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October 2017

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Why
Middle
School
Matters

THE
COLLEGE
VISIT:

A PARENT'S
GUIDE

PRIVATE SCHOOL
DIRECTORY

8

HALLOWEEN
TREATS

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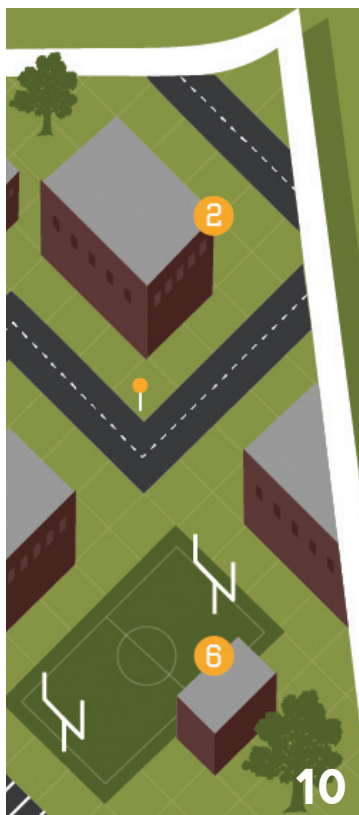


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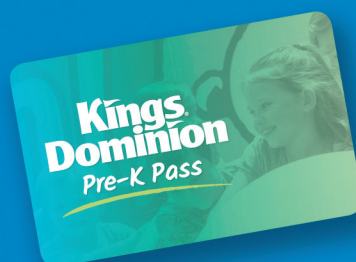
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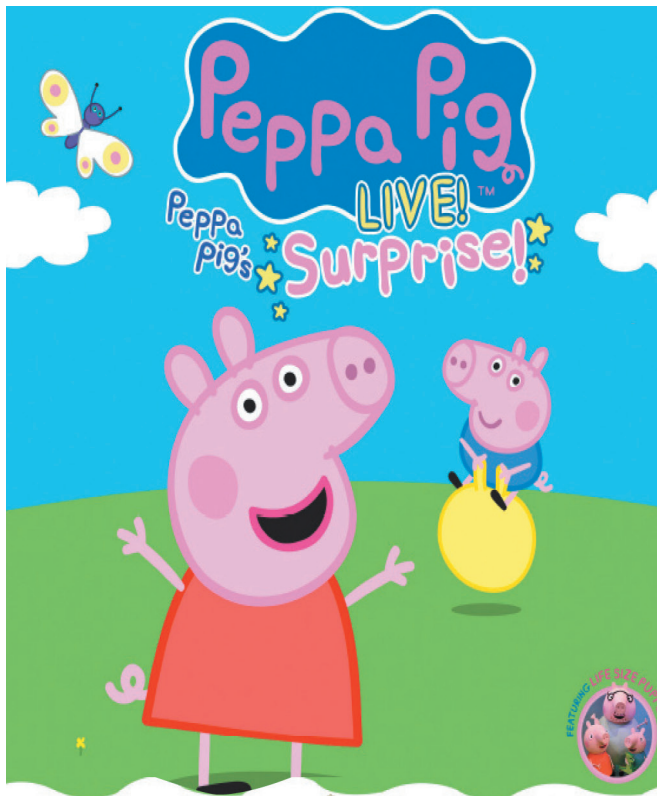


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HOW TO PLAN A COLLEGE VISIT:

A PARENT'S GUIDE

BEST TIME OF YEAR TO VISIT

Fall or Winter
are good times for seniors who are narrowing down their choices.

Spring or spring break
are great times for juniors who are beginning their research, or those who are interested in fall sports programs or early admission.h

Late summer and early fall
are convenient because the fall semester often starts early for college and your child will not yet be in school.

Don't go
in early to mid-summer, during reading or exam weeks, winter break, or holidays.

If you have a child who is a junior or senior in high school, you may be thinking about selecting a college or university. The best way for teens to get to know their options (and to see firsthand what university is like) is to visit! Here's how to plan a college visit with your high schooler.

NARROW DOWN YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH

No one can visit every school they're interested in, especially if the schools are spread out geographically. Start by visiting schools online using each school website's "virtual tour" option. Then, decide what type of school your child is interested in:

big or small, state or private, liberal arts or tech/trade. Once you're ready to officially tour colleges with your junior or senior, schedule visits via the school's admissions page. You can also check each school's Facebook page to find upcoming events. It's important to visit a variety of schools, so find several schools in reasonable proximity to visit in one trip. Be sure to visit at least one large school and one small school as well as one in the countryside and one in a downtown area of a city. Even if your child thinks they know that a big, urban school is right for them, they may change their mind after seeing a small, rural campus, or vice versa.

