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## Boiling springs elementary school pa

Paying for a private primary school education puts a huge burden on families, especially when one considers that appropriate public education is essentially free. Even so, many parents believe a solid personal education for their children is worth the cost, giving students artistic, religious, or personal attention they may not find elsewhere. Tweet this! Find the Best Private Elementary School! The schools on this list each have their own special appeal. Reasonable tuition may be an important consideration for some parents (annual tuition on this list ranges from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per year). Small class sizes and personalized attention may be very important to others. Some families are looking for academic differences, or ways to escape abuse, special education in a particular field, or a place where their children will be valued and encouraged. Ranking criteria include the following: Schools must have at least three of the six grades (grades one through six) that are traditionally categorized as elementary grades. They must exceed the nearest public school in course selection and success. They must have a reputation for producing well-prepared students to take the next step in their education. Although they are organized as businesses, schools should have a reputation for treating families with justice and compassion. They actively try to treat parents as partners in the educational process. They openly and regularly celebrate students and their achievements. In determining whether and at the level at which these criteria are met, we conducted extensive research on these schools, which included finding and evaluating parent and student reviews. Finally, we decided to put a premium on geographic diversity in school selection. Instead of focusing on some high-density population centers with large concentrations of private schools, we feel it is important that all regions of the country are represented. Here, then, is a list of the best private elementary schools in all of America at full length and breadth. (Fayetteville, AR) On a 26-acre campus with amphitheatre, certified wildlife habitat, pathways and outdoor classrooms, children in nursery schools through eighth grade enjoy a varied STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) curriculum. Students in grades one through eight each have computer access. In nurseries and preschools, young students have a dedicated indoor gym, and physical education begins at the age of three. There are four playgrounds and four school buildings. New School has more than 350 students, 52 part-time teachers, 63 full-time teachers. Founded in 1971, the school is accredited by the Central American Independent Schools Association, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accreditation Association, and Arkansas Better Beginnings: 3-Star. Lower school consists of grades one through four and technology is integrated into each phase of learning. Students are grouped for literacy and math training according to ability, so that all students can succeed and progress to their full potential. Students are given standardized tests to measure their learning and grades exceed students' grades regionally and nationally. Students have in-depth studies of vocabulary, phonics, and spelling, as well as frequent reading ability assessments with Progressive Reading Assessment. Math students are encouraged through innovative instruction to develop critical and creative thinking skills. Students learn problem solving strategies and teachers use manipulative and visual models to engage students with direct learning activities to give students an idea of how math applies to everyday life. Students also study social studies and science. Community service projects are integrated into social studies programs where students learn about economics and geography, as well as history and citizenship. Science teachers provide projects for students that will generate interest in science. All students from preschool through eighth grade take art classes. Art is very integrated into the curriculum, as is technology. All students in kindergarten through fourth grade have personal iPads, while students in grades five through seven are given MacBook Air to use for their lessons. Students also have the opportunity to participate in choirs, Lego robotics, science clubs, drama clubs, and personal music lessons in guitar, violin, and/or piano, as well as many other enrichment activities. (Lexington, KY) The school started at Lexington School with a nursery school and passed eighth grade, with nearly 600 students who were geographically and ethnically diverse. The school has a special learning program for dyslexia and is accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools and the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. The student-to-teacher ratio is about seven-to-one. Sports offered at LS include archery, ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse, football, tennis, cheers, and several other athletic pursuits. Students have eight extra-curricular classes to choose from: Girls on the Run, chess, intramurals, Math Counts, Chinese, applied music lessons, speech and debate, and Scouting. The curriculum is aligned vertically for each handwritten class with No Tears, science, integrated technology, English, Open Court reading programs, social studies, and Everyday Mathematics. Competitive athletics is offered in leading-edge cheer, archery, lacrosse, tennis, and a few others. Intramurals are available in golf, yoga, drama, dance, lacrosse, hockey, cooking, and some academic offerings. up to third grade, students learn art, computers, PE, music, and Spanish in the classroom especially for this subject. In the academic field, students progress at their own pace, developing their basic skills before moving on to fourth and fifth grades where students conduct more in-depth science studies. They studied math with math specialists. English and social studies are closely planned with other courses. All these efforts helped transition students from elementary to high school. Students in fourth and fifth grades are given lockers. They are encouraged to follow their own tasks and learn more independently. Fourth graders provide snacks for each lower grade grade and fifth graders lead a recycling program for the school. The Lexington School uses Mission Skills Assessment to measure character traits of resilience, ethics, creativity, curiosity, time management, and teamwork, giving schools a way to measure how well students assimilate these skills. Students can hike through creeks to help them understand the dynamics of that ecosystem. If students have language difficulties, they are offered an alternative to regular classrooms in the Learning Center, where the student-teacher ratio is much lower. The multi-sensory approach helps students with difficulties in math. Science and social studies in the Learning Center are taught with projects that students can achieve using their hands. Computer skills help students to become independent learners and their special interests are investigated through the Talent Class, which students can choose from. (Winston-Salem, NC) In January 2014, Forsyth Family Magazine reported that 60 percent of students at Forsyth Country Day School in grades four through seven qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) because they ranked in the top five percent on national Bureau of Education Records tests. Students who start at FCDS during or before first grade are twice as likely to qualify for the TIP program than those who enroll once they are older. Duke University is actively looking for academically gifted students in elementary schools to help finance their education. Many parents become worried about going to college when their children are in high school. It seems that early childhood education is just as important as high school education, and this is certainly the approach that Forsyth Country Day School takes. In 2014, the curriculum began a new curriculum called Our Path to Excellence and will follow up with more innovative programs in the next school year. FCDS offers a year-round program for children aged two to four, called the Early Benefit Programme, which will prepare students for future grades. During this time children are given knowledge that will act as for the future in math, writing, communication, literacy, and telephone awareness. Preschool is part of the lower school. below. through fourth grade consists of the rest of the lower school where students study core subjects, but also world languages, arts, PE, science, and social studies. Students in lower schools interact with students in high school and so they learn from other groups in a community setting. Lower school students make several trips a year to places like the Carolina Raptor Center, All-a-Flutter Butterfly Farm in High Point, the North Carolina Zoo, several museums, the Science Center in Greensboro, and other educational interest centers. There are also several after-school enrichment programmes such as ballet, tap dance, football and ukulele classes, to name a few. Private music lessons are offered on several different types of instruments. In the spring, the Community Art School plays with lower-middle school students. Secondary schools consist of grades five through eight, where students are taught skills and offer a wider range of learning opportunities, including community service projects and clubs and academic competitions. (Niceville, FL) Rocky Bayou Christian Academy is a member of the Northwest Florida Christian Education Association and Christian Schools International. RBCA is also accredited by the Florida Association of Christian Schools and Schools, and the National Institute for Learning Development. RBCA starts with a preschool program and passes the twelfth grade. Over the past 10 years, 90 percent of RBCA graduates have qualified for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, and graduates earn multimillion-dollar scholarships each year. The school has a Special Services Program for students from the age of three to seven who are experiencing developmental delays, or who have needs in the field of basic academic skills, with interventions designed to help each student succeed. Kindergarten students learn to read and are taught phonics, short and long vowels, silent vowels, and diphthong. They are taught to count money, tell time, and the basics of addition and subtraction, and count up to 100. The Talent Development Program focuses its efforts on students in grades one through six, giving individual attention to students. Victors classes exist to benefit students with cognitive challenges to develop their academic and life skills. Therapy Services offers children with the help of unique learning challenges to help them navigate through school. In addition, RBCA uses the National Institute for Learning Development Model, which includes Search and Learning Programs, Discovery Education Therapy, Group Educational Therapy, Recipes for Reading, Speech and Language Therapy, and Uniting Services. All of these programs offer interventions for students who have difficulty processing information, academic skills, and language acquisition. second in the serving grades K through sixth grade with high-achieving programs with advanced technology in every class. The student-teacher ratio is about eight-to-one. Talent Development Class students who may have differences in the way they learn have the opportunity for advanced placement. Students are taught foreign languages, music, art, computers, and can even participate in the Ukulele Club. The basic curriculum includes the Singapore Mathematics and Student Technology Program run in partnership with Boston University and the University of Richmond. Students take a standardized achievement test in the spring, whose grades are used to monitor students' learning success. (New York, NY) Brearley School has its differences as one of the oldest schools in the country. The school was founded in 1884 and remains an all-girls college prep school, teaching about 700 students, kindergarten through twelfth grade. The lower school has about 250 students and covers kindergarten through fourth grade. The high school has slightly more than 200 students and covers grades five through eight. The core values for lower schools are responsibility, respect, honesty, courage, and kindness. Students are encouraged to conduct themselves with dignity and act with integrity so that they create a cohesive student community. Homeroom teachers are the basis of all learning, but as students become more responsible, they are given more privileges and responsibilities. There is an assembly every week where girls sing, read, and play. There are also guest speakers on topics ranging from caring for rescued wildlife to jazz history. Fourth graders will be well trained in handling fractions, decimals, and percentages. They will write multi-paragraph papers and engage in planning what they write. They will read short stories and novels and participate in speeches, debates, skits, and plays. They will learn about Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In science they will learn how machines work, including levers and gears as well as animal anatomical structures and moon phases. Students will continue their knowledge of Mandarin and rotate through several art courses, including pottery and ceramics. They learn carpentry, music, and photography, as well as physical education and service learning. In other words, the students at Brearley have a strong curriculum. Lower schools strive to develop character in all of their students to be the foundation for their behavior in the upper middle class, and for life. Students are taught to respect the thoughts and work of others, while giving back to the community through service projects. Students discuss peer conflicts in discussions that from academic activities in High school students are offered gymnastics and after-school football programs. Football after school does not start for students until second grade, but gymnastics is open to all middle school girls down. Brearley also partnered with Chapin School to offer an after-school LS Clubhouse for grades K through 6, where students engage in a variety of physical, intellectual and artistic activities. (Schererville, IN) Children from junior kindergarten through eighth grade attend Forest Ridge Academy. Junior kindergartens use several active learning experiences where they interact with classmates, people, events, and live learning centers. Teachers post day schedules in writing and symbolizing so that children will be encouraged to read. Children are given the opportunity to make choices about what they are doing and participate in problem solving activities. Children are encouraged to describe in words the things they experience. They are taught the alphabet, the words of vision, and begin reading skills through phonics programs. Math