	770-486-3545	18mos.-8th	240	\$3,720-\$8,000/yr.	Christian
St. Pius X Catholic High School 2674 Johnson Rd. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) spx.org	3	404-636-3023	9th-12th	1,069	\$16,800-\$18,800/yr.	Catholic
The Stonehaven School 1480 Joyner Ave., and 1650 Old Concord Rd., Marietta (Cobb) stonehavenschool.org	1	770-874-8885	K5-12th	300	\$2,800-\$13,300/yr.	

Schools At-A-Glance

2024 Directory

School Information	Zone	Phone	Ages/Grades	Students	Annual Tuition	Affiliation
Strong Rock Christian School 4200 Strong Rock Pkwy, Locust Grove (Henry) strongrockchristianschool.com	6	678-833-1200	PreK3-12th	954	\$12,165-\$16,375/yr.	Christian
Sugar Hill Christian Academy 4600 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., Sugar Hill (Gwinnett) sugarhillchristian.org	4	678-745-4121	Preschool-12th	510	\$2,431-\$11,181/yr.	Christian
Swift School 300 Grimes Bridge Rd., Roswell (Fulton) theswiftschool.org	2	678-205-4988	1st-8th	180	\$35,000-\$37,000/yr.	Dyslexia and language based learning differences
Tabula Rasa Language Academy 5855 Riverside Dr., Atlanta and 11035 Jones Bridge Rd., Alpharetta (Fulton), 1430 Riverside Pkwy, Lawrenceville (Gwinnett) trlanguages.com	3 2 4	404-409-0827	2mos.-5th	450	\$15,000-\$22,000/yr.	
Torah Day School of Atlanta 1985 Lavista Rd. NE, Atlanta (DeKalb) torahday.org	3	404-982-0800	K-8th	350	\$14,600-\$16,725/yr.	Jewish
Trinity Christian School 8817 Highway 54 West, Sharpsburg (Coweta) tcslions.org	5	770-251-6770	PreK-12th	1,597	\$3,185-\$13,234/yr.	Christian
Trinity School 4301 Northside Pkwy. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) trinityatl.org	3	404-231-8100	3yrs.-6th	594	\$20,750-\$31,750/yr.	
Village Montessori 1610 Woodstock Rd., Roswell (Fulton) vmschool.com	2	770-552-0834	18mos.-8th	140	\$9,800-\$18,300/yr.	Montessori
The Waldorf School of Atlanta 827 Kirk Rd., Decatur (DeKalb) waldorfatlanta.org	3	404-377-1315	PreK-8th	230	\$13,790-\$20,550/yr.	
The Walker School 700 Cobb Pkwy., Marietta (Cobb) thewalkerschool.org	1	770-427-2689	PreK3-12th	960	\$12,710-\$29,210/yr.	
The Wardlaw School of the Atlanta Speech School 3160 Northside Pkwy. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) atlantaspeechschool.org	3	404-834-7622	K-6th	190	\$38,890-\$41,485/yr.	Dyslexia
The Weber School 6751 Roswell Rd. NE, Atlanta (Fulton) weberschool.org	3	404-917-2500	9th-12th	302	\$33,900/yr.	Transdenominational/Jewish
Wesleyan School 5405 Spalding Dr., Peachtree Corners (Gwinnett) wesleyanschool.org	2	770-448-7640	K-12th	1,206	\$20,930-\$29,390/yr.	Christian
Westminster 1424 W. Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta (Fulton) westminster.net	3	404-355-8673	Pre1st-12th	1,880	\$31,650-\$36,289/yr.	Christian
Whitefield Academy 1 Whitefield Dr., Smyrna (Cobb) whitefieldacademy.com	1	678-305-3000	PreK-12th	960	\$13,800-\$29,300/yr.	Christian
The Wood Acres School 1772 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta (Cobb) woodacresschool.org	1	770-971-1880	PreK2-8th	350	\$8,000-\$14,300/yr.	
Woodward Academy 1662 Rugby Ave., College Park and 6565 Boles Rd., Johns Creek (Fulton) woodward.edu	3	404-765-4001	PreK-12th	2,685	\$20,600-\$32,400/yr.	

