

PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

From the publishers of *Philadelphia* magazine





ADMISSIONS

Making the Grade

Here are a few things to keep in mind throughout the application process.

MIND YOUR DEADLINES

They vary from school to school, so keep an organized list.

KNOW WHAT THEY NEED

Most schools require at least an application, transcript and letters of recommendation.

NAIL THE INTERVIEW

The main goal is to figure out if it's the right match on both sides, so be comfortable and be yourself.



LESSON PLANS

PRIVATE SCHOOL 101

Top-notch academics, innovative curricula, ample extracurriculars and more—it's easy to see the appeal of a private education. ►

The greater Philadelphia area is home to a wide array of private schools, meaning parents have myriad options when it comes to finding the right fit for their child. From Montessori to single-sex institutions to programs geared towards learning differences, Philadelphia's private schools are diverse and dedicated to setting their students up for a successful future. And as education trends continue to evolve, these academic institutions position themselves at the forefront, incorporating everything from technology and entrepreneurship to global and STEM programs.

Still, as a parent, navigating the private school world can be overwhelming—starting with the application process. Whether you're looking for an elementary school that will suit your child's learning style or a high school with a nationally ranked robotics team, this guide will not only introduce you to some of Philadelphia's top schools, it will also give you the tools to better evaluate them. With a bit of research, some careful planning and an open mind, you'll be primed to find the best education for your child.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

FIND YOUR FIT

Private schools are more than an academic investment. Here are 4 questions to ask yourself to see if a school is the right fit for your child.

Does my child align with the school's culture?

Not all private schools are the same, and one of the key differences is culture. Some place more emphasis on academic rigor, with a challenging curriculum, seminar-style discussions and independent research. Others focus on emotional well-being, with personal support and strong mentorship from teachers and staff. Still, others derive their culture from strong religious or social values. You can discover a school's culture through open-house visits, shadow days and conversations with current parents and students.

What is the school's academic style?

Every child learns differently, and certain curricula work better for some children. Does your child have a short attention span? Block scheduling may be a struggle for them. Do they prefer to be engaged and hands-on? Project-based learning may be a win for them. And if they have diagnosed learning differences, one of the many strong private schools that cater to their academic needs might be a place where they can thrive.

What is parent involvement like at the school?

You'll get a sense for how communicative a

school is during the application process, but also check out their website and social media for other means of interaction. Most schools have parent portals where they can find calendars, student schedules, forms and more—some even have online grade books (which may or may not be a good thing. At the same time, get a sense of what the school expects from you in terms of fundraising, volunteering and time commitments. This is when you'll want to talk with other parents to get their particular point of view on their school experience.

Do they offer extracurriculars that would enhance my kid's experience?

A well-rounded education matters, and that often starts with extracurricular activities. Ask about the range and quality of programs at school and how the school supports students' outside interests. If your child is passionate about a particular sport, meet with coaches to better understand their philosophy and expectations for student-athletes. Same goes for the performing arts: If your kid plays a specific instrument, see if they can continue with their lessons there. If they value the theater, make sure they have a robust acting program.



Facts on Financial Aid



For many parents, private school tuition comes with a bit of a sticker shock. Some schools can cost as much as in-state tuition at a local university. Fortunately, many schools offer financial aid to help families defray costs. Here are a few tips to get you started on your financial aid journey.

Know your deadlines. Many schools let you apply for financial aid before your child is admitted. Make sure you mark the due date: You don't want to miss your deadline—and the chance for financial support.

Don't assume you'll be denied. Schools rely on formulas to help determine how much aid you'll need, so don't skip the application if you think you make too much money. There's no harm in applying—your request for aid has no impact on the admission decision.

Look for outside scholarships. From local groups to professional organizations to religious affiliations—do your homework on possible scholarships to private schools and be sure to apply to any that the school offers.

Ask about payment plans. Most schools do not require parents to pay for tuition up front. Instead, they allow parents to pay in installments, say quarterly, monthly or half-year.

Ask about additional fees. Textbooks, team fees, tech and uniforms can be expenses on top of tuition. Find out in advance about potential fees so you can work them into your budget.



INNOVATION

LEARNING CURVE

Here's how independent schools are teaching students outside the classroom

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

What it is: Experiential learning emphasizes real-world experiences as a teaching method, applying what students learn in practical, often hands-on ways.

Why it's important: Schools emphasizing experiential learning connect classroom theory with practical application through field trips, internships and project-based work. This method makes learning more engaging by linking lessons to real-life scenarios.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

What it is: This approach imbues a student's education with comprehensive international experiences, including study abroad programs, language immersion and exploration of different cultures and countries.

Why it's important: A global education instills a greater sense of cultural awareness and an appreciation for diversity, and it sharpens students' multilingual skills.