concepts are taught through the use of manipulative objects and students are taught to read and write their numbers, as well as calculated by the fives and tens. They also attended classes in PE, music, art, Spanish, computers, sign language, woodwork, and science. Science includes nature trails, field excursions and age-appropriate experiments. This kindergarten program has complex reading, writing, spelling, math, social studies, and science programs. Science uses experiments with magnetism, light, and sound, as well as various stages of butterflies and ladybugs. Students also take special classes similar to junior kindergarten students, including sign language and music. After students enter the first grade, they are taught using Whole Brain Teaching. They learn about science through interactive classroom parks and learn to read different types of media such as articles and poetry. Students are taught tolerance for diversity, drawing, age-appropriate music production, painting, and writing stories and essays up to five paragraphs long. Students can take an exciting field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as many other places. Second graders go to the Chicago Field Museum and participate in scavenger hunts. They also toured Pawnee Earth Lodge and learned about pawnee life. Every year, students return there for an overnight trip with third grader and their parents. Third and fourth grader took an overnight trip to the Indiana Dunes to learn about nature and explore some of the ecosystems found in the Dunes. Fifth grader travels to Medieval Times Restaurant, travels to Camp Tecumseh, and goes to the Field Museum in Chicago as they study so that they can see the Egyptian exhibition. At the end of the year, they go to Space Camp where they experience experiencing fun activities that simulate walking near zero gravity and what it's like to fly in a spaceship. (Jackson, WY) Journeys School offers pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade education. Currently, Journeys is a day school, although boarding is considered an option for the future. There is also a long-existing home-stay program for international students. Elementary students are immersed in a seven-course course that includes regular academic courses, as well as Spanish art and fine arts. The curriculum adheres to a national standard known as Common Core. Students are assigned to math and language arts classes based on each student's abilities and social and emotional development so they can learn, receive help, and speed up at their own pace. Giving children a strong foundation in reading and writing, the literacy curriculum uses several well-known and proven reading and writing programs. Students have daily reading and writing workshops and are instructed in skills that will make them strong readers and writers. Math is taught with fewer topics delivered in more intense methods using Math in Focus: The Singapore Approach. Science is taught using all disciplines, including technology, to train students to think like scientists through research methods so that students learn to ask questions and design their own experiments. Classes take place both indoors and outdoors. Social studies classes emphasize citizenship and community. All classes are taught in such a way that students can create real-world applications. In addition to visual arts, elementary school students also have music or drama classes twice a week. Elementary school students give musical performances and dramatic public performances. Students learn the type of sound each instrument does and the characteristics that differentiate from different types of music. Instruments played by elementary school students are mostly limited to percussion instruments, keyboards, and recorders. Elementary students often travel day in and around the community and make three extended daily trips (one to five days) per year to areas in Wyoming, Washington, and Idaho. Elementary school students also participate in service projects designed for their age group, such as building bird boxes and collecting wildflower seeds to plant in areas in need of beauty. In summer, a number of camps are available for lower-middle school students, such as Jackson Hole Summer Science Camp. Journeys School Summer Innovation Academy, and Teton Valley Community School Summer Camps. In these camps, students can study the environment, discover how different animals make their homes, explore natural waterways, pendakian alam, dan berkemah. (Atlanta, GA) Cliff Valley School diakrediasi oleh Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, dan Southern Association for Independent. Independent Cliff Valley is also a member of the Georgia Independent Schools Association and the National Association of Independent Schools. There are about 300 students and 57 full-time teachers, the majority of which hold postgraduate degrees. There is a very low turnover rate among faculty, providing continuity within the school. The campus is located on nearly five acres in Northeast Atlanta and has 47,000 square feet of amenities, including a music room and performance stage, science lab, art studio, gym, outdoor classroom, rooftop garden, outdoor play area for recess and organized sports, and nature trails. The acquisition of Spanish began at the age of three at Cliff Valley School. Preschoolers learn through exploration and visuals. Students work in the garden to plant and maintain what they grow. Kindergarten through fifth grade is taught by teams that provide warm-up exercises in key subjects, activity centers, and instruction in the arts of language and mathematics. Students go to recess and then have lunch, after which they study science and social studies and go to enrichment classes in arts, environmental sciences, PE, Spain, technology, libraries, and music. Various assessments are used to determine the acquisition of student skills and parents receive weekly progress reports and newsletters. Standardized tests are used in the upper classes to help determine how well students acquire knowledge and skills. Students make several field visits throughout the year and guest speakers come to the school from various professional fields so that students can make connections between what they learn and the world around them. Elementary and preschool students have reading friends and lunchtime friends so older students can experience what it's like to guide younger people and act as role models. Students in grades three through five can participate in club-style sports without the chance of being cut from the team. Sports include cross country, volleyball, basketball, flag football, and soccer. The after-school program gives students the opportunity to learn about and participate in drama, art, fencing, chess, golf, robotics, and music. After-school care is available to all students aged three and over. Activities include games, free games, crafts, arts projects and activities, and homework time. In summer, camps are held for all age groups with age-appropriate activities that include computer programming, games, cooking and sports. Care before care and care after being offered in the summer where students participate in less structured activities with their own age group such as free play, arts and crafts, and reading time. (Washington, DC) March a college prep school founded in 1911, serves nearly 650 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade on a seven-and-a-half-acre campus. Originally, it was a French school that taught teaching from different countries, and with such a beginning, it certainly respects and celebrates diversity. Students come from 41 countries and 42 percent are students of color. Students attend classes on one campus with an average class size of 15, with a seven-to-one student-teacher ratio. There are 106 teachers and 65 percent of them have a master's degree or higher. The school is accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland Schools. Spanish instruction begins in kindergarten, while french and Latin studies begin in sixth grade. In the ninth grade, students learn Chinese. Each student is required to take classes in visual and performing arts, and each student must take classes on the essential skills of the twenty-first century. Although March is a college prep school, elementary schools do not try to teach at an accelerated pace or teach more than students need for a good foundation before going into high school. Children can become children when going to science classes twice a week, along with art and music. Students go to the library once a week and have PE four times a week. The number of times students go to a Spanish class depends on the grade level of the student. Fourth graders act as reading friends to kindergartens, and students from high school crop gardens with kindergarten classes. High school students help first grader keep fish (shady) and release them into the river. There is a celebration where all students in each class participate. All students have access to laptops and there are also 3D printers, tablets, digital cameras, and more for students to use and learn from to prepare them for life in the twenty-first century. Service learning is also part of the curriculum. The school's popularity program applies to kindergarten through eighth graders. Students are provided with learning assistance if needed, but this is the time for them to relax with activities such as weekly movies, Puzzle Club, Girls on the Run, Culture Club, French Club, and Chess Club. During the year, the lower school has several celebrations, assemblies, and guest speakers. March is accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland Schools and members of eight professional education associations. (Anchor, AK) In August 2013, Pacific Northern moved to a new campus that includes a multipurpose gymnasium, a music room and a large art studio, and a comprehensive science laboratory where students are challenged daily to develop independent and critical thinking skills. Students are given the opportunity to explore themes throughout the curriculum. Although students work collaboratively, they are held individually responsible for their learning in prep schools this height. Nevertheless, teaching differentiation so that all students can reach their own potential. Assisting students in this quest is a loyal teacher in a small class. There are about 150 students in this pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school. The Responsive Classroom program is used to make students comfortable discussing their ideas and receive the support they need to continue stretching their thinking skills to newer heights. Tuition is currently \$16,995 a year, and tuition assistance is available. PNA also offers after-school programs. The youngest students up to third grade take part in indoor and outdoor social and athletic activities. Fourth through eighth grader attends the Homework Club where they have an hour to work on homework on the computer, then participate in outdoor and indoor social and athletic activities. Beginners and Early Kindergartens are considered Early Childhood, kindergarten to fourth grade are considered lower and fifth to eighth schools are considered secondary schools. All core subjects are taught by teachers and classroom specialists teaching elected courses in PE, performing arts, Spanish, and studio art. Students are encouraged to work through self-designed projects and consider with others the various ways problems related to the project can be solved. Students then compare and analyze their solutions. All students are taken on field visits, some of them overnight, and all related to the curriculum. Students have visited the Alaska Sea Life Center, Kachemak Bay, Denali National Park, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Performing Arts Center, and Campbell Creek Science Center, Puget Sound, Washington, D.C., and Costa Rica. Grades 2, 5 and 7 are required to participate in the Science Fair; participation is optional for all other values. All students participate in a day of service (to the community), autumn concerts, spring musicals, and student art exhibitions. Different programs are used for each subject, maximizing student learning. (Sandy, UT) Serving children in



preschool through twelfth grade, Waterford School integrates academia, sports, fine arts and social development into an interdisciplinary whole. Preschool and kindergarten students begin the learning process to become readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. They are taught how to tell the time and use the calendar. They learn colors and numbers as well as graphs and shapes. Their learning is enriched by the introduction of dance, music, photography, theatre and art. In lower schools, students start academic programs that will teach students the learning habits and skills they will use for the rest of their lives as they learn basic math, English, computers, science, history, dance, music, visual arts, PE, and library science. Students in lower schools can also become members of the mathematics in third and fourth grade, the inventors club second and third graders, robotics programs for fifth graders and lower middle school students in grades three through five put on a play every year produced by high school students. Fourth and fifth graders compete in math bees and geography bees. All lower school students can join a special Ski and Ride program Saturday, eight weeks. Sixth graders are considered part of high school. It was in high school that competitive sports began. The curriculum is classical liberal arts/college preparation. From preschool, students can join the Waterford Dance Academy where they study modern ballet and dance. Preschoolers start with creative dances and five- and six-year-olds start with pre-ballet. After that, there are five levels of ballet instruction that students must qualify. There are open classes in jazz, modern dance and contemporary dance. Founded in 1981, sandy suburban school is located on a 40-acre campus with the majestic Wasatch Mountains towering behind it. There are 10 buildings with 250,000 square feet of instructional space. The lower school building includes rooms for music, art, science, computer labs, mathematics, gyms and libraries. Instructions in assembled instruments began in fourth grade, with brass and strong winds added the following year. It is the school's mission to provide liberal arts, college preparation programs coupled with the latest technology. The school is accredited by the North West Accreditation Commission and the North West Independent Schools Association. In total there are 896 students with 403 students in lower schools and 210 in secondary schools. The school calendar runs on the trimester system. (Sewickley, PA) On a 16-acre campus north of Pittsburgh, 700 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade attended Sewickley Academy, on a campus with 60 classrooms, nine science labs, two robotic laboratories, five computer labs, a digital design lab, a media center, and two libraries. There is an outdoor