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

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A SNAPSHOT OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN METRO ATLANTA



Fulton County Schools

Atlanta Public Schools

404-802-3500

www.atlantapublicschools.us

Atlanta Public Schools is the seventh largest school system in Georgia with 49,675 students across 87 learning sites.

■ **Number of Schools:** 59 traditional schools, 5 partner schools, 19 charter schools, 2 citywide single-gender academies and 7 alternative schools and programs.

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Kindergarten-Grade 3: 21 to 1; Grades 4-5: 23 to 1; Grades 6-8: 24 to 1; Grades 9-12: 25 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$22,970

Bartow County School System

770-606-5800

www.bartow.k12.ga.us

There are approximately 14,175 students attending Bartow County's 20 schools (K-12), with 1,122 certified employees, 65% holding advanced degrees.

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

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 22 to 1 (average)

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$12,580

Buford City Schools

770-945-5035

www.bufordcityschools.org

There are 5,854 students enrolled in Buford City Schools. 79.74% percent of the 380 teachers have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 3 elementary; 1 middle; 1 high school

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 15.45 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$13,028.95

Cherokee County School District

770-479-1871

www.cherokee12.net

CCSD has 42,000 students attending 40 schools and centers. There are 2,963 teachers in CCSD, of which 73% have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 23 elementary; 7 middle; 6 high schools; 1 virtual school (grades 4-12); 2 alternative centers; 2 preschool centers

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 15 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$12,811

Clayton County Public Schools

770-473-2700

www.clayton.k12.ga.us

Clayton County has the sixth largest school system in Georgia with more than 50,000 students. Of the district's 3,836 teachers, 64% have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 39 primary/elementary; 15 middle; 12 high schools; 3 Virtual Learning Programs; 3 District-approved charter schools; 1 psychological education center; 1 multi-purpose education center; included are: 17 Magnet programs, including Cambridge International Assessment

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 14.50 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,577.29 (2022)

Cobb County School District

770-426-3300

www.cobbk12.org

Cobb County has 112 schools supporting approximately 106,703 students. There are 10,160 certified employees; 65% have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 66 elementary; 26 middle; 17 high schools; 1 special education center; 1 adult education center; 1 performance learning center; 7 Magnet programs

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

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$10,000 (3-year average)

Coweta County School System

770-254-2800

www.cowetaschools.net

Coweta County has 22,961 students and about 3,200 employees, 55% of whom are certified teaching employees. 60% of Coweta's teachers hold advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 19 elementary; 7 middle schools; an 8th grade Charter College and Career Academy; 3 high schools; the Central Educational Center Career Academy; and the school system's Donald W. Nixon Centre for the Performing and Visual Arts

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** 15 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$11,627 (2022)

City Schools of Decatur

404-371-3601

www.csdecatur.net

City Schools of Decatur have 5,645 Pre-K-12 students attending 10 schools. Of the district's 544 certified staff, more than 86.1% 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:** \$15,043

DeKalb County School District

678-676-1200

www.dekalbschoolsga.org

DeKalb County School District is the third largest school system in Georgia with more than 92,000 students, 138+ schools and centers and 14,000 employees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 77 elementary; 19 middle; 22 high; 12 Program Schools; 8 Charter Schools

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Kindergarten: 26 to 1; Grades 1-3: 29 to 1; Grades 4-5: 30 to 1; Grades 6-8: 30 to 1; Grades 9-12: 34 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$12,189.85



Douglas County School System



Cherokee County School District

Douglas County School System

770-651-2000

www.dcssga.org

There are approximately 26,000 students enrolled in Douglas County School System's 36 schools. 70% of the 1,997 certified teaching staff have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 20 elementary; 8 middle; 5 high schools; 3 Non-traditional Schools and Programs, including the Success Center, College & Career Institute and FLEX Academy

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

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,556

Fayette County Public Schools

770-460-3535

www.fcboe.org

Fayette County Public Schools has 19,888 students. 74% of the 1,525 teachers have advanced degrees.

