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844-200-8929



Physical Therapy

Physical therapists work with children to treat injuries, or disorders that affect their musculoskeletal function and development and determine specific goals for therapy. Individualized exercise and manual therapies are used to achieve those goals.



Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists treat patients with conditions that affect social function and activities of daily living. Sensory integration, functional activities, and social skills training helps children develop the skills needed to thrive in school, home and play.



Speech & Feeding Therapy

Speech-language pathologists treat conditions and disorders that affect speech, communication, feeding, and swallowing. They help children with communication delays through development of oral motor skills and language comprehension.

ABA/Behavior Therapy

Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA Therapy, is designed to help children on the Autism spectrum increase social behaviors and decrease challenging behaviors and barriers to learning.

Psychological Testing

We offer in-house psychological evaluations for children who have been diagnosed or are suspected to have Autism Spectrum Disorder.



www.compleatkidz.com



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Sweet Spots

Both of my kids have summer birthdays. A few years ago, my husband and I started giving them a choice of a party or a trip, and they've always opted for the latter. I'd much rather give them experiences than things, and summer gives us the flexibility to do that.

For his 10th birthday, my son chose to go to Legoland. My daughter, who turned 8, asked for a weekend at the beach to break in her new boogie board. I took each one on an individual trip and realized what a delight my children can be when they don't have to compete for my attention. It was a chance for them to determine the schedule and teach me about the things they're excited about.

Maybe your child doesn't share the same hobbies as you do or gravitate toward conventionally popular activities—or maybe they excel at something that requires more specialized instruction. It's why choosing the right school is so important. As parents, we have to find their sweet spot.

In these pages, you'll find a district guide and listings for the area's public, private, and charter schools, plus articles with stories and advice from fellow parents. Randi Mazzella introduces us to five lesser-known sports your child might enjoy (p. 22), and Amanda Howard shares a roundup of playgrounds, museums, outdoor adventures, and day trips in and around Charlotte that appeal to a range of interests and ages (p. 14). We've also included highlights from our ongoing series, "Ask A Mom," in which WBTV's Molly Grantham addresses age-appropriate books for curious readers, ways to accommodate fidgety students, and tips for managing jet lag with kids (p. 11).

After a summer full of travel, it occurred to me that we've hit a parenting sweet spot, too. We're no longer saddled with strollers, pack 'n plays, car seats, and diaper bags; we're not that family you dread getting stuck behind at TSA. We've (hopefully) got a few more years before the kids don't want to hang out with us anymore. For now, they're insatiably curious about the world around them and they still want to explore it with their parents.

I'll take it for as long as I can get it.



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» UNION DAY RECEIVES IB WORLD SCHOOL DESIGNATION

What does that mean for your potential middle-school student?

Union Day School, a tuition-free public charter school serving Union County and Charlotte-area students, is now one of the International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools—and specifically, it currently offers the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). It's the only public charter school in the state to currently have approval for the program. But what is IB? And what does it mean for your potential student? We answer those questions and more below:

What are IB World Schools?

These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Union Day School believes is vital for its students. There are more than 5,000 schools worldwide with this designation. The program's aim is to “develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world,” the school says.

What's the Middle Years Programme?

The MYP, in particular, is IB's middle school-centered program that the organization says provides “a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world.” Students are asked to conduct open inquiry and real-life research both locally and globally in a constructivist-oriented approach. Teachers implement criteria-based assessment established by IB's MYP and focus on the IB Learner Profile (a list of student qualities) as well as global contexts (a lens through which to view content). Every middle school student at Union Day is enrolled in this program.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools to be responsible local, national, and global community members: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective.

What's the 8th Grade Community Project?

The community project, part of the IB MYP, is a service action project designed and carried out by 8th graders based on their own interests. It gives students an opportunity to develop awareness of needs in various communities and address those needs through service learning. The community project can be completed individually or in groups.

Discover The Union Day Difference

The school's excellence doesn't stop with the IB MYP. Union Day School boasts a K-5 educational program that joins seamlessly with MYP. Here, students are challenged with Singapore math, a renowned mathematical approach known for nurturing critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Phonics instruction is the cornerstone of literacy, ensuring that young UDS learners develop a strong command of language from the very beginning. Inquiry-based science is yet another vital component of Union Day School's curriculum. Rather than memorizing facts, students explore the world around them through hands-on learning and questioning the unknown.

Despite its comprehensive and rigorous academic programs, Union Day School maintains a “small school feel” that sets it apart. In this close-knit community, everyone knows each other, teachers provide individualized attention, and a sense of warmth and camaraderie pervades the campus. Established in 2016, Union Day School continues to grow, both in size and reputation. The school will continue to grow, adding a grade annually until fully enrolled as a K-12 charter school. Families from far and wide seek enrollment, drawn not only by the school's academic excellence but also by the promise of a holistic education that produces well-rounded individuals.

How do I learn more about Union Day School?

Head to their website at uniondayschool.com or give them a call at 704-256-1494.



UNION DAY SCHOOL
3000 Tilley Morris Rd
Weddington, NC 28104





GUIDE TO PUBLIC DISTRICTS

Cabarrus County Schools

cabarrus.k12.nc.us
704-260-5600

Total enrollment:
33,000+

Number of schools:

Elementary Schools: 20

Middle Schools: 9

High Schools: 11

Nontraditional Schools: 5



SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. John Kopicki was sworn in as the district's 11th superintendent in August 2021. Prior to arriving at CCS, he had a successful 28-year career in public education in Pennsylvania. He most recently served as superintendent in Doylestown, at Central Bucks School District. Before that, he was superintendent at Altoona Area School District and Forest City Regional School District. He began his career as a high school social studies teacher in 1992 before embarking on various other roles within school systems. Kopicki received a doctoral degree in educational administration at Temple University.

FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 89%.
- ★ Ranks among the top 1% in North Carolina for diversity.
- ★ Educational options include traditional, STEM, International Baccalaureate, and language immersion programs.
- ★ Average test ranking is 8/10, which is in the top 30% of public schools in North Carolina.
- ★ Received the Benjamin B. Tregoe Strategic Leadership in Education Award.



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

cmsk12.org
980-343-3000

Total enrollment:
147,000+

Number of schools:
Elementary Schools: **113**
Middle Schools: **48**
High Schools: **32**
Alternative Schools: **3**



SUPERINTENDENT

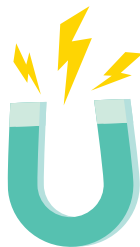
Dr. Crystal L. Hill, began as interim superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in January 2023 and was named superintendent in May 2023. Prior to joining CMS, she served as chief academic officer for Cabarrus County Schools, where she led the district in achieving the highest level of academic performance in history. Hill began her 25-year career in education as a first-grade teacher in Guilford County Schools. She went on to serve as assistant principal, and principal, executive director of elementary education and federal programs in Mooresville Graded School District; curriculum coordinator in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools; and personnel director in Cabarrus. Hill earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in instructional technology, both from North Carolina A&T State University. She also earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Gardner-Webb University.

FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 84.1%.
- ★ CMS students come from 184 countries and speak 204 languages and dialects. It is the second-largest school system in North Carolina.



- ★ CMS is a leading district in integrating digital learning and teaching with a 1:1 student/technology ratio.



- ★ CMS offers 19 pathways in career and technical education to equip students with 21st-century skills.
- ★ CMS employs 1,995 National Board-certified teachers, the fourth-most in the nation.

Gaston County Schools

gaston.k12.nc.us
704-866-6100

Total enrollment:
30,000+

Number of schools:
Elementary Schools: **30**
Middle Schools: **11**
High Schools: **12**
Special Needs School: **1**
Alternative School: **1**
Virtual School: **1**



INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Stephen C. Laws, was named interim superintendent of Gaston County Schools in July 2023. Prior to this position, Laws served as an associate professor of education at Gardner-Webb University. After 17 years in Gaston County Schools as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and central level administrator, Laws became the superintendent of Elkin City Schools in 1998. From 2003 until 2011, he served as superintendent of Wilkes County Schools, and after retiring, he began his work at Gardner-Webb. Laws graduated from Wake Forest University with a bachelor's degree in business and Winthrop College with a master's degree in teaching/secondary education. Additionally, Laws obtained an education specialist degree in educational leadership from Winthrop College and a doctorate degree in educational leadership from Vanderbilt University.

FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 85.2%.
- ★ The school district is Gaston County's second-largest employer, with more than 3,800 employees and 1,950 teachers.
- ★ Provides a comprehensive educational program with outstanding opportunities for students in academics, athletics, fine arts, career and technical education, and extracurricular activities.
- ★ It's the 10th largest school district in North Carolina.
- ★ Offers 22 school choice/magnet programs.



Iredell-Statesville Schools

issnc.org
704-872-8931

Total enrollment:
20,000+

Number of schools:

Elementary Schools: 19
Middle Schools: 11
High Schools: 11
Virtual School: 1


SUPERINTENDENT

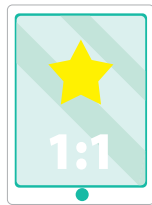
Dr. Jeffery

James, formerly superintendent of Stanly County Schools, is an Iredell County native and graduate of West Iredell High School. He became Iredell-Statesville Schools' superintendent in 2020. He was previously a special education teacher, business technology instructor, assistant principal, and principal in the system. While at Stanly County Schools, his fiscal crisis plan took the district from a negative fund balance to \$1.2 million in four months. When he left that district, it had a \$1.4 million fund balance.



FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 89%. 
- ★ Iredell-Statesville Schools ranks among the 20 largest school districts in North Carolina.
- ★ As a recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Iredell-Statesville Schools serves as a model school district for districts across the nation.
- ★ 1:1 technology-student ratio in grades 6-12.



- ★ Iredell-Statesville Schools performs in the top 25% of the school districts in North Carolina.

Kannapolis City Schools

kcs.k12.nc.us
704-938-1131

Total enrollment:
5,300+

Number of schools:


Pre-K: 1
Elementary Schools: 6
Middle School: 1
High School: 1

SUPERINTENDENT

Kevin Garay became superintendent of the Kannapolis City Schools in July 2021. Garay has more than 20 years of experience in improving student learning and staff development, and in 2014 was principal of Mallard Creek High School in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system. Garay is in an Ed.D program with a superintendency concentration.



FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 86%. 
- ★ Kannapolis City Schools has a unique partnership with the NC Research Campus, which gives students access to world-renowned researchers, internships, and real-world lessons.
- ★ Participates in the "Literacy at Home" program, a digital resource for students from pre-K through fifth grade.
- ★ The top-ranked schools in this district are Jackson Park Elementary School, Forest Park Elementary School, and Kannapolis Middle School.
- ★ Minority enrollment is 72% of the student body, which is more than the North Carolina public school average of 55%.