If your child is interested in schools that are too far away for a visit, visit a similar school within driving distance. For example, if your child is interested in a small, liberal arts private school on the other side of the country, visit a similarly structured school closer to home. The local school may not be on his or her shortlist, but it will give your child a feel for the general philosophy and campus life of the desired school. And who knows? Maybe your child will love it!

WHEN TO VISIT

Once you've decided where to go, it's time to decide when to go. It's important to plan college visits in advance, especially during popular seasons to visit. Schedule each visit by

visiting the school's admissions or "visit" page, where it will be easy to schedule your tour. Look for special prospective student days, during which the school will offer extended tours, dorm visits and the option to sit in on classes. If you can't visit during these days, schedule a private visit for any day that works for

your family. In this case, it's important to call the school's admissions office to find out if your child can visit a classroom, a dorm or meet a current student to be shown around beyond the standard tour. This is a great time to ask about the possibility

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COLLEGE VISIT » FROM PAGE 11

(or necessity) of an interview with an admissions counselor. Some schools recommend one, and others do not.

Days and seasons to avoid when planning your college visit include school holidays, when the campus will be empty, and particularly busy times, such as “move in” season in the early fall or the end of term, when finals are occurring. Weekends are fine, but weekdays are ideal. Most high school students and their families try to visit on a long weekend so they can get a taste of what a weekday and a weekend is like at the campus.

ON VISIT DAY

On the day of your visit, arrive early and follow the instructions you were given when you made your appointment. You’ll likely start in the admissions office. Let your child do the talking; this is their time to step forward. Every college visit will include a campus tour; pay attention to the small details your child may not think about. Do most students seem to have cars or do they ride bikes? Is there a sense of fun and community in the common areas, or do students look stressed and tired? What does campus security look like? Are safety precautions evident?

Take time to stop in at a local or campus coffee shop or common area, and walk past recreation areas and sports fields. If your child has an interview, they will do that solo, so take that time to strike up conversations with other prospective parents or take a financial aid seminar (or gather financial aid papers from admissions).

Be sure to teach your child to make eye contact, shake hands and properly introduce themselves to campus personnel. And always encourage them to send a thank-you email after your visit.

GET TO KNOW THE AREA

An advantage of visiting several campuses in one college tour trip is the opportunity to stay longer in the general area. Look for a hotel close to at least one of the campuses you’re visiting, and pay close attention to the neighborhoods, public transit



options and general atmosphere surrounding each school. Take the time to read the local newspaper, read campus bulletin board notices to learn about upcoming events for the student body and community and play tourist in the city you’re visiting.

While you’re on campus, don’t be shy! Encourage your kids to ask current students why they chose the school, whether they like it and what it’s like to live in the city or town. Learn about clubs to join or sports teams in the area.

No matter which school your child ultimately selects, visiting colleges can be a fun family trip. Bring siblings so they can get a feel for it as well, and be sure to add some family time into the mix; see a movie, tour sites in the city or splurge at a local restaurant. Your college-ready child will remember this special time with Mom and Dad.

Amy is a travel writer and editor. She specializes in planning outdoors adventures for children and founded the family travel site PitStopsForKids.com.

Sources: <https://www.fix.com/blog/planning-a-college-campus-visit> and bigfuture.collegeboard.org, located in D.C. and Reston, VA.

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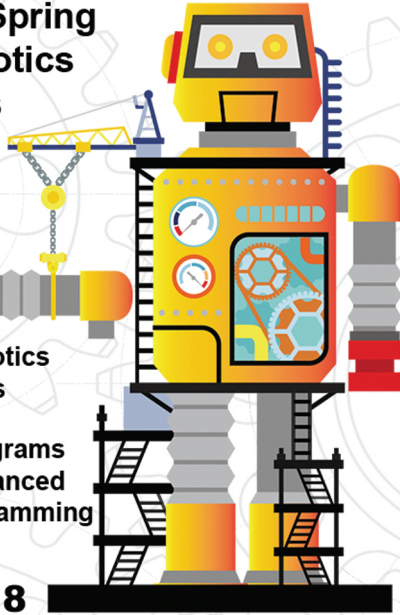
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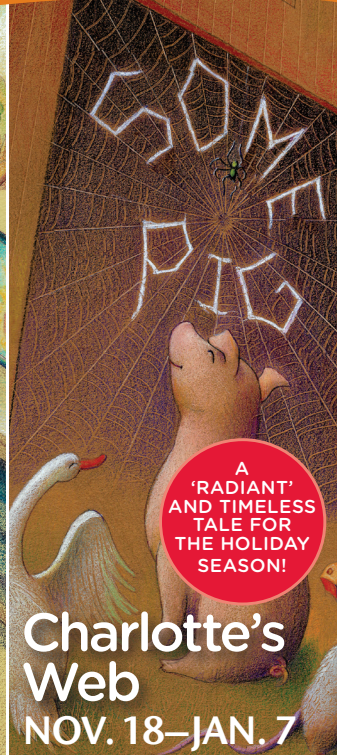
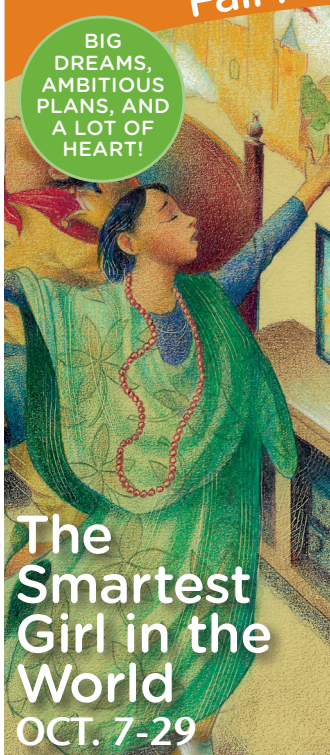
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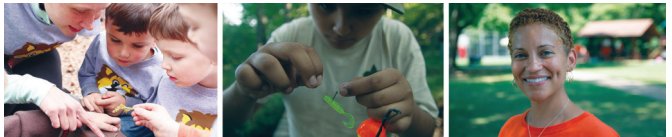
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Race for Every Child:

Local Six-Year-Old Gives Back to the Hospital That Saved Her Life

TEXT: ERICA BACA

Matt and Sarah Rodjom of Fairfax, VA were overjoyed when they found out they were expecting twin daughters in the spring of 2011.

But at their 20-week checkup, their joy turned to worry and fear.

One of their daughters, Marisa, had a cyst where half of her right lung should have been. The diagnosis was grim. Doctors told the Rodjoms that their baby may have major birth defects, or worse, she may not survive.

The Rodjoms immediately sought the expertise of the

team at Children's National Health System. The first-time parents had never realized the benefit of having a top-10 pediatric hospital in their backyard. But like countless families before, and after, Matt and Sarah quickly realized how reassuring and life-saving Children's National would be for their growing family.

The team at Children's National began monitoring twins Marisa and Emily weekly and worried that Marisa might not be breathing when she was born.

Luckily, at 36 weeks, Sarah delivered the girls without any complications. Marisa would be monitored for 11

months as she grew strong enough to withstand the surgery to remove the cyst. After a successful surgery, she returned home healthy — just in time for her first birthday.

“We’ll always be grateful to Children’s National,” Matt says. “Doctors and nurses went above and beyond to care for Marisa and reassure us as parents. Even as we were dealing with the stress of the unknown, the environment that Children’s National has created made us feel like we were not in a hospital. Marisa got to ride in a wagon to her room, nurses delighted her with bubbles and she loved watching the fish in the massive fish tank. She was able to focus on just being a kid.”

Now a boisterous 6-year-old, Marisa will be running in the Race for Every Child to give back to the hospital that saved her life. Siblings Emily and Zachary will join Marisa in the 100-yard Kids Dash, and Matt and Sarah will run the 5K through downtown D.C. Although Matt is legally blind, he is still able to pursue his passion of running. He has run 10 marathons and placed third in last year’s Race for Every Child.

“Our kids love seeing the superheroes and receiving their Kids Dash medal from Dr. Bear, Children’s National’s mascot,” Matt says.

Philanthropic events like the Race for Every Child help ensure that every child treated at Children’s National receives the same exceptional care, regardless of their family’s ability to pay. In 2015, Children’s National provided more than \$63M in uncompensated care and \$108M in community benefit.

Proceeds from the Race for Every Child also support Children’s National in continuing to develop innovative therapies, find lifesaving cures for childhood diseases and improve the overall state of pediatric health for years to come.

Please join the Rodjom family, the Washington Family team and thousands of others for this year’s Race for Every Child 5K and Kids Dash at Freedom Plaza in downtown Washington, D.C. on Oct. 21 from 8 a.m.–Noon.

Register, create a team or simply donate at raceforeverychild.org. Enter WFAMILY5 to receive \$5 off your 5K registration. Registration closes on Oct. 12.

Erica Baca is the director of the Race for Every Child, one of the region’s largest events focused on children’s health. To date, the event has raised more than \$4.3 million for Children’s National Health System. This year’s Race is Oct. 21. To learn more, register and donate visit raceforeverychild.org.



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11614 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville, MD
Provides recreational opportunities, programs and therapies to children and young adults with special needs and their families.

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northstaracademy-metrodc.com; info@northstaracademy-metrodc.com
240-669-9094; 12300 Twinbrook Pkwy, Ste. 250, Rockville, MD
Ages: 13-18

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www.madduxschool.org



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THE MADDUX SCHOOL

madduxschool.org; amullins@madduxschool.org
301-469-0223; 11614 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville, MD; Ages: 3 - 8
Small, structured nurturing preschool to second grade classes offering developmentally-based, academically enriching activities with an emphasis on social language.