■ **Number of Schools:** 14 elementary; 5 middle; 5 high schools; Fayette LIFE Academy (specialty school)

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 13.52 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$12,106.64 (2022)

Cont'd on next page

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Forsyth County Schools

770-887-2461

www.forsyth.k12.ga.us

More than 55,100 students attend Forsyth County's 42 schools. There are over 4,069 certified employees in the system.

■ **Number of Schools:** 23 elementary; 11 middle; 7 high schools and one 9-12 college and career academy

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 20 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$8,075

Fulton County Schools

470-254-3600

www.fultonschools.org

Fulton County has more than 88,184 students and 6,900 certified staff members at 106 schools.

■ **Number of Schools:** 59 elementary (many with Pre-K programs); 19 middle; 18 high schools (2 with open campuses); 7 charter schools; 1 full-time virtual school

■ **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:** \$14,880 (estimated)

Gainesville City School System

770-536-5275

www.gcassk12.net

8,000+ students attend Gainesville City's eight schools. 520 teachers are employed by the system, and 55% of them have advanced degrees.

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

■ **Pupil to teacher ratios:** Pre-K: 21 to 1; Grades K-5: 13 to 1; Grades 6-8: 15 to 1; Grades 9-12: 18 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$10,687

Gwinnett County Public Schools

678-301-6000

www.gcpsk12.org

With more than 182,000 students attending 142 educational facilities, Gwinnett County is the largest school system in Georgia and the 11th largest in the nation. The average GCPS teacher holds a Master's degree or higher advanced degree and has 14 years of experience.

■ **Number of Schools:** 81 elementary; 29 middle; 24 high schools; and 7 other educational facilities.

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

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$12,655

Hall County Schools

770-534-1080

www.hallco.org

There are 28,079 students enrolled in Hall County's 37 schools. There are 2,184 teachers and 3,439 total employees.

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

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 14 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$9,937.77 (2022)



Henry County Schools

Henry County Schools

770-957-6601

www.henry.k12.ga.us

There are nearly 44,000 students served by more than 6,000 employees, with 74% of employees holding an advanced degree.

■ **Number of Schools:** 52 schools, including 2 academies, over 10 clusters, with 9 Pre-K programs

■ **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:** \$11,677

Marietta City Schools

770-422-3500

www.marietta-city.org

Some 8,636 students attend Marietta City's 12 schools. There are 1,400 employees with 75% of certified staff holding a Master's degree or higher.



Marietta City Schools

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

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** 15 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$14,473

Paulding County School District

770-443-8000

www.paulding.k12.ga.us

The Paulding County School District has 34 schools, 31,551 students and 2,648 teachers. 70% of the teachers hold advanced degrees.

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

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** Kindergarten: 21 to 1; Grades 1-3: 22 to 1; Grades 4-5: 28 to 1; Grades 6-8: 28 to 1; Grades 9-12: 22 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$12,507

Rockdale County Public Schools

770-483-4713

www.rockdaleschools.org

There are 15,140 students attending Rockdale County Public Schools. Approximately 63% of the 1,425 certified personnel hold advanced degrees.

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

■ **Pupil to teacher ratio:** Kindergarten-Grade 5: 19 to 1; Grades 6-8: 21 to 1; Grades 9-12: 19 to 1

■ **Per pupil expenditure:** \$13,542.14

Charting the Right Course

by Emily Webb

Some kids were born to be performers. Some love playing outside and taking care of animals. Some may prefer mathematics or learning a new language. A charter school can help grow natural talents and passions in an educational environment.