STEAM

What it is: STEAM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

Why it's important: STEAM programs break down traditional subject barriers, blending scientific inquiry with creative exploration. It prepares students for a future where these fields intersect, promoting innovative thinking and problem-solving skills.

SERVICE LEARNING

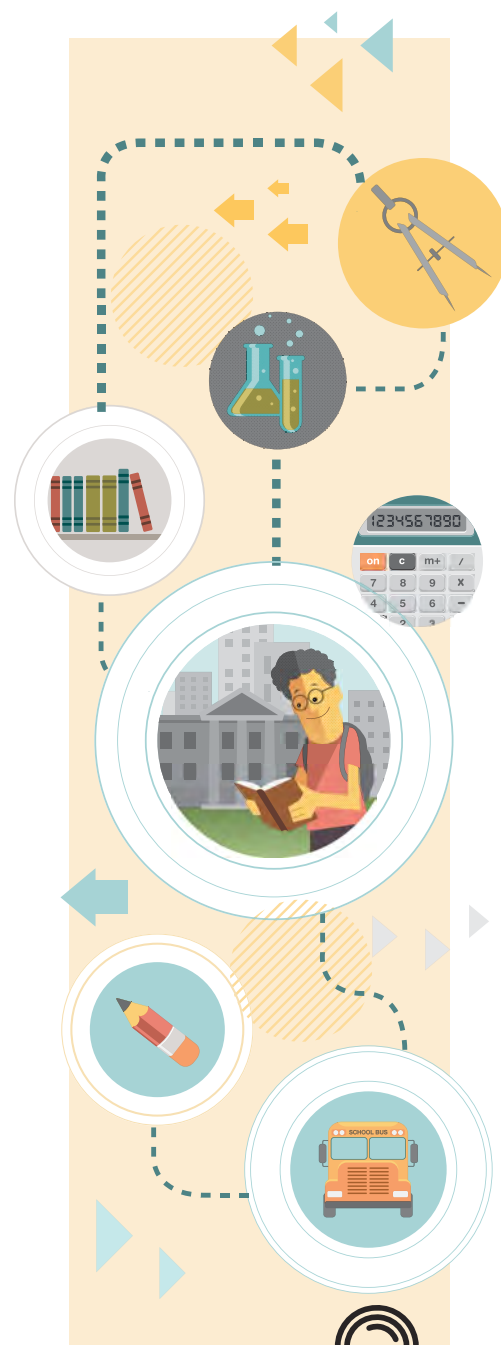
What it is: Service learning integrates community service into the classroom.

Why it's important: Service learning not only provides students with a stronger understanding of the real world, it also helps them improve their critical-thinking skills, encourages an appreciation for equity and diversity, and builds empathy and a commitment to community.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

What it is: Entrepreneurship teaches students the skills required for starting a business, leading a cultural movement, effecting societal change—and shaping their future.

Why it's important: Entrepreneurship extends beyond launching a start-up; it helps build confidence and creativity and strengthens problem-solving and leadership skills.



**READY TO
BEGIN YOUR
SEARCH?**

Start here with our private school profiles. ►



The Agnes Irwin School

Bryn Mawr, PA • agnesirwin.org • 610-801-1869 • @agnesirwinschool

Day, girls, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 672 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Founded in 1869 by Miss Agnes Irwin, the first Dean of Radcliffe College and great-great granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin, The Agnes Irwin School is nationally recognized as an all-girls, independent college preparatory school for pre-K–grade 12, located in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

Agnes Irwin provides not only a rigorous academic experience for its students, but also competitive athletic teams and robust STEM and visual and performing arts curriculum that allow girls to explore their creativity, think critically and become empowered leaders.

Their research-based curriculum—developed through their proprietary Center for the Advancement of Girls—blends today's current educational thinking and practices with the traditional values of a liberal arts education, creating an environment where girls can expand, take chances, discover passions and become active participants in their own communities.

Visit Agnes Irwin and experience how their girl-centered, research-based education fosters the journey of self-discovery, and empowers girls to learn, to lead and to live a legacy.



The Episcopal Academy

Newtown Square, PA • episcopalacademy.org • 484-424-1400 • @ea1785

Day, coed, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 1,308 | **Accreditation:** MSA-CES

Challenging and nurturing “Mind, Body, and Spirit” since 1785, The Episcopal Academy inspires pre-K–grade 12 students of all faiths through academic rigor, transformative character development and dynamic athletics, arts and extracurricular opportunities.

The Episcopal Academy gives students every opportunity to succeed through innovative curriculum, dedicated faculty and an expansive, state-of-the-art campus in Newtown Square. However, what truly separates EA from other top independent and public schools is its supportive community and welcoming spirit.