Lincoln County Schools

lcsnc.org
704-732-2261

Total enrollment:
10,600+

Number of schools:

Elementary
Schools: 13
Middle Schools: 4

High Schools: 5
Alternative Schools: 1

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Aaron Allen was confirmed as superintendent in February 2021. Prior to that, he was associate superintendent and served as the interim superintendent following the retirement of Dr. Lory Morrow. Other roles in Lincoln County Schools Allen has held include assistant superintendent for human resources, principal at West Lincoln Middle School, and assistant principal at North Lincoln High School. He began his career in education in 1998, as a teacher at Kings Mountain High School. He later became principal at Kings Mountain Middle School and Burns High School. He was named the Cleveland County Principal of the Year in 2013.



FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 90.9%.
- ★ 19 of 21 schools reporting growth measures met growth expectations.
- ★ The district ranks 23rd out of 115 in graduation rate, 16th for grade-level proficiency, and 15th for college and career readiness.
- ★ Rock Springs Elementary received an "A" rating from the North Carolina Department of Instruction.
- ★ In 2021, Union Elementary was named a National Title I Distinguished School, which recognizes student achievement in schools with high poverty rates.



Mooreville Graded School District

mgsd.k12.nc.us
704-658-2530

Total enrollment:
6,000+

Number of schools:

Elementary Schools: 3
Intermediate Schools: 2
Middle School: 2
High School: 1
Alternative School: 1

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Jason Gardner was appointed superintendent of Mooreville Graded School District in July 2022. Prior to becoming superintendent, Gardner was the interim superintendent at Rowan-Salisbury Schools, where he also worked as chief academic officer and executive director of elementary education. He previously served as a teacher and assistant principal in the Iredell-Statesville Schools and began his career as a teacher in the Gaston County Schools in 2002. Gardner received his bachelor's degree from Concord University, his master's from Appalachian State University, and his doctorate from Wingate University.



FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 96%.
- ★ Mooreville Graded School District's name is due to the fact that when it was chartered in 1905, it had different "grade" levels.
- ★ Ranked in the top 10 in North Carolina in academic achievement for the past decade.
- ★ Has a Naval Junior ROTC program that is considered one of the best in the Southeast.



Fort Mill School District

fortmillschools.org
803-548-2527

Total enrollment:
17,000+

Number of schools:
Elementary Schools: 11
Middle Schools: 6
High Schools: 3

SUPERINTENDENT

James “Chuck” Epps has extensive experience in public education that has encompassed all levels of pre-K-12 education. He has served as a teacher’s assistant, teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, director, and assistant superintendent. His leadership in human resources has ensured the district’s high-quality workforce and explosive growth. Dr. Epps has a bachelor’s degree from Clemson University, master’s and education specialist degrees from Winthrop University, and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina.



FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 97%.
- ★ Fort Mill School District is the fastest growing school district per capita in South Carolina.
- ★ The district encompasses 50 square miles.
- ★ In 2022, Dwayne Hartsoe and Rick Lewis were named Regional Athletic Directors of the Year in the 4A and 5A categories. The FMHS softball team won the Class 5A state softball championship.
- ★ Also in 2022, Springfield Middle was designated for the second time as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle School Grades Reform.

Lancaster County Schools

lancastercsd.com
803-286-6972

Total enrollment:
14,000+

Number of schools:
Elementary Schools: 13
Middle Schools: 5
High Schools: 5

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Jonathan Phipps has 25 years of experience in education, with seven years as a superintendent. Phipps has an undergraduate degree in history and education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, a master’s degree in early childhood education from the University of South Carolina, and an educational specialist degree and doctorate in leadership in educational administration from Capella University.



FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 78%.
- ★ 2019-2020 marked the first full year with STEAM programs.
- ★ First in the state of South Carolina to have a Lü interactive playground.
- ★ Partners with businesses and industries to help students become college and career ready.
- ★ Focus on teaching “soft skills,” such as leadership, problem-solving, and work ethic.

Rock Hill School District

rock-hill.k12.sc.us
803-981-1000

Total enrollment:
17,500+

Number of schools:
Pre-K: 1
Elementary Schools: 14
Middle Schools: 5
High Schools: 3
Career/Technology School: 1

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Tommy Schmolze is the superintendent at Rock Hill Schools. He previously served as the assistant superintendent of administration and student services for the district. He has also worked as a principal at both the middle school and high school levels, a high school English teacher, and coach. Schmolze received a bachelor’s at Clemson University, a master’s at Winthrop University, and a doctorate at Nova Southeastern University. Schmolze has been an active part of the Rock Hill community for more than 30 years.



FAST FACTS

- ★ Graduation rate is 85.1%.
- ★ One K-5 language immersion school with additional pathways for grades 6-12 in language immersion.
- ★ Seven Choice programs are tied to distinctive courses of study and develop engaging opportunities for students at all grade levels.
- ★ Applied Technology Center has the first high school level program supported by the Material Handling Institute of America in warehousing and distribution.
- ★ The second-largest school district in York County and one of the largest in South Carolina.



ASK A MOM:
School Edition

WBTV's Molly Grantham on fidgety students, age-appropriate books, and more

Each month, anchor, author, and mom Molly Grantham tackles our readers' parenting questions in a digital column for CharlotteParent.com. Below are four questions submitted by parents of school-aged children. If you'd like to submit your own question, go to the "Ask A Mom" box on our homepage and leave a message for Molly. Then check back to see if she responds in next month's column.

Q: My first grader wants to check out the *I Survived* books at the school media center, but his teacher sent home a note asking my permission first. (If you're not familiar, the series covers shark attacks, tornadoes, Nazi invasions, etc.) I think they're age appropriate for grade 3 and up, so I'm not sure if he's ready for these true stories yet. But I also don't want to discourage his curiosity. What should I do?

A: This question arrived in my email at the bus stop one morning. I was on my phone, saw them, and read this one aloud to ask fellow moms their thoughts. I wasn't familiar with the series, but have since learned the author of the books, Lauren Tarshis, describes each one as a "terrifying and thrilling story from history, through the eyes of a kid who lived to tell the tale."

One mom in particular—she has three boys—said she thought the series was great IF your child is interested in the topic. For instance, if your child likes science, the books on tornadoes can fascinate their mind. But if your child scares easily, showing in-depth real-life stories might frighten more than help. She said they helped her older son get into reading, but she kept them away from her younger boys, knowing their personalities were different.

You know your child best. If you think they'd like them, try one. They get great reviews. *The Los Angeles Times* said the theme in each is "resilience." Your question led to the conversation with another mom at the bus stop, and I'm going to get them for my son, Hutch. He's only second grade but is into how the world works. I think he can handle it. So, thank you!

Q: My son's teacher is always sending home a report that he can't sit still and stay focused. I talk to him about being respectful of his teacher and classroom, and have tried to offer him some breathing strategies when he feels antsy. But ultimately, he's 7! What testosterone-filled young boy is able to sit at a desk and listen for stretches at a time?! He needs to get up and run around but I can't tell the teacher how to structure the break schedule.

A: This is one of those questions I feel like you could ask 100 people and get 100 different answers. I took your question to two different experts who work in elementary schools and got some great, specific, advice.

First up, Susan Campbell, a school counselor within Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, with 20 years of experience:

"I would want to know how the structure of the classroom is set up," she says. "What is the schedule? Does the schedule allow for breaks? Does this happen all day, later in the day, or a certain time of day during certain subjects? I would suggest she talk to the school counselor to observe him to see if this is a problem with her son, or a core issue."

In other words, is the whole class getting antsy?

Campbell says you can also ask the school counselor for recommendations to put into place in the classroom. Alternative seating, the ability to stand at his desk while doing independent work, running errands for the teacher to get him up, and moving for a brain break, etc.

Susan Hooper, a literacy facilitator who has been teaching elementary-school level for 23 years, also posed some questions for the parent to evaluate:

"How are his grades?" she says. "Many students are fidgety and cannot sit still and learn better when they are moving. If his grades/assessment reports show he's at-or-above grade level, then let him continue to move. But I'd also ask if he's disturbing other students? Typically, the answer is, 'No.' Young students are able to focus even if another student is antsy. It can just be the teacher who's bothered."

But Hooper said if it IS affecting his ability to learn, discuss it with the child's pediatrician. If it does seem to be an ADHD issue, there are alternatives to medication.

"We can put bands on the legs of his chair so he can bounce his feet as he sits at his desk," she says. "We can move his desk so he can stand when doing his work. We can give him a weighted lap mat that can help students calm down as they work. I even had one student who had a 'calming jar' (a jar with colored water and oil with glitter in it) that he'd turn when he got antsy and watch the glitter fall. There are many options to help him move and complete his work at the same time. But it will take talking to his teacher and school counselor. Keep communication open and really listen to the teachers concerns to make a plan together."

Q: My 6th grader tells me they have "silent lunch" at school. She says it's usually just a few kids being loud and not listening. So, my question is, is it okay for all 6th graders in a school to get lunch detention for "being too loud"?

A: I took your question to two principals—one elementary and one middle school—with lots of school experience. Both are within Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Both had similar answers.

From the elementary principal: “It has been my experience that lunch is one of those times during the school day that students are able to socialize and talk with friends. If a few students are not following the rules, then those specific students should receive the consequences spelled out in the policy handbook.”

From middle school principal: “My gut reaction? ‘Eek! I need to check with my 6th grade team to see what’s up because we try really hard to avoid that.’ Group punishments don’t work. They almost always hurt way more kids doing the right thing than those doing the wrong thing. I hate to punish the group for the poor decision of a few.” This principal later added, “I also always hate silent lunch as an administrator because trying to keep a cafeteria full of 6th graders is usually harder than it’s worth.”

Google “silent lunch” and you’ll find lots of articles. Most agree with our principals—and you—that group punishment doesn’t seem fair.

An article on WeAreTeachers.com suggests collective rewards instead of collective punishments. “I do a *Harry Potter*-esque point system,” the author writes. “Kids can earn points for attendance, homework, hilarious comments, being able to rap the entire *Fresh Prince* theme... you get the idea. If a whole class gets loud or off-task, I dock five points from the chalkboard in the corner of my room and they settle right down. No silent lunch, no extra assignments needed. Other teachers put marbles in a jar to work up to a class reward. It’s still collective responsibility, but it leaves room for a little more grace.”

If you choose to address this with the school, maybe consider printing out this question, and its answers, to take with you to show your child’s school.

Q: Hi Molly! I followed along on social media during your recent trip to Paris. I’m thinking of taking a similar trip with my kids this summer (ages 5 and 8). So my question is: How do you get them through the jet lag? I don’t want to spend half the trip with tired, cranky kids.

A: First of all, GO! Our family friends are temporarily living in Paris and invited us for spring break. It’s the only reason this trip happened, and it was the most memorable excursion for our family. (Memorable for everyone except our 2-year-old, Hobie. We left him in the States with my stepmom because toddler + potty-training + international flight + he won’t remember anything anyway = not good.)

Based on what our friends said who’ve made the trip from Charlotte to Paris multiple times: Land, nap quickly, then get on the schedule of the current time zone.

We took a late afternoon flight from CLT to La Guardia, then an overnight flight from New York to France. We got off the plane at 6:30 a.m. Parisian time, napped a few hours, then got up around lunchtime to start the day. It was perfect. We went to bed that night at a somewhat normal hour and woke up the next day more acclimated than expected.