What is a charter school?

A charter school is a tuition-free public school offering a specialized focus. Georgia has 115 charter schools, according to the Georgia Department of Education. Charter schools are either start-up or conversion charter schools. A start-up charter school originally began as a charter, whereas a conversion charter school used to be a traditional public school.

Charter schools are governed by an autonomous non-profit board of directors, and receive flexibility from certain state and local rules and regulations. This freedom allows charter schools to design curriculum around what interests their students. Curriculum may focus on education in STEM, language or the arts.

For example, DeKalb Agriculture Technology & Environment focuses on environmental, agriculture, technological ramifications and other business decisions via a hands-on, community-oriented instructional curriculum. Georgia Cyber Academy offers an online classroom with real-time, direct instruction from teachers. The International Charter Academy of Georgia offers a dual language immersion program in English and Japanese. The Utopian Academy for the Arts develops the academic and artistic talents of its students.

During the 2021-22 school year, 60,039 students were enrolled in Georgia charter schools, according to the Georgia Charter Schools Association. The State Charter Schools Commission approves and supports Georgia's state charter schools, while locally approved charter schools are authorized by a local board of education.

Charter schools differ from magnet or theme schools. A magnet/theme school is typically a school within a local school district that offers a certain instructional program, and many have admissions



criteria, such as test scores, teacher recommendations or grades. Charter schools operate independently from the local district and are not allowed to have admissions criteria.

As public schools, charter schools are graded on the state's College and Career Readiness Profile Index, which looks at academic performance. State charter schools are held to the State Charter School Commission's Comprehensive Performance Framework.

Charter school funding is regulated by the school district or the state, although charter schools may be funded at a lower level than a traditional public school.

They may be in refurbished locations and without athletic facilities or bus transportation. State charter schools receive no local tax revenue.

Different from a charter school, a charter system is offered some flexibility from certain state rules and regulations, but school boards must still approve the school's practices. There are 48 charter systems in Georgia, according to the GADOE. Some charter systems in metro Atlanta include Atlanta Public Schools, Decatur City Schools, Fulton County Schools, Gainesville City Schools and Marietta City Schools.

Cont'd on next page



Tips for Enrolling at a Charter School

- Know the enrollment requirements. State charter schools are usually open to any student in the state, while locally-authorized schools have residency requirements. To enroll in a charter school, students must reside in the school's designated attendance zone.
- Understand the admissions and enrollment processes and adhere to all deadlines. Charter schools establish an enrollment period when families can submit applications for the school. This information can be found on the school website. Many charter schools accept applications in January. Once a school reaches their enrollment cap, they will often hold lotteries to determine enrollment. Enrollment practices vary by charter school.
- Be realistic about transportation, as many charter schools may not be able to provide bus service.
- Look at more than just the score. Look at the growth rate academically and how the teachers treat the students.
- Supplement what your child might not be learning at the school with extracurricular activities or summer camps.
- Review the charter school's board. Attend a public meeting to understand their mission and values.
- Consider the programming, as well as what's expected of the parents and financial records.
- Visit the school to observe classes. Ask how long the school has been established and how long the charter will be valid.

To find out more information, visit gadoe.org, scsc.georgia.gov, charter-system.org, gacharters.org, scsfga.org, findageorgiacharter.org and redefinedatlanta.org.