MAKERS GENERATION

makersgeneration.net; contact@makersgeneration.net
301-838-0275; Washington D.C. and surrounding areas; Ages: 4-16
Makers Generation offers STEM after-school programs, weekend and camps for ages 4-16. Come discover and learn programming, robotics and more! We serve Washington D.C. and surrounding areas.

THE SIENA SCHOOL

thesienaschool.org; info@thesienaschool.org
301-244-3600; 1300 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, MD
Grades 4-12 • Year Founded: 2006 • Coed • Enrollment: 114 • % of Minorities: 42% • Average Class Size: 10 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 10:1
• Grading System: A - F • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in 9th Grade • Tuition Range: \$36,000 - \$38,000 • Number of Computers: 160+ • Internet Access • Gifted/Talented Program • Learning Disabled Program • Special Needs Program • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Extended Day • Summer Program
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For more information please visit
www.ivymountoutreach.org



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The Importance of the Middle School Years

TEXT: Michael Barvick

“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”- Aristotle

The middle school years encompass the most transformative experiences in adolescents’ lives. It is a defining moment where they discover their identity of who they are as individuals, students, future professionals and family members.

During this time, parents and schools should be in close partnership, helping to develop the habits of the mind and heart that will form future engaged and thoughtful citizens. And choosing a school that challenges students to develop in this way is key.

Laura Bell, a middle school Dean at Oakcrest School in Vienna, VA, weighed in on the subject when she noted, “This is the first time students are asking the questions: What kind of learner am I? What are my individual and unique strengths and where might they take me in the future? Having a teacher who meets your child where s/he is academically and socially is just the beginning of the wonderful adventure of raising lifelong learners, who will think critically and make ethical decisions.”

Effective educators inspire students to give their full potential and own



their learning process. Teachers should know how their own expertise can dramatically impact their students’ academic achievement and social development. Schools and home have to work collaboratively with each other in order to better address the needs of both students and their families.

In addition, cultivating character through the curriculum adds measurable value to a student’s experience. Gone are the days when a student can say, “My mom didn’t tell me this was due today.”

An article in the *Atlantic Monthly* entitled “Don’t Help Your Kids With Their Homework” explains that giving your child more personal responsibility helps him or her become better prepared for the future. The middle school years begin to reinforce responsibility and ownership. When choosing where your child will learn these life skills, a few important guideposts can help parents along the way.

Parent Partnership: Look for a

school that shares your family values. A school with a strong parent partnership will more effectively foster your child’s development during these years of self-discovery.

Role Models: Look for a school that provides a strong mentoring program where your child can develop a trusting teacher/student partnership. Hearing messages that align with your vision and values from another trusted source helps young people begin to make those values their own.

Curriculum: Find a school that will challenge your child in all areas of his or her life: mind, body and spirit. A school that inspires your child to try new things such as music, arts, sports, languages and clubs strengthens character and encourages risk taking.

Middle school is a crucial stage in your child’s life. Choose a school that inspires your child to deepen his or her intellectual and personal growth and to make a positive impact on our society. Striving for that excellence is an art won by training and habituation.

Michael Barvick is Director of Institutional Advancement at Oakcrest School, an independent school in Vienna, VA. To learn more about how Oakcrest provides a strong parent partnership, mentoring and a well rounded curriculum contact Oakcrest School Admissions at admissions@oakcrest.org to schedule a tour of our new campus.

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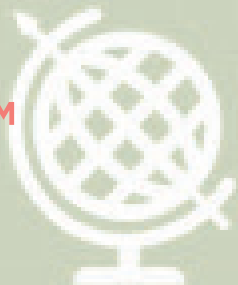
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District of Columbia

AIDAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

aidanschool.org; aidan@aidanschool.org
202-387-2700

2700 27th St., NW, Washington, D.C.

Grades: 18 months-Grade 6 • Year Founded: 1961 • Coed
• Enrollment: 200 • % of Minorities: 38% • Montessori
Progress Reports • Foreign Languages: Chinese (Mandarin),
Spanish beginning at age 3 • Tuition Range: \$20,150-\$27,745
• Enrichment Activities • Sports • Extended Day • Summer
Program • Programs for Families

Everything at Aidan revolves around how children learn best. Here, students have the ideal opportunities, environment, and community to realize their potential so they can grow into independent thinkers, confident learners, and responsible citizens.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 13, Nov. 3, Dec. 1

2018: Jan. 5

BEAUVOIR, THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

beauvoirschool.org; margaret.hartigan@cathedral.org
202-537-6493

3500 Woodley Rd., NW, Washington, D.C.

Grades: PreK-3rd • Year Founded: 1933 • Religious: Cathedral School • Coed • Enrollment: 390 • % of Minorities: 41% • Average Class Size: 21 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 6:1 • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in PK • Tuition Range: \$35,975 • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Summer Program

At Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School, we provide an extraordinary early childhood education in a diverse community that values every individual. Beauvoir's program encourages creative, courageous learners and builds an enduring foundation for a lifelong spirit of inquiry and joy in learning.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 19, Nov. 12

MILTON GOTTESMAN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL

jpbs.org; sindy.udell@jpbs.org
202-291-5737 ext. 2207; 6045 16th St., NW (North Campus)
4715 16th St., NW (South Campus), Washington, D.C.
Ages: 4-12 (Middle School opening Fall 2018)
Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital is a Pre-K through 6th grade, pluralistic Jewish Day School located in Washington, D.C. The school provides collaborative and experiential learning with an enriched Hebrew, Judaic, and General Studies curriculum. Middle School opening in 2018.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 19, 9 a.m.; Nov. 15, 7 p.m.; Dec. 8, 9 a.m.

2018: Jan. 5, 9 a.m.

ST. COLUMBA'S NURSERY SCHOOL

columba.org; school@columba.org
202-742-1980

4201 Albemarle St., NW, Washington, D.C.

Grades: Nursery-PreK • Year Founded: 1959 • Religious: Episcopalian • Coed • Enrollment: 104 • % of Minorities: 11%
• Average Class Size: 14: 3's, 17: 4's • Tuition Range: \$9,986 • Special Needs Program • Extended Day: Until 6 p.m. • Summer Program

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

Maryland

ACORN HILL: A WALDORF KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY

acornhill.org; 301-565-2282
9504 Brunett Ave., Silver Spring, MD

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

THE AUBURN SCHOOL

theauburnschool.org; info@theauburnschool.org
410-321-4799

1710 Dulaney Valley Rd., Lutherville, MD

703-793-9353

3800 Concorde Parkway, Chantilly, VA

301-588-8048

9545 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD

Grades K-8th • Year Founded: 2010 (Silver Spring), 2011 (Lutherville) • Coed • Average Class Size: 8 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 8:2 • Grading System: A-F • Foreign Languages (Silver Spring): Spanish, Mandarin • Internet Access • Learning Disabled Program • Enrichment Activities • Summer Program
The Auburn School grows the social and academic potential of bright students with social and communication challenges, supporting the development of academic skills, social competency and pragmatic language in an engaging educational environment.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BARRIE

barrie.org; admission@barrie.org

CONTINUED ON PG. 24

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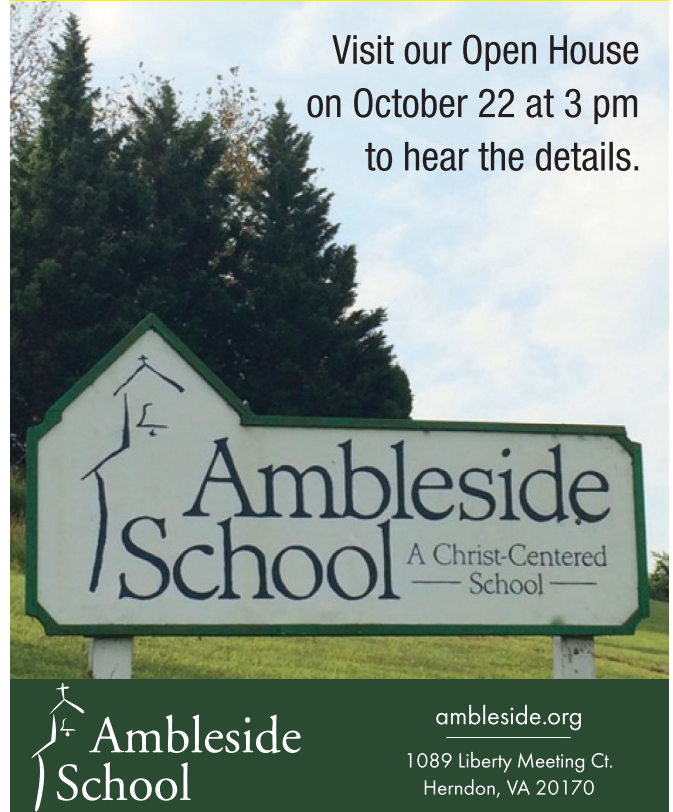
October 6, 9–11 a.m. November 10, 9–11 a.m.

December 2, 2–4 p.m. January 7, 2–4 p.m.

Burgundy Farm Country Day School • 703.329.6968
www.burgundyfarm.org • www.facebook.com/burgundyfarm

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Visit our Open House on October 22 at 3 pm to hear the details.



