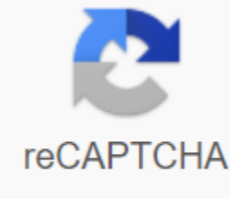




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## Brookneal elementary school

Without the benefit of tax dollars, private Christian elementary schools must look elsewhere for funding. Administrators of Christian primary schools can use grant funds to fill the void. Grant funds can pay for classroom materials, school facilities, sports programs, and other attributes of Christian education, and schools do not need to repay subsidies. Many non-profit organizations, businesses and private associations offer grants to Christian primary schools, and these schools can also apply for government grant funds. The National Catholic Education Association manages multiple grants designed for Christian elementary schools. The NCEA social justice Education grant provides up to \$750 for teachers at a Catholic primary school for social justice education. The Michael J. McGivney Memorial Fund's grant program provides \$12,000 to \$25,000 in grants to Christian schools for research-stimulating projects. Only schools in the United States and Canada are eligible for scholarships. In 2008, the fund awarded six grants totaling \$100,000. The Knights of Columbus founded the fund in 1980 in memory of its founder. Many nonprofits in the United States support regional Christian schools. The Lilly Endowment focuses on education in Indiana's Christian schools. The investiture provides grant funds to K-12 schools to strengthen institutions and their educational and research programs. Investiture also seeks to influence teachers by encouraging them and helping them to be more effective in the classroom. A ultimate objective of the investiture is to prepare the next generation of Christian pastors by promoting their education. Schools can obtain similar grants from the Bonner Foundation, which provides scholarships for Christian schools in central New Jersey, and from Christian Baptist ministries, which focuses on the greater New Orleans, La. area. The Asbury-Warren Foundation, founded by Josephine Warren Asbury, awards grants for educational and religious organizations in Appalachia. The average grant ranges from \$5,000 to \$15,000. The annual deadline for submitting your application is 31 July. Grant applications are examined and grants are awarded at the foundation's annual premium meeting. SunTrust Bank acts as the fund's trustee. Headquartered in Sarasota, Fla., the Immer Family Foundation supports religious and educational programs. The Foundation focuses on grants providing short-term funding for pilot projects, defined as projects limited to one or two years. In reviewing the The Committee on Grants is looking for applications which show convincing and verifiable exordria, a sense of urgency, credibility and the possibility of providing an example for similar projects in other schools. The foundation does not provide funding for land or buildings, until in special circumstances. The Foundation examines and approves grants twice and supports only non-profit schools. Headquartered in Illinois, this non-profit charity awards grants to educational institutions throughout the United States. DEW follows the principles of Christian teaching and favors schools that follow the same principles. DEW awards grants only to non-profit Christian schools. Therefore, a school must have 501(c)3 status to benefit from a grant from the DEW Foundation. Schools must submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) and a proposal to the DEW Foundation to receive consideration. The foundation accepts LOIs sent by e-mail, faxed or emailed. The Foundation restricts applicants on the basis of LOIs and asks those who are still under consideration to submit their proposals. The Eustace Foundation provides funding to religious and educational organizations affiliated to the Catholic Church. The foundation focuses its grant awards on the Northeast United States. Cabrini Asset Management, based in King of Prussia, Pa. acts as an administrator for the trust. Primary school teachers teach kindergarten until sixth grade. They teach children life skills, motor skills and social skills in a classy environment, as well as subjects including language arts, science, mathematics, art and history [source: bls]. This is what you will need to become an elementary school teacher: you need to enjoy the children, since you work with them all day, every day. A good way to see if teaching is for you is to work with children through volunteer activities. You need a creative and engaging personality to motivate your students to participate. You must obtain a bachelor's degree with a teacher training certificate or a Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) Elementary Teacher degree, to be qualified to teach elementary schools [source: education-portal]. As part of your university course, you will study or participate in the following: Pedagogical AdvertisementsActive Learning ActivitiesActive ActivitiesGroup ActivitiesWork of the Child Education ActionsThe children's literatureLeagynous philosophyEclic work [source: Education-Portal] Before you are able to teach primary school, you will have to meet the following requirements: Student teaching Your course work will include a certain number of hours required. This will help you gain experience in classes under the direct supervision of professional teachers [source: certificationmap]. Certification Most states require their teachers to be certified by the State Board of Education. The certification includes passing a test of the graduation counselor, the completion of a teacher training programme and the completion of the teaching of supervised practice (i.e. student teaching) [source: certification map]. Continuing training Although this is not necessary, it is recommended to take additional courses to continue your professional development. You can also to obtain a master's degree to gain more knowledge in curriculum development, childcare administration and children's health and safety [source: Education-Portal]. Of course, this would give you a professional advantage. National certification Although this is not mandatory, it is recommended to be certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This will involve taking courses in areas such as understanding young children and promoting children's development and learning [source: nbpts]. Paying for private primary school education places a substantial burden on families, especially when one considers that the corresponding public education is essentially free of charge. However, many parents believe that a solid private education for their children is worth the expense, giving students the artistic, religious, or personal attention they may not find elsewhere. Tweet this! Discover the best private elementary schools! The schools on this list each have their own particular appeal. A reasonable line can be the crucial consideration for some parents (the annual classes on this list range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per year). Small class sizes and personalized attention can be crucial for others. Some families seek academic distinction, or a way to escape bullying, specialized education within a certain field, or a place where their children will be appreciated and encouraged. The classification criteria include the following: Schools must have at least three of the six grades (first to sixth grades) which are traditionally classified as grades of elementary level. They must pass nearby public schools in course selections and success. They must have a reputation for producing students who are well prepared to take the next steps in their education. Even if they are organized as businesses, schools must have a reputation for treating families with fairness and compassion. They actively seek to treat parents as partners in the educational process. They openly and regularly celebrate students and their achievements. In determining whether and the degree to which these