The Episcopal Academy fosters a love of learning, leadership and community service in its graduates. Students are prepared for success at top universities and beyond, and alumni range from pioneers in medicine and business to award-winning authors, directors and athletes. Open houses: Oct. 24 (pre-K–grade 5); Oct. 17 (grades 6–12) and Nov. 1 (athletics).



Friends Select School

Philadelphia • friends-select.org • 215-561-5900 • @friendsselectschool

Day, all-gender, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 665 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Friends Select School is an all-gender, pre-K–grade 12 Quaker school in Center City Philadelphia. The school's location on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway facilitates the use of the city as a dynamic living classroom, with unparalleled access to universities, science institutes, arts and cultural organizations, social service agencies, grassroots organizers, businesses and government. Students and teachers are participants in the complex fabric of everyday city life. Friends Select provides a high-quality education rooted in Quaker values: respect for all, simplicity, the peaceful resolution of conflict and a constant search for truth. Teachers lift up student voice and agency, educating and empowering students to become active citizens for the whole of life.

Friends Select's state-of-the-art facilities are creating educational opportunities while strengthening its connection to the city. Walk into the Parkway Building to see the lobby, lower school classrooms, art studio and theater—buzzing with student energy. A recent second-floor expansion includes new middle and upper school classrooms. And the new STEAM Building empowers students to pursue advanced projects in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. Open house dates: Sept. 22 at 8:45 a.m. (pre-K & K); Oct. 10 at 9:30 a.m. (pre-K–grade 12); Nov. 3 at 8:45 a.m. (pre-K–grade 4); Nov. 11 at 8:45 a.m. (grades 5–12); Nov. 14 at 9:30 a.m. (grades 5–12 athletic open house); and April 13 at 8:45 a.m. (pre-K–grade 12).



Germantown Academy

Fort Washington, PA • germantownacademy.org • 215-646-3300

Day, coed, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 1,225 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Germantown Academy fosters a genuine love of learning and creates an exceptional academic, artistic, athletic and social experience for students. From the discussion-based Harkness Tables in the Upper School, to the Lower School's dynamic Tinker Lab, to the incredible all-school Beard Center for Innovation, Germantown Academy expertly pairs 267 years of history and tradition with the best in innovation and 21st-century learning skills. Their Kids Teaching Kids science program, college-based Writing Center, award-winning Belfry Club (the nation's oldest, continuously run drama club), school-wide community service programs and robust 6-12 Inter-Ac athletics program are just a few examples of the school's commitment to excellence.

At Germantown Academy, students are valued for their unique gifts, parents are committed partners, and dedicated, talented teachers care deeply about helping each student succeed. Their mission statement—to inspire students to be independent in thought, confident in expression, compassionate in spirit, collaborative in action, and honorable in deed—is alive in their classrooms, science labs and fields every day, as is their promise to provide students with a truly engaging, exceptional education.



The Haverford School

Haverford, PA • haverford.org • 610-642-3020 • @haverfordschool

Day, boys, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 960 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

The research is clear: Boys learn differently than girls. For nearly 150 years, The Haverford School has been the Philadelphia region's leader in boys' education, combining deep expertise with an evidence-based approach to how boys learn best. Here, every student is known, challenged and supported by expert faculty who inspire curiosity, build confidence and foster academic excellence. Beyond the classroom, Haverford's integrated programs in athletics, the arts, leadership and service help boys develop character, resilience and purpose. From pre-kindergarten through grade 12, the school is dedicated to educating the whole boy—nurturing his intellectual, social, emotional and ethical growth in a community where relationships matter. Graduates leave Haverford with the curiosity, initiative, wisdom and integrity to lead lives of purpose and impact. If you're looking for the premier educational experience for boys in Philadelphia, you'll find it at The Haverford School.



Malvern Preparatory School

Malvern, PA • malvernprep.org • 484-595-1100 • @malvernprep

Day, boys, grades 6–12

Enrollment: 675 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Malvern Preparatory School's innovative approach to teaching and learning engages and inspires today's young men to become tomorrow's leaders—through inquisitive thinking, character development and lifelong friendships. On their college-like campus, students enjoy an extraordinary independent school experience that not only prepares them to excel at the next level but to lead meaningful lives grounded in Augustinian values.

Empowered by their teachers and peers, students achieve at the highest levels in academics, athletics, the arts and service. More importantly, they grow into men of character who go forth to lead with humility and heart.

Join Malvern Prep at their fall open house on Saturday, October 17, to explore all the school has to offer your son.