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ambleside.org

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540-636-5484

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PRIVATE SCHOOL DIRECTORY

301-576-2800

13500 Layhill Rd., Silver Spring, MD

Grades: 18 months - Grade 12 • Year Founded: 1932 • Coed • Enrollment: 300 • % of Minorities: 60% • Average Class Size: 11 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 10:1 • Grading System: Montessori: NA, Prep: A - F • Foreign Languages: Spanish, French, Mandarin beginning at 3 yrs. • Tuition Range: \$17,500 - \$32,100 • Montessori through Grade 5 • Project-Based Learning Grades 6-12 • AP Classes • Off Campus Learning • Athletics including Equestrian • Transportation and Extended Day Available • Summer Camp • Community Service • Extended Study Week

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Open House:

2017: Oct. 14, 11 a.m.; Fall Festival follows from 1:00-4:00pm. Drop-In Tour Nov. 10, 10 a.m.

BETHESDA MONTESSORI SCHOOL

bethesdamontessori.com; admissions@bethesdamontessori.com
301-986-1260

7611 Clarendon Rd., Bethesda, MD

Ages: 3-6 • Extended Day
Established in 1983, Bethesda Montessori School cooperates with the Washington Montessori Institute and is staffed by AMI trained teachers. Approved by the MD State Department of Education, and Montessori Schools of Maryland, and is a member of the Northern American Montessori Teachers Association and other educational organizations. It leases its facility from the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, but it has no religious affiliation with the church. It is centrally located in the heart of Bethesda business district on Wilson Lane near the intersection of Old Georgetown and Arlington Roads, three blocks from the Bethesda Metro station.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

FEYNMAN SCHOOL

feynmanschool.org; admissions@feynmanschool.org
301-770-4370

6300 Tilden Ln., N. Bethesda, MD

Grades: PS-4th • Year Founded: 2010 • Coed • Enrollment: 72 • Average Class Size: 14 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 7:1 • Entrance Exam • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in PS • Tuition Range: \$13,950-\$22,850 • Number of Computers: 15 • Internet Access • Gifted/Talented Program • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Additional Programs: Music, Art, P.E., Drama, Robotics, Chess, Basketball, Chinese
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Open House:

2017: Oct. 18, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Nov. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.; Dec. 10 3-5 p.m.

FRIENDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

friendscommunityschool.org; connie@friendscommunityschool.org
301-441-2100

5901 Westchester Park Dr., College Park, MD

Grades: K-8 • Year Founded: 1986 • Religious • Coed • Enrollment: 140 • % of minorities 48% • Average Class Size: 14 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 8:1 • Grading System: Progress Reports Only • Foreign Languages: Spanish beginning in K • Tuition Range: \$18,700-\$20,740 • Computers • Internet Access • Gifted/Talented Program • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Carpools • Extended Day • Summer Program • Outstanding Instrumental Enrichment Program

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Open House:

2017: Oct. 17, Nov. 4, Nov. 14, Dec. 1

2018: Jan. 6, Jan. 11

IVYMOUNT OUTREACH PROGRAMS

ivymountoutreach.org; 301-469-0223; Ages: 6-26
11614 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville, MD

Provides recreational opportunities, programs and therapies to children and young adults with special needs and their families.

JAMON MONTESSORI DAY SCHOOL

jamonmontessori.com; jamon.montessori@gmail.com
301-384-3131

52 Randolph Rd., Silver Spring, MD

Ages: 2-Grade 2 • Year Founded: 1995 • Coed • Enrollment: 54 • Diverse • Student-Teacher Ratio: 10:1 • Foreign Languages: Spanish starting at age 3 • Tuition Range: \$9,000-\$12,000 • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Extended Day • Summer Program

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Open House:

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THE MADDUX SCHOOL

madduxschool.org; amullins@madduxschool.org

301-469-0223; 11614 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville, MD; Ages: 3 - 8
Small, structured nurturing preschool to second grade classes offering developmentally-based, academically enriching activities with an emphasis on social language.

NORTHSTAR ACADEMY

northstaracademy-metrodc.com; info@northstaracademy-metrodc.com
240-669-9094

12300 Twinbrook Pkwy., Ste. 250, Rockville, MD

Ages: 13-18

NorthStar Academy is a clinically based program that offers

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(301) 962-7262
3514 Plyers Mill Rd., Kensington, MD
www.spring-bilingual.org
info@spring-bilingual.org

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www.beauvoirschool.org

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Nov. 15, 7 pm	Jan. 5, 9 am

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Pre-K - Grade 8
www.MiltonGottesman.org

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- On-Field Celebration
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- Food Voucher
- Uncle Slam Appearance
- First Pitch or Public Address Opportunity