criteria were met, we did extensive research on these schools, which included research and review evaluation of parents and students. Finally, we have decided to give a premium to geographical diversity in the selection of schools. Rather than focusing on some high-density population centres with a large concentration of private schools, we felt it was important for all regions of the country to be represented. So here's our list of the best private elementary schools in all of America. AR) On a 26-acre campus with an amphitheater, certified natural habitat, trails, and outdoor classrooms, kindergarten children through the eighth grade enjoy a diverse STEAM curriculum (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). Grade students from one to eight each access to the computer. In kindergarten and preschool, young students have a dedicated indoor gymnasium, and physical education begins at the age of three. There are four playgrounds and four school buildings. The New School has over 350 students, 52 part-time teachers, and 63 full-time teachers. Founded in 1971, the school is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of Central States, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association, and the Arkansas Better Beginnings: 3-Star. The lower school consists of first and fourth graders and technology is integrated at every stage of learning. Students are grouped by literacy and math training based on skills, so that all students can succeed and advance to their full potential. Students receive standardized tests to measure learning, and their scores exceed student scores at regional and national levels. Students have an in-depth study of vocabulary, phonetics and spelling, as well as frequent evaluation of reading ability with developmental reading evaluation. Math students are encouraged through innovative education to develop critical and creative thinking skills. Students learn problem solving strategies, and teachers use manipulators and visual models to engage students with hands-on learning activities to give students an insight into how math applies to everyday life. Students also learn social studies and science. Community service projects are integrated into the social studies programme in which students learn economics and geography, as well as history and civics. Science teachers provide projects for students that will ignite an interest in science. All students from kindergarten to eighth grade attend art classes. Art is strongly integrated into the curriculum, as is technology. All kindergarten students up to fourth grade have personal iPads, while students in grades five to seven receive a MacBook Air to use for their classes. Students also have the opportunity to participate in choir, Lego robotics, science clubs, theater clubs and private lessons in guitar, violin and/or piano music, as well as many other enrichment activities. (Lexington, KY) The school starts at Lexington School with kindergarten and passes through the eighth grade, with nearly 600 students being 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 Central. The student-teacher ratio is about seven to one. Sports offered at LS include archery, final frisbee, lacrosse, football, tennis, cheering, and several other athletic activities. Students have eight extra-curricular classes to choose from: Girls on the Run, chess, intramural, math, Chinese accounts, applied music classes, speech and debate, and Scout. Le Le it is vertically aligned for each degree with fearless writing, science, integrated technology, English, the Open Court reading program, social studies and daily mathematics. Intramurals are available in golf, yoga, theater, dance, lacrosse, hockey, cooking, and several academic offerings. In first and third grade, students learn art, computers, PE, music and Spanish in classrooms specially designed for these subjects. In academics, students advance at their own pace, developing their basic skills before moving on to fourth and fifth grade where students undertake a deeper study of science. They study mathematics with a math specialist. English and social studies are strictly planned with other courses. All these efforts help students move from elementary to middle school. Fourth and fifth grade students are given lockers. They are encouraged to keep up with their tasks and learn more independently. Fourth-graders deliver snacks for each lower grade class, and fifth-graders lead the recycling program for the school. The Lexington School uses mission skills assessment to measure the character traits of resilience, ethics, creativity, curiosity, time management, and teamwork, giving the school a way to measure how well students are assimilating these skills. Students can hike through a creek to help them understand the dynamics of that ecosystem. If students have difficulties with the language, they are offered an alternative to regular class at the Learning Center, where the student-teacher ratio is much lower. Multisensory approaches help students with math difficulties. Science and social studies in the Learning Center are taught with projects that students can accomplish using their own hands. Computer skills help students become independent students, and their special interests are studied through talent classes, which students can choose. (Winston-Salem, NC) In January 2014, Forsyth Family Magazine reported that 60 percent of Forsyth County Day School students in grades four to seven qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) because they ranked in the top five percent in national Education Records Bureau tests. Students who started at FCDS during or before the first grade were twice as likely to qualify for the TIP program than those who enrolled once they were older. Duke University actively searches for academically gifted students in the school to help fund their education. Many parents worry about college admission when their children are in high school. It would seem that early childhood education is as important as higher school education, and this is certainly the approach that The Forsyth County Day School takes. Adopts. 2014, started a new curriculum called Our Path to Excellence and will follow that with even more innovative programs in the next school year. FCDS offers a year-round program for two- to four-year-olds, called the Early Advantage Program, which will prepare students for grades to come. During this time children are given knowledge that will serve as a basis for the future in mathematics, writing, communication, literacy and phonemic awareness. Kindergarten is part of the lower school. Kindergarten up to the fourth grade includes the rest of the lower school where students study the main subjects, but also the languages of the world, the arts, physical education, science and social studies. Lower school students interact with middle and high school students so they learn from other groups in a community atmosphere. Lower school students take several trips a year to places like the Carolina Raptor Center, the All-a-Flutter Butterfly Farm in High Point, the North Carolina Zoo, several museums, greensboro science center, and other educational centers of interest. There are also several after-school enrichment programs such as ballet, tap, soccer, and ukulele class, by name, but few. Private music lessons are offered on different types of instruments. In the spring, the Community School of the Arts puts lower school students at stake. Middle school consists of five to eight degrees, where students are taught skills and offered a wider variety 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 Colleges and Schools, and the National Institute of Learning Development. RBCA starts with a preschool program and goes through the twelfth grade. Over the past 10 years, 90 percent of RBCA graduates have been eligible for the Florida Bright Futures scholarship, and graduates earn millions of dollars in scholarships each year. The school has a