On the return side, we arrived in North Carolina late Friday/early Saturday. We gave the kids the rest of the weekend to get back on Eastern Standard Time before school on Monday morning.

I googled around to see if other professionals had better, less anecdotal advice. *Condé Nast Traveler* gave these five tips:

1. If you can, take a late afternoon or evening flight.
2. Get as much sleep on the flight as you can.
3. Eat meals on local time.
4. Be prepared for a middle-of-the-night snack the first couple of days.
5. Don’t overbook your mornings.

Good luck. Showing children a different country and culture is truly special.

Read Molly’s monthly column on CharlotteParent.com.



You know your child best. If you think they’d like them, try one.”

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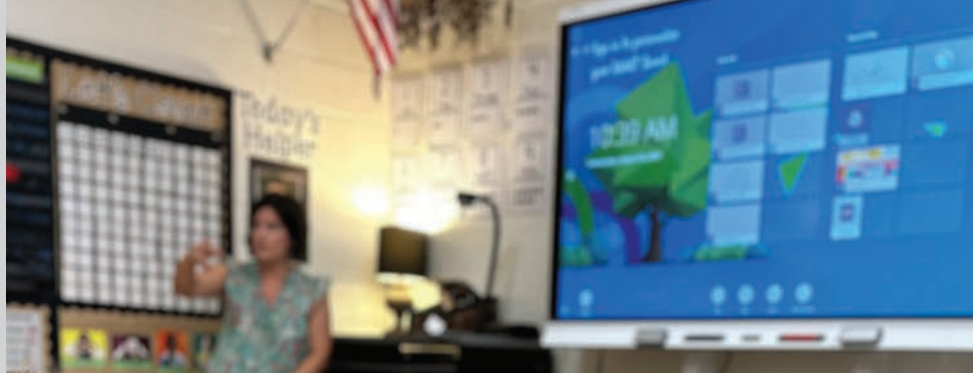


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The background of the page features a photograph of a building with the NASCAR logo on its facade. In the foreground, there is a wooden signpost with several directional arrows. One prominent arrow is orange and has the word 'CHAR' painted on it in black, block letters. Another arrow is dark brown and points to the right. The scene is set outdoors with green foliage on the left and a clear blue sky.

AN EVERYTHING GUIDE TO

Charlotte

Playgrounds, museums, outdoor adventures,
and day trips in and around Charlotte

BY AMANDA PAGLIARINI HOWARD



Sticking around Charlotte for your next holiday break? Or just looking for a way to spend the day with your family? Here's a list of the best Charlotte has to offer for kids and families. It's not *everything*, but it's a great snapshot of the places worth visiting.

» PLAYGROUNDS

Crooked Creek Park

5900 Oakwood Lane, Indian Trail

This woodland-themed playground has a zipline and a lot of room to explore.

Freedom Park

1908 East Blvd.

Charlotte's most well-known park features two sizable playgrounds, access to the Little Sugar Creek Greenway, and the NFL Play 60 KidZone.

Hornets Nest Park

6301 Beatties Ford Road

Explore two playground areas, a softball field, two sand volleyball spots, rows of horseshoe pits, a BMX track to ride, frisbee golf, and basketball courts. Remember to bring the sunscreen—there's not much shade.

Latta Park

601 East Park Ave.

If Freedom Park is too packed for your liking, Latta is just around the corner and has spraygrounds, playgrounds, and trails.

Park Road Park

6220 Park Road

With three playgrounds for all ages and abilities, kids can enjoy tunnels, rock walls, spinning monkey bars, and ninja warrior-like challenges.

©SHUTTERSTOCK



Freedom Park



Discovery Place Science

Trailhead Park

7714 Tega Cay Drive, Tega Cay

This brightly colored playground has musical instruments and a zipline. It's open to all children, but it's designed for those with sensory, physical, cognitive, or social limitations.

William Davie Park

4635 Pineville-Matthews Road

This South Charlotte park has a large, fenced-in play area with three playground structures for different ages and abilities. The park also has soccer fields and a dog park.

Ray's Splash Planet

215 N. Sycamore St.

With an array of slides, overhead buckets, water basketball, a lazy river, and a special "Saturation Station" for children under 48 inches tall, you'll see why Ray's has been ranked on the city's best-of lists since opening in 2002. Entry is \$8 to \$10 for residents and \$10 to \$15 for non-residents.

» MUSEUMS

Discovery Place Science

301 N. Tryon St.

This hands-on museum will intrigue kids of all ages with aquariums, design labs, indoor rainforest, IMAX theater, interactive science experiences, and exhibits. This uptown spot is now open 7 days a week.

Discovery Place Nature

1658 Sterling Road

Geared toward younger children, but open to all ages, this hands-on nature facility lets kids get up close with animals and

insects. The nature museum has both indoor and outdoor exhibitions, including "Creature Craven" and "Insect Alley," where kids can go nose-to-nose with a variety of creatures and bugs. Discovery Place Nature is open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$8 per person; children under 2 are free.

Discovery Place Kids

105 Gilead Road, Huntersville

Suited for children 7 and under, the museum and its extensive play exhibitions are themed around a small town, allowing children to learn through play. Discovery Place Kids is open Tuesday through Sunday, and tickets (\$14 per person on weekdays, \$15 per person on weekends) must be purchased online in advance.

Schiele Museum

1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia

Known for its amazing planetarium, kids can learn about dinosaurs, animals, habitats, fossils, and minerals in this science and natural world museum.

Museum of Illusions

601 S. Tryon St.

Adults and kids will enjoy the mind-bending hijinks created by mirrors, lights, and depth perception challenges. Be sure to buy tickets in advance as they often sell out.

NASCAR Hall of Fame

400 E. MLK Blvd.

Racing fans can see exhibits and more than 50 interactive experiences, like the iRacing Simulator and Pit Crew Challenge.

SEA LIFE

8111 Concord Mills Blvd., Concord

This underwater adventure features 10 interactive zones including an Interactive Touchpool, the Tropical Ocean tunnel with more than 800 creatures inside 117,000 gallons of water, the Sea Turtle Rescue Center, and the Stingray Bay exhibit. The newest exhibit, Doodle Reef, allows you to design your own virtual fish and watch as it swims in the reef.

NC Transportation Museum

1 Samuel Spencer Drive, Spencer

If you have a train lover, this is the spot for you. This 57-acre site is filled with exhibits, train rides, historic structures, and special events.

» AMUSEMENT PARKS AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

Carowinds

300 Carowinds Blvd.

With more than 60 rides, a massive waterpark, live entertainment, and Camp Snoopy for the tiniest adventure-seekers, Carowinds packs a fun-filled day. New this year, the Aeronautica Landing celebrates aviation and innovation with rides, immersive experiences, a Game Zone, and even aviation-themed food and beverages.

Anne Springs Close Greenway

2573 Lake Haigler Drive, Fort Mill

With lakes, hardwood forests, plenty of wide-open space, and an onsite restaurant, this greenway is more than twice the size of Central Park. Enjoy hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, or camping at this



» DAY TRIPS

Reed Gold Mine

9621 Reed Mine Road, Midland

Reed Gold Mine is the site of the first documented gold discovery in the United States. Today, kids can pan for gold, take a tour of the historical site, and enjoy trails and outdoor exhibits. Admission is free.

Gold Panning is available Tuesday through Saturday between April 1 and October 31, weather permitting, with a charge of \$3 per pan (plus tax).

Tweetsie Railroad

300 Tweetsie Railroad Lane, Blowing Rock

This family favorite opens for the season on April 8. Enjoy train rides, live entertainment shows, playgrounds, rides, a deer park, and other fun activities. Purchase daily tickets or season passes online.

Great Wolf Lodge

10175 Weddington Road, Concord

This indoor water park fun has kid-friendly activities, dining options, interactive games, 11 waterslides, four pools, and more. Don't want to go overnight? Purchase a day pass.

Foothills Outdoor Adventures

2618 NC-268, Wilkesboro

Spend a beautiful day on the water just 90 minutes outside of Charlotte. Rent a pontoon boat on W. Scott Kerr Lake and float down the Yadkin River in a tube, canoe, kayak, or paddleboard.

Dupont State Forest

Cedar Mountain

This 10,400-acre area has more than 100 miles of recreational trails in lush forested land that encompasses lakes and waterfalls. It's open to walkers, mountain bikers, hikers, and horseback riders. Admission to the park is free.

exquisite nature preserve just over the border in Fort Mill. Daily admission for non-members is \$12 per person and \$6 for children ages 5 – 12.

Whitewater Center

5000 Whitewater Center Pkwy.

Take on roaring rapids, zipline through trees, or scale rock walls. Pro tip: The ropes courses can get challenging, but the free obstacle challenge is great for ages 5 and up. It makes the obstacle more doable with cargo nets, rope climbs, and wall traverses.

Quest

6345 Sample Road, Huntersville

Located at Latta Nature Preserve, Quest's 13,000-square foot facility offers endless opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Walk the Carolina Raptor Trail, hike alongside a naturalist, create a nature craft, kayak, paddleboard, canoe, fish, and more. While admission to Quest is free, you must purchase tickets to the Raptor Trail. (Adults are \$12, students are \$8, seniors/military/teachers are \$10, and children 3 and under are free)

The Overlook

7300 Airport Overlook Drive

For the flight enthusiasts in your crew, pack a picnic and head to The Overlook at Charlotte Douglas Airport. Park your car and chill while you watch takeoffs and landings.

Zootastic Park

448 Pilch Road, Troutman

This park features a variety of exotic animals like tigers, lions, leopards, giraffes, monkeys, lemurs, and more. Admission is

\$17 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Admission includes access to both the walk-around and drive-around sections of the zoo.

Lazy 5 Ranch

15100 Mooresville Road

Lazy 5 Ranch is home to more than 750 animals including birds, domestic farm animals, and exotic species. Kids can watch animals roam and get up close to feed them out of buckets right from your own car window. The ranch is open seven days a week and only accepts cash or check.

Good Karma Alpaca Ranch

1041 Brevard Place Road, Iron Station

Head to this Alpaca Ranch 40 minutes outside Charlotte and pet llamas, tour the farm, or do alpaca yoga. Purchase tickets in advance.

Cotton Beam Goat Farm

29631 Herrin Grove Road, Mount Pleasant

Spend 45 minutes in a goat pasture where you can snuggle a baby goat and bottle feed the farm's mini Nubian milk goats. Call 704-941-7944 to schedule.

Tiger World

4400 Cook Road, Rockwell

Tiger World Endangered Wildlife Preserve is a nonprofit animal conservation and educational center dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and preservation of exotic animals. Walk around freely on self-guided tours or join one of the guided educational tours Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. Call 704-279-6363 to book your tour.

8

PLACES TO DONATE KIDS ITEMS IN CHARLOTTE

Where your gently used items can do good

BY AMANDA PAGLIARINI HOWARD

One of the things parents can never truly be prepared for is the constant churn of outgrown clothes, shoes, toys, and books. When you muster the energy to purge, here are several places that will benefit from your donations.

» ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE

704-525-5000

What they take: Toys, clothes, accessories, shoes, books, baby items

What they cannot take:

Baby furniture, cribs, car seats

How it helps: The volunteer organization operates a thrift store where the proceeds fund philanthropic programs that feed, clothe, mentor, and educate children and families in Charlotte.

How to donate: Donations are accepted on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the thrift shop at 5426 Old Pineville Road.

» CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

704-371-3001

What they take: Clothes, comforters, bed linens, kitchenware, personal hygiene products, furniture, appliances

What they cannot take:

High chairs, car seats, strollers, toys, books, computers, electronics, food, medicine

How it helps:

Families in financial crisis that receive services can shop in their Free Store, which is stocked by community donations.

How to donate: Find information on where and when to donate at crisisassistance.org.

» GOODWILL

704-372-3434

What they take: Clothes, shoes, accessories, toys, books, sports equipment, bedding, baby furniture, computers, electronics, flatscreen TVs

What they cannot take: Mattresses and box springs, bed pillows, pianos, car seats, drop-side cribs, recalled items

How it helps: In addition to providing affordable goods to the community, the revenue from Goodwill stores funds the organization's job training programs and other services offered to those in need.

How to donate: Find more information on drop-off locations and pickup arrangements at goodwillsp.org.

» NATIONAL KIDNEY SERVICES

704-393-5780

What they take: Clothes, kitchenware, decorative items, furniture, small appliances, books, toys, linens

How it helps: Donations support NKS' health screening programs, public awareness about kidney disease, patient advocacy programs, and research.

How to donate: Find more information on drop-off locations and pickup arrangements at www.nkspickup.com.

» PROMISING PAGES

704-399-1934

What they take:

New and gently used children's books

What they cannot take: Damaged books, school textbooks, adult books, encyclopedias, magazines, CDs, DVDs

How it helps: Donated books are shared with children living in Charlotte area "book deserts," or those with few, if any, books at home.

How to donate: Find additional details at promising-pages.org.

» THE SALVATION ARMY FAMILY STORE

704-348-2838

What they take: Children's and adult clothes, shoes, toys, sports equipment, bicycles, appliances, household goods

How it helps: Sales from the Salvation Army thrift stores fund their adult drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

How to donate: Find a drop-off location or arrange a pickup at satruck.org.

» TRIPS FOR KIDS

707-910-3970

What they take: Bikes and bike parts including wheels, cranks, brakes, saddles, shoes, bibs, drop bars, aero bars, seat posts

What they cannot take: Their policy with bikes and bike gear is "dusty, not rusty"

How it helps: Trips For Kids Charlotte provides cycling experiences for underserved youth. Donated items will be used in the Earn-A-Bike program, or in the Charlotte Re-Cyclery where kids learn mechanics, repair, and how to refurbish bicycles.

How to donate: Find a drop off location or

arrange a pickup at tripsforkidscharlotte.org.

» TURNING POINT

704-288-1826

What they take: New or gently used toys, books, furniture, bedding, linens, clothes, shoes

How it helps: Turning Point is the only organization in Union County that provides emergency resources to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Donations are sold in their Second Chance Boutiques, which provides a significant portion of Turning Point's operating revenue and allows them to be less reliant on grants and fundraisers.

How to donate: Find drop off locations or arrange large item pickups at turningpointnc.org.

AMANDA PAGLIARINI HOWARD is a mom of two and digital content coordinator for *Charlotte* magazine and *Charlotte Parent*.



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BEYOND SOCCER AND BASEBALL

Five lesser-known sports your child might enjoy

BY RANDI MAZZELLA

When Donna Meyer's two sons were little, she got them involved in every sport that was available to them. "They were very active kids," she says. "I knew all the benefits they would get from playing sports, from physical exercise to teamwork and learning resilience."

While the boys liked basketball and baseball, nothing else really caught on—until they tried fencing. "They both fell in love with fencing, and I did too," Meyer says. "It's a great sport that doesn't require you to be a certain physical size to be successful. Instead, the focus is on thinking fast and being strategic."

If your child isn't excited by conventionally popular sports, here are five options to explore:

1. Pickleball

Pickleball is a paddle-based court game that combines elements of tennis, table tennis, and badminton. Players use a paddle to hit a whiffle-like ball and play on a court the size of a junior tennis court. Pickleball has grown popular with adults, but kids can begin learning the basics as young as 6. It's a great sport to play with their peers, but pickleball can be a good family activity, too. While it's not currently recognized by the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) as a sport, that may change in the future.

2. Disc Golf

Disc Golf is very similar to golf, but with a flying disc or frisbee. The

objective is the same, getting the disc into each hole (in most cases a metal type basket) in the fewest strokes (or in this case, throws.) Disc Golf is less expensive than golf (no pricey country club memberships required) and relatively easy to learn at any age. Disc Golf is also not an NCAA-sanctioned sport but is a popular club sport at high schools and colleges.

3. Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee is a team sport usually played 7 versus 7, although smaller configurations can compete against each other, too. Players throw and pass the disc (you can't run with the disc in your hand) until a player catches it in the end zone. It's non-



combat and self-officiated, so players make their own calls and resolve their own disagreements. Although more commonly played by boys, Ultimate Frisbee is a great sport for girls. The Girls' Ultimate Movement (GUM) is a community-wide outreach program designed to increase girls' participation in the sport. Ultimate Frisbee is not an NCAA-sanctioned sport, but it's a popular club sport on many campuses.

4. Table Tennis

Table Tennis is where players hit a lightweight ball back and forth across a table using small solid rackets. Many people use “table tennis” and “ping pong” interchangeably, but as of 2011, they are technically separate sports

(competitive players wanted the sport of table tennis taken more seriously so they fought for the distinction). Table Tennis can be played either as singles or doubles. Like in tennis, a player has an initial serve and then the ball is hit back and forth. A point is scored when a player fails to return the ball. The game can be fast-paced, so players must be physically fit and have excellent hand-eye coordination. Table tennis is an NCAA-sanctioned sport.

5. Fencing

Giving a young child a sharp stick to duel a peer may sound scary, but Meyers insists fencing is a very safe sport. “Fencers may get bruised, but no one gets puncture wounds,” she says.

“They wear masks and protective gear, so it is not dangerous.” Nicknamed “physical chess,” fencing requires strategic thinking, balance, and excellent hand-eye coordination. Most fencers start at age 9 (although some programs start as early as 7). Fencing tends to be an individual sport, but at the NCAA-sanctioned level (44 colleges currently have varsity fencing), they compete as a team.

RANDI MAZZELLA is a freelance writer specializing in parenting, teen issues, mental health, and wellness. She is a wife and mother of three children. To read more of her work, visit randimazella.com.



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Tips for Parents of *Reluctant Readers*

BY RANDI MAZZELLA

When my daughter was in first grade, her teacher required students to complete a reading log each school night. One evening, she had tears as she struggled to get through her 15 minutes of required reading. “I hate reading,” she cried.

Children may be reluctant readers for a number of reasons. Young children (3-5 years) may feel pressure to perform or worry their skills aren’t as strong as their peers. Older children (5-9 years) may feel embarrassed that they “should” be

reading at a certain level, as was the case with my daughter. She felt inferior to her classmates and frustrated that she couldn’t partake in the more advanced books with exciting plots that the children at higher levels got to read.

Even pre-teens who have been reading for several years may need more confidence in their abilities. “Some have gotten by mainly by memorizing words,” says Amy Brotherman, a former elementary school teacher and founder

of MyThreeReaders. “They may not have learned how to truly read and decode words using a phonetic breakdown.”

If you’re struggling with a reluctant reader, there are ways to help:

- **Remind them everyone goes at their own pace**
Reading is a skill that some children pick up quicker than others. Continuing to work at a skill that doesn’t come easily can be frustrating.



Let your child know you are proud of them and admire their perseverance. Also, ensure they understand that being a late reader doesn't mean they aren't as smart as their peers or won't become a great reader.

- **Investigate further**

There is a difference between a late or reluctant reader and a child with a learning issue. Undiagnosed issues like eyesight problems, dyslexia, or ADHD may be why your child struggles with or dislikes reading. Reach out to your child's teacher and physician to ensure there aren't any underlying issues.

- **Don't pressure them to read**

Children become reluctant to read when they feel pressured or judged on their ability. Tools like reading charts can make reading seem more like a chore than a fun activity. "Forced long periods of silent reading before the child is eager or ready to do so can have an adverse impact," Brotherman says. "It won't become enjoyable if a student feels pressure to read."

If reading assignments frustrate your young reader, it may be worth discussing with your child's teacher and brainstorming other ways your child can be motivated to read.

- **Find the fun in reading**

There is no reason a parent can't continue to read aloud to a child striving toward becoming an independent reader. "Kids of every age enjoy being read aloud to, even teenagers," Brotherman explains. "Reading aloud teaches a student the cadence of reading, builds up background knowledge, increases fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension." Audiobooks are another way to bring the joy of books to a child who is reluctant to read on their own (and a great tool for busy parents.)

- **Be empathetic**

If a child seems frustrated or says they don't like reading, probe further. "If your child declares he hates to read, pay attention to the 'why,'" Brotherman says. "Does he struggle

to decode words? Is something that is happening at school feels bad to him concerning reading? Communicate with your child's teacher and try to alleviate pressure around reading at school and home."

Ultimately Brotherman stresses that kids—and all beginning readers—will love to read when they feel successful. This was certainly the case with my daughter. Once she told me she found the books assigned on her level dull, I spoke with her teacher. We agreed that her reading comprehension exceeded her independent reading skills and found a way for her to start reading more advanced books. She and I would take turns, each reading a page aloud. With time, patience, and effort, reading clicked. Soon she went from whining about having to read for 15 minutes each night to begging to stay up past her bedtime so she could finish the next chapter.

RANDI MAZZELLA is a freelance writer specializing in parenting, teen issues, mental health, and wellness. She is a wife and mother of three children. To read more of her work, visit randimazella.com.

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GUIDE TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

UPDATED BY
CHARLOTTE PARENT STAFF

Charlotte and its nearby towns have abundant independent schools. From top-notch technology and robust extracurricular programs to unique educational models and teaching styles, each institution brings its own strengths. The following is a snapshot of area private schools. For more information, or to schedule a tour, visit the school's website. Many applications are due in January.

**Tuition is annual unless otherwise noted*

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

ALC Mosaic

6100 Monroe Rd., Charlotte
alcmosaic.org
704-709-9668

Grades: K-8

Tuition: \$1,200 - \$11,900
ALC Mosaic provides an environment for liberation where personal growth flourishes when directed by an individual's own interests and talents.

Anami Montessori School

2901 Archdale Dr., Charlotte
anamimontessori.org
704-556-0042

Grades: Pre-K-6

Tuition: \$10,278-\$14,166
Anami Montessori School adheres to the principles of Dr. Maria Montessori. Located in the SouthPark area, the school backs up to a county park and sits on a wooded lot.