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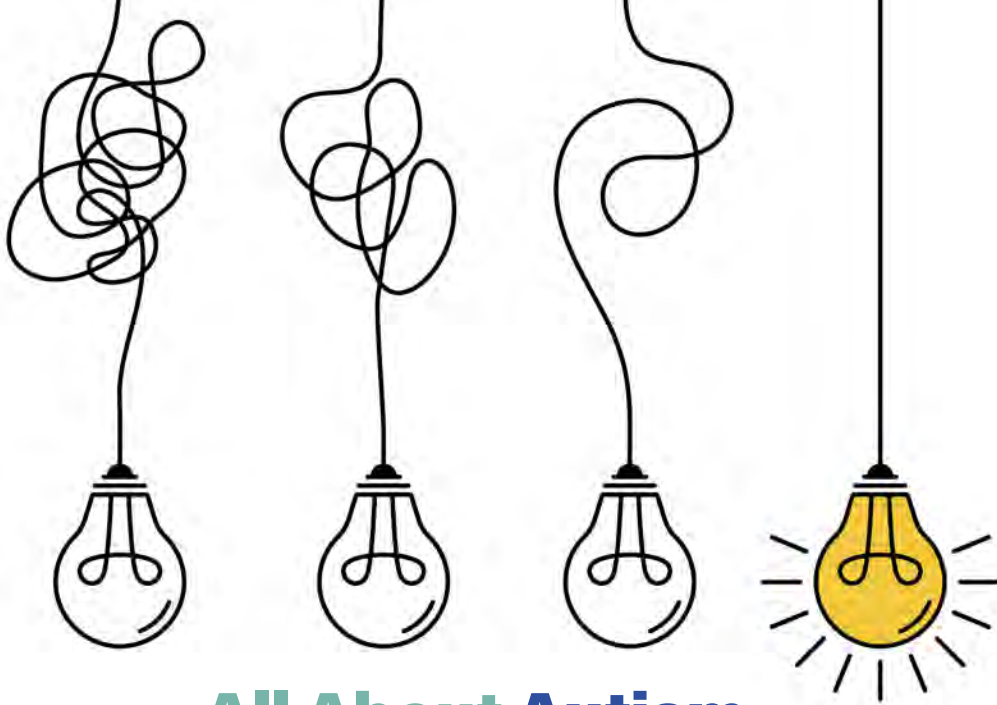
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All About Autism

by Emily Webb

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a term that a decade ago was misunderstood and carried with it a lot of confusion or negativity. Thanks to awareness campaigns and better understanding of the science behind it, there are early intervention programs, therapies, specific schools, and inclusive classrooms dedicated to supporting children and families affected by ASD. But, what is ASD exactly?

ASD is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart, but people with ASD may communicate, interact, behave and learn in ways that are different from neurotypical people. As a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. ASD is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Signs of autism usually appear by age 2 or 3, and while autism can be reliably diagnosed by a specialist by age 2, the average age of autism diagnosis in the U.S. is 5 years old.

Autism Red Flags

By 6 months:

Few or no big smiles or other warm, joyful and engaging expressions
Limited or no eye contact

By 9 months:

Little or no back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions

By 12 months:

Little or no babbling
Little or no back-and-forth gestures, such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving
Little or no response to name

By 16 months:

Very few or no words

By 24 months:

Very few or no meaningful, two-word phrases

If you have concerns, get your child screened and contact your healthcare provider. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all children be screened specifically for ASD during regular well-child visits at ages 18 months and 24 months. Research has shown children with autism do better with early diagnosis and therapy.

Signs and Symptoms

- Avoids or does not keep eye contact
- Does not respond to name by 9 months of age
- Does not show facial expressions, like happy, sad, angry or surprised by 9 months of age
- Does not play simple interactive games by 12 months of age
- Uses few or no gestures by 12 months of age
- Does not share interests with others by 15 months of age
- Does not point to show something interesting by 18 months of age
- Does not notice when others are hurt or upset by 24 months of age
- Does not notice other children or join them in play by 36 months of age
- Does not pretend to be something else during play by 48 months of age
- Does not sing, dance or act by 60 months of age
- Lines up toys or other objects and gets upset when order is changed
- Repeats words or phrases over and over
- Plays with toys the same way every time
- Is focused on parts of objects
- Gets upset by minor changes
- Has obsessive interests
- Must follow certain routines
- Flaps hands, rocks body or spins self in circles
- Has unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look or feel

1 in 36

The estimated number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

4

The number of times boys are more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls.