*Based on availability

PICNIC PACKAGE

(\$21/Guest) Minimum of 15

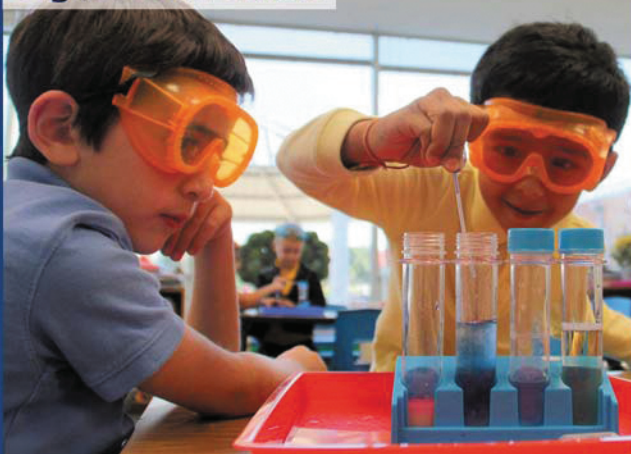
- Grandstand Ticket
- Group Hat
- On-Field Celebration
- Exclusive logo baseball with pennant for birthday kid
- All-you-can-eat Buffet (Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and sides)
- Uncle Slam Appearance
- First Pitch or Public Address Opportunity

*Based on availability

Additional tickets are \$10 (Grandstand Ticket is only inclusion).



Ages 3 - 8th Grade



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Preschool-8th Grade

www.feynmanschool.org

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educational support. We offer after-school and day-treatment programs to teens (13-18) struggling with mental health, drug use and social anxiety issues including school resistance.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

ONENESS-FAMILY SCHOOL

onenessfamilymontessorischool.org

301-652-7751 ; 6701 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD

Oneness-Family School serves students ages 2- Grade 8, providing the very best in Montessori education since 1988. Our unique program focuses on both character and curriculum, offering a diverse international community founded on values within an academically rich environment. This enables us to prepare our students to be the global leaders of tomorrow who can think in creative and dynamic ways for an ever-changing world. In 2017 we will expand our successful program into the first Montessori high school in the Mid-Atlantic!

Open House:

2017: Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.; Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m.

THE SIENA SCHOOL

thesienaschool.org; info@thesienaschool.org

301-244-3600

1300 Forest Glen Rd., Silver Spring, MD

Grades 4-12 • Year Founded: 2006 • Coed • Enrollment: 114

• % of Minorities: 42% • Average Class Size: 10 • Student-

Teacher Ratio: 10:1 • Grading System: A - F • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in 9th Grade • Tuition Range: \$36,000 - \$38,000 • Number of Computers: 160+ • Internet Access • Gifted/Talented Program • Learning Disabled Program • Special Needs Program • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Extended Day • Summer Program

The Siena School provides highly individualized, research-based, multisensory instruction and curriculum-related field trips. Our students develop critical thinking skills and acquire the tools and strategies needed to become successful and independent learners, prepared for college.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

SPRING BILINGUAL

spring-bilingual.org; info@spring-bilingual.org

301-962-7262

3514 Plyers Mill Rd., Kensington, MD

Grades: Pre-K • Year Founded: 1967 • Coed • Enrollment:

72 • Average Class Size: 30 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 6:1 •

Foreign Languages: Spanish, French, Italian beginning age 2

• Tuition Range: \$13,000-\$18,000 • Enrichment Activities •

Extended Day • Summer Program

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Open House:

2017: Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-Noon

2018: Jan. 6, 10 a.m.-Noon

13

Average
Class Size

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Tuesday, November 14 at 9:00 AM



5

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myschoolace.com; info@myschoolace.com

10800 Parkridge Blvd., Suite 150, Reston, VA

Grades: Toddler-Grade 6 • Year Founded: 1996 • Religious • Coed • Enrollment: 200 • Average Class Size: 12 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 7:1 • Elementary Assessment • Grading System A-F • Uniform • Foreign Languages: Spanish beginning in Sr. Kindergarten • Tuition Range: \$18,500/yr • Number of Computers: 40 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Summer Program • Science Club • Chess Club • LEGO Leagues • After/Before Care
Academically advanced, high-quality education.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 17, Nov. 14

2018: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17

AMBLESIDE SCHOOL

ambleside.org; admin@ambleside.org

703-430-4034

1089 Liberty Meeting Ct., Herndon, VA

Grades: K-8 • Year Founded: 1999 • Religious • Coed • Enrollment: 116 • Average Class Size: 13 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 13:1 • Entrance Exam • Uniforms • Foreign Languages:

Spanish beginning in K • Tuition Range: \$7,600-\$11,00 • Gifted/Talented Program • Enrichment Activities • Field Study • Nature Study • Picture Study • Shakespeare Festival • Art • Grammar • Handwork • Citizenship

We use Charlotte Mason's philosophy to teach sixteen subjects: science, math, English, art, Spanish, and more. Daily outdoor recess alternates with focused reading and narration. Since classes are capped at sixteen students, every child participates.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 22, 3 p.m.

2018: Jan. 21, 3 p.m.