classroom with a garden and two greenhouses. There are two auditoriums, both large and small, a visual and performing arts studio, an art gallery, and an individual rehearsal room for musicians. The purpose of language arts programs is to create critical readers and writers who can distinguish between credible and poor sources. Fifth grader reads with five main strategies while practicing their writing, editing, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. Students read classic novels and nonfiction as a class, and on their own. In social studies students learn about American history, as well as ancient culture, American government, personal rights, and how people from different parts of the world came to live in the U.S. Math program is college preparation and life. In fifth grade learning to apply a set of rules or concepts to a new problem. New. learn computing fluently and be given the opportunity to participate in the Math Calculation Program. In science, students learn scientific methods of observing, recording, and analyzing their observations. Fifth grader is studying the life cycle, universe, celestial body, atmosphere, oceans, and other environments on earth. Students in fifth grade have a teleconference with the Challenger Learning Center and visit the Sunship Study Station at the McKeeever Neighborhood Center. Spanish is offered in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. Students can start taking French, Chinese, Latin, or Italian in sixth grade and after-school Chinese programs are offered to students in grades one through five. All students take classes in engineering and robotics. In fifth grade, students work collaboratively to share enough work designing robots, and game design and programming. Students can choose to continue the pursuit of robotics in the after-school program. Students also express themselves through classes taught in the Department of Fine Arts: visual arts, dance, theater, and music. By fifth grader participates in musicals placed by the departments of dance, music, and theater. All students must participate. Schools have outdoor and indoor parks so they can study in outdoor classrooms so they can understand the interconnectedness of the environment and the importance of sustainability. Students prepare the soil and organically grow their own crops which they then cultivate and harvest. There are many types of gardens, including a butterfly garden and a flower garden. The lower school begins the week with a Monday morning assembly where birthdays are recognized, students sing, tell stories, and wear skirts, and where parents are invited. Each homeroom teacher must prepare an assembly at least once a year. In addition to field visits, guest speakers and artists are brought in to talk to students. (San Francisco, California) While tuition fees are huge at CSB, it includes daily hot lunches and outdoor education programs, as well as books and computers. Schools are raising money to supplement educational programs that help reduce tuition. Also, students at the school are allocated nearly one and a half million dollars in tuition assistance. While volunteering is an important part of school operations, there is no quota for parents to meet. Cathedral School for Boys is a kindergarten through eighth grade, an Episcopal school of all boys. The school is looking for boys who are highly motivated to learn, from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and who have good moral character. Students are scheduled to tour the school after all records are received and a family interview is conducted at the time as part of Receipt. The underground school consists of a children's garden fourth grade. Community service is part of educational programs and participating students through a schoolwide composting and support program of Mission Bayview, an agency that provides services and food to people living in the Hunters Point and Bayview neighborhoods. In lower schools, students learn some of their math through projects that give students the opportunity to solve real-world problems in analytical and creative ways, while applying mathematical principles. There are many learning opportunities--by doing in other subjects, too, with students working independently or in small groups. Where possible, interdisciplinary lessons are provided. Community spirit is fostered through classroom meetings and community circles, as well as human development curriculum and chapel services. The school strives to build a strong character in all students so that they are socially fit and imbued with academic acuity and physical fitness. Children are taught to be supportive team players in athletic programs and how to display good sportsmanship no matter the situation. After the boys reach sixth grade, they are in high school (through eighth grade) where students are taught a humanities program that integrates religious studies with English and history. Art instruction was founded in the belief that art helps develop a creative brain and celebrates each child's talents. In addition to physical education, community service, drama, jazz bands, mathematics, outdoor education, science, and dance, students are taught Spanish and Mandarin languages and cultures. Students in language classes travel to China and Chile. (Santa Fe, NM) About 130 students from preschool through eighth grade attended Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences. Mathematics and science are taught together with multicultural art, all integrated into a curriculum that builds strong academic skills through expedition learning (EL). EL joins challenging academics with learning expeditions (real-world projects), community service, and character development. Expedition Learning has several benefits, including creating a culture of respect, creating deep thinkers, providing support to all learning methods, and creating curious and knowledgeable students and teachers. For middle school students who have been home schooled, a bridge program is offered that allows middle school students to participate in selective classes at school while continuing home schooling in other subjects. An interdisciplinary approach is used so that students see the relevance of all subjects and how they are interconnected. Technology is integrated into all subjects, as well as communication skills. The school has built relationships with local international organizations so that students can establish relationships with international schools and Elementary grades were separated into three groups: Stargazers (first and second grade), Centaurs (third and fourth grade), and Badgers (fifth and sixth grade). Each group has a project each year that culminates in a book that highlights what they have learned about the subject. The Badgers, for example, lift trout from eggs. Each student becomes an expert on the type of fish and several pictures of fish are exhibited in their book. They also studied Indigenous Australians and produced books of their original artwork along with poetry. Work for each group is available for display in the Student Work Center. In summer, the school offers camps for all ages exploring topics from mummies to cooking around the world, and from international folk art to wilderness survival. (Kamuela, HI) Founded in 1996, Waimea Country School caters to children from the ages of four to twelve, developing them into confident and creative thinkers looking for creative and ethical solutions. Students are grouped into multi-age learning groups so that they can excel or receive remediation as needed, making them achievable in all subjects while supporting them in a learning style where they feel most comfortable. The focus of each class is on the learning process with several curriculum resources for different learning styles. The average class size is 16 students. Some sixth grader students are eligible to work in independent courses. Located on the Great Island of Hawaii, the school is surrounded by an incredible variety of resources such as waimea nature park, Kahilu Theater, W.M. Keck Observatory, and Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, to name a few. The school is behind St. James Episcopal Church and across from Waimea Community Park. In addition to core academic courses, students are given character education so that they are not only encouraged to grow intellectually, but morally and spiritually, as well. Their moral development is as important as their intellectual development, so schools hope to eliminate bad behavior, inappropriate words and phrases, tease, bully, and gossip, so that students can grow up to be adults capable of making ethical decisions. The school has a garden and students spend time in the garden every day with gardening projects integrated into the curriculum. It blends well with the HawaiiAiN Study Program, which seeks to give students an appreciation of the islands, their culture, and the challenges faced by the state of Hawaii. The Hawaiian study also blends well with the Character Education Program, as the values are viewed through a Hawaiian perspective. Students are also taught health and wellness, art, and music. Learn some Hawaiian with grades taught each month and translated into Hawaiian, such as compassion (hokomaika'i) and respect (hō'ihi). (Edison, NJ) In In RPRY strives to trigger children's imagination, creativity, and curiosity through motivational programs that promote care, responsibility, and independence. The lower school passes the fourth grade and makes use of the direct activities and mixed learning opportunities, while teaching each student's signature style. Students learn interactively and work in small groups. Individual instruction allows students to progress as they continue to participate in individual projects, quizzes, tests, presentations, and questions while working towards a targeted goal. Academic courses are taught interdisciplinarily so that students see the relevance of what they are learning. Reading and writing, for example, traverse all subject areas. Students read stories and books and participate in STEM-focused goals. Students write about subjects that are relevant to them. They learn about health through the classroom and through physical education. Junior high starts in fifth grade and passes eighth grade. In high school students become more active in their communities, starting community projects to raise funds for people in need. Class sizes are kept small and the school motto is: Challenging the Mind and Nurturing the Soul. Because students learn differently, each student's learning is individualized and aligns with the country's common core goals in a small group setting. Students with learning difficulties are not encouraged to achieve beyond their abilities, but accelerated learning programs are available to advanced students so that they are not held back by others. Students can take support classes, as well as self-enrichment opportunities. Students have access to selected classes through distance learning, new digital social studies programs, weekly STEM classes, science, computers and state-of-the-art science laboratories. RPRY ranks 6th among the Top 50 High Schools in the U.S. (Vienna, VA) Preschoolers at Green Hedges are taught with the Montessori program. Elementary schools teach students in traditional classes for grades one through eight. GHS is a member of the American Montessori Society, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools. Founded in 1942, GHS has about 190 students and 23 teachers, 57 percent of whom have advanced degrees. It started at the founder's house and has 10 students and one teacher. By 1955, the school had grown to 60 students, so four acres were purchased in Vienna, after which it was expanded to cover all levels up to eighth grade. GHS is committed to achieving its students' differences with character while exploring opportunities. Students begin learning French in preschool and Spanish in fifth grade. Throughout the primary school, students learn music and art, as well as in the upper classes, they were taught to play recorders and learn music theory. Students can also participate in bands starting from fifth grade. All grades do age-appropriate field trips, and starting in fourth grade, they travel overnight. Students begin learning technology skills in first grade by learning terminology, digital images, iPad navigation, and keyboard skills. Keyboard skills are taught every year in elementary classes. Starting in fifth grade, students begin participating in science fairs and begin pre-algebraic learning. Art is integrated into the curriculum, not just for the sake of art itself, but to show students how art is connected to history, science, and the arts of language. When students are in fifth grade, they sculpt, paint, and use clay and multimedia to create art projects. Also in fifth grade, students learn research skills (including how to quote references) and make their own media presentations. The school produces a monthly magazine called Clippings in which school philosophy, teachers, parents, and students are presented in various articles and interviews. The school sponsors several year-round events that bring families together, such as Founder's Day, Grandparents Day, DragonFest (afternoon plays, competitions, food, face painting and more), spring concerts, first-class games, and spring dance, to name a few. At GHS, it's not just about education, but about communities where students, parents, community members, relatives, and alumni can join students and teachers in celebrating what they achieve. (Bloomfield, MI) It may seem some purpose is stale and clichéd, but one only needs to turn on the news on TV or pick up newspapers to see that the simple lessons of learning to be nice to each other are essential ingredients to the social contract that binds society together. Roeper is a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade school with about 250 students and in lower school children learn to work together, to be kind to each other, and show respect to others. It is hoped that children will develop a desire to make a difference in the world through community engagement, personal and social awareness, and respect for diversity. Roeper is looking for talented students who are being prepared for post-secondary education. Students must take a gifted IQ test and many things are considered when a child applies for a place in Roeper, including strong academic performance in the previous class and teacher recommendations. Students at lower schools are introduced to art as early as the age of three and given access to different media where they produce their own art. They are exposed to different types of art and to handle different things to feel different textures. In Phase 2 of the art, art, visual literacy using a variety of tools and materials while developing each student's skills. In Art Stage 3, students are taught respect for the work of other artists as they explore different themes and more techniques. Finally, in Stage 4, students are given a broader range of artistic experiences