Brisbane Academy

5901 Statesville Rd., Charlotte
brisbaneacademy.org
704-598-5208

Grades: Pre-K-8

Tuition: Contact the school for information.
Brisbane Academy offers a small, family-oriented environment to develop a love for self and learning. Each student is individually coached and challenged through instructional methods appropriate for their learning style. Offers an after-school enrichment program.

The British International School of Charlotte

7000 Endhaven Ln., Charlotte
nordangliaeducation.com
704-341-3236

Grades: Pre-K-12

Tuition: \$13,891-\$31,200
BISC encourages independent, creative thinking and has small class sizes for a personalized learning experience.

Carmel Christian School

1145 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Matthews
carmelchristian.org
704-849-9723

Grades: K-12

Religious Affiliation:

Southern Baptist
Tuition: \$10,975-\$16,400
Founded in 1993, Carmel Christian provides an education built upon biblical truth to equip students to reflect Christ to the world. CCS cultivates a community of academic excellence, artistic expression, and athletic distinction, marked by intentional discipleship.

Carolina Collaborative Prep

5007 Providence Rd., Charlotte
carolinacollaborativeprep.com
704-621-8482

Grades: 2-12

Tuition: \$17,500-\$25,000
Designed for students with learning differences. Small class size; individualized curriculum; Orton Gillingham programs; daily fitness; and electives including science lab, computer, and life skills. Full- and part-time options available.

Charlotte Catholic High School

7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Charlotte
charlottecatholic.org
704-543-1127

Grades: 9-12

Religious Affiliation: Catholic
Tuition: \$18,881
Challenges students to think critically, read purposefully, write effectively, and communicate clearly. Offers 1-to-1 technology, AP and honors courses, college counseling, award-winning fine arts, and championship-winning athletics. Limited transportation offered.

Charlotte Christian School

7301 Sardis Rd., Charlotte
charlottechristian.com
704-366-5657

Grades: JK-12

Tuition: \$18,000-\$23,755
Charlotte Christian is an independent, nondenominational college-prep school with a biblical worldview. The school is committed to excellence and to providing a balance

of rigorous academics, award-winning fine arts, and competitive athletics.

Charlotte Country Day School

1440 Carmel Rd., Charlotte
charlottecountrypday.org
704-943-4500

Grades: JK-12

Tuition: \$21,185-\$29,480
A mission-driven school guided by exceptional leaders committed to developing the potential of every student. Arts and athletics are integral to a Country Day education. Transportation offered.

Charlotte Jewish Day School

5007 Providence Rd., Building E, Charlotte
cjdschool.org
704-366-4558

Grades: K-8

Tuition: \$15,000-\$19,995
Sets the standard for elementary education based on Jewish beliefs. Through differentiated education curriculum, the school teaches critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration. Student-teacher ratio is 10:1. Transportation offered.

Charlotte Latin School

9502 Providence Rd., Charlotte
charlottelatin.org
704-846-1100

Grades: TK-12

Tuition: \$22,550-\$31,300
Charlotte Latin School's mission is to encourage individual development and civility in students by inspiring them to learn, encouraging them to serve others, and offering them many growth-promoting opportunities. Home to a vibrant and active arts program. Transportation offered.

Charlotte Preparatory School

212 Boyce Rd., Charlotte
charlotteprep.org
704-366-5994

Grades: Pre-K-8

Tuition: \$14,650-\$25,000
Focus on academic excellence, positive character development, and leadership in a diverse and inclusive community. Follows the Montessori method. Welcomes

fifth graders on athletic teams. Transportation offered.

Chesterbrook Academy Preschool Beverly Crest Blvd.

8411 Beverly Crest Blvd., Charlotte
chesterbrookacademy.com
704-327-2470

Ages: 6 weeks-pre-K2
Chesterbrook Academy Preschool on Beverly Crest Boulevard has served the families of Charlotte since 2007. Its Links to Learning curriculum prepares children for elementary school and beyond by developing important academic, social, and emotional skills.

Chesterbrook Academy Denver

7274 NC Hwy 73, Denver
chesterbrookacademy.com
704-610-6051

Grades: 6 weeks-pre-K2
Chesterbrook Academy Preschool has served the families of Denver since 2008. Its Links to Learning curriculum prepares children for elementary school and beyond by developing important academic, social, and emotional skills.

Chesterbrook Academy Huntersville

13740 Statesville Rd., Huntersville
chesterbrookacademy.com
704-397-3743

Ages: 6 weeks-pre-K2
Chesterbrook Academy Preschool on Statesville Road has served the families of Huntersville since 1999. Its Links to Learning curriculum prepares children for elementary school and beyond by developing important academic, social, and emotional skills.

Chesterbrook Academy Mallard Creek Road

8515 Mallard Creek Rd., Charlotte
chesterbrookacademy.com
704-624-8481

Ages: 6 weeks-pre-K2
Chesterbrook Academy

» GUIDE TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Preschool on Mallard Creek Road has served the families of Charlotte since 1997. Its Links to Learning curriculum prepares children for elementary school and beyond by developing important academic, social, and emotional skills.

Chesterbrook Academy Providence Road West

11922 Providence Rd. W,
Charlotte
chesterbrookacademy.com
704-457-7912

Grades: 6 weeks-pre-K2
Chesterbrook Academy Preschool on Providence Road West has served the families of Charlotte since 2007. Its Links to Learning curriculum prepares children for elementary school and beyond by developing important academic, social, and emotional skills.

Christ Classical Academy

10132-A Harrisburg Rd.,
Charlotte
christclassicalc1t.com
704-549-4101

Grades: TK-12
Tuition: \$7,900-\$10,200

Christ Classical Academy partners with families committed to a lifelong learning and service, guided by the presence of Jesus in attitude and action.

Covenant Day School

800 Fullwood Ln., Matthews
covenantday.org
704-847-2385

Grades: TK-12
Tuition: \$12,075-\$19,875
Covenant Day School is a Christ-centered, college-preparatory school that was founded in 1989. The school seeks to ignite a passion for learning and service in students by providing an authentic and holistic Christian education of distinction. Student-teacher ratio is 9:1-11:1.

Crossway Academy

9111 Monroe Rd., Ste. 190,
Charlotte
crosswayacademy.com
704-847-3911

Grades: Pre-K-8

Tuition: \$20,200-\$22,200
Meets the academic and social needs of children who are experiencing difficulty in the traditional, special education, or home-school setting. Inquire about special education scholarship grants.

Davidson Day School

750 Jetton St., Davidson
davidsonday.org
704-237-5200

Grades: Pre-K-12
Tuition: \$13,150-\$23,580
Fosters academic excellence through collaboration, creativity, and character development. Students benefit from an engaging, rigorous, and developmentally appropriate curriculum with exceptional artistic, athletic, and extracurricular programs.

Davidson Green School

511 S. Main St., Davidson
davidsongreenschool.org
704-817-2549

Grades: Pre-K-8
Tuition: \$8,431-\$13,445
An independent school with a focus on sustainability, nature connection, and engineering.

Fusion Academy Charlotte

3540 Toringdon Way,
Ste. 100, Charlotte
fusionacademy.com
980-265-3221

Grades: 6-12
Tuition: Class rates are \$4,119 each for middle school and \$3,680 for high school, per course, per term. Teachers personalize instruction for each student's unique strengths, interests, and learning style. Student-teacher ratio is 1:1.

Grace Covenant Academy

17301 Statesville Rd., Cornelius
gracecovenantacademy.org
704-892-5601

Grades: Pre-K-8
Tuition: \$2,215-\$9,350
Grace Covenant Academy educates the whole child through strong academics and intentional spiritual formation. Offers cutting-edge technology, a STEM lab, new facilities, and strong partnership with families.

Greyfriars Classical Academy

2701 Rice Rd., Matthews
greyfriarsclassical.org
704-315-5774

Grades: 9-12
Religious affiliation: Presbyterian
Tuition: \$4,500
Aims to develop intelligent thinkers who have the wisdom and communication skills to change a future generation. Students meet three days per week, with students working independently two days each week.

Guidepost Montessori at Prosperity

4755 Prosperity Church Rd.,
Charlotte
guidepostmontessori.com
704-503-6000

Grades: Pre-K-6
Tuition: Contact the school for information.
Guidepost Montessori develops a fundamental love of learning and equips each child with the knowledge, confidence, and tools needed to reach their highest potential as they grow into independent adults.

Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School

3100 Park Rd., Charlotte
htcms.org
704-527-7822

Grades: 6-8
Tuition: \$9,282-\$14,374
Religious Affiliation: Catholic
School offers 1-to-1 technology, STEM, robotics, award-winning band, broadcast journalism, marketing, graphic design, and championship-winning athletics. Transportation offered.

Ignite Achievement Academy

6203 Carmel Rd., Charlotte
igniteachievementacademy.com
704-542-6471

Grades: K-12
Tuition: \$26,500
Specializes in working with students with learning barriers. Students build essential academic skills and successfully complete their coursework, solve problems,

and meet the demands of their school environment.

Intellicor International Academy

4301 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte
intellicoracademy.org
704-290-2000

Grades: K-12
Religious Affiliation: Islamic
Tuition: Refer to the website for a breakdown of tuition information and financial assistance available. Promotes student and community development according to professional, pedagogical, and psychological knowledge and according to the teachings of Islam. Transportation offered.

Ivybrook Academy Myers Park

347 N. Caswell Rd., Ste. 101,
Charlotte
Ivybrookacademy.com
704-769-2834

Ages: 18 months-6 years
Tuition: Contact the school for information.
A Montessori half-day preschool that takes a progressive approach to education through the multi-sensory, discovery-based curriculum that encourages critical thinking and awards creativity by allowing each students' individuality to shine.

The John Crosland School

5146 Parkway Plaza Blvd.,
Charlotte
johncroslandschool.org
704-365-5490

Grades: K-12
Tuition: \$25,673-\$28,728
Since 1978, The John Crosland School has provided students with specific attention and learning differences an individualized college-preparatory education in an environment that nurtures and protects school values of curiosity, talents, character, humanity, and dreams.

Kent Academy

1814 Euclid Ave., Charlotte
kentacademycharlotte.com
704-996-8283

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$18,500-\$19,500
A small environment with individualized and integrated curriculum that utilizes community resources.

Keystone Montessori School

2830 Dorchester Pl., Charlotte
keystonemontessorischool.org
980-355-0900

Ages: 3-12 years

Tuition: \$8,800-\$12,320

An AMI-recognized Montessori program. Montessori education is scientifically and logically based on the natural development, tendencies, and interests of children.

Lake Norman Christian School

14813 N. Old Statesville Rd.,
Huntersville
lknc.org
704-987-9811

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$10,050-\$11,700

Provides a college-preparatory education in a safe and nurturing environment ground in the Christian faith. Strong arts and athletics programs.

Northside Christian Academy

333 Jeremiah Blvd., Charlotte
ncaknights.com
704-596-4074

Grades: Pre-K-12

Tuition: \$9,545-\$16,675

The mission of Northside Christian Academy is to partner with families to provide a Christ-centered, biblically based education in the pursuit of excellence. Known for its emphasis on the four As: academics, athletics, arts, and attitude.