special services program for students aged three to seven who have developmental delays, or who have basic academic skills needs, with interventions designed to help each student succeed. Kindergarten students learn to read and phonemes, short and long vowels, silent vowels and ditting are taught. They are taught to count money, say time, and the basis of addition and subtraction, as well as counting at 100. The Talent Development Program focuses its efforts on students in the degrees to be to six, giving individual attention to students. The Victors class exists for the benefits of students with cognitive difficulties to develop their academic and life skills. Therapy services offers children Unique learning challenges assistance to help them navigate through school. In addition, RBCA uses the National Institute for Learning Development Model, which includes a research and teaching program, Discovery Educational Therapy, Group Educational Therapy, Prescription for Reading, Speech and Language Therapy, and Testing Services. All these programs offer interventions for students who have difficulty processing information, academic skills and language acquisition. A second campus in Destin serves grades K through sixth grade with a high-performance program with advanced technology in each class. The student-teacher ratio is about eight to one. Students in the talent development class who may have differences in how they learn have the opportunity for advanced placement. Students are taught foreign languages, music, art, computers, and can also participate in the Ukulele Club. The elementary curriculum includes Singapore Math and student Technology Program is managed through a partnership with Boston University and the University of Richmond. Students take a standardized test of results in the spring, whose scores are used to monitor the success of student learning. (New York, NY) Brearley School makes the distinction as one of the oldest schools in the country. The school was founded in 1884 and remains an all-girl university preparatory school, teaching about 700 students, kindergarten through twelfth grade. The lower school has about 250 students and includes kindergarten through fourth grade. Middle school has just over 200 students and includes from fifth to eighth grade. The fundamental values for lower school are responsibility, respect, honesty, preparation and kindness. Students are encouraged to behave with dignity and act with integrity in order to create a cohesive community of students. The home room is the basis of all learning, but as students become more responsible, they receive more privileges and responsibilities. There's an assembly every week where girls stylus, act and set to music. There are also guest speakers on a wide range of topics, from the care of saved wildlife to the history of jazz. For fourth grade students they will be well trained in the management of fractions, decimals and percentages. They will write multi-paragraph documents and commit to 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 the anatomical structures of animals and phases of the moon. Students will learn mandarin and rote through several art courses, including ceramics and ceramics. They learn carpentry, music and and physical education and service learning. In other words, Brearley's students have a robust resume. The lower school tries to develop character in all its students to be a basis for their behavior in middle and upper grades, and for life. Students are taught to respect the thoughts and work of others, returning to the community also through service projects. Students discuss peer conflicts in discussions arising from academic activities in lower school. Lower school students are offered gymnastics and football programs after school. Football after school does not start for students until the second grade, but gymnastics is open to all girls in lower school. Brearley also collaborates with the Chapin School to offer the LS Clubhouse after school for grades K to 6, where students engage in a variety of physical, intellectual and artistic activities. (Schererville, IN) Children from middle school to eighth grade attend Forest Ridge Academy. Junior kindergarten uses different active learning experiences where they interact with classmates, people, events, and hands-on learning centers. Teachers publish the program of the day in writing and with symbols so that children are encouraged to read. Children have the opportunity to make choices about what they do and participate in problem-solving activities. Children are encouraged to describe in words the things they are experiencing. They are taught the alphabet, words of sight, and begin reading skills through a sound program. Mathematical concepts are taught through the use of manipulative objects, and students are taught to recite and write their numbers, as well as counting from five to tens. They also attend courses in physical education, music, art, Spanish, computer, sign language, woodworking and science. Science includes walks on natural trails, field trips, and age-appropriate experiments. The kindergarten program has a complex program of reading, writing, spelling, mathematics, social studies and science. Science uses experiments with magnets, light and sound, as well as the different stages of butterflies and ladybirds. Students also attend the same special classes as junior kindergarten students, including sign language and music. Once students enter first grade, they are taught using whole brain teaching. They learn about science through an interactive garden in class and learn to read different types of media such as articles and poems. Students are taught tolerance for diversity, drawing, music production, painting and of stories and essays up to five paragraphs long. Students can make exciting field trips to the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as many other places. Second-graders go to the Chicago Field Museum and participate in a scavenger hunt. They also visit pawnee earth lodge and learn about the life of the Pawnee nation. Every two years, years, return there for a one-night trip together with the third-graders and their parents. Third- and fourth-graders set out on an overnight trip to the Indiana Dunes to learn about nature and explore the diverse ecosystems found in the Dunes. Fifth-graders go to medieval Times Restaurant, take a trip to Camp Tecumseh, and head to chicago's Field Museum when they study Egypt, so they can see the Egyptian exhibition. At the end of the year, they go to Space Camp where they experience many fun activities that simulate walking at near zero gravity and what it means to fly in a spacecraft. (Jackson, WY) Journeys School offers kindergarten education until 12th grade. Currently, Journeys is a day school, although boarding is considered as an option for the future. There's also a long-standing home stay program for international students. Elementary students are immersed in a seven-course program that includes the usual academic courses, as well as Spanish and fine arts. The curriculum adheres to national standards known as Common Core. Students are assigned to math and language arts courses based on each student's skills and social and emotional development so they can learn, receive help, and accelerate at their own pace. Giving children a solid foundation in both reading and writing, the literacy curriculum uses multiple renowned and proven reading and writing programs. Students have reading and writing workshops every day and are educated in skills that will make them strong readers and writers. Mathematics is taught with fewer topics that are delivered in a more intense method using Math in Focus: The Singapore Approach. Science is taught using all scientific disciplines, including technology, to train students to think like scientists through a method of investigation so that students learn to ask questions and design their own experiments. The lessons take place both inside and outside. Social studies classes emphasize citizenship and community. All classes are taught in such a way that students can make real-world applications. In addition to visual arts, elementary students also have music or theater classes twice a week. Elementary school students give public musical and dramatic performances. Students study the type of sounds