Perkiomen School

Pennsburg, PA • perkiomen.org • 215-679-9511 • [@perkiomenschool](https://www.instagram.com/perkiomenschool)

Day, coed, grades 6–12, PG

Enrollment: 370 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

As an independent, coed, boarding and day school welcoming students from more than 30 different countries, Perkiomen School is a place where people show up, dig in and branch out. From packed bleachers to standing-room-only performances, students are involved—not just in their own activities but in cheering each other on. Thanks to the supportive community, students feel comfortable trying new things and living the motto: Risk Becoming Your Best.

Perkiomen's cutting-edge Institutes—focusing on Artificial Intelligence, Design, Entrepreneurship, and Medicine—offer students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems while deeply exploring a potential career path. The institute diploma distinction option gives students an avenue for further differentiating themselves in the college admissions process.

Thriving in today's rapidly changing world requires invested individuals, prepared for a lifetime of adaptation. Learn how Perkiomen School can prepare your student for what's next.



St. Joseph's Preparatory School

Philadelphia • SJPrep.org • 215-978-1958 • @ST_JOSEPHS_PREP

Day, boys grades 9–12

Enrollment: 940 | **Accreditation:** PAIS, MSACS

The Prep's mission, as a Catholic, Jesuit, college preparatory school, is to develop the *minds, hearts, souls, bodies and character* of young men in their pursuit of becoming *men for and with others*.

For 175 years, St. Joseph's Preparatory School has been partnering with families throughout the Delaware Valley to support young men on their journey to become caring leaders in their communities, cities and the world. They are experts in the education of boys. Faculty know how boys learn, how they grow and how to challenge them to become the best versions of themselves. At its Philadelphia campus, the Prep offers top-tier academics, a commitment to service, robust student life, spiritual formation, championship athletics, unparalleled college preparation and brotherhood for life as part of Prep Nation.

Need-based financial aid and academic scholarships are available, as well as affinity grants for children and dependents of first responders, primary school teachers, active-duty military and employees and graduates of HBCUs. Please join us at our Open House on October 18 to learn more about the transformative journey your son can have at the Prep.



William Penn Charter School

Philadelphia • penncharter.com • 215-844-3460 • @penncharter

Day, coed, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 1,000+ | **Accreditation:** PAIS

At Penn Charter, students are educated to live lives that make a difference.

The oldest Quaker school in the world, founded in 1689, Penn Charter is a pre-K to grade 12 independent school located on 47 acres in the East Falls section of Philadelphia. The latest addition to the school's state-of-the-art campus facilities is the new Balderston Lower School. Designed to reflect PC's curriculum and the latest research on how children learn and grow, the Lower School's expansive learning and play spaces empower students with the knowledge, confidence and skills to thrive in a complex world.

Penn Charter is rooted in the values of integrity, simplicity, peace, community, equality and stewardship, which shape the educational philosophy, school culture and the way students are cared for and supported. As students progress through Penn Charter, they are instilled with a sense of social and civic responsibility, and many are driven to engage in opportunities to serve their school, local and global communities long after they graduate. PC values scholarship and inquiry, with excellence as their standard, as students are challenged in a vigorous program of academics, arts and athletics.

Learn more about Penn Charter at a Fall Preview Day! Visit the Upper School on Oct. 8 or 29 at 8:30 a.m., the Lower School on Oct. 15 at 9 a.m., and the Middle School on Oct. 22, at 8:30 a.m.



Abington Friends School

Jenkintown, PA • abingtonfriends.net • 215-886-4350

📍 Visit AFS

Day, coed, age 3–grade 12

Enrollment: 615 | **Accreditation:** MSACS, MSA-CESS

Abington Friends School has been a home for curious minds since 1697, making it one of the oldest schools in the country. Students from age 3 through grade 12 learn in a Quaker community built on small classes and close relationships, the kind that give students room to take intellectual risks and sit with hard questions. Teachers know their students well enough to challenge them at exactly the right moment, without the weight of constant pressure to perform. Free from that, students grow eager to stretch themselves and push their own thinking further. Just outside Philadelphia, AFS offers an education that feels less like proving yourself and more like finding yourself.



Academy of Notre Dame de Namur

Villanova, PA • ndapa.org • 610-687-0650

Day, girls, grades 6–12

Enrollment: 560 | **Accreditation:** PAIS, NCEA

The Academy of Notre Dame de Namur is a premier independent, Catholic, college-preparatory school for girls in grades 6–12, located in Villanova, PA. Rooted in the faith and educational vision of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, the Academy empowers young women to become critical thinkers, compassionate leaders and global citizens. Rigorous academics, undefeated athletics, outstanding STEM and arts programs, and a vibrant student life prepare graduates for success in college and beyond. Signature initiatives like the Center for Global Leadership and real-world learning experiences set Notre Dame apart. Students thrive in a supportive, all-girls environment that fosters confidence, integrity and lifelong sisterhood.