Cont'd on page 58

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All About Autism

Types of Treatment

While there is no cure for ASD, current treatments seek to reduce symptoms that interfere with daily functioning and quality of life. Treatment plans usually involve multiple professionals, include different therapies and are catered to the individual.

There are no medications that treat the core symptoms of ASD, but some medications treat co-occurring symptoms that can help people with ASD function better, such as medication to help manage high energy levels. Work with a doctor who has experience in treating people with ASD if you are considering the use of medication.

■ **Applied Behavior Analysis:** Training methods that encourage desired behaviors and discourages undesired behaviors to improve a variety of skills.

■ **Speech and Language Therapy:** Improves the person's understanding and use of speech and language, either through verbal communication or the use of signs, gestures, pictures or electronic communication.

■ **Occupational Therapy:** Teaches skills that help the person live independently.

■ **Sensory Integration Therapy:** Improves responses to sensory input that may be restrictive or overwhelming.

■ **Physical Therapy:** Improves physical skills, such as fine movements of the fingers or larger movements of the body.

■ **Social-Relational Treatments:** Focus on improving social skills and building emotional bonds.

■ **Cognitive-Behavior Therapy:** Helps children with ASD cope with anxiety, depression and other mental health issues; focuses on learning the connections between thoughts, feelings and behaviors.

■ **Floor Time:** A relationship-based therapy for children where adults play and interact with the child at their level.

■ **Relationship Development Intervention:** A family-based, behavioral treatment focused on building social and emotional skills.

■ **Joint Attention Therapy:** Improves specific skills related to shared attention, such as pointing, showing or coordinating looks between a child and an object.

Sources: *Autism Speaks; National Institutes of Health; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



44%

The percentage of children with autism who have IQ scores in the average to above average range.

25%-35%

The estimated percentage of people with autism who are nonverbal.

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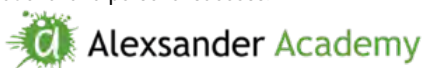
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Field Trip!

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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.

Cont'd on next page



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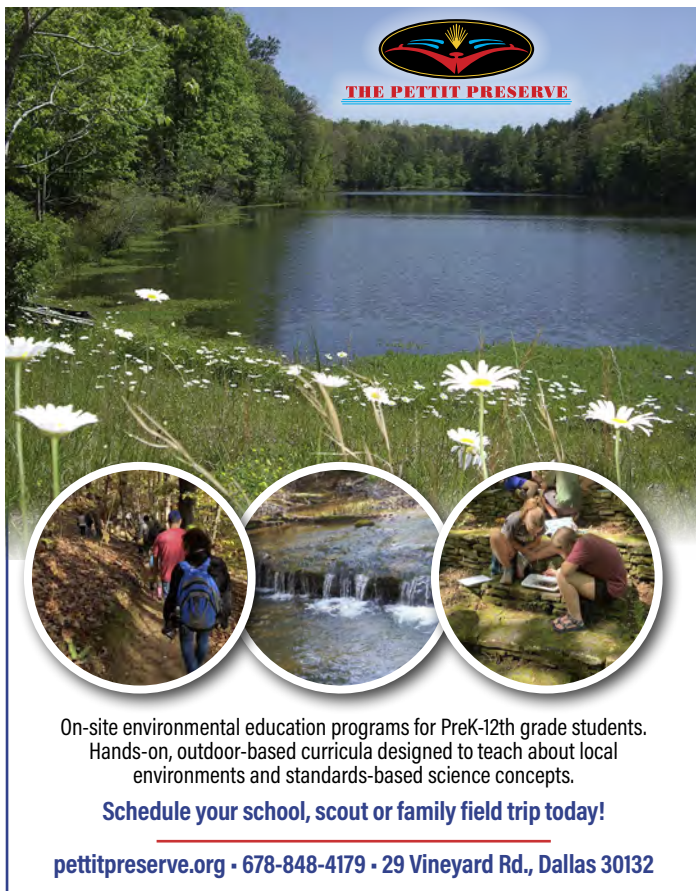
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Field Trip!