success in their lives. The school is accredited by the Association of Independent Schools of the Central States. Each school year starts with a sponsored parent group Back-to-School Picnic and Fall Fling which is an outdoor game and a day of activity. After Fall Fling is an evening for parents who want to contribute to the school through the 100 Club, which is a social where each couple donates \$100. Later in the first semester, elementary school students have Muffin with mom in one day and Donuts with dad on another day, where the student arrives to have breakfast with his parents. In the spring, elementary teachers run Camp UHA, and each class chooses a theme and pursues activities in order to learn more about it. The goal of elementary grades is for students to develop socially, intellectually, spiritually and physically. Teachers host different learning styles and learning difficulties Students are guided through creative projects in theatre, music and art. They are also given free play time, as well as structured physical education courses. Elementary school students take field trips and teachers always introduce experiences to help students learn. The lower school also has a Spanish teacher. Grades five and below participate in the Governor's Cup, a state competition with a district and regional competition. There are eight divisions, and UHA elementary students participate in seven: On-Demand Writing, written tests in science, English, math, social studies, and the arts/humanities, and a section called Quick Recall. The school is accredited by the Independent School Association of Central States. It has produced 12 finalists for national merit scholarships, and 99 percent of graduates go to college. Each degree is required to read books of their choice during the summer and prepare book reports on those books. Teaching is very reasonable compared to other private schools and parents have the option to purchase tuition fee reimbursement insurance in case the student cannot complete a deadline for which the parent has paid tuition fees. (New York, NY) The Studio School was founded in 1971 and teaches preschool students up to the eighth grade. The lessons are taught by an interdisciplinary approach, promoting critical thinking skills in which students are challenged to solve problems creatively. The Studio School approach uses knowledge of child development and how children learn to create a resume that is designed to promote the child's natural intelligence, while also developing his creativity. Students are taught to be original 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 children of other ages within an interval of two years with no more than 16 students in a class. All classes up to the second grade have a teacher and an assistant teacher. The environment of all classes is such that students are respected and instructed to respect each other. Character is taught as one of the most important attributes of each person, as well as individual integrity. Students are not required to learn in one way, so each child's educational plan is customized so that students learn to respect themselves, as well as others. Students are encouraged to create a network application with what they are learning with who they are. The academic program is strong to prepare children for the future. The school is divided into three parts: kindergarten, primary school and middle school. Primary school comprises first to fourth grade, while secondary school comprises from fifth to eighth grade. Elementary school students foreign languages, writing, scientific investigation, reading, geography, history, art, physical education and social sciences. They are encouraged to think about what they learn and to think and question things, coming to logical conclusions that are well thought out. There are about 115 students enrolled in the school. The student-teacher student-a-teacher depending on the age of the child. The program used is called Inscape. As part of the curriculum, students meet with teachers and other staff members to discuss what the day contains, as well as thoughts and concerns. Students learn to be both speakers and listeners. This is a way in which a feeling of community and mutual respect develops. On Friday afternoons, there is a gathering where a different aspect of their studies is highlighted. Students work together or share what they have already accomplished in one of their classes. At least once a month students share their artwork or poems with the rest of the school. (Lynnwood, WA) The year 2015 will take Brighton School to a new campus in Mountlake Terrace that will be larger and will have more facilities to serve 400 students in pre-kindergarten grades until the eighth, where students will have significant experience in stem, arts and athletics curriculum. The new campus will be like a park, but will have a separate kindergarten side and special facilities for music, art, and science labs, as well as a multimedia center, an engineering/innovation lab, a multipurpose hall, several playgrounds, and an athletic practice camp. Brighton started in 1982 and has consistently provided a safe environment where students will be provided with a solid academic base and education in a community atmosphere where all results are celebrated and students will confer to help the community at large through service projects. In addition to academics and service projects, students are exposed to other areas to develop the entire child, and not just the mind. All elementary school students take theater, Spanish, art, PE, music, engineering and technology. Middle school students are offered electives in painting, creative writing, robotics, drama, cooking, computer programming, and website design. Third-grade students have the opportunity to visit Mount St. Helena on a three-day expedition that includes learning about the geology of volcanoes. In addition, students go on trips inside the camp, hike, and explore the Ape caves. Fourth graders visit the Olympic Park Institute and Nature Bridge to study science at the International Biosphere Reserve. Fifth-graders go to Camp Seymour on Puget Sound and learn about the area's wildlife, as well as marine ecosystems. In addition, they camp, hike and go canoeing. Sixth-graders go to Camp Orkila for five days in orcas where they learn leadership skills and go through many physical challenges. Eighth-grade students make a 10-day trip where they make stops in Washington, DC, Virginia, and New York as the finale for history/government classes. In addition to visiting historical sites that have studied in class, students can see the nation's capital. After school there are clubs, activities and camps for students to seek enrichment, fun and school help. This includes a six-week ski school. (Midland, TX) Kindergarten through sixth-graders is educated at Hillander School where teachers and staff strive to instill positive habits, both personal and school, in all students, as well as self-esteem. The curriculum follows the method first established by Mae Carden in 1934. It is a progressive system that builds knowledge in every matter that is needed before advancing to the next 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. Phonetics is also taught so that reading and spelling become a second nature. Once students enter second grade, they are exposed to the more complex rules of phonetics and grammar. Students read the classics and develop writing skills every year so that when they are in first grade, many of them are marking on the level of a high school student when given standardized