AIM Academy

Conshohocken, PA • academy.aimpa.org • 215-483-2461
@aimacademy

Day, coed, grades 1–12

Enrollment: 395 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

For 20 years, AIM Academy has helped students who think and learn differently discover what's possible. The Philadelphia area's largest school for students with language-based learning differences, AIM serves students in grades 1–12. Its research-informed approach combines rigorous academics and individualized support with a vibrant, engaging school experience. Students learn by doing through immersive experiences that bring academics to life, while exploring STEAM, the arts, athletics, technology, travel and real-world opportunities. Along the way, they build confidence, independence and self-advocacy. At AIM, students are known, supported and challenged as they develop the skills to thrive in college and beyond.



The Baldwin School

Bryn Mawr, PA • baldwinschool.org • 610-525-2700
@the.baldwin.school

Day, girls, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 568 | **Accreditation:** PAIS, MSA-CESS

The Baldwin School is an independent pre-K–grade 12 day school for girls rooted in academic excellence and the belief that girls should have the space, support and challenge to become fully themselves. In an environment designed for how girls learn best, Baldwin's curious and engaged students are encouraged to ask bold questions, think critically, take meaningful risks and become leaders. Baldwin girls develop confidence, purpose and joy in learning in the classroom, on the stage, in the studio, on the field, in clubs or in the everyday life of a close community. Baldwin prepares girls not only for college, but for lives of integrity, compassion, agency and courage. Students explore widely, act ethically, care for others, engage with purpose and lead bravely, carrying their voices, ideas and talents into the world with meaning and impact.



Benchmark School

Media, PA • benchmarkschool.org • 610-565-3741

@benchmark.school

Day, coed, grades 1–8

Enrollment: 180 | Accreditation: PAIS

Benchmark is the premier school for children who learn differently in the Philadelphia area. Benchmark School's holistic program uniquely equips students with Dyslexia, ADHD and other learning differences to become successful and self-confident learners.

Located in Media, Benchmark School has been using research-based educational practice to support students in grades 1-8 with learning differences since 1970.

Benchmark is deeply intentional about teaching students *how* to learn. Benchmark teaches students how to understand themselves as learners, enhance their strengths, and use academic strategies that create a foundation for success.



Chesterbrook Academy

West Chester, PA • chesterbrookacademy.com

610-345-8132 • @cbaelementary

Day, coed, pre-K–grade 6

Enrollment: 125

Since 1998, Chesterbrook Academy Elementary in West Chester has inspired students through a rigorous curriculum, supportive school culture and opportunities to learn by doing. Their program brings lessons to life through hands-on, project-based learning, on-campus greenhouse projects, specialty programs, overnight field trips, performances on their outdoor stage and experiences designed to build confidence, leadership and independence. As an Apple Distinguished School, they use technology intentionally to enrich learning and equip students with the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. In their close-knit community, every child is known, supported and inspired to reach their full potential as a proud CBA Lion!



The Crefeld School

Philadelphia • crefeld.org • 215-242-5545

Day, coed, grades 7-12

Enrollment: 90 | **Accreditation:** PAIS, MSA-CESS

The Crefeld School is a small-by-design, intentionally different, gender-inclusive, college-prep school for grades 7-12. Crefeld empowers students to grow to their strengths, find meaning in their learning and feel ownership of their school community. A robust advisory system, challenging academics, a focus on social justice and service and authentic relationships, allow students to become their best selves.

Who comes to Crefeld? Smart, creative, collaborative students from varied backgrounds, who want to take ownership of their learning and are looking for: a progressive, safe, student-centered school that values them; learning and/or emotional support in a college-prep environment.



Friends' Central School

Wynnewood, PA • friendscentral.org • 610-645-5032

@friendscentralschool

Day, coed, nursery-grade 12

Enrollment: 880 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Friends' Central School is a college-preparatory Quaker school offering an outstanding independent school education to students in nursery through grade 12. Located on 41 acres across two campuses in Wynnewood, PA, Friends' Central cultivates the intellectual, spiritual and ethical promise of students. In every grade, students are encouraged to think for themselves and to find the courage to voice their opinions while understanding the importance of respectfully agreeing and disagreeing with one another in their quest for discovery. Graduates pursue their passions at top colleges and universities.



George School

Newtown, PA • georgeschool.org • 215-579-6547

Day & boarding, all-gender, grades 9–12

Enrollment: 540 | Accreditation: PAIS, MSA-CES

George School is grounded in the belief of the power of the individual within the community.

The George School experience is a collective effort to cultivate each student's highest ambitions: Faculty are empowered to be bold, creative and collaborative. Students are empowered to choose their own challenges: the IB diploma, IB courses, APs, adventurous opportunities for global study, artistic expression, athletic competition, service learning and more. The result: An education that gives students the freedom and the support to become their most authentic selves.