while also exposing students to art history and multiculturalism. There is also a four-stage performing arts program at the lower school and seeks to expose children to different types of music, both oral and instrumental. At stage 3 they play the soprano recorder and on stage 4 they can choose an instrument and play in a band or sing in a large choir. There are early and advanced band classes for elementary school students. Each elementary school student starts the day in the homeroom where English, math, and social studies are discussed. Students then take additional classes in French, science, PE, dance and movement, art, music, and library and computer skills. (Chicago, IL) At Cambridge School, students are given individual learning plans based on their strengths and weaknesses, socially, academically and spiritually. Students are taught in a way that shows how all courses are interconnected, so students will develop critical thinking and long-term memory in the humanities, mathematics, and science in classical education. The humanities include literature, writing, reading, poetry, history, geography, drawing and painting, drama, and music. Every aspect of the curriculum teaches students to think critically and that spiritual life should not be treated separately but as an integrated part of life. The science curriculum is based on a direct approach where students can take time to appreciate nature. Spanish is taught to students from kindergarten to fourth grade. Latin and Greek are taught to students in grades three through eight. All students are taught the importance of physical fitness and good sportsmanship through physical education programs. Although Cambridge is a faith-based school, students are not required to believe in or adhere to certain beliefs. Instead, they are taught a Christian worldview through the curriculum and by teachers who profess and practice Christianity. Students take standardized tests to evaluate learning and students consistently score 90 percent or better in reading and math. Primary schools include pre-kindergarten through kindergartens where students learn building blocks or foundations where they will improve their academic knowledge. Grammar schools were first through sixth grade and students began studying ancient civilization and progressed to the rise of capitalism and industrialisation in fifth and sixth grade. Reasoning, writing, reading is the main focus of skills to be gained in grammar schools. Founded in 2005, the school has about 160 students. Students' assistance is available. (Tualatin, OR) Arbor School is located on 21 hectares of land and serves second graders through eighth graders in a thematic curriculum taught in an interdisciplinary manner and where mixed age groupings are used. Students stay with the same teacher for two years, and because of multi-age grouping, form a bond with older and younger students. It is ASAS's goal to help students gain the skills necessary to learn important ideas through investigation and self-expression to give their learning meaning. Students are separated into groups. Primary consists of kindergarten and first class. Juniors are second and third grade. Intermediaries are fourth and fifth grade and seniors are sixth through eighth grade. Primaries learn about cycles (plants, small animals, water), Greek mythology, animal migration, and maps. In mathematics, they learn numbers and operations, geometry, and measurement, while in literacy they get the process of reading and writing. Junior learned about geology, electricity, magnetism, clouds, water cycles, American colonization, Native Americans, and expansion to the west. In mathematics they continue the learning that they began as primes. Junior reads and writes fluently and begins to learn about plot and character development. Sixth graders learn about plate tectonics, paleontology, and genetics, and begin an algebraic curriculum written by two teachers at the school and published by the Arbor Center for Teaching, so that by the time they finish eighth grade, they will be educated to the algebra class I level of middle school. All students are given the opportunity to design two- and three-dimensional art projects that add to the themes taught at the time. Students use a variety of media to create their art projects, some of which are featured on the school's website. Music includes movement, instruments, and music. Middle school students began playing soprano recorders and reading music. Senior students learn music that features themes they learn, such as cowboy ballads as they learn to expand west. Students learn to organize and perform orchestral compositions that they have written, which are used in school productions and/or concerts. Finally, students of all ages create and produce independent projects, both individually and as a class. Students learn to attract the audience's attention with their words and with the visual help of their own creation. (Birmingham, AL) Founded in 1958, Highlands School educates about 280 children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade with 31 teachers. Students are provided with a STEM curriculum and the school has two modern STEM laboratories. Lower-class students learn STEM concepts in collaborative units everyday STEM, STEM in the Gym, and Lego Education components. Elementary school students will use An Ongoing STEM lab is being built in the Learning Center building so students can work with experiments directly in the team. Secondary school students will also use a new laboratory that will give students the opportunity to explore physics and life on earth with computer-directed direct learning. The school is divided into three sections: Elementary School (all grades up to third grade), Elementary School (fourth and fifth grade), and Secondary School (sixth grade through eighth). In elementary school, independent classes with priority on early literacy and a strong foundation in math concepts and skills. In elementary school, students choose whether to learn French, Spanish, or Chinese. Students work in core classes as well as fine arts, performing tasks as group members and as individuals. In high school, students continue a challenging approach to core courses and are given the opportunity to participate in leadership roles in schools such as academic competitions, robotics, public speaking, yearbooks, glass science, arts, music, drama, and technology, as well as continuing their language studies (which they chose while in elementary school). Standardized testing is used to determine learning success. Full-time learning specialists are used to help students develop test-taking strategies, learning skills, and planning and organizing. The extended day program provides childcare and enrichment before and after school. Students can learn to play tennis, piano, or guitar, or they can choose to learn chess or karate. Athletic programs help children to develop good sportsmanship through fall and spring soccer, cross country, and basketball. Professional and certified North American Football Camp coaches from England lead each team in training once a week. Other times, parents act as coaches. (Seattle, WA) Learning is not limited to formal classrooms at Bush School, where students may find themselves in outdoor classrooms or in urban environments, places in the wilderness or in other countries. Lower middle school students often make field visits and fifth graders go on retreats. The curriculum for middle and lower school students focuses on different cultures and real-world situations. Students learn to solve problems and think critically through projects completed with other students, classroom discussions, and cooperative learning groups. Each student's ability is appreciated and respected so that students are not encouraged to learn beyond their ability. This is the goal of the lower schools to make each student an active participant in their own education. Students are taught in such a way that they the ability to think of solutions creatively and analytically, to the conclusions made within an ethical framework. With about 600 students, there are 85 teachers, some who are part-time, and 45 support and administrative staff in 10 buildings on the six-acre campus. Bush has two gyms, seven teaching studios, an art building, a theater, a fitness center, a community space, a library, and four computer labs. There are several places for students to play, as well as a training ground for organized sports. Bush School is accredited by the State of Washington and the Northwest Accreditation Commission and is a member of the Association of Northwest Independent Schools and the National Association of Independent Schools. The school provides a variety of counseling services to assist children in their cognitive, social, and emotional development through several strategies and programs. Lower school counselors serve children from kindergarten through fifth grade and offer group, family and individual counseling when needed. The extended day program is offered for lower schools with K through second grade in one group and third to fifth grades in the other fifth grade (however, there are opportunities for groups to interact). Students have free playtime, organized games, homework assistance, games, sports, and science to enjoy and from which to receive enrichment. Middle and lower school students make local field visits and class-level retreat programs begin with fifth grade. Support services are offered to students and parents for social, emotional and academic support. It is the goal of the Bush School that all students develop confidence and self-esteem. Students learn about different cultures, and as they do, they grow in intellectual problem solving and critical thinking skills. (St. Paul, MN) Accountable Classrooms allow teachers to strengthen students' talents in small classroom sizes, while teaching students to respect the opinions and thoughts of others. Students are expected to engage and contribute in the classroom. In lower schools, classes consist of flexible groups with two primary teachers in each homeroom teacher. Lower school student days begin at homeroom and they are in and out of homeroom throughout the day when they go to other special classes in science, arts, libraries, music, PE, and Spanish. Special teachers work with the homeroom teacher to modify and differentiate the instructions to make the learning experience an individual experience. Because technology plays such a big role in culture, it is an important part of the curriculum. Elementary students use a variety of technology devices including iPads, SMART boards, and Classmate PC Convertible tablets. There are devices in homeroom and specialist classes that teach students computer skills in the laboratory. Starting in fifth grade, all students receive lapto, which is used throughout the day. In the summer there are students in academic courses, as well as special interest classes. In autumn 2015, the SPA will open Huss Center for the Performing Arts for music and theater performances. Kindergarten through second grade students have active academic programs in language arts, mathematics, and social studies. Students develop their language acquisition and mastery through phonics, reading, writing, spelling, and vocabulary, among other English subjects. In social studies, students are encouraged to learn about their family and friends, but also to learn about the culture of the city around them. They were introduced to the map. In mathematics they focus on computational skills and concepts and processes. In third and fourth grade students build on the language arts skills acquired in the previous class and learn the differences between fiction, nonfiction, and literature. Students are taught to write and correct. The math and social studies program is an interdisciplinary program developed by McGraw-Hill. Fifth grader has an enhanced role in the school. They lead the assemblies of all schools which take place twice a week. They are also planning and implementing a Thanksgiving food drive and an all-school bazaar. In addition, they run recycling programs, school tours, and are lost and found. They help students in the lower grades and help teachers in the classroom and library. (Boise, ID) Serving preschoolers through ninth grade, Foothills School of Arts and Sciences is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Independent Schools and has about 150 students. In 1994 the school moved to its current location in downtown Boise, where it had access to museums in the nearby arts district, parks and rivers, cultural and arts organizations, and Boise State University. Foothills School adheres to the national curriculum; however, inquiry-based learning is used. Students learn by asking questions, gathering facts, and investigating. Students are taught to consider all possibilities and come to fact-based conclusions. Students learn to think, do research, and solve problems and thus become critical thinkers. All differentiation instructions to tailor teaching to each student's needs and learning style. Early learning programs focus on the strength of each child. Students learn to express themselves in the languages of music, mathematics, art, performances, discussion, science, drawing, and many other ways so that they are not limited in the way they learn. In lower school, there are two grades in each class. However, this dyad is flexible, and student grouping changes throughout the day depending on what is being studied and the needs of the students. The same weight is given to academic, personal, and social responsibilities. Core courses of knowledge are emphasized in lower schools, especially maths and reading to ensure success student time at school. Reading is used in every aspect of the and the mathematics program. Investigation, is a nationally recognized program. Math classes for all age groups take place at the same time every day so that students can attend classes that best suit their needs regardless of age or class placement. Physical education is a key component in lower schools, as well as music classes where rhythm and movement are taught. Fifth and sixth grader takes on foreign languages, performing arts and visual arts. They also took part in Socratic Seminars and other discussions where students learned how to express their opinions in a respectful way and to discuss how they came to their conclusions. Students participate in service learning through projects that last only a week for six weeks, where they meet curriculum goals. Students are instructed in the use of technology so that they will be lifelong learners in technology, too. (Portland, ME) Breakwater School educates children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade and has enrollment of about 140 students. The school provides a balance between intellectual and social pursuit, instilling the skills necessary to be successful in academia. Students learn collaboratively in multi-class levels on interdisciplinary teams. The school, which was founded in 1956, has a 21-acre nature reserve in the