Omni Montessori School

Blakeney campus: 9536
Blakeney Heath Rd., Charlotte
704-541-1326

Waxhaw campus: 7118
McWhorter Rd., Waxhaw
704-843-3335

omni-montessori.org

Grades: Pre-K-9

Tuition: \$11,818-\$20,991

Dedicated to developing skilled, resourceful, and caring members of society who value discovery and

excellence and contribute with purpose to the world. Each campus includes indoor and outdoor environments designed to meet the needs of student development.

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School

4225 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte
olacatholic.org
704-531-0067

Grades: Pre-K-8

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: Contact the school for information.

Encourages students to explore the worlds of academics and fine arts, try new activities, and discover personal talents. At OLA, students feel safe to try and try again.

Palisades Episcopal School

13120 Grand Palisades Pkwy.,
Charlotte
pescharlotte.org
704-583-1825

Grades: JK-8

Religious Affiliation:

Episcopal

Tuition: \$1,351-\$15,675

Provides a classical education challenging the mind, body, and spirit. Small class sizes allow for differentiated instruction and service integration, and students graduate as lifelong learners academically prepared for high school and beyond. Transportation offered.

Philips Academy

3115 Providence Rd., Charlotte
philipsacademync.org
704-365-4533

Grades: 6-12

Tuition: \$22,240

Provides middle and high school students with complex learning disabilities the academic, occupational, and social skills needed to be self-reliant, confident, contributing members of their communities. Student-teacher ratio is 6:1.

Phoenix Montessori Academy

12340 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd., Huntersville
phoenixmontessori.org
704-875-2139

Grades: Pre-K-12

Tuition: \$10,985-\$12,190

Aims to develop true scholars, lifelong learners, and productive citizens of the world in a diverse atmosphere that incorporates Montessori principles where students demonstrate respect and love for self, others, and their environment.

Providence Day School

5800 Sardis Rd., Charlotte
providenceday.org
704-887-6000

Grades: TK-12

Tuition: \$21,890-\$31,175

Providence Day School exists to inspire in its students a passion for learning, a commitment to personal integrity, and a sense of social responsibility. Transportation offered.

South Charlotte Baptist Academy

12416 Lancaster Hwy., Pineville
scbacademy.org
704-544-7323

Grades: Pre-K-9

Religious Affiliation:

Independent Baptist

Tuition: Contact the school for tuition information.

College-prep school committed to investing in the lives of its students, having the desire to see them increase in faith, virtue, and knowledge. Uses the Abeka curriculum, high on academics, and biblical worldview.

SouthLake Christian Academy

13820 Hagers Ferry Rd.,
Huntersville
southlakechristian.org
704-949-2200

Grades: JK-12

Religious Affiliation:

Presbyterian; students of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome.

Tuition: \$10,300-\$15,500

A co-educational school that teaches college preparatory curriculum with a Christian worldview on a 30-acre campus. Forty athletic teams offer competitive programs for middle and high school students, and the fine arts

program develops students in the visual, musical, and theatre arts. Transportation offered.

St. Ann Catholic School

600 Hillside Ave., Charlotte
stanncatholic.org
704-525-4938

Grades: Pre-K-5

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: \$5,403-\$13,335

Provides quality learning experiences grounded in the Catholic faith and recognizes each student's unique gifts. Committed to the spiritual, academic, social, physical, and creative development of its students. Transportation offered.

St. Gabriel Catholic School

3028 Providence Rd., Charlotte
stgabrielcatholicsschool.org
704-366-2409

Grades: K-5

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: \$8,403-\$13,335

Believes that by giving students hands-on experiences with the material they study, a lifelong commitment to learning is instilled. Students begin taking STEM in kindergarten and may participate in sports starting in third grade. Transportation offered.

St. Mark Catholic School

14750 Stumptown Rd.,
Huntersville
stmarkcatholicsschool.net
704-766-5000

Grades: K-8

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: \$8,403-\$14,374

The school seeks to give each student a solid lifelong foundation of faith in Jesus Christ, service, and academic excellence. Transportation offered.

St. Matthew Catholic School

11525 Elm Ln., Charlotte
stmattwildcats.com
704-544-2070

Grades: TK-5

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: \$8,403-\$13,335

Students are enriched with an active and diverse educational experience that shapes their

faith, virtue, and values.
Transportation offered.

St. Patrick Catholic School

1125 Buchanan St., Charlotte
saintpatrickschool.org
704-333-3174

Grades: K-5

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: \$8,403-\$13,335

This Dilworth school offers STEM, musical theatre, technology, library, athletics, band, family events, and special learning programs.

The Cyzner Institute

7022 Sardis Rd., Charlotte
cyznerinstitute.com
704-366-8260

Grades: Pre-K-8

Tuition: Contact the school for information.

Integrates education with layers of therapy in a dynamic, nurturing learning environment for children with learning differences or special developmental and behavioral needs.

The Epiphany School of Charlotte

1000 E. Morehead St., Charlotte
epiphanyschoolcharlotte.com
704-496-9942

Grades: 3-8

Tuition: \$24,150

An independent day school dedicated to providing programs for students with ASD-1 or other social communication differences to help build success skills for high school and beyond. Student-teacher ratio is 6:1.

The Fletcher School

8500 Sardis Rd., Charlotte
thefletcherschool.org
704-365-4658

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$29,000-\$30,600

Serves students with learning differences by offering a multisensory, college-prep curriculum. Students learn in small, structured classes. Individual and prescriptive learning plans are developed for each student. Student-teacher ratio is 6:1.

Trinity Episcopal School

750 E. Ninth St., Charlotte
tescharlotte.org
704-358-8101

Grades: K-8

Religious affiliation: Episcopal

Tuition: \$22,605-\$24,312

Located in uptown's First Ward, Trinity is a progressive, constructivist school that inspires students to become insightful thinkers, engaged citizens, and innovative problem-solvers. Graduates are grounded in reason, openness, and inclusivity.

Trinity Christian Preparatory School

7516 E. Independence Blvd., Ste. 100, Charlotte
trinityprep.com
704-569-1900

Grades: 8-12

Tuition: \$16,050

Offers small class sizes, hands-on curriculum, flexible lesson plans, individualized instruction, and strong communication with families about their students' progress.

United Faith Christian Academy

8617 Providence Rd., Charlotte
ufca.org
704-541-1742

Grades: Pre-K-12

Tuition: \$10,868-\$14,228

Academy offers accredited college-preparatory, Christ-centered education for academically motivated students with opportunities for leadership and service. Offers fine arts.

CABARRUS COUNTY Cannon School

5801 Poplar Tent Rd., Concord
cannonschool.org
704-786-8171

Grades: JK-12

Tuition: \$19,540-\$27,770

A learning environment of trust and support, with faculty and staff who are deeply committed to each child's journey of academic and personal growth. Strong emphasis on languages and the arts.

Christ the King Catholic High School

2011 Crusader Way, Huntersville
ctkchs.org
704-799-4400

Grades: 9-12

Tuition: \$18,881

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

An inclusive, welcoming, co-educational community for students and families of all faith traditions with 1:1 technology, AP and honors courses, college counseling, band, theatre, and athletics.

Covenant Classical School

3200 Patrick Henry Dr., Concord
covenantclassical.org
704-792-1854

Grades: JK-12

Tuition: \$3,120-\$8,820

Covenant Classical School was founded in 1996 and provides an academically excellent education that is biblically based and classically taught.

HOPE Academy

7655 Bruton Smith Blvd., Concord
hopek12.com
704-999-2436

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$7,553-\$8,476

A Christian University-Model school. Students are taught by professional instructors three days per week, and HOPE provides the materials for parents to work with students at home two days per week.

The Daniel Academy of Concord

310 Kerr St. NW, Concord
tda-concord.com
704-260-7662

Grades: K4-12

Tuition: \$6,200

Founded in August 2010, The Daniel Academy of Concord is a Family Partnership Private School serving Cabarrus County and the surrounding areas.

GASTON COUNTY

Gaston Christian School

1625 Lowell Bethesda Rd., Gastonia
gastonchristian.org

704-349-5020

Grades: Pre-K-12

Tuition: \$5,214-\$11,108

Students at all grade levels are encouraged to think creatively and critically through the prism of a Christian worldview. Founded in 1980.

Gaston Day School

2001 Gaston Day School Rd., Gastonia
gastonday.org
704-864-7744

Grades: Pre-K-12

Tuition: \$4,790-\$20,270

A nonsectarian, college-preparatory school with the mission to educate students and prepare them for academic success and responsible, productive lives. Founded in 1967. Student-teacher ratio is 10:1.

Saint Michael Catholic School

704 St. Michaels Lane, Gastonia
stmcs.org
704-865-4382

Grades: Pre-K-8

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: \$4,042-\$8,995

A co-educational Catholic classic school where students pursue a superior classical education empowered by strong faculty-student relationships and a vibrant community life.

IREDELL COUNTY

Chesterbrook Academy Mooresville

143 Professional Park Dr., Mooresville
chesterbrookacademy.com
704-946-6443

Ages: 6 weeks-Pre-K2

Tuition: Contact the school for information.

Chesterbrook Academy Preschool has served the families of Mooresville since 2001. Its Links to Learning curriculum prepares children for elementary school and beyond by developing important academic, social, and emotional skills.

Liberty Preparatory Christian Academy

229 Midway Lake Rd., Mooresville

libertyprepnc.com

704-660-3933

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$6,000-\$7,100

Uses a modified classical approach to a college preparatory education with a focus on critical thinking skills and developing the love of learning, set in a Christian school environment.

Woodlawn School

135 Woodlawn School Loop,
Mooresville

woodlawnschool.org

704-895-8653

Grades: Pre-K-12

Tuition: \$16,850-\$22,560

Hands-on, project-based learning forms the heart of the curriculum with active, engaged, student-centered instruction using the most progressive methods.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Starboard Christian Academy

2380 Lake Shore Rd. S, Denver
starboardchristian.com

704-775-3724

Grades: K-8

Tuition: \$5,300-\$5,800

A school with a unique three-day/two-day schedule that partners with families to provide a quality, cost-effective, college-preparatory education.

UNION COUNTY

Arborbrook Christian Academy

4823 Waxhaw-Indian Trail Rd.,
Matthews

arborbrook.org

704-821-9952

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$8,439-\$9,894

A Charlotte Mason-style school recently ranked as No. 1 for private high schools in Union County by Niche. This community school strives to develop a love of learning through a biblical lens.

Chesterbrook Academy Weddington

509 Weddington Rd.,
Weddington

chesterbrookacademy.com

704-610-5548

Ages: 6 weeks-Pre-K2

Tuition: Contact the school for information.

Chesterbrook Academy Preschool has served the families of Weddington since 2009. Its Links to Learning curriculum prepares children for elementary school and beyond by developing important academic, social, and emotional skills.

Ivybrook Academy Weddington

9801 Suzanne Ct., Waxhaw

ivybrookacademy.com

704-912-0248

Ages: 18 months-6 years

Tuition: Contact the school for information.