George School graduates have sharp minds, big hearts and a global consciousness. They're humble and hard-working, independent and purpose-driven, seriously joyful and joyfully serious and focused on making the world a little better every day.



Germantown Friends School

Philadelphia • germantownfriends.org • 215-951-2345

@germantownfriends

Day, coed, pre-K–grade 12

Enrollment: 1,140 | Accreditation: PAIS

Learning is for life. This idea is at the heart of GFS. They view early childhood to 12th grade as a chapter in a long learning adventure that's one of life's great foundations. They teach students that the world is theirs to experience, investigate, calculate, understand, create—and change.

A GFS education stands for grit and grace, ingenuity and integrity, collaborative muscle and the quest for justice. They honor silence and reflection, relish inquiry and analysis, and open themselves to the brilliant diversity of the world. These values lead the school to welcome new voices, test novel hypotheses, pursue new ideas and advocate for a humane, equitable future.

GFS gives students an exhilarating sense of freedom and a deep sense of responsibility. Teachers apply the best research and brightest ideas in and out of the classroom. Together, they find the courage to ask; they possess the conscience to act; and they heed the call to lead an awakened life.



Gladwyne Montessori

Gladwyne, PA • gladwyne.org • 610-649-1761

@gladwynemontess

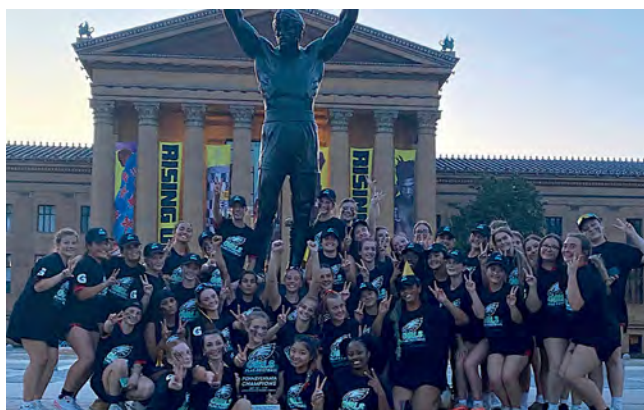
Day, coed, infants–grade 6

Enrollment: 240 | Accreditation: PAIS, AMS

At Gladwyne Montessori, focus is where real learning begins. They believe less distraction leads to more depth, and they are dedicated to helping children become independent, capable thinkers.

From infants through grade 6, their AMS-accredited program is one continuous journey built on a genuine love of learning. Small classes give each child the time to focus deeply, follow their curiosity and build genuine independence. Students graduate prepared: curious, self-directed and ready for whatever comes next.

See it for yourself—explore their website to learn more and plan a visit to their Main Line campus.



Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School

Lower Gwynedd, PA • gmahs.org • 215-646-8815

@gmahighschool

Day, girls, grades 9–12

Enrollment: 483 | Accreditation: PAIS

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School empowers young women to lead with confidence, compassion and purpose. Through distinctive programs such as Innovation & Inventions and Global Connections, students engage in immersive, real-world learning that fosters creativity, critical thinking and global awareness. Supported by dedicated college counselors throughout all four years, each student receives personalized guidance from enrollment through matriculation. Challenging academics, individualized support and a student-centered focus on wellness prepare graduates for success at leading colleges and universities. Award-winning athletics, arts, leadership and service opportunities inspire students to thrive and make a meaningful impact.



Holy Ghost Prep

Bensalem, PA • holyghostprep.org • 215-639-2102

@holyghostprep

Day, boys, grades 9–12

Enrollment: 473 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Holy Ghost Prep, founded by the Spiritans, is a private Catholic high school dedicated to educating college-bound young men. At Holy Ghost Prep, classes are small, so interaction is a given. Holy Ghost Prep offers truly unique signature programs—including four institutes (medical, engineering, business, and art), Spiritan immersion trips, a Leadership Externship Advantage Program (LEAP), and the Frederico Student Investment program. With a 9-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, faculty gets to know each student, as well as his hopes and dreams. All of the graduates go to college, so students leave Ghost perfectly equipped to make those dreams come true.



The Montessori School

Dresher, PA • DiscoverTMS.org • 484-872-2300

@themontessoripa

Day, coed, 18 months–grade 6

Enrollment: 110 | **Accreditation:** PAIS, AMS

The Montessori School in Dresher, PA, provides an authentic Montessori education for children ages 18 months through 6th grade. Fully accredited by the American Montessori Society (AMS) and PAIS, the school offers an individualized approach that inspires children to explore, discover and master concepts through carefully designed, hands-on Montessori materials. Students learn in multi-age classrooms with the guidance of highly trained Montessori educators, developing academically, socially and emotionally while building independence, critical thinking skills and a strong understanding of academic concepts. For more than 50 years, The Montessori School has empowered self-motivated learners to achieve academic excellence while becoming compassionate leaders, responsible stewards of the earth and ambassadors of peace.