town of Cumberland, about 10 miles north of the school's elementary campus. Student-to-teacher ratios vary by grade, but are never greater than 10-to-one. Pre-school programs are available for all grade levels, but only for Breakwater students. The school's popularity program runs until 5:30 a.m. and is open to all grades through eighth grade for students from Breakwater, as well as other schools. The after-school enrichment program provides a wide selection of exciting activities and changes at the end of each assessment period. Activities have included rock climbing, Lego robotics, ceramics, and many other exciting programs. The school also provides educational classes and enrichment activities for parents. The school is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and licensed by the State of Maine. Students are given lessons that connect the subjects they learn to the real world. In addition to academic classes provided by the class teacher, students also have classes in performing arts, science, world languages, arts, and music. Lessons are taught through interdisciplinary units created collaboratively by selected classroom teachers and teachers, giving students plenty of opportunities to engage in live project learning. First to fourth grader attends science twice a week for 50 minutes and in third grade learns in the outdoor environment at the river sanctuary, and school gardens. Students in grades one through four attend Spanish twice a week for 45 45 and in third and fourth grade classes are taught mostly in Spanish. In fifth grade, the rigidity of these classes increases as students become more knowledgeable and confident in the subjects. (Iowa City, IA) At Willowwind, students have one teacher who lives with them through most of the school year and their children study in a multi-age, multi-class group so that students will develop social conscience, self-discipline, and academic skills, and learn to solve problems creatively in a climate of high self-esteem and mutual respect. Students are encouraged positively so that they are not afraid to fail or make mistakes and have the courage to move past their mistakes and learn from them. Preschool is based on the Montessori method, but other grades are not. However, they have a small amount so that teachers can use different instructions to adapt the learning to each student's learning style. Teachers use Singaporean mathematics and learning very rigorously in all academic fields. Students learn Spanish, and lessons for all subjects across the curriculum, giving students the opportunity to learn experimentally in assignments and direct projects. The school is accredited by the Association of Independent Schools of Central America and by the State of Iowa. Teachers present a humanities-based curriculum and teach students how to develop appropriately, both socially and emotionally, through Character Education lessons. Students at Willowwind are from urban and rural areas, economically, ethnically, and socially diverse, and have gained state recognition in writing, mathematics, chess, discovery, spelling, history, and science. Art galleries in the area featuring art by Willowwind students and students have performed puppet shows in French and English. They play, give concerts, and have performed at university operas. Students who graduated from Willowwind went on to become academically, socially and artistically successful. Alumni include engineers, business people, writers, and musicians. Students are given lessons in Spanish, while music is delivered by specialists. Students are taught to be socially and socially aware and respect each other. It is WS's goal to prepare students, academically, socially, and emotionally, to leave school after sixth grade and succeed whether they go to a public or private school. The after-school enrichment program is open to all WS students in a six-week session. The summer program offers a cornucopia course that includes a variety of fun subjects and is open to all children, not just WS students. (Dayton, OH) At Miami Valley School, students can start in pre-kindergarten and continue until seniors in high school. A big part of education at MVS is character education, which teaches personal responsibility, mutual respect, teamwork, and empathy for There are almost 500 students and a little more than 60 teachers. The school has an area of 22 hectares and has various clubs where students can participate. Every Monday there are assemblies throughout the school and there are often well-known guest speakers. Parents receive an electronic newsletter every other Friday and are invited to stop by for a visit or ask questions. The early childhood group consists of children aged three to five years. The lower school consists of kindergarten through fifth grade, while the middle school covers grades six through eight. Students in lower schools learn Spanish and Mandarin and are given an overview of Spanish and Chinese culture, geography, holidays, music and art. Students are taught speaking and listening skills. Lower school students begin to study science by studying ecosystems, which is partly done at the Outdoor Exploration Center where students begin to appreciate the natural world. In fifth grade, students are considering how they can positively impact the world while studying important scientific concepts. Students in lower schools are exposed to various methods in visual and performing arts. Once in fifth grade, students can be in a band, choir, or string ensemble. Students began painting, drawing, and making works with clay and ceramics. These skills are intensified and honed throughout the lower schools. All middle and lower school students participate in age-appropriate physical education. Reading comes from MVS and reading specialists work with students in the lower grades along with classroom teachers so that students begin to build a strong reading foundation from the beginning of their educational careers. Students start learning early to communicate in writing. In fifth grade, students use reading, writing, and speaking skills in social studies and become big brothers and sisters for kindergarten students. They meet several times a month to play games, visit, or participate in organized activities. Singaporean mathematics is taught in schools and students also have their math instruction completed by a maths magazine called Dynamath. Even social studies are discussed in mathematics, when students reflect on the problems faced by Founding Fathers and use their critical thinking skills to evaluate these potential problems and solutions. After school, lower school students can have extended days with recreation both indoors and outdoors. They also have snacks, play games, finish homework, or seek help with their school work. (Pittsburgh, PA) Although St. Edmund's Academy originally started as an Episcopal school for boys in 1947, it has become a coeducational school for people of all beliefs united by the school's core values and standards. The six core values are service, responsibility, understanding, respect, honesty, and high standards. This is the whole point. Integrated into all lessons in each class starting with preschool and passing eighth grade. There are almost 300 students and 40 faculty members. It's no coincidence that students through eighth grade attend St. Edmund's. The school is designed in this way because research has shown that eighth graders who go to primary schools consisting of grades one through eight perform better on standardized tests, make better grades in ninth grade, and are less likely to succumb to peer pressure in secondary school. The lower school consists of grades one through four. They are taught skills that will allow them to be successful in individual and collaborative activities. They receive instruction on computers and keyboarding, science, world culture, libraries, the arts, social health, and physical education, in addition to their core courses taught by their classroom teachers. Lower secondary school students have unique projects, field visits, and experiences created by their teachers to maximize their opportunities to learn and showcase what they have learned. The top school consists of fifth through eighth grader and students in top schools are moving to newer and more challenging opportunities such as producing school newspapers, participation in competitive sports groups, choirs, science projects, and essay writing contests, to name a few. Fifth grader has the opportunity to learn to write, Spanish or French, and a band or orchestra, as well as a science curriculum that includes robotics, ecology, physics and chemistry. Grades six through eight have the same options, but also add biology, geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy to subjects covered in fifth-grade science. In seventh grade, students stopped writing and started taking Latin. Each class in the top school teaches a progressive math program starting with pre-algebra in the sixth grade and culminating in algebra or geometry in eighth grade. Despite the school's departure from its religious origins, students and staff still met on Thursday morning for the chapel where guest speakers talked to students about core values, community service, and developing acceptance of other people's differences. (Metairie, LA) Located on four acres in the New Orleans area, Ridgewood is a pre-K to twelfth grade college prep school that educates students from several states and states. The school was first established in 1948. All grades take a library education so that they can learn the skills necessary to adequately research the topic. Students are given the option to participate in several fine arts programs, including bands and speeches. In addition, students up to twelfth grade can take private lessons on piano, violin, and guitar during school hours. Schools use achievement tests to determine how well students learn at each grade level. This is his goal. School to prepare each child for higher education. There are more than 300 students in the school and 31 teachers with an 11-to-one student-teacher ratio. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and approved by the Louisiana State Department of Education. Tuition for elementary classes is \$5,400, well below the cost of most private schools. The computer lab has 25 IBM desktop computers. The library offers computers for student use, as well as instructions in research, computerized card catalogs, full-text articles from magazines, and several CD programs. Elementary schools have Internet access to the entire school. RPS strives to provide a complete education so that students have knowledge and appreciation for every aspect of life, including philosophical, religious, social, aesthetic, and intellectual. It's a small school, but it doesn't hurt its offerings to students. Students can participate in music, library clubs, student councils, and peer helpers. There are also before and after school programs. The majority of faculty members have advanced degrees. They provide tutoring before and after school. However, students are encouraged from an early age to take responsibility for their learning. Middle and lower school teachers try to instill good work/learning habits, as well as the skills students will need throughout their school years. Unlike in many public schools, handwriting is taught. Math accelerated one year in pre-kindergarten and spelling and grammar accelerated a year in first grade. Students make field visits related to the curriculum. They are required to take instrumental music for one session during fourth grade. Once they enter fifth grade, they are considered in high school and they then add computer science and speech to the courses they have to take. High school students can participate in athletics, bands, and the Library and Science Club. (Missoula, MT) Since opening in January 1971 as a preschool, Sussex School has continued to grow and grow to the current size of 120 students for preschool classes to eight. Each early age student is assigned as an older student acting as a guide and mentor, thus creating formal and informal interactions in multi-age groups. These groups consist of what is known as bigs and littles. At the beginning of each year, the Sussex School family spends three days and two nights in Flathead Lake. There are several outdoor activities and tasks for parents, teachers, students, and administrators that help build bonds between all groups. In October, the school has a Grandpa and Special Friends Day so that friends and relatives can come and observe the school in action. Two-year-old students play or play music. The afternoon closest to Halloween, students and teachers wear costumes. Big and Small Small pumpkins together and everyone can visit the haunted house prepared by eighth grader. The last afternoon before the December holiday, students performed songs from music classes and showed their artwork to the public. Each class then shares with the audience their desire for the World. In January all students participate in a snow program, travelling one afternoon a week to ski or snowboard for five to six weeks. In the spring each age group made field visits to places like Yellowstone National Park, where students received guidance from their history and science teachers. Students pay for this trip by collecting Missoula's money cleaning area and doing community service projects. Sixth through eighth grader participates in a math competition called Math Counts. The top four students who won in the state continued to represent Montana at the National Championships. There are several Sussex students on the National team. Academically, children are taught with progressive emphasis with constructivism learning taught through important questions and understandings. The curriculum is project-based and designed to teach students to develop the skills needed to succeed academically in high school and college. The curriculum is also designed to help students grow emotionally so they can develop compassion and empathy. (St. Louis, MO) Children from the age of four (pre-kindergarten) through sixth grade attend Rossman School where there are 28 teachers and about 225 students. Each class has two full-time teachers and students receiving strong academic foundations in the arts of language, mathematics, social studies, and science, as well as character instruction in attributes of honesty, responsibility, respect, and kindness. In addition to core classes, children have lessons in music, Spanish and Latin, library skills, art and PE, on a 20-acre campus with a 45,000-square-foot building. There are also two playgrounds, an athletics court and nature trails through wooded areas. The school has cutting-edge technology, including MacBook Air laptops, smart boards and iPads, with full-time technology coordinators working with teachers to help them integrate technology into their lessons. Every Monday morning all students and teachers gather for the assembly at the beginning of the week. Students have field days during the school year, Halloween