

PARENT'S GUIDE TO
PRIVATE EDUCATION
IN WEST TENNESSEE



Introduction

Everything just clicks when your child is in the appropriate school. The appropriate teachers, peers, and community may make a huge impact in your student's academic success. In these places, private schools provide kids and families with options. There are over 29,000 private schools in the United States, which teach approximately 6.1 million pupils. They are no longer just for the wealthy and cover a wide range of subjects and learning methods. Finding the appropriate private school for your family can be difficult at times. This guide will assist you in identifying the best potential school option for your child if you are new to the area or merely considering your alternatives.



Deciding about your child's education can be one of the most difficult things you will ever have to do as a parent. You recognize that a strong educational foundation is crucial for their future success, but you also recognize that it can be difficult to traverse.

Parent's Guide to Private Education in West Tennessee

Gone are the days when parents assumed their children's needs would be met by their neighborhood school. Many options have become available in recent years, ranging from charter schools to private schools to online schools to homeschooling. Where do you begin, and how do you know you are making the greatest decision possible, so you don't "mess up" your child?

Test scores are a "simple" way to judge schools, but are they genuinely reliable, and aren't there other factors to consider?

We have put together a checklist to assist you in evaluating your educational options. The following criteria have been developed over years of research and experience. Each family's priorities will be different, but we have found that they generally fall into these top eight categories.

Academics

Clearly, education's primary goal is to prepare your child for the future. This is no minor undertaking, and it can only be completed successfully with a well-thought-out strategy. Academic readiness can frequently take a back seat to some of the things a student is passionate about, such as a sport or an arts program. It's critical to remember that your child's ability to learn is the most significant factor in his or her future success.



Controlled Class Sizes

Many private schools pride themselves on their ability to keep class sizes small. According to a 2002 data from the United States Department of Education, private schools had an average of 13 students per full-time equivalent instructor, compared to 16 students per teacher in public schools. In comparison to public schools, 36% of private schools had student-teacher ratios of 10:1 or lower, compared to 10% in public schools. Teachers may spend more time ensuring that pupils understand the topic because of the smaller class sizes.

Individual Attention

Because private schools have a smaller enrollment and staff, they may focus on every area of their kids' life. According to Boston.com in 2004, Massachusetts public schools have one counselor for every 415 kids, compared to a 5:1 ratio in many private schools. As a result, private school counselors can concentrate on assisting kids with their academics, particularly those who are planning to attend college. According to the publication, several private school counselors worked in college admissions offices, giving them more insight into the process.

Parental Involvement

Parents are expected to be actively involved in their children's education in private schools. The concept of a three-way cooperation is ingrained in the operations of most private schools. Naturally, if you have a child in preschool or elementary school, your level of participation and involvement will be higher than if you have a high school student or a child away at boarding school.

We are talking about what kind of parental participation here. That is entirely dependent on you and the amount of time you have available to assist. It is also contingent on your abilities and experience. The best thing to do is to keep an eye on things and see where you can fit in. If the school requires a talented organizer to conduct the yearly auction, volunteer for a year or two as a committee member before offering to take over the lead role. If your daughter's teacher asks you to help chaperone a field trip, take advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate your ability to work well with others.

What does it mean to "teach from a biblical worldview?"

Each of us has a lens through which we perceive and comprehend the world. It takes shape because of your life events, as well as your views and ideals. What you perceive to be true is included. A biblical worldview is examining, evaluating, and making sense of the world considering the Bible's reality. Christian schools use a biblical perspective to teach and incorporate biblical ideals into all its programs. Teaching from a Christian standpoint entails more than just diagramming Bible verses or studying the Bible as literature. Teaching is more than merely passing on knowledge from one person to the next. In grace and truth, teachers try to reflect the Person of Christ in the classroom.



Why is a biblical worldview so important?

Every subject, every curriculum, and every instructor has a point of view in history, science, and the arts. Non-Christian viewpoints are the only other choice if a Christian viewpoint is not available. When this apparently "neutral" point of view is offered, allowing prayer, not wishing "Merry Christmas," or describing how God is not involved in history are just a few of the hundreds of ways that show God as non-existent or irrelevant. Children are constantly exposed to non-Christian messages through movies, television, music, social media, academics, and other places. We believe that a school should play an important role in preparing students to comprehend the truth about life, the world, and their place in it.

Yes, but many Christians have gone to public schools and turned out fine!

This is something that no one can refute. "Is today's permissive culture what I want for my child?" parents must ask themselves. The distinction between a public or non-Christian school and a Christian school is found in the purpose and aims of education, not in the professionalism of its personnel or the perfection of its student body. The school culture is heavily influenced by this focus and these ideals. Students at a Christian school are loved and impacted while they learn by devout Christians who share their parents' Biblical ideals. Students acquire these characteristics not only in Bible class, but also from instructors, coaches, and staff members who model and teach these values in every school activity. From a Biblical / Christian perspective, challenges, conflict, and circumstances are addressed.

Shouldn't Christians be "out in the real world" making a difference in non-Christian circles? Why segregate themselves in a Christian school?

A good Christian school should never become a haven for pupils who want to live in seclusion. Christian education does not have that goal. The mission of Christian education, on the other hand, is to serve the community and educate students to be world-changing influences for Jesus Christ. Students at a Christian school learn about the world and how to share their faith through travel opportunities, missions trips, international student programs, and community service, to name a few.

We cannot afford private Christian school. It seems like this is only an option for wealthy Christians

With the growth of private Christian schools, there are now schools with a variety of tuition levels. Many of these schools have become affordable to most any household. Plus, there are often ways to help decrease the amount of tuition you pay, get assistance for the tuition, or pay overtime. Often private Christian schools will offer a lump sum discount if tuition is paid in full before a certain date preceding the school year. Many schools offer some form of financial aid or scholarships based on a variety of requirements or situations. Finally, you may inquire with the private school as to a payment plan that allows you to pay a minimal amount each month over the course of the school year. Whatever your situation, often there is a way to make your child's education in a private Christian school affordable and accessible.

Conclusion

Academically, spiritually, and in terms of worldview and skills, the educational choices you make for your children mold them. The professors and staff at Christian schools are prepared to meet each of these growing areas of a child's life. These schools take the task of developing children's minds seriously, but they do not separate God from academics. They understand that improving young people's skills is critical to assisting them in realizing their God-given potential.

Christian educators assist in the development of a worldview in which God has His proper place, and they seek to the Bible for answers to life's big concerns. Intentionally, these teachers support and nurture children's spiritual development.