tests. Students analyze words based on the combination of letter sounds and learn to choose the keyword in each sentence. In the end, students learn to summarize sentences, paragraphs, and chapters from a book. Students also receive lessons to improve their vocabulary and an understanding of grammar. The goal is to increase students' understanding and students' desire to read independently. The goal is to make students self-sufficient and confident readers. Mathematics is also progressive, with new concepts introduced each year after reviewing and reinforcing what students have already learned. In first grade, students are in pre-algebra. Foreign language education begins in kindergarten and is taught every year. Science starts in the third grade and computer technology in fourth grade. Students start science in the third grade and in fourth grade they start taking computer literacy classes. Students in grades two to five go on a maximum of two field trips per year. First-graders don't go on a trip; rather, guest speakers come to the school to address them. Sixth-graders go on a maximum of five trips a year, without including visits to a middle school that the student is considering for his future. Field trips can't be longer than half a day. All students return before the end of the school day. The school educates almost 300 students and employs 20 full-time teachers. Classes have no more than 21 students. In the fourth grade, students begin to leave their home class and teacher to attend specialized courses. (Charleston, SC) Although Cooper School is a fairly young school (founded in 2007), it has been successful in educating its 75 students with nine teachers. Students study French, Spanish and Mandarin when they start school. By the fourth quarter students can choose which language they want to study further. They range from singing songs, having conversations, and learning about culture, reading, writing and dialogue. All students take a foreign language and are exposed to it through their social studies class as well. When they don't study their foreign language in social studies, they're learning about the world through maps, world cultures, and artifacts from older cultures, so that when they're in high school grades, they're learning about the government and history of their language group, and how social studies are connected to the real world. All students also study music, theatre and visual arts. In the lower grades, students learn about colors, shapes, and lines, with classes often tied to their academic classes. Early elementary school students move and learn rhythm and movement, which gives them the basis for understanding how dance is related to music. In elementary school, students learn about different instruments and classical music. High school students learn to play ukulele and compose 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 board. In addition to PE, students have their outdoor break twice a day. The development of the character of the child is an important part of the education of each child; therefore, students learn to control their emotions, establish positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and learn to resolve conflicts appropriately and peacefully. In addition, students are educated in language arts, mathematics and science. Teachers work together to keep the curriculum challenging, but not impossible. Students take common core-based benchmark tests. The school publishes on its website what students are learning weekly, so that parents always have access to the curriculum. Education is not limited to the classroom, and students can find themselves outdoors, conducting experiments in science, or within honey tasting, after studying a unit on bees. Students learn the characteristics of different literary genres, and in the third grade students write their own fairy tales. Each class reads a lot and many lessons focus on reading. Field trips are used for further classroom lessons. The second grader, for example, visits the Conservatory of Birds of prey after studying a bird unit, and creates his own presentations on several birds. (Washington, D.C.) Serving the school through eighth-grade students, Capitol Hill Day School is accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools. Founded in 1968, the school has an enrollment of about 225 students, with a student-teacher ratio of seven to one. One before kindergarten until fifth grade, there are two lead teachers. Students come from Maryland, Virginia and the Washington area. The school provides university assistance for 27% of its students. CHDS offers over 300 field trips per year and subjects are cross-curricular, based on themes and concepts. Children start learning French or Spanish during kindergarten, and each class works on a parent-led community service project. After-season students can participate in interschool sports, receive tutoring, or take a variety of classes related to interests in chess, yoga, baseball, soccer, Tae Kwon Do, and/or music lessons. Bus transportation is available for some areas. The elementary curriculum is project-based so that students learn by doing rather than sitting in class after class and taking notes. Projects are collaborative, and in grades two to five the curriculum emphasizes critical thinking creatively so that students can learn to solve problems and develop curiosity about what they're studying. Social education 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 education begins with first-graders, but from fourth- and fifth-graders they're analyzing what they read for literary elements like theme, plot, and setting. Students also begin to write formally in elementary school. Mathematics is taught as a language, and teachers show students numerical relationships in models and try to teach them how to solve problems creatively. Second and fifth grade students study a theme in an integrated curriculum of history, literature, science, mathematics, art, music, and modern language. (Durham/Chapel Hill, NC) Founded in 1995, Sandra E. Lerner Jewish Community Day School in Durham/Chapel Hill has about 130 matana schools through fifth-graders and 33 teachers and staff members. There are four preschool classrooms and nine elementary classrooms. In addition, the wooded property has a greenhouse, the Gardens of Friendship, an outdoor classroom and plant beds. Classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art technologies such as SmartBoards, computers, computer carts and AlphaSmarts. There are three large playgrounds, track and soccer fields, basketball courts, and climbing platforms. Kindergarten begins at the age of two. The Lerner School is open to children in the Jewish community whose parents embrace the school's mission. In addition to the basic lessons, Lerner teaches Hebrew, EP, music, art and Jewish studies through a curriculum based on values. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Students can stay for afterschool after high school yearbook courses, sports, crafts, homework club, music, art, free play and many other learning activities and experiences. Starting in fourth grade, students can join the band. Children from second to fifth grade can sing in the choir. International students make up about 25% of the student population and students come from Durham, Orange and Wake counties. The school pays individual attention to students in a collaborative learning environment. Students create and present projects such as self-written and produced plays, persuasive presentations, and impromptu discourses, which help build self-confidence. To ensure that all students are in training, Gates MacGintie's assessment is administered to grades one and two, and the Educational Records Bureau tests students in grades three to five. Student field trips include the Morehead Planetarium, Nasher Museum, Carolina Tiger Rescue, Duke Homestead, and Triangle Training Center. Fifth-graders go on a three-day trip to Washington, D.C. It is the Lerner 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 all. It is Lerner's hope that all students will learn to become socially responsible and to address problem solving through ethical thinking. Most of the students come from the County Durham area; however, there are students from both Orange and Wake counties, as well. Most students don't have dietary limits, but there are students who are strictly kosher and those who are vegetarian. Each year the school has special events that include a book fair, a Chanukkah program, Poetry in Bloom, a 5K run, community family programs like picnics, dinner and Durham Bulls games, and a Lerner Carnival, as well as many others that help build a sense of community among staff, students, and parents. (Overland Park, KS) Brookridge is unique in educating only children from the age of two and a half to third grade. It scores in the top five percent of the state in reading and math. The school's commitment to quality education for first grades stems from its belief that sound early education is vital to a student's learning base and certain that students leave school with the life skills they need to succeed as they advance through higher grades. All teachers have degrees in primary education or early childhood education. Some of the teachers are alumni and there is a very low turnover rate of teachers Bds. Students learn to write with a program called Handwriting without tears. Students also practice the ability to speak and listen every day. In addition, they learn Spanish, art, physical education and music. Children Children special programs designed to help them grow physically and emotionally. Students who go to eighth grade through third grade have a program with a strong emphasis on math and reading. All subjects emphasize reading and writing, as well as listening and speaking skills in public. The math program offers students real applications and focuses on eight math practices. Students take an active part in technology-based lessons and learn about different types of software so that they have a very functional knowledge of computer skills. Lunch and a snack are included in the cost of the lessons. Before and after school, assistance is provided for parents who have to leave early for work or leave work late. The program is run by certified teachers, as well as qualified help, so that students receive a high quality of care both during, before, or after school. Teachers also contribute to a blog that covers a wide range of topics for the benefit of parents. The school publishes a newsletter every month, even in summer. (Seattle, WA) Tilden works for about 104 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and is a Washington State Approved School. Students are taught listening skills and being respectful to others who speak and express their thoughts. All votes have the opportunity to work and play together. Students go on various field trips throughout the year. The kindergarten curriculum combines play and work, usually with a theme that brings together different subjects. The first grade focuses on the development of social and academic skills. Students have the opportunity to discuss topics in groups and solve problems in various ways. Reading is further emphasized in the second and third grades, as well as following the directions and meeting deadlines. The goal is for students to tie to fourth grade or higher level by the end of the third grade. Other subjects are studied in more detail. Fourth and fifth graders are not considered primary students, but intermediate students who focus on increasing basic skills and integrating the various subjects. Students have the opportunity to try various artistic and craft skills with a variety of media throughout their time in Tilden. The technical side of art is also taught to students, so that they develop artistic skills and learn to appreciate different artistic works. The introduction to music prepares students to be in bands, orchestras and choirs. Students learn the rhythm, movement and reading of music so that they can perform in and talent shows. Drama is also taught through a variety of dramatic media such as puppet games, skits, party celebrations, and many more. Physical education focuses on fitness, as well as active play, in pursuit of acquiring skills such as hand/eye coordination. All students are able to participate regardless of their skill level or ability. Learning Spanish starts in kindergarten and continues every year. The goal is to keep the speech in the classroom at 85-90 percent Spanish. Primary school students have a great ability to acquire the language through speaking and hearing; the Spanish curriculum takes advantage of this natural ability, so that when students leave Tilden their oral fluidity in Spanish will be profound. In technology, intermediate students have advanced to the point that they are using online search tools. They are given access to seattle's public library online, as well as subscription databases. Students are also taught about plagiarism and the correct way to cite sources. (Laguna Beach, CA) ASWC students start learning foreign languages in kindergarten. From kindergarten until the sixth grade, students receive formal lessons in both Spanish and German. Many courses are held bilingually and all teachers are encouraged to incorporate foreign languages into their lessons. Formal lesson teachers are native speakers and students use textbooks obtained in Europe. Reading, writing, songs, games, art and dialogue are all used to teach the foreign language. Anneliese schools use California teaching standards, but often exceed those standards, giving students a solid academic basis. Behavioral and academic requirements are strict, but thought and creative play are also encouraged. The focus of an ascv education is the nine components of intellectual thought that includes social, artistic and musical elements. The arts can start children's creativity in thought and practice, expanding their ability to solve problems and think analytically. As part of their education, students go on mandatory field trips that are used as part of the curriculum and learning. Field trips are an important element in connecting classroom learning to real-world experiences. Students also learn outdoors in the school garden where students learn about biology and life cycles, as well as other interdisciplinary lessons in mathematics, art, history, culture, and language. Students have theater classes, as well, that start with storytelling and proceed to class and play-writing shows. In addition, students have physical education and crafts classes, as well as formal courses in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. To help build the community, students start with The Circle, where school values are taught and conflicts are resolved. The Circle is conducted with older age groups. The after-school program the school day and ends with The Circle. The dopos school program has many enrichment activities and subjects such as theatre, crafts, cooking and sports, for just a few. Students are allowed to choose the enrichment class that is of greatest interest to them. They are also time for free play, which is an important part of the child's day. The Willowbrook campus has nearly 400 students, from kindergarten to sixth grade, and 20 teachers. (Cedar Rapids, IA) There are three programs at Summit Schools: the preschool program, the start program (which includes the first and second graders), and the intermediate program (which includes the third, fourth, and fifth graders). All students are taught to think critically and ask questions through a curriculum that includes the main classes, as well as technology, art, foreign language, and music. Students are taught strategies to help them help themselves in their development as lifelong students. Parents work with teachers to create individual student growth plans so that all students can learn at their own pace. All