parades, Grandparents Day so family members can observe children at school, live music before the holidays, and Spirit Day basketball games. To ensure that students learn accordingly, the school administers the Bureau of Education's Comprehensive Testing Program. Students at Rossman outperform students in the state public and private schools. Students from Rossman participate in the Missouri Math League Competition, National Geography Challenge, and Kreve Kreve The Arbor Day Art Contest in which two Rossman students won first place in 2015 in two different categories. Tuition includes lunch, but there is an additional cost for books and supplies, extended day programs, PE uniforms, and camps, and additional requests for donations of \$1,800 per student each year. Fifth grade has an overnight retreat and sixth grade has a week-long camp in the fall. The sixth grader also went to Space Camp and Shiloh Civil War Battlefield for four days in the second semester. After school students can receive enrichment in subjects such as cooking, robotics, filmmaking, art, foreign languages, sewing, dancing, and theater. After-school sports on offer include cross country, volleyball, floor hockey, soccer, softball, gymnastics, basketball, and flag football. Students can also participate in the student council. Student council members help plan community service projects, greet visitors, run fundraising campaigns, and lead Monday Morning Meetings. The school also has a Cub Scout army and a Parent-Led Scout troop for students who want to participate. (Gulf Stream, FL) When Gulf Stream School began in 1938, it had 30 students. Since then, it has been accredited by the Florida Kindergarten Board and the Florida Independent School Board. There are now 250 students with class sizes varying from six to 18 on the five-acre campus at sea. There are three levels in gulf stream. The first is a pre-kindergarten program for three- and four-year-olds, with two teachers per class and a teacher and assistant in each of the two kindergarten classes. Preschool ends at 11:30. The second level is the lower school, which consists of grades one through four, with two classes for each class. Students in grades two through four live with one teacher for reading, writing, math, and social learning. They then changed classes for science, Spanish, art, music, drama, PE, libraries, and computers. Fourth grader leaves at 2:20 and leaves fifth and sixth grade at 3:15 or may remain in school for the study. The final level is the top school, which is for other students up to grade 8. There are two teachers per class and students change classes following their own schedules. While the academic day ends shortly after 2 a.m., students have an hour of exercise after school and an hour of after-school study. They end days at 4:15. There is an after-school program available to younger students, who go through 4:15 p.m. at the end of the top school day. The curriculum emphasizes basic skills in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, but also in languages, music, arts, computers, and PE, with to achieve placement in high school which is best for students to prepare them for college. Each class is committed to one or more community service projects students are encouraged to volunteer their time after school to an acceptable organization. Students are given several opportunities to speak publicly to help them develop confidence and display calmness while speaking in a group. Students leave Gulf Stream as confident and accomplished writers. Students receive lessons about character from school counsellors and those lessons are also entwined into every other lesson taught in the school. In addition, students have the opportunity to experience learning firsthand through trips to the Grand Canyon, Everglades, Kennedy Space Center, and many other locations. All fifth and sixth graders take Latin instruction, and Spanish starts for all students in pre-kindergarten 3. Gulf Stream is located on the Atlantic coast about halfway between Palm Beach and Boca Raton. (Hopkinsville, KY) Many schools have some grades, but UHA is unique in that arena because students don't go through the day separated from other grades, and therefore, all grades benefit. Younger students can see middle school students during the school day and consequently tie exist between students throughout the school. UHA is a K–12 school, which serves to prepare students for college, as well as success in their lives. The school is accredited by the Association of Independent Schools of Central America. Each school year begins with a parent group sponsored by Back-to-School Picnic and Fall Fling which is an outdoor game and day of activity. After Fall Fling is a night for parents by parents who want to contribute to the school through Club 100, which is a social where each couple donates \$100. Then in the first semester, elementary school students have Muffins



with Mom one day and Donuts with Dad the other day, where students can eat breakfast with their parents. In the spring, elementary school teachers run Camp UHA and each class chooses a theme and pursues activities to learn more about it. The purpose of elementary school grades is so that students can develop socially, intellectually, spiritually, and physically. Teachers accommodate different learning styles and difficulties with learning. Students are guided through creative projects in drama, music and art. They are also given free playing time, as well as structured physical education classes. Elementary school students make field visits and teachers always introduce first-person experiences to help students learn. The lower school also has a Spanish teacher. Grades five and under participate in the Governors Cup, a state contest with district and regional competitions. There are eight divisions and UHA elementary school students participate in seven: On-Demand Writing, written tests in science, English, mathematics, arts/humanities, and a section called Quick Recall. The school is accredited by the Independent Independent School from Central America. This has resulted in 12 National Achievement Scholarship Finalists and 99 percent of graduates going to college. Each value is required to read the book of their choice over the summer and prepare a book report on those books. Tuition fees make a lot of sense compared to other private schools and parents have the option of buying tuition refund insurance if students are unable to complete the tenure that parents have paid tuition fees. (New York, NY) Studio School was founded in 1971 and teaches students in preschool through eighth grade. Classes are taught from an interdisciplinary approach, fostering critical thinking skills in which students are challenged to solve problems creatively. The Studio School approach uses knowledge about children's development and how children learn to create a curriculum designed to promote children's natural intelligence, while also developing their creativity. Students are taught to be genuine thinkers, not just critical thinkers. Each class strives for academic excellence in each student, developing not only the student's IQ, but also his social and emotional IQ. Children are grouped with other age children in a two-year span with no more than 16 students in the class. All grades up to second grade have teachers and teaching assistants. The environment of all classes is such that students are respected and taught to respect each other. Character is taught as one of everyone's most important attributes, as well as individual integrity. Students are not expected to learn in just one way, so each child's educational plan is personalized so that students learn to respect themselves, as well as others. Students are encouraged to link what they learn with who they are. This academic program is powerful for preparing children for the future. The school is divided into three parts: preschool, elementary school, and secondary school. Primary schools cover grades one through four, while secondary schools cover grades five through eight. Elementary students learn foreign languages, writing, scientific research, reading, geography, history, art, PE, and social sciences. They are encouraged to think about what they are learning and to think and question things, while arriving at logical conclusions that are well thought out. There are about 115 students enrolled in the school. The ratio of students to teachers varies depending on the age of the child. The curriculum used is called Inscape. As part of the curriculum, students meet together with teachers and other staff members to discuss what the day holds, as well as thoughts and concerns. Students learn to be speakers and listeners. This is one way that feelings of togetherness and mutual respect develop. On Friday there are meetings where different aspects of their study are highlighted. Student Students together or share what they have achieved in one of their classes. At least once a month students share their artwork or poetry with the entire school. (Lynnwood, WA) 2015 will take Brighton School to a new campus on Mountlake Terrace that will be larger and have more facilities to serve 400 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, where students will have meaningful experience in the STEM, arts and athletics curriculum. The new campus will be like a camp, but will have separate wings for preschool and special facilities for music, arts and science labs, as well as a media center, engineering/innovation laboratory, function room, multiple playgrounds, and athletic training grounds. Brighton started in 1982 and has consistently provided a safe environment where students will be given a strong academic and educational foundation in a community setting where all achievements are celebrated and students reach out to help the wider community through service projects. In addition to academic projects and services, students are exposed in other fields to develop the whole child, and not just the mind. All students in elementary school take drama, Spanish, art, PE, music, engineering, and technology. High school students are offered options in painting, creative writing, robotics, drama, cooking, computer programming, and website design. Students in third grade were given the opportunity to visit Mount St. Helens on a three-day expedition that included learning about the geology of volcanoes. In addition, students travel on trips to campsites, hikes, and explore the Cave of Monkeys. Fourth grader visits the Olympic Park Institute and Nature Bridge to study science at the International Biosphere Reserve. Fifth graders go to Camp Seymour in Puget Sound and learn about the area's wildlife, as well as marine ecosystems. In addition, they also camp, hike, and go canoeing. Sixth graders go to Camp Orkila for five days in the Orcas Islands where they learn leadership skills and go through many physical challenges. Finally, eighth grader made a 10-day trip where they stopped in Washington, D.C., Virginia, and New York as finals for a history/government class. In addition to visiting historic sites they have studied in the classroom, students can see the nation's capital. After school there are several clubs, activities, and camps for students to seek enrichment, fun, and school assistance. This includes a six-week ski school. (Midland, TX) Pre-kindergarten through sixth graders are educated at Hillander School where teachers and staff strive to instill all the positive habits of students, both personal and school-related, as well as self-esteem. Curriculum follows the first method by Mae Carden in 1934. This is a progressive system that builds in each subject required before progressing to the next grade level. Reading is taught in such a way that students learn techniques for analytical and organized thinking so that they understand what they are learning and why. Phonics is also taught to read and spell second nature. Once students enter the second grade, they are exposed to more complex phonics and grammar rules. Students read classics and develop writing skills every year so that by the time they are in sixth grade, many of them score at the high school student level when given standardized testing. Students analyze words based on a combination of letter sounds and learn to choose keywords in each sentence. Finally, students learn to summarize sentences, paragraphs, and chapters of a book. Students are also given lessons to improve vocabulary and grammar comprehension. The aim is to improve students' understanding and students' desire to read independently. The goal is to make students independent and readers confident. Mathematics is also progressive, with new concepts introduced each year after reviewing and strengthening what students have learned. In sixth grade, students are in pre-algebra. Foreign language instruction begins in kindergarten and is taught annually. Science starts in third grade and computer technology is in fourth grade. Students start science in third grade and in fourth grade they start taking classes in computer literacy. Students in grades two through five make a maximum of two field visits a year. First grader does not make field visits; instead, guest speakers come to the school to address it. Sixth grader does a maximum of five trips per year, excluding junior high school visits that students consider for their future. Field visits should not be more than half a day. All students return before the end of the school day. The school educates nearly 300 students a year and employs 20 full-time teachers. The class is no more than 21 students. In fourth grade, students begin to leave their homeroom and teacher classes to attend special classes. (Charleston, SC) Although Cooper School is a fairly young school (founded in 2007), it has successfully educated 75 of its students with nine teachers. Students learn French, Spanish, and Mandarin when they start school. In fourth grade, students can choose which language they want to learn more about. They go from singing songs, having conversations, and learning about culture, reading, writing, and dialogue. All students take a foreign language and they are exposed through their social studies classes, too. When they don't learn their foreign language in social studies, they learn about the world through maps, world culture, and artifacts older, older, that by the time they were in the top elementary class, they were learning about the government and history of their language groups, and how social studies were connected to the real world. All students also learn music, drama and visual arts. In the lower grades, students learn about colors, shapes, and lines, with their lessons often tied to their academic classes. Early elementary school students sing and learn about rhythm and movement, which gives them the foundation to understand how dance is related to music. In the middle class students learn about different instruments and classical music. High school students learn to play the ukulele and how to make their own music. All students participate in physical education, which also