

10 Reasons to Switch to a Private School

BY ANNA CHARLES



"Should I send my child to a private school, or stay with a public school?" At some point most parents who are actively involved in their child's education ask themselves this question. You want the best for your child, but which is it? While your decision is a personal one, based on your child's talents, gifts, and needs, as well as your own desires, private school can be an attractive option. It can offer special opportunities and advantages your child might not otherwise have in a public school.

1 CHOICE. Instead of being restricted to one school based on your home address, you can select a private school that will help your child excel and shine, and develop the values you find most important.

2 INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION. Most private schools have smaller class sizes with a lower student to teacher ratio than public schools, allowing your child to receive the individual attention he or she deserves.

3 HIGHER ACADEMIC STANDARDS. Private schools often challenge their students with more academically rigorous programs that motivate them to keep their grade point averages up. Also, most private schools do not have to teach to a test, so they can focus on teaching your child how to think instead of to specific standardized test items.

4 COLLEGE BOUND. Private high schools typically focus on preparing students for college. Elements of the curriculum are often directly aimed at preparing your child for higher education.

5 BALANCED PROGRAM. Most private schools provide a balanced program where academics, sports, and extra-curricular activities are equally emphasized.

6 RELIGION. Public schools must keep religion out of the classroom. If faith is an important cornerstone in your family, you can choose a private school that teaches religion and incorporates faith into their mission and teaching philosophy.

7 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. Private schools typically expect parents to be actively involved in their child's education. The amount of involvement depends on the time you have available, and on your talents and experience.

8 COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SENSE OF VALUES. Many private schools require students to participate in community service, instilling a sense of respect for the community and the value of contributing to society.

9 SAFETY. Most private schools know every student and their parents, and emphasize personal discipline and self-control. Smaller classrooms are easier to control, and firmer disciplinary policies mean that problems may be dealt with and eradicated quickly.

10 FUNDS ALLOCATION. Money from tuition and fund-raising programs is often allocated to special activities and field trips that enrich the curriculum, give your child a better opportunity to learn, encourage independence, and help enable him or her to form friendships. ☺