A Montessori half-day preschool that takes a progressive approach to education through the multi-sensory, discovery-based curriculum that encourages critical thinking and awards creativity by allowing each student's individuality to shine.

Metrolina Christian Academy

732 Indian Trail-Fairview Rd.,
Indian Trail

metrolinachristian.org

704-882-3375

Grades: TK-12

Religious Affiliation: Baptist; students of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome.

Tuition: \$7,652-\$10,586

The largest Christian school in Union County offers academic excellence and opportunities for athletics, fine arts, clubs, and service while partnering with parents to provide a biblical worldview. Student-teacher ratio is 21:1 for the lower school and 22:1 for the upper school.

Thales Academy

8012 New Town Rd., Waxhaw

thalesacademy.org

704-256-5370

Grades: K-8

Tuition: \$5,700-\$6,000

The mission of Thales Academy is to provide an excellent, high-quality, and affordable education through direct instruction and a classical curriculum that embodies traditional American values.

Weddington

Christian Academy

13901 Providence Rd.,
Weddington

weddingtonchristianacademy.org

704-846-1039

Grades: Pre-K-8

Religious Affiliation:

Methodist

Tuition: \$7,670-\$11,945

Weddington Christian Academy provides an education of academic excellence and Christian spiritual development in a faith community that challenges the mind, prepares the heart, and nurtures the soul.

YORK COUNTY

Academy Christian School

129 W. Border Rd., Rock Hill

academychristianschool.org

803-327-5673

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$5,600

Provides a college-preparatory, Bible-based education using the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum.

Ivybrook Academy Fort Mill

875 Dave Gibson Blvd.,
Fort Mill

ivybrookacademy.com

803-991-0644

Ages: 18 months-6 years

Tuition: Contact the school for information.

A Montessori half-day preschool that takes a progressive approach to education. It taps into children's natural curiosity and encourages them to explore, ask questions, and discuss their findings in indoor and outdoor classrooms.

Providence Classical School

318 N. Jones Ave., Rock Hill

providenceclassicalrockhill.com

803-900-9582

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$6,500-\$6,810

Provides students with a classical education of the highest quality. The school aims to be a model of excellence in both academics and Christian character.

St. Anne Catholic School

Lower school:

1698 Bird St., Rock Hill

803-324-4814

High school:

292 Munn Rd., Fort Mill

803-548-0073

stanneschool.com

Grades: K3-12

Religious Affiliation: Catholic

Tuition: \$3,785-\$11,070

Inspires excellence by educating the whole person intellectually, physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and culturally.

Village Montessori and Preparatory School

1525 Onyx Ridge, Fort Mill

villagemontessori.com

803-462-5288

Grades: Pre-K-K

Tuition: \$7,355-\$17,554

Lays the foundation for developing productive, independent, and respectful lifelong learners within a Montessori environment.

Walnut Grove Christian School

1036 Maxwell Mill Rd.,

Fort Mill

walnutgrovechristianschool.com

803-835-2000

Grades: K-12

Tuition: \$8,775-\$9,850

Provides a Christ-centered approach to education in an environment where students develop lasting relationships through a schedule that allows time to invest in activities they are passionate about. Student-teacher ratio is 13:1 (elementary and middle school) and 15:1 (high school).

Westminster Catawba Christian School

Lower campus:

2240 Rosewood Dr., Rock Hill

803-366-1810

Upper campus:

2650 India Hook Rd., Rock Hill

803-366-4119

wccs.org

Tuition: \$2,360-\$13,030

A Christ-centered, college-preparatory day school that partners with parents to love, nurture, and challenge students as they grow in mind, body, and spirit.



©SHUTTERSTOCK

GUIDE TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

UPDATED BY
CHARLOTTE PARENT STAFF

Charter schools are publicly funded, independently run schools authorized by the N.C. Board of Education and operated by independent nonprofit boards of directors. Charter schools are held accountable through the state assessment and accountability system, including annual standardized testing. Many charters offer unique programming and smaller classroom settings, and all are free to attend. Each has its own application date and process, with many using an open lottery admission system.

**Charter schools included are those in operation as of the 2022-2023 school year. Grades listed are anticipated for the 2023-2024 school year.*

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

American Leadership Academy Charlotte

8000 Robinson Church Rd.,
Charlotte
alaschools.org
980-327-1777

Grades: Pre-K-6

Offers data-driven instruction with a focus on character development, as well as core and STEM classes. Dress code. Art and athletics offered. Transportation and after-school care programs available. Founded as Aristotle Preparatory Academy in 2013; rebranded in 2023 under new Charter One management.

Bradford Preparatory School

2502 Salome Church Rd.,
Charlotte
bradfordprep.org
704-549-0080

Grades: K-12

A college-prep school that uses innovative teaching methods in a small, responsive learning environment. Extensive college counseling beginning in ninth grade. Middle and high school athletics offered. There are multiple uniform/dress code policies. Before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2014.

Bonnie Cone Classical Academy

10700 Asbury Chapel Rd.,
Huntersville
bonniecone.org
704-948-4439

Grades: Pre-K-8

Bonnie Cone Classical Academy teaches students how to thrive in a classical environment. Dress code. After-school care and fine arts programs are available. Founded in 2019.

Charlotte Lab School

Primary School:
600 Seigle Ave., Charlotte
704-235-3060

Lower School:
301 E. Ninth St., Charlotte
704-464-3830

Upper School:
2045 Suttle Ave., Charlotte
704-464-3830
charlottelabschool.org

Grades: K-12

Personalized, innovative learning that provides students with necessary skills to thrive in the 21st century. Uniforms required. Performing arts, clubs, and athletics are available. Founded in 2015.

Charlotte Secondary School

8601 McAlpine Park Dr.,
Charlotte
charlottesecondary.org
704-295-0137

Grades: 6-12

This college-prep school focuses on small class sizes, individualized learning, and a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, and aims to help students uncover their genius. Dress code. Parent involvement required. Sports clubs available. Founded in 2007.

Commonwealth High School

5112 Central Ave., Charlotte
commonwealthhs.com
704-899-4998

Grades: 9-12

Flexible scheduling options and personalized academic plans help students aim for success and earn high school diplomas. Public transit passes available for students who live more than 2 miles away. Founded in 2014.

Community School of Davidson

Lower school:
565 Griffith St., Davidson
704-896-6262

Upper school:
404 Armour St., Davidson
704-897-8061
csdspartans.org

Grades: K-12

Teachers and parents work together to create an inclusive community with a focus on hands-on learning. Athletics offered. After-school care available. Limited transportation. Founded in 2001.

Corvian Community School Elementary:

9501 David Taylor Dr., Charlotte
Middle: 4125 Johnston
Oehler Rd., Charlotte
High: 4041 Johnston
Oehler Rd., Charlotte

corvian.org
704-717-7550

Grades: K-12

Addresses the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical needs of each student. Teachers and parents work together to create an inclusive community of learning. Athletics, clubs, and before- and after-school care offered. Founded in 2010.

East Voyager Academy of Charlotte

7429 Tuckaseegee Rd., Charlotte
eastvoyager.org
704-412-6988

Grades: Pre-K-8

Graduates students with English-Chinese bilingual proficiency, strong academics, and intercultural competence. Dress code. Founded in 2018.

KIPP Charlotte

K-4: 5431 Hickory Grove Rd.
704-209-9944

5-8: 931 Wilann Dr.
704-537-2044

kippnc.org

Grades: K-8

A school that develops the whole child through culturally responsive teaching. Uniforms required. Transportation available. Founded in 2007.

Lake Norman Charter Elementary:

10019 Hambright Rd.,
Huntersville

Middle: 12435 Old Statesville Rd., Huntersville

High: 12701 Old Statesville Rd.,
Huntersville

Incharter.org
704-948-8600

Grades: K-12

Aims to build community leaders with the lifelong desire to learn, lead, and serve. Offers extracurricular activities and athletics. Founded in 1998.

Lakeside Charter Academy

17609 Old Statesville Rd.,
Cornelius
lakesidecharteracademy.com
704-896-9500

Grades: K-8

Provides students with a focused and coherent curriculum through the Core Knowledge Sequence by

E.D. Hirsch. Uniforms required. Before- and after-school care offered. Limited transportation.

Mallard Creek STEM Academy

9142 Browne Rd., Charlotte
mcstemacademy.org
980-288-4811

Grades: K-8

Using a workshop model, students take ownership of their learning. Uniforms required. Clubs and athletics offered. Transportation and before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2016.

Matthews Charter Academy

2332 Mount Harmony Church Rd., Matthews
nhaschools.com/schools/matthews
980-339-5449

Grades: K-8

School curriculum concentrates on real-world skills, problem solving and how to be a good citizen. Dress code. Offers sports, music, arts, and clubs. Before- and after-school care offered. Founded in 2016.

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

5225 77 Center Dr., Charlotte
scholarsacademy.org
704-503-1112

Grades: K-8

Offers a differentiated and challenging learning environment that caters to intellectually gifted children. Athletics, extracurricular activities, and after-school care available. Founded in 2000.

Jackson Day School

1209 Little Rock Rd., Charlotte
jacksonday.org
704-391-5516

Grades: K-12

Focus on character, ethics, service, and physical and emotional health in a creative and positive environment that enhances learning and growing. Dress code. Athletics and fine arts programs available. Founded in 2009.

Movement School Eastland Elementary:

5249 Central Ave., Charlotte
704-532-0640

» GUIDE TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

Southwest Elementary:

150 Osprey Point Dr., Charlotte
704-420-7980

Northwest Elementary:

8015 Bellhaven Blvd., Charlotte
980-272-4327

Freedom Elementary:

2701 Freedom Dr., Charlotte
704-585-1356

Freedom Middle:

2647 Freedom Dr., Charlotte
980-246-3041
movementschools.org

Grades: K-8

The school believes in top-notch academics, individualized learning, and character development. Uniforms required. After-school care and transportation are available. Founded 2017.

Pioneer Springs Community School

9232 Bob Beatty Rd., Charlotte
pioneersprings.org
704-494-0777

Grades: K-12

A holistic and nature-based school that teaches core concepts in a real-world context. Dress code. Before- and after-school care are available. Founded in 2012.

Queen's Grant Community School

6400 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd., Mint Hill
nhaschools.com
704-573-6611

Grades: K-8

Centered on student responsibility, parental partnership, and academic excellence with a moral focus. Dress code. After-school care, athletics, and extracurricular activities are available. Founded in 2002.

Socrates Academy

3909 Weddington Rd., Matthews
socratesacademy.us
704-321-1711

Grades: K-11

Inspires scholars to reach their full academic and intellectual potential. Advanced coursework on Greek language and cultural heritage. Uniforms required. Athletics, music, and dance are

offered. Before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2005.

Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy

5203 Shopton Rd., Charlotte
scstemacademy.org
980-505-8344

Grades: K-8

Promotes high academic achievement by increasing student engagement through a workshop model that encourages and empowers students to take ownership of their own learning. Uniforms required. Before- and after-school care available at the Young Explorers Enrichment Center. Transportation is available. Founded in 2019.