includes health and fitness. Students learn yoga, movement, swimming, rock climbing, kayaking and standing paddle boards. In addition to PE, students have outdoor recess twice a day. The development of children's character is an important part of each child's education; therefore, students learn about controlling their emotions, establishing positive relationships, making responsible decisions, and learning to resolve conflicts appropriately and peacefully. In addition, students are instructed in the arts of language, mathematics, and science. Teachers collaborate to keep the curriculum challenging, but not impossible. Students take benchmark tests based on Common Core. Schools publish on their website what students learn each week, so parents always have access to the curriculum. Instruction is not limited to classrooms and students can find themselves outdoors, conducting experiments in science, or in tasting honey, after studying units in bees. Students learn the characteristics of different literary genres, and in third grads write their own fairy tales. Each class reads lots and lots of lessons centered around reading. Field trip is used for further class lessons. Second graders, for example, visit the Birds of Prey Conservatory after studying units in birds, and make their own presentations about different birds. (Washington, DC) Serving pre-kindergarten through eighth graders, Capitol Hill Day School is accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools. Founded in 1968, the school has enrollment of about 225 students, with a seven-to-one student-teacher ratio. In pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, there are two main teachers. Students come from Maryland, Virginia, and the D.C. area. The school provides tuition assistance to 27 percent of its students. CHDS provides more than 300 field visits per year and the subject is cross-circular, building themes and concepts. Children start learning French or Spanish while in preschool, and each class works on a community service project that Parents. Students after school can be able to in Interscholastic Sports, receive tutoring, or attend various classes related to interests in chess, yoga, baseball, soccer, Tae Kwon Do, and/or music instruction. Bus transportation is available for some areas. The basic curriculum is project-based so that students learn by doing rather than sitting on lectures after college and taking notes. Projects are collaborative, and in grades two through five the curriculum emphasizes critical thinking in a creative way so that students can learn to solve problems and develop curiosity about what they are learning. Social instruction is integrated into a strong academic curriculum and students are taught to take responsibility for the well-being of their classmates, to respect them, and to learn positive conflict resolution strategies. Formal reading teaching begins with first grader, but by fourth and fifth grader analyzing what they read for literary elements such as themes, plots, and settings. Students also began writing formally in elementary school. Math is taught as a language and teachers show students numerical relationships in patterns and try to teach them to solve problems creatively. Students in grades two through five learn themes in an integrated curriculum of history, literature, science, mathematics, art, music, and modern languages. (Durham/Chapel Hill, NC) Founded in 1995, Sandra E. Lerner Jewish Community Day School of Durham/Chapel Hill has about 130 kindergartens through fifth graders and 33 teachers and staff members. There are four preschool classrooms and nine elementary classrooms. Additionally, the wooded property features a greenhouse, Friendship Gardens, outdoor classrooms and plant beds. Classrooms are equipped with advanced technologies such as SmartBoards, computers, computer carts, and AlphaSmarts. There are three large playgrounds, a track and football field, a basketball court and a climbing platform. Preschool begins at the age of two. Lerner's school is open to jewish community children whose parents embrace the school's mission. In addition to core classes, Lerner teaches students Hebrew, PE, music, arts, and Judaic studies through a value-based curriculum. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Students can stay for after-school enrichment courses in yearbooks, sports, crafts, homework clubs, music, arts, free play, and many other learning activities and experiences. Starting in fourth grade, students can join the band. Grades two through five can sing in the choir. International students make up about 25 percent of the student population and students come from Durham, Orange and Wake counties. The school gives individual attention to students in collaborative collaborative Students create and present projects such as self-written and produced plays, persuasive presentations, and outstanding speeches, all of which help build confidence. To ensure all students learn, Gates MacGintie Assessments are given to first and second gradies and Bureau of Education Records tests to students in grades three through five. Student field visits include the Morehead Planetarium, the Nasher Museum, Carolina Tiger Rescue, Duke Homestead, and the Triangle Training Center. The fifth grader made a three-day trip to Washington, DC. This is Lerner's method of training one child at a time to achieve academic excellence in a safe and diverse student body where a sense of community is shared by everyone. It is Lerner's hope that all students learn to be socially responsible and approach problem solving through ethical thinking. The majority of the students are from the Durham County area; however, there are students from Orange and Wake Counties, too. The majority of students have no dietary limitations, but there are students who are completely halal and those who are vegetarian. Each school year has special events that include book fairs, the Chanukkah Program, Poetry in Bloom, 5K runs, community family programs such as picnics, dinners and Durham Bulls games, and the Lerner Carnival, among others that help build a sense of community among staff, students and parents. (Overland Park, KS) Brookridge is unique in that it only educates children from the age of two and a half to third grade. It scores in the top five percent of states in reading and math. The school's commitment to quality education for early grades stems from its belief that solid early education is critical to student learning foundations and will ensure that students leave school with the life skills they need to succeed as they progress through the upper classes. All teachers have a teaching degree in either primary education or early childhood education. Some teachers are alumni and there is a very low rate of teacher turnover from BDS. Kindergarten is a full day program with an emphasis on math, writing, reading, social studies, and science. Students learn to write with a program called HandWriting Without Tears. Students also practice speaking and listening skills every day. In addition, they learn Spanish, art, PE, and music. Children experience special programs designed to help them grow physically and emotionally. Students entering grades one through three have programs with a strong emphasis on math and reading. All subjects emphasize reading and listening, as well as listening and speaking skills in public. Math program gives students real-life applications and focuses on eight Math. Students take an active part in technology-based lessons and learn about different types of software so that they will have an understanding of highly functional computer skills. Lunch and snacks are included in the tuition fees. Before and after school, care is provided for the benefit of parents who have to leave work early or leave work later. The program is run by certified teachers, as well as quality assistance, so that students receive high-quality care whether during, before, or as popular as school. Teachers also contribute to blogs that cover a variety of topics for the benefit of parents. Schools publish newsletters every month, even in the summer. (Seattle, WA) Tilden operates for about 104 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and is a Washington State Approved School. Students are taught listening skills and respect for others who speak and express their thoughts. All grades have the opportunity to work and play together. Students make various field visits throughout the year. The kindergarten curriculum combines games and work, usually with themes that bring together several subjects. First grade focuses on developing social and academic skills. Students are given the opportunity to discuss subjects in groups and solve problems in a variety of ways. Further reading is emphasized in grades two and three, as well as following the directions and deadlines of the meeting. The goal is for students to be able to read at the fourth grade level or higher at the end of the third grade. Other subjects were investigated in more depth. Fourth and fifth graders are not considered elementary school students, but secondary students who focus on improving basic skills and integrating a variety of subjects. Students are given the opportunity to try out a variety of arts and crafts skills with various media throughout their time in Tilden. The technical side of art is taught to students, too, so they develop artistic abilities and learn to appreciate different artistic works. The introduction of music prepares students to be in bands, orchestras, and choirs. Students learn rhythm, movement, and reading music so they can perform in musicals and talent shows. Drama is also taught through various dramatic media such as puppet drama, skit, holiday celebration, and many others. Physical education focuses on fitness, as well as active games, in pursuit of acquisition skills such as hand/eye coordination. All students can participate no matter their skill level or athletic ability. Learning Spanish begins in kindergarten and continues every year. The goal is to keep speeches in class up to 85–90 percent Spanish. Students in primary schools have a great ability to acquire language through speaking and The Spanish curriculum makes use of this natural ability, so by the time students leave Tilden their oral fluency in Spanish will be very profound. In technology, secondary students have advanced forward the point that they use online research tools. They were given access to the seattle public library online, as well as a subscription database. Students are also taught about plagiarism and the right way to cite sources. (Laguna Beach, CA) Students at ASWC begin learning a foreign language in nursery school. Starting in kindergarten and continuing through sixth grade, students are given formal lessons in Spanish and German. Many courses are taught bilingually and all teachers are encouraged to incorporate foreign languages into their lessons. Teachers of formal lessons are native speakers and students use textbooks obtained in Europe. Reading, writing, songs, games, art, and dialogue are all used to teach foreign languages. Anneliese Schools use California teaching standards, but often exceed those standards, giving students a solid academic foundation. Behavioral and academic requirements are strict, but creative thinking and play are also encouraged. The focus of education at ASWC is nine components of intellectual thinking that include social, artistic, and musical elements. Art can initiate children's creativity in thought and practice, expanding their ability to solve problems and analytical thinking. As part of their education, students make mandatory field visits that are used as part of the curriculum and learning. Field trip is an important element in connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences. Students also study outside in the school garden where students learn about biology and life cycles, as well as other interdisciplinary lessons in math, art, history, culture, and language. Students also have lessons in theater, which begin with storytelling and move on to classroom play and playwrighting. In addition, students have lessons in physical education and handicrafts, as well as formal classes in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. To help build communities, students begin with The Circle, where school values are taught and conflicts are resolved. Circle is carried out with a multi-age group. The school's popularity program continued the school day and ended with The Circle. The after-school program has many enrichment activities and subjects such as drama, craft, cooking, and sports, to name a few. Students are allowed to choose the enrichment classes that interest them the most. They are also given time to play for free, which is an important part of a child's day. The Willowbrook campus has nearly 400 students, from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, and 20 teachers. (Cedar Rapids, IA) There are three programs in Summit Schools: preschool programs, early programs (which include first and second grades), and intermediate programs (which include third, fourth and fifth grades). All students to think critically and ask questions through a curriculum that includes core classes, as well as technology, art, foreign languages, and music. Students are taught strategies to help them help themselves in their development as lifelong learners. Parents work with teachers to create individual Student Growth Plans so that all students can learn at their own pace. All learning is multi-sensory. Preschoolers and kindergarten parks have their own school gardens and have the opportunity to share their favorite books and build something. The program is designed to help students grow emotionally, physically, and socially. First and second grader learning involves parents and the educational community. Top grades develop their creative problem solving skills as they increase the complexity of their academic studies. In summer new preschoolers (aged three to five) can enroll for half a day to get a jump on basic learning for language, science and maths. Students will have a variety of learning centers to experience and will be exposed to phonics programs to help establish the alphabet in their minds as the foundation for reading. First through sixth grader has camps throughout the summer that help close gaps in academics such as reading, writing and math. Tutoring programs design individual learning plans for students who need individual or small group tutoring assistance. Tutoring is offered in reading, spelling, writing, mathematics, algebra, geometry, and Spanish, as well as in learning skills. Students can also receive tutoring assistance with their homework. While tutoring sessions are usually held Monday to Friday (between eight mornings and seven nights), some Saturday sessions are available. In addition, an award-winning online program called Dreambox is available for students to improve math skills. Financial assistance is available to students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. (Raleigh, NC) Thales