learning is multisensor. Preschool and kindergarten students have their own school garden and have the opportunity to share their favorite books and build things. The program is designed to help students grow emotionally, physically and socially. The learning of first and second grade students involves parents and educational communities. Higher grades develop their creative problem-solving skills as they increase the complexity of their academic studies. In the summer, new preschool students (ages three to five) can sign up for a half-day to get a jump in learning that's critical to language, science, and math. Students will have a variety of learning centers to experiment with and will be exposed to a sound program to help establish the alphabet in their mind as the basis for reading. First- and sixth-graders have summer camps that help close the gap in academic areas such as reading, writing, and math. A mentoring program designs personalized learning plans for students who need assistance for individual or small group tutoring. Tutoring is offered in reading, spelling, writing, mathematics, algebra, geometry and Spanish, as well as in study skills. Students can also receive mentoring help with homework. While tutoring sessions usually take place Monday through Friday (between eight in the morning and seven at night), a few Saturday sessions are available. In addition, an award-winning online program called Dreambox is available to students to improve math skills. Financial aid is available for students in kindergarten up to fifth grade. (Raleigh, NC) Thales is a kindergarten through the 9th grade school with over 530 students. The in kindergarten up to fifth grade they receive direct education, while students in grades six to 12 are taught through a classical curriculum and socratic discussion. Multi-student discounts are offered for families who have more than one child attending school, and the school has a low, flat-rate fee, at no extra cost or fundraiser. Students in K-7 grades are tested using the Iowa Test of Basic Basic and constantly out-perform 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. K-8 students use community iPads and Apple TVs. Students are educated by a classical curriculum that helps them develop into critical thinkers. Direct education for lower school includes grouping students by skill sets, choral response, and rapid pace. Students have access to iPads in the classroom, and there's also a computer lab. Students are offered a variety of electives, including bands and public speaking, and clubs such as the Science Olympiad and Robotics. In fifth grade, students in mathematics will add and subtract fractions, graphs, identifying models and initial geometry learning, basic algebraic equations, and how to use money with the Saxon math program. In reading they will be able to identify different genres, read independently, identify meaning using context clues, analyze characters in stories, write, make predictions and learn to outline. In science they will learn erosion, food chains, the human body, celestial bodies, electromagnetism and lenses. In social studies they will learn about the Renaissance, the geography of the United States, the lakes of the world, ancient Indian cultures, the Civil War, the Reformation, the westward expansion, the beginning of Russia and Japan. In the language arts, English shurley, 6/1 writing strokes, thought maps, and Write from the Beginning programs are used. They will also learn the parts of language, figurative language, prose and poetry, writing process, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary development. (Madison, WI) At Madison Waldorf School, early childhood students are taught to express themselves creatively and artistically, while keeping in touch with the natural world. They engage in an imaginative game, both inside and outside. Teaching students gardening, cooking, washing and cleaning allows them to understand the role of cooperation in life. Students engage in singing and sharing during the time of the circle and students are constantly exposed to the arts through the vision of puppet shows, sculptures, music, drawing and watercolor. Many of these activities help students develop motor skills. Students are put in a mixed age environment to improve learning and spend a significant amount of time in the natural world every day. Primary school students are to develop skills of critical thinking, artistic expression, athletic ability and good reasoning with which they will come to strong conclusions. Students learn painting, drama, movement, and other courses typically seen as elective so that students will have the foundations on which they can build a university preparatory education. Students don't use traditional traditional textbooks to learn, but create a record of their work with an annual portfolio full of their best work. It is through this portfolio that educators decide in which group a student should be placed. Children are placed in their classes based on age, but in second grade, students start attending mixed classes, so second and third are together. Students stay with their group throughout kindergarten until the eighth grade. Students do not develop a work ethic by receiving grades, but by learning responsibility for their work. Students have a program to adhere to, in which the teacher takes students through teacher-led and age-appropriate activities. The children are together with a group for the first time through eighth grade education and learn to be part of a team, to take care of others and to take responsibility for the work of the group. Good working habits develop in every child through the development of a sense of responsibility for their work. There is a teacher for each grade who teaches the main classes in the morning. Some teachers may also teach specialty courses such as painting, woodworking, German, sculpture, or ceramics. In summer, the school offers two four-week camps each, where students can do pottery, kayak, swim, garden, or exercise through a yoga program. (Boulder, CO) Kindergarten through fifth-grade students attends this secular school started by parents with an enrollment of nearly 180 students. Created with the aim of educating the whole child and reverencing the child for what it is, the School of Friends teaches in small, collaborative, multi-age classes in which students are taught to respect themselves and others. Each child receives a personalized education that keeps students to a strict academic standard, 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. Elementary classes focus on academics, but promote creative and critical thinking skills, while teaching students to develop real-world solutions in an ethically responsible way. Students work individually, in groups or as an entire class to solve problems that will help them understand the subjects they are learning. Teachers use technology, projects in art and theater, guest speakers, and field trips to improve the classroom experience. In addition to basic academic classes, students are also taught by in Spanish, music, PE, art, technology and library. Children are taught to be established writers and avid readers, with a solid foundation in mathematical skills. Students leave Friends' School knowing how to communicate effectively and appropriately and to be independent thinkers. In addition to the main classes and specialist classes, Friends Friends teaches a social and emotional curriculum. Start with teachers visiting the homes of all new students in their classrooms so that the bond between the child and the teacher can begin even before that child walk through the school doors. When students come to school, they start and end every day with the time of the circle, where students can share compliments or conc practical conflict resolution and role-playing, or share something about themselves with the group. As part of the social/emotional curriculum, students participate in community service