Stewart Creek High School

2701 Freedom Dr., Charlotte
stewartcreekhs.com
704-755-5112

Grades: 9-12

Personalized coursework and mastery-based curriculum with social support for students in earning their high school diplomas. Offers an integrated reading intervention program. Public transit passes available for students who live more than 2 miles away. Founded in 2016.

Steele Creek Preparatory Academy

2200 Shopton Rd., Charlotte
steelecreekprep.org
980-243-5580

Grades: K-8

A rigorous, personalized learning environment designed to build academic and critical thinking skills. Uniforms required. Athletics offered. Before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2019.

Sugar Creek Charter School

K-8: 4101 N. Tryon St., Charlotte
704-509-5470

9-12:

7815 Old Concord Rd., Charlotte
980-242-3070
thesugarcreek.org

Grades: K-12

The mission of this school is to eliminate the generational poverty of low-income students of color. The curriculum focuses on academic preparation, life

skills, and individualized support for college or career goals. Uniforms required. Athletics and transportation are offered. Founded in 1999.

Telra Institute

4150 McKee Rd., Charlotte
telra.org
704-727-2530

Grades: K-5

Enables advanced learners to realize their potential by going beyond the conventional educational model by nurturing challenge and encouraging tailored acceleration. Dress code. Before- and after-school care available. Transportation offered. Founded in 2021.

The Math and Science Academy of Charlotte Elementary:

8701 Mallard Creek Rd., Charlotte
980-299-6633

Secondary:

9108 Mallard Creek Rd., Charlotte
980-321-7744
tmsacharlotte.org

Grades: K-12

A robust academic program with character education that gives students the skills to live in harmony with themselves, others, and nature. Uniforms required. After-school programs and transportation are available. Founded in 2008.

United Community Charter School

1406 Suther Rd., Charlotte
ucsnc.org
980-819-0555

Grades: K-8

An A+ school with curriculum based around the arts. A+ Schools combine interdisciplinary teaching and daily arts instruction. Athletics available. After-school care offered. Founded in 2014.

Unity Classical Charter School

14613 Steele Creek Rd., Charlotte
unityclassical.org
704-504-8460

Grades: K-8

Focus on a classical education that teaches the whole child with a curriculum of academic excellence and a culture of caring. Uniforms required. Athletics, clubs, and arts programs available. Before- and after-school care offered. Transportation available. Founded in 2017.

VERITAS Community School

2600 Grimes St., Charlotte
veritascommunityschool.org
980-677-0101

Grades: K-8

Empowers the scholar and athlete in every child, using health and wellness practices in a peaceful environment. Uniforms required. Transportation and before- and after-school programs available. Founded in 2015.

CABARRUS COUNTY

A.C.E. Academy

7807 Caldwell Rd., Harrisburg
aceacademycharter.org
704-456-7153

Grades: K-8

Project-based learning with emphasis on entrepreneurship, leadership, financial literacy, and problem-solving. Dress code. Before- and after-school care available. Limited transportation. Founded in 2014.

Carolina International School

9545 Poplar Tent Rd., Concord
ciscomets.com
704-455-3847

Grades: K-12

Nurtures students' natural curiosity through a challenging, interdisciplinary, international curriculum. Uniforms required. Music, drama and athletics offered. Founded in 2004.

Concord Lake STEAM Academy

1911 Concord Lake Rd., Kannapolis
concordlakeacademy.org
704-273-5310

Grades: K-8

Offers an individualized learning environment that includes parent participation. Uniforms required. Offers arts programs

and athletics. Before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2018.

Valor Preparatory Academy

K-6: 355 Poplar Crossing Dr. NW, Concord 704-789-2500

7-12: 7550 Ruben Linker Rd. NW, Concord 980-334-6185 vpaschools.org

Grades: K-12
A rigorous and productive learning environment. Parent participation required. Uniforms required. Athletics offered. Transportation and before- and after-school care available. Founded as Cabarrus Charter Academy in 2013; rebranded in 2023.

GASTON COUNTY

Mountain Island Charter School

13440 Lucia Riverbend Hwy., Mount Holly micharter.org 704-827-8840

Grades: K-12
Offers a traditional curriculum within a positive, challenging learning environment. There are three academic tracks: college preparatory, career preparatory, and occupational. Athletic programs and before- and after-school care available. Limited transportation. Founded in 2010.

Piedmont Community Charter School

Elementary: 119 E. Second Ave., Gastonia 704-853-2428

Middle School: 2970 S. New Hope Rd., Gastonia 704-349-4640

High School: 2596 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia 704-271-2411 pcharter.org

Grades: K-12
College-preparatory school. Dress code. Offers arts, clubs, and middle and high school athletics. Founded in 2000.

Ridgeview Charter School

207 W. Bradley Ave., Gastonia ridgeviewcharter.org 704-867-6635

Grades: K-8
Focuses on academic growth and social, emotional, and physical development, in addition to unlocking students' hidden talents. Uniforms required. Founded 2019.

American Renaissance School

132 E. Broad St., Statesville arsn.org 704-924-8870

Grades: K-8
A welcoming environment that educates young people as students and citizens and incorporates arts in the curriculum. Uniforms required. Clubs and athletics offered. Before- and after-school care available. Transportation available. Founded in 1998.

Iredell Charter Academy

251 Home Improvement St., Troutman iredellcharter.org 704-508-0104

Grades: K-8
The school focuses on personalized learning for each student. Advanced program is available. Parents are required to commit to volunteer hours. Uniforms required. Athletics and before- and after-school care available. Limited transportation. Founded in 2016.

Langtree Charter Academy

K-5: 154 Foundation Ct., Mooresville 704-705-1698

6-12: 185 W. Waterlynn Rd., Mooresville 704-235-0865 langtreecharter.org

Grades: K-12
Focus on citizenship and experimental learning with personalized plans for each student. Parent participation required. Uniforms required. Athletics and clubs are available. Founded in 2013.

Pine Lake Preparatory

104 Yellow Wood Cir., Mooresville pinelakeprep.org 704-237-5300

Grades: K-12
Offers college-prep coursework, an arts program, community-service learning, literature-rich curriculum, and an after-school program. Exceptional student program available, as are athletics and clubs. Uniforms required. Founded in 2006.

Success Institute Charter School

1424-2 Rickert St., Statesville successinstitutecharterschool.com 704-881-0441

Grades: K-8
Uses Common Core curriculum, foundational principles of business, and key elements of entrepreneurial success. Parent participation required. Athletics offered. Transportation and before- and after-school programs available. Founded in 2000.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln Charter School

7834 Galway Ln., Denver 704-483-6611 133 Eagle Nest Rd., Lincolnton 704-736-9888 lincolncharter.org

Grades: K-12
A college-prep school that offers a small school environment. Middle and high school athletics, clubs, arts, and service opportunities offered. Transportation available. Founded in 1998.

West Lake Preparatory Academy

1691 Forney Creek Pkwy., Denver wlakeprep.org 704-966-2202

Grades: K-8
Offers a college-preparatory education that empowers students through individualized learning plans that promote strong character, independence, and leadership. Uniforms required. Athletics and clubs offered. Before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2019.

UNION COUNTY

Apprentice Academy

2505 Weddington Rd., Monroe aacampus.org 980-313-8610

Grades: 7-11
Provides students with technology-focused career prep as well as college-prep curriculum. Athletics offered. Transportation available. Founded in 2018.

Monroe Charter Academy

2850 Old Charlotte Hwy., Monroe monroecharteracademy.org 980-210-3627

Grades: K-6
Create academically thriving citizens by partnering with parents and the community and utilizing high expectations as well as a rigorous classical education. Uniforms required. Before- and after-school care is available. Founded in 2019.

Union Academy Charter School

675 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Monroe unionacademy.org 704-238-8883

Grades: K-12
A mission-driven charter school that focuses on challenge, character, and community. After-school care is available for children in grades K-8, and athletics are available for middle and high school students. Founded in 2000.

Union Day School

3000 Tilley Morris Rd., Weddington uniondayschool.com 704-256-1494

Grades: K-10
This school offers collaborative environments and rigorous classrooms to promote high levels of learning. Dress code. Athletics offered. Before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2016.

Union Preparatory Academy at Indian Trail

2324 Younts Rd., Indian Trail indiantrailprep.org 704-893-3607

Grades: K-9
Uses personalized learning plans to best accommodate its students. Parents are required to participate in a set number of volunteer hours. Uniforms

» CHARTER SCHOOLS

required. Athletics offered. Before- and after-school care available. Limited transportation available. Founded in 2016.

YORK COUNTY

Riverwalk Academy

5750 Mount Gallant Rd., Rock Hill
riverwalkacademy.com
803-327-8400

Grades: K-12

Focus on project-based learning that incorporates team teaching and collaboration in classroom. Dress code. Athletics, clubs, and arts programs offered. Before- and after-school care available. Founded in 2014.

York Preparatory Academy

1047 Golden Gate Ct., Rock Hill
yorkprepsc.org
803-324-4400

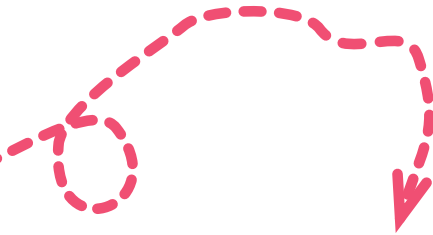
Grades: K-12

Committed to academic rigor with a college-prep focus. It uses hands-on innovative learning in classrooms and offers athletic and arts programs. Before- and after-school care available. Limited transportation. Founded in 2010.



CHARLOTTE parent

For advertising information, contact admin@charlotteparent.com



WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

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CHARLOTTE BALLET COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

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Special, low-cost performances for students to experience the magic of ballet!

BREAKING BOUNDARIES

Oct. 12 | 10:30 AM | Center for Dance

NUTCRACKER

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COME TO LIFE

March 8 | 10:30 AM | Knight Theater

SWAN LAKE

May 9 & 10 | 10:30 AM | Knight Theater

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Charlotte Ballet Dancers present a 45-60 minute narrated performance in your school!

PETER PAN

Recommended for grades K-5

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For additional information, contact
Community Engagement Administrator,
Emma Manion 704.414.2792

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Photo by Quinn Wharton. Dancer: Sarah Lapointe.



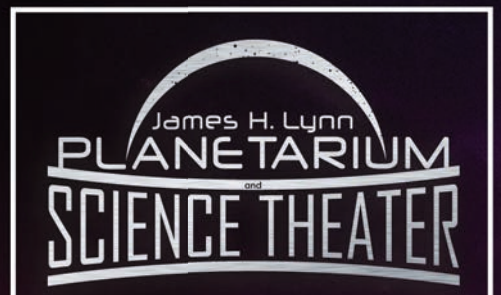
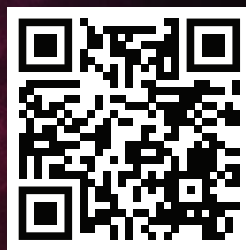
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Uptown Charlotte

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Montessori (virtual) **Oct. 18**
K-8th Grade **Nov. 1**
K-8th Grade (virtual) **Nov. 15**



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