is a kindergarten through ninth grade school with more than 530 students. Students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade receive direct instruction, while students in grades six through 12 are taught through the classical curriculum and Sokratis discussions. Multi-student discounts are offered for families with more than one child attending school, and schools have one low and flat rate, at no extra cost or fundraising. Grade K-7 students are tested using the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and consistently out-doing other students in the state and nationally. Students are taught Latin and Spanish (as well as other languages) through mixed learning, and school culture emphasizes character education. Students in the classroom community iPad and Apple TV. Students are taught from a classical curriculum that helps them develop into critical thinkers. Direct instructions for lower schools include grouping students by skill, choir And pacing fast. Students have access to an iPad in class and there is also a computer lab. Students are offered a variety of options, including bands and public speaking, and clubs such as the Science and Robotics Olympics. In fifth grade, students in math will add and subtract fractions, graphs, identify patterns, and learn early geometry, basic algebraic equations, and how to use money with the Saxon Mathematics program. In reading they will be able to identify different genres, read independently, identify meanings using context clues, analyze characters in stories, write, make predictions, and learn how to decipher. In science they will learn about erosion, the food chain, the human body, celestial bodies, electromagnetism, and lenses. In social studies they will learn about the Renaissance, U.S. geography, world lakes, ancient Indian culture, the Civil War, the Reformation, western expansion, early Russia, and early Japan. In the art of the language they will use Shurley English, 6+1 writing properties, thinking maps, and Writing from Scratch programs. They will also learn parts of speech, figurative language, prose and poetry, the process of writing, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary development. (Madison, WI) At Madison Waldorf School, students in early childhood classes are taught to express themselves creatively and artistically, while staying in touch with the natural world. They engage in imaginative play, both inside and out. Teaching students gardening, cooking, washing, and cleaning allows them to understand the role of cooperation in life. Students engage in singing and sharing during circle time and students are constantly exposed to art through watching puppet shows, sculptures, music, drawings, and watercolors. Many of these activities help students to develop motor skills. Students are put into mixed age settings to improve learning and spend a significant amount of time in the natural world every day. Students in elementary school are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills, artistic expression, athletic ability, and sound reasoning with which they will come to a strong conclusion. Students learning to paint, drama, movement, and other courses are usually seen as options so that students will have a foundation on which they can build a college preparation education. Students do not use traditional textbooks to study, but take notes of their work with an annual portfolio filled with their best work. It is in this way that the educator decides in which group a student should be placed. The children are placed in their classes according to age, but in the second grade, students begin to attend mixed classes, so second and third together. Students stay together groups throughout kindergarten through eighth grade. Students do not develop works by accepting value, but by learning responsibility for their work. Students have a schedule they adhere to, where teachers take students through teacher-led and age-appropriate activities. Children stay with one group throughout their first through eighth grade education and learn to be part of the team, take care of others, and take responsibility for group work. Good work habits are developed in each child through the development of a sense of responsibility for their work. There is one teacher for each class who teaches the core class in the morning. Some teachers can also teach special classes such as painting, woodworking, German, and sculpture or ceramics. In summer the school offers two camps of four weeks each, where students can make pottery, go kayaking, swim, park, or exercise through a yoga program. (Boulder, CO) Preschool through fifth graders attending this secular school was started by parents with the registration of nearly 180 students. Created with the aim of educating all children and respecting the child who he is, School Friends teaches in small, collaborative, multi-age classes where students are taught to respect themselves and others. Each child receives a personalized education that brings students to strict academic standards, but also gives each child an appreciation for the arts and a strong social/emotional foundation. The school is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and has about 17 teachers who are experts in their fields. Basic classes focus on academia, but foster creative and critical thinking skills while teaching students to develop real-world solutions in an ethically responsible way. Students work individually, in groups, or throughout the class to solve problems that will help them understand the subjects they are learning. Teachers use technology, projects in art and drama, guest speakers, and field visits to improve classroom experiences. In addition to core academic classes, students are also taught by specialists in Spanish subjects, music, PE, arts, technology and libraries. Children are taught to be accomplished writers and diligent readers, with a strong foundation in math skills. Students leaving Friends School know how to communicate effectively and appropriately and become independent thinkers. In addition to core classes and specialist classes, Friends' School teaches a social and emotional curriculum. It starts with the teacher visiting the home of all the new students in their class so that the bond between the child and the teacher can begin even before the child walks through the school door. When students come to school, they start and end each day with a circle time, where students can share compliments conc practice conflict resolution and role playing, or sharing something about themselves with the group. As part of social/emotional curriculum, students participate in community service projects that are often formulated by the students themselves, based on their interests and concerns. Because students care about their world, they raise money for a humane society and to raise awareness about pollution and waste in the ocean and how it affects ecosystems. (Durham, NC) Integrity and respect are part of the education that all students demand to assimilate. In addition, students are expected to learn the value of kindness and empathy. For themselves, they learn to be proud of their achievements and to celebrate the achievements of others. The school is kept small so that the sense of community will exist in this transitional kindergarten to eighth grade school. Within that framework, all students are given the opportunity to lead, as well as the opportunity to serve. As the school fosters a community atmosphere, children from kindergarten routinely interact with students from the upper classes in the hallways. The school was founded in 1991 and has an average class size of 15, with a seven-to-one student-to-teacher ratio. Twenty-two percent of students receive financial assistance and schools have one class per class for students in lower schools with an overall enrollment of 200. It is accredited by the Association of Southern Colleges and Schools and the Southern Association of Independent Schools, and is a member of the Association of Independent Schools of North Carolina, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Bureau of Educational Records. The school is located on a 17-acre campus with a gym, an art studio with kilns, two science labs, a library, a computer lab, iPad and Chromebook sets, an athletic field and two classroom buildings. Enrichment programs before school and after school are offered and each grade conducts a field trip. Lower school students have choirs and co-curricular programs in math, science, reading, writing, and social learning. Students also take PE, Spanish, art, music and character education. Students also participate in community services, partnering with local organisations to combat hunger in Durham, and they gain environmental awareness through composting and growing things in TDS gardens. Generally, these programs are further divided between kindergarten-2 and 3-5 classes, so that all programs build knowledge and skills previously acquired in the previous class. In sixth graders it is considered part of secondary school. (Nampa, ID) Nampa Christian School caters for children from the age of six weeks to twelfth grade. The school is divided into four sections: the Early Childhood Center and the primary, secondary, and secondary schools. Primary schools teach core courses in reading, English, science, social studies and mathematics. participate in standardized testing, and score above the state and national averages. In addition to core courses, students study art, the Bible, music and PE. Licensed and experienced teachers. Preschool teachers provide social and emotional support for development through games and learning centers. Students are introduced to alphabets and numbers while having language gained stimulated through stories and songs. NCS believes in providing quality education through a Biblical worldview. In this way, students grow up to be round so they can meet the challenges they will face in college and beyond. The history of Nampa Christian School can be traced back to 1913. The school has undergone many changes over the last century, joining other schools and relocating locations and adding buildings. The primary school building was raised in 1979 and then expanded in 1994. In 2008 high school moved to a new location. Thus, primary and secondary campuses are maintained separately, although they are within three miles of each other and older students are given the opportunity to guide the younger through fun activities such as track meets for third through fifth graders, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade field days, annual Christmas programs, annual speech meetings, and Grandparents Day programs. Part of the education students receive at NCS is through a Community Service Program where students have the opportunity to serve others. Each student must complete three hours per quarter. In the summer NCS put on a Musical Theater Camp, which is open for fifth through high school. Nampa is about 22 miles west of Boise. The area is called Treasure Valley, but is also known as the Lower Snake River Valley. (Gig Port, WA) School at Gig Harbor Academy begins with preschool and passes fifth grade. The campus is located next to wetlands on 10 beautiful acres with four buildings where children can become environmentally conscious and responsible. It is Gig Harbor's belief that children should get lost in learning, not be lost in the crowd. The campus has outdoor classrooms, archaeological excavation sites, fitness and research trails, an athletic field and a large tree play area. It is GHA's goal that students achieve academic excellence. Starting in preschool, students are guided through the development of their social, physical, emotional, and intellectual growth by helping them develop their language skills, where they can express their opinions and learn to understand their world through exploration and observation. Pre-kindergarten takes this lesson a step further and helps students to interact with others and resolve conflicts in an acceptable way. All learning styles are accepted and celebrated. Pre-kindergarten is five days a week and lasts all day. Kindergarten is intended to academically challenging to help students think positively about learning. Lessons traverse the curriculum and use multi-sensory activities to help students learn through different media. After kindergarten, students move to elementary school where they will study core subjects within more well-defined boundaries with programs such as FOSS Science Kits, CAFÉ, and Junior Great Books. Each of these programs is self-built every year. Once students reach third grade, they begin to explore the wetlands in areas on campus so that they become more aware of the importance of the environment. Fifth grader can go to Washington, D.C., and Colonial Williamsburg as part of their history studies. In addition, students learn Spanish, art, technology, music, and PE in age-appropriate classes. In summer, GHA offers several classes for student enrichment, including cooking, dancing, ceramics, robotics, woodworking, soccer, and several other exciting programs. (Fast City, Elementary School) The school started with one class of five preschoolers in 1990 and is now an elementary school with 135 students in five classes. In 2001, it became a state-accredited school and followed laws enacted for schools by the state of South Dakota, while using Montessori principles in teaching and curriculum. The vital skills required to learn in the next class are instilled in students and they begin to think abstractly as they grow up, practicing their analytical skills to compare, deduce, analyze, and evaluate. Students are grouped in a three-year span, which encourages children to learn from each other but also promotes a community atmosphere. The Montessori program hopes to improve students' intelligence and encourage students to work for longer periods of time, taking satisfaction from their work. As students progress, they will learn to work independently and develop their curiosity, as well as their desire to learn. Each student has a written study plan for the day or week outlining the tasks that the child needs to complete. Children can decide in what order they will complete these tasks and how much time they will spend on each task. Student progress is documented by the students themselves through self-evaluation and a portfolio of student work. Students with developmental delays or difficulties may not succeed in this more unstructured environment. Pre-school care is offered for all grades. The school program uses an individually customized live curriculum for each student. It is to give children an unbreakable foundation in their reasoning skills, analytical thinking, and creative problem solving, as well as a love of learning. Students learn to work in small groups, as well as individually. The school employs four full-time teachers and educates about 75 students in the classroom through the fifth. Last Updated: August 20, 2015 10:30 PM

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