- **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.

The Big Day

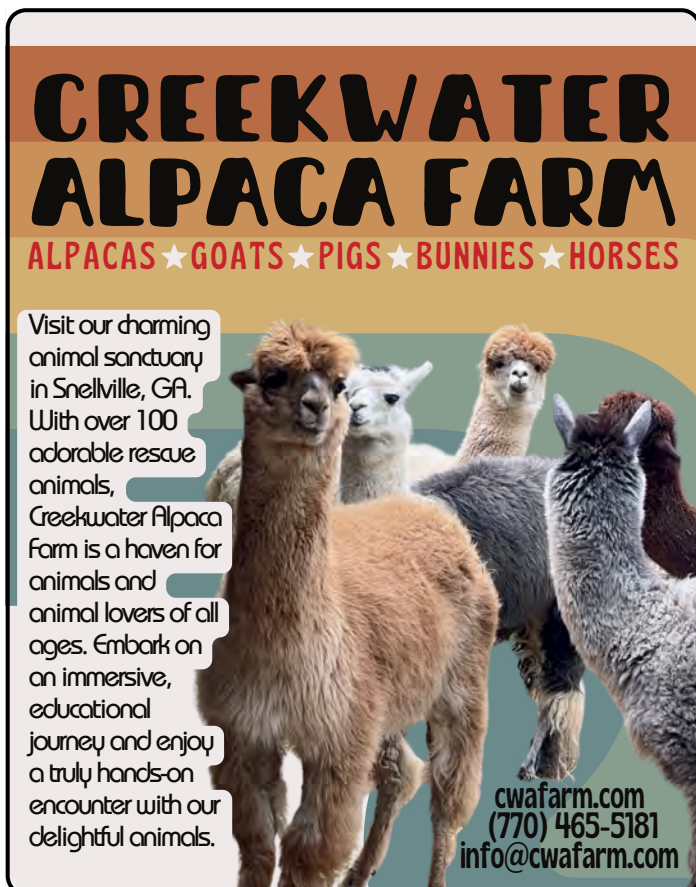
- **Be prepared for the weather** and pack appropriately, whether it's an umbrella, sunscreen and towels, or gloves and a warm coat. Be sure each child has comfortable walking shoes.
- **Bring extra cash** and stash it separately from your purse or wallet, in case either is lost or stolen.
- **Make sure each child eats breakfast**, but bring portable healthy snacks for later in the day, such as boxes of raisins.
- **Add a little fun — and educational value —** to the trip by asking each child to complete an activity during the visit. At Zoo Atlanta, for instance, they could keep track of how many newborn animals they see.
- **Make sure each child knows his contact information** (phone numbers, where parents work), or chaperones have a contact list.

- **Emphasize that children need to stay together** as a group, and tell them what to do if they get separated.
- **Sing songs on the way** to the location to set the mood. "Old McDonald Had a Farm" is a natural for a visit to a farm.

The Days After

- **Discuss what you've seen** and how it relates to your community or how an event in history shaped the children's lives today.
- **If your group had its own guide** or got other special treatment, be sure to thank the venue that provided it. Writing a thank-you note to your guide or the organization teaches children etiquette.
- **Kids often get more interested in a subject after a field trip.** Be sure to follow up with more information and activities related to the trip.

— Sue Price and Amanda Allen



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Four Tips for Field Trip Success

- 1 Make sure everyone wears nametags,** even the teachers and chaperones.
- 2 Use the buddy system.** Make sure everyone in the group sticks to their assigned partner.
- 3 Schedule out the day.** Keep it moving — kids are less likely to get in trouble or wander around if they're occupied!
- 4 Set some ground rules** for behavior and make sure everyone knows the consequences of misbehaving.



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