The Philadelphia School

Philadelphia • tpschoool.org • 215-545-5323

Day, coed, preschool–grade 8

Enrollment: 445 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

The first day of school for TPS was over 50 years ago. Today, TPS remains a leader and whole-hearted champion for the preschool through 8th grade progressive education on which it was founded. TPS knows that when children and teachers are partners in their learning, this learning happens everywhere—in the city, in the country and in the classroom. Connecting lessons to the real world helps children connect the dots, understand how they fit into the big picture and learn how to advocate for themselves and others.

The Philadelphia School's progressive educational approach has deep thinking, innovation and agency as its guiding principles. Its interdisciplinary, theme-based approach provides the foundation for mastering academics and prepares students for the challenges they will face in the future. TPS graduates emerge as confident leaders with a true sense of self and confidence to take on what's next. TPS has always thought outside the classroom. It will be doing the same for the next 50 years.



Salesianum School

Wilmington, DE • salesianum.org • 302-654-2495

@salesianumschool

Day, boys, grades 9–12

Enrollment: 1,030 | **Accreditation:** MSA-CESS

For more than 120 years, Salesianum School has challenged young men to grow academically, spiritually and personally in a community rooted in the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. Whether through athletics, the arts, clubs, campus ministry, service or leadership, every student is encouraged to discover his passions, develop his God-given talents, make meaningful contributions to the school community and build friendships that last a lifetime. What sets Salesianum apart is its commitment to forming the whole person through a culture of genuine Brotherhood, where every young man is known, challenged and inspired to become the person God is calling him to be.



The Shipley School

Bryn Mawr, PA • shipleyschool.org • 610-525-4300
@shipleyschool

Day, coed, pre-K– grade 12

Enrollment: 698 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

At Shipley, you're more than a student. Through rigorous academics, exceptional opportunities in the arts and athletics, and a strong commitment to social-emotional learning, students develop the intellect, confidence and character to succeed in college, in their career and in life—while gaining the vision to make a lasting impact on their community and the world. Students are encouraged to explore, to grow and to define their own path, whether they are on the field, on a stage, in the lab or finding their voice in the classroom. Discover how Shipley shapes curious, compassionate and capable students.



Solebury School

New Hope, PA • solebury.org • 215-862-5261
@soleburyschool

Day + boarding, coed, grades 9-12

Enrollment: 255 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

At Solebury School, students benefit from a 6:1 student-to-teacher ratio and feel valued, supported and challenged to grow. Their population is 48% boarding and 52% day.

Solebury School combines strong college preparation with the flexibility to explore new interests. They offer more than 30 AP and Honors courses, 50+ arts electives, and offerings across STEM, humanities and world languages. Small class sizes let students build meaningful relationships with faculty who challenge their thinking and support their growth as independent learners.

The school is located on 140 acres in Bucks County—a countryside campus with a walking trail, gardens and greenery, only three miles from New Hope and convenient to Philadelphia and New York. Many classrooms open directly to the outdoors, extending learning into the landscape. A favorite spot is Mike's Cafe, a student-run coffee shop that teaches entrepreneurship. Each student's path to graduation is unique. Solebury students graduate prepared for college and ready to lead with confidence.





Springside Chestnut Hill Academy

Philadelphia • sch.org • 215-247-7007 • [@schacademy](https://twitter.com/schacademy)

Day, coed, 18 months–grade 12

Enrollment: 1,119 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (SCH Academy) is Philadelphia's largest independent school, offering a premier 18 months–12th grade college preparatory education on a historic, 62-acre campus. SCH's unique, proven educational model features single-sex classrooms in pre-K through 8th grade, capped by a fully coed experience in grades 9 through 12 to build confident, independent leaders. Grounded in a hands-on, applied knowledge-based curriculum, SCH encourages every student to “kindle their own fire” and pursue their unique passions. Innovative signature programs in entrepreneurial leadership, engineering, robotics and the arts challenge students to solve real-world problems, preparing thoughtful global citizens of integrity to effect positive change.



Villa Maria Academy High School

Malvern, PA • vmahs.org • 610-644-2551 • [@vmahs](https://twitter.com/vmahs)

Day, girls, grades 9–12

Enrollment: 405 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Villa Maria Academy High School is an independent Catholic college preparatory school founded by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, where motivated young women grow with intention and uplift others in a faith-filled and nurturing community. Located on 45 acres at the west end of the Main Line in Malvern, Villa Maria encourages students to build lives of purpose at a pivotal time in life through process-driven intellectual rigor, excellence in athletics and the arts, spiritual growth, and a commitment to service. The Villa community will *dare you to be extraordinary* in your own unique way.