projects that are often formulated by the students themselves, based on their interests and concerns. As students worry about their world, they raise money for human society and to raise awareness about pollution and garbage in the ocean and how it affects the ecosystem. (Durham, NC) Integrity and respect are part of the education that all students are required to assimilate. In addition, students are required to learn the value of kindness and empathy. For themselves, they learn to be proud of their achievements and celebrate the successes of others. The school is kept small so that a sense of community will exist within this transitional kindergarten (TK) through eighth grade school. Within this framework, all students have the opportunity to drive, as well as the opportunity to serve. Because the school fosters a community atmosphere, kindergarten children regularly interact with high school students in the hallways. The school was founded in 1991 and has an average class size of 15, with a student-teacher ratio of seven to one. 22% of students receive financial support and the school has one class per grade for lower school students with a total enrollment of 200. He is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Southern Association of Independent Schools, and is a member of the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools, the National Association of Independent Schools, and the Educational Records Bureau. The school is located on a 17-acre campus with a gymnasium, baked art studio, two science labs, a library, a computer lab, iPad and Chromebook sets, sports fields, and two classroom buildings. Enrichment programs are offered before school and after school, and each grade makes field trips. Lower school students have a choir and a co-curricular program of mathematics, science, reading, writing, and social studies. Students also take PE, Spanish, art, music and character education. Students also participate in community service, working with local organizations to fight hunger in Durham, and gain environmental awareness through composting and the growth of things in the TDS garden. Generally, these programs are further divided between grades TK-2 and 3-5, so that all programs build on the knowledge and skills previously in the previous grades. In the sixth grade, students are considered part of middle school. (Nampa, ID) Nampa Christian School serves children from the age of six weeks until 12th grade. The school is divided into four sections: the Early Childhood Centre and elementary, middle and high schools. Primary school teaches basic courses in reading, English, science, social studies and mathematics. Students participate in standardized tests and score well above state and national averages. In addition to basic courses, students study art, Bible, music, and PE. Teachers are authorized and experienced. Preschool teachers provide social and emotional support for development through games and learning centers. Students are introduced to the alphabet and numbers while the acquisition of the language stimulated through stories and songs. NCS believes in providing quality education through a biblical view of the world. In this way, students grow to be all-round so that they can face the challenges they will face in college and beyond. The history of Nampa Christian School dates back to 1913. The school has undergone many changes over the past century, merging with other schools and moving places and adding buildings. The primary school building was bred in 1979 and then expanded in 1994. In 2008, the high school moved to a new location. Thus, elementary and secondary campuses are maintained separately, even if they are within three miles of each other, and older students have the opportunity to guide younger people through fun activities such as the track meeting for third and fifth graders, kindergarten until the fifth day of camp, the annual Christmas program, the annual speech meet, and the grandparents' day program. Part of the education that students receive at NCS is through the Community Service Program where students have the opportunity to serve others. Each student must complete three hours per quarter. In the summer NCS sets up a music theater field, which is open to fifth grade through high school. Nampa is about 22 miles west of Boise. The area is called the Treasure Valley, but is also known as the Lower Snake River Valley or the Boise River Valley. (Gig Harbor, WA) Gig Harbor Academy's school starts with kindergarten and passes through fifth grade. The campus is located next to the wetlands on 10 beautiful acres with four buildings where children can become environmentally conscious and responsible. It's Gig Harbor's belief that kids should get lost in learning, not get lost in the crowd. The campus has an outdoor classroom, an archaeological excavation site, fitness and research, an athletic field and large tree play areas. It is GHA's goal for students to achieve academic excellence. Starting from kindergarten, students are guided through the development of their social, physical, emotional and growth by helping them to develop their linguistic capacity, through which they can express their opinions and learn to understand their world through exploration and observation. Kindergarten goes one step further and helps students interact properly with others and resolve conflicts in an acceptable way. All learning styles are accepted and celebrated. Kindergarten is five days a week and lasts all day. Kindergarten is bound to be academically challenging to help students think positively about learning. Classes go through the curriculum and use multisensory activities to help students learn through different media. After kindergarten, students will move to primary school where they will study the main subjects in more well-defined boundaries with programs such as FOSS Scientific KITS, CAFÉ and Junior Great Books. Each of these programs is based on itself every year. Once students reach third grade, they begin exploring wetlands in campus areas so they become more aware of the importance of the environment. The 5-graders can go to Washington, D.C., and Colonial Williamsburg as part of their history study. In addition, students study 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 interesting programs. (Rapid City, SD) The school began with a class of five preschoolers in 1990 and is now an elementary school with 135 students in five classes. In 2001, the school became a state-accredited school and follows laws established for schools by the state of South Dakota, using Montessori principles in teaching and curriculum. The vital skills needed to learn in subsequent grades are instilled in students and begin to think abstractly as they get older, exercising their analytical skills to compare, deduce, analyze, and evaluate. Students are grouped over a three-year period, which encourages children to learn from each other, but also promotes a community atmosphere. The Montessori program hopes to increase students' intelligence and encourage students to work for long 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 that outlines the activities that the child must complete. Children can decide in what order they will complete tasks and how much time they will spend on each task. The progress of students is documented by the students themselves through self-assessments and student work portfolios. Students with development delays or difficulties may not succeed even in this more unstructured environment. Structured, assistance is offered for all grades. The school program uses a hands-on curriculum that is customized individually for each student. It aims to give children an indelible basis in reasoning skills, analytical thinking and creative problem solving, as well as in the 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 pre-kindergarten grades up to the fifth. Last updated: August 20, 2015

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