Greene Towne Montessori School

Philadelphia • gtms.org • 215-563-6368 • @greentowne

Day, coed, toddler–grade 3

Enrollment: 167 | **Accreditation:** AMS, PAIS

Celebrating 60 years as the only accredited Montessori school in Center City. Thoughtfully prepared learning environments, dedicated teachers, mixed-age classrooms foster hands-on learning. Varied schedule options; Infant/toddler playgroups offered.

Woodlynde School

Strafford, PA • woodlynde.org • 610-293-6555

@woodlyndeschool

Day, coed, grades K–12

Enrollment: 165 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Discover Woodlynde School—where students who learn differently thrive! Located in Strafford, PA, Woodlynde is a coed, college-prep day school for grades K–12. Woodlynde offers a nurturing, evidence-based program tailored to students with language- or math-based learning differences, including Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia, as well as ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder Level 1, Executive Function Challenges and more. Students don't have to choose between academic support and participating in athletics, arts, clubs and activities. Here, learning differences never limit what students can experience, explore or achieve. Woodlynde also offers a post-graduate program and regional summer camp.



Hill Top Preparatory School

Bryn Mawr, PA • hilltopprep.org • 610-527-3230

@hilltopprepschool

Day/boarding, coed, grades 5–12

Enrollment: 90 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Hill Top Prep is a leader in educating neurodivergent students in grades 5–12. Through a strengths-based, supportive learning environment, students build the academic, executive functioning and social skills they need to thrive in school and beyond.



Holy Child School at Rosemont

**Rosemont, PA • holychildrosemont.org/visit
610-922-1010 • @holychildrosemont**

Day, coed, preschool–grade 8

Enrollment: 376 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

At Holy Child School at Rosemont, children become kind, confident leaders in a joyful, Catholic community. They provide students in preschool through grade 8 with an uplifting education and joyful opportunities to play, create and serve others.



Montgomery School

**Chester Springs, PA • montgomeryschool.org
610-827-7222 • @MontgomerySchool**

Day, coed, preschool–grade 8

Enrollment: 315 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

At Montgomery School, every child belongs. Strong relationships with teachers and classmates create the foundation for confident learning, meaningful connections and a deep sense of purpose. They believe a child's formative years shape who they become and make every moment count.



Moorestown Friends School

Moorestown, NJ • mfriends.org • 856-235-2900

Day, coed, preschool–grade 12

Enrollment: 600 | **Accreditation:** NJAIS, MSA-CESS

Moorestown Friends School graduates leave there as truly great kids, going places—not just distinguished by outstanding test scores or bound for colleges that impress, but defined by uncommon kindness, meaningful accomplishment and generous lives that speak.



Nazareth Academy High School

Philadelphia • nazarethacademyhs.org • 215-637-7676

Day, girls, grades 9–12

Enrollment: 370 | **Accreditation:** MSA-CESS

By embracing faith, family and education, Nazareth Academy High School, the only private, Catholic high school for girls in Philadelphia, challenges each student to attain her full potential academically, spiritually and personally.



Stratford Friends School

**Newtown Square, PA • stratfordfriends.org
610-355-9585 • @StratfordFriendsSchool**

Day, coed, grades K-11 (12th grade coming in 2027)

Enrollment: 80 | **Accreditation:** PAIS

Stratford Friends School, a Quaker school in Newtown Square, empowers neurodiverse students in grades K–Upper School through individualized academics, social-emotional support and integrated therapies that build confidence and leadership.



Villa Joseph Marie High School

Holland, PA • vjmhs.org • 215-357-8810 •

@villajosephmarie

Day, girls, grades 9-12

Enrollment: 300

Villa is forming young women who are known, challenged and inspired to become confident leaders rooted in faith.



Waldorf School of Philadelphia

**Philadelphia • phillywaldorf.com • 215-248-1662
@phillywaldorf**

Day, coed, preschool–grade 8

Enrollment: 218 | **Accreditation:** PAIS, MSA-CESS

The Waldorf School of Philadelphia provides the right learning experiences at the right time. The Waldorf approach uniquely supports the growth of preschool and kindergarten children, while creative, substantive interdisciplinary academics engage students in 1st through 8th grades.



Waldron Mercy Academy

Merion Station, PA • waldronmercy.org • 610-664-9847

Day, coed, preschool–8

Enrollment: 400 | **Accreditation:** MSA-CESS

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Waldron Mercy offers a diverse, faith community rooted in the gospel values of mercy and justice. Driven by deliberately smaller class sizes, individual attention and a culture of service and outreach, students grow into critical thinkers, mercy-minded leaders and confident public speakers.

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