BASIS INDEPENDENT MCLEAN

McLean.basisindependent.com

703-854-1253

8000 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA

Grades: Preschool-Grade 12

A program inspired by global best practices. An array of challenging, foundational courses in math, science, and humanities, plus coursework like Mandarin, logic, engineering, and the performing arts. Passionate teachers with expertise in their subject matter. And students who are inspired daily to perform at the highest international levels.

Open House:

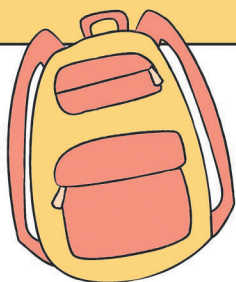
Call to schedule a tour.

CONTINUED ON PG. 28

EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS FAIR

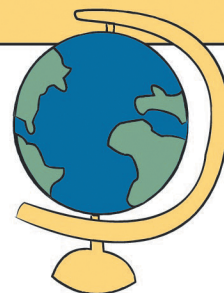
November 5, 2017 | 11:00am - 2:00pm

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For more information, please contact Bekah Atkinson at exceptionalschoolsfair@gmail.com

www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com

PRIVATE SCHOOL DIRECTORY

BEANTREE ASHBURN CAMPUS

beantreelearning.com

571-223-3110

43629 Greenway Corporate Dr., Ashburn, VA

Grades: Infant-K • Year Founded: 2007 • Coed • Average Class Size: 14 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 14:1 • Uniforms • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in PS • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Summer Program
BeanTree Learning in Ashburn provides unparalleled care and nurturing for infants through PreK. Led by a team of experienced and caring educators, BeanTree provides children with a safe and stimulating environment for academic success and provides parents with peace of mind. Year-round enrollment for full and part-time academic and specialty programs.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BEANTREE WESTFIELDS CAMPUS

beantreelearning.com

703-961-8222

5003 Westfields Blvd., Chantilly, VA

Grades: Infant-K • Year Founded: 2007 • Coed • Average Class Size: 14 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 14:1 • Uniforms • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in PS • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Summer Program
Fully accredited, discover the BeanTree Difference at our Westfields/Chantilly Campus! Offering unprecedented educational offerings for your child in every stage of academic development, BeanTree offers Infant care through Full Day Private Kindergarten, Before/After School, and Summer Camp. Year-round enrollment for full- and part-time academic and specialty programs.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BROOKSFIELD

brooksfieldschool.org; brksfield@aol.com

703-356-KIDS

1830 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA

Ages: 2-6 • Year Founded: 1987 • Coed • Enrollment: 90 • Average Class Size: 20 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 10:1 • Foreign Languages: Spanish beginning in Pre-K • Tuition Range: \$13,335 - \$24,993 • Number of Computers: 10 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Transportation • Extended Day • Summer Program • Additional Programs: Junior Achievement, Robotics, Organic Gardening Outdoor Adventure Program

A unique Pre-4 through 5th Eco-Friendly, Montessori School idyllically situated on 5 secluded acres in McLean, VA.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

BURGUNDY FARM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

burgundyfarm.org; info@burgundyfarm.org

703-960-3431

3700 Burgundy Rd., Alexandria, VA

Grades: JK-8th • Year Founded: 1946 • Coed • Enrollment: 286 • % of Minorities: 35% • Average Class Size: 15 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 7:1 • Entrance Exam • Foreign Languages: French, Spanish beginning in JK • Tuition Range: \$23,592-

\$26,998 • Number of Computers: 150 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Transportation • Extended Day • Summer Program

Burgundy provides an inclusive, creative, nurturing environment that engages the whole child. Our innovative, hands-on approach cultivates independent thinking, promotes academic excellence, instills respect for diversity, and teaches responsibility.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL

congressionalschool.org; gherbst@congressionalschool.org

703-533-1064

3229 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Falls Church, VA

Grades: Infants-Grade 8 • Year Founded: 1939 • Coed • Enrollment: 330 • Average Class Size: 13 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 6:1 • Grading System A-F • Uniform • Foreign Languages: French, Spanish, Latin beginning in Preschool • Tuition Range: \$24,150-\$28,000 • Number of Computers: 1:1 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Transportation • Extended Day • Summer Program • Equestrian Program • Robotics Program

A co-ed independent day school for infants to eighth graders in Falls Church, VA. Congressional School prepares young learners for future success, inspiring them to question, collaborate, create, and lead.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 11, 9 a.m.; Nov. 14, 9 a.m.

2018: Jan. 11

FAIRFAX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

fairfaxchristianschool.com; khs@studfyfcs.com

703-759-5100

1624 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna, VA

Grades: K-12 • Year Founded: 1961 • Religious • Coed • Enrollment: 250 • % of Minorities: 50 • Average Class Size: 10 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 7:1 • Grading System: A-F • Foreign Language: French, Spanish, Chinese beginning in K • Tuition Range: \$24,850 - \$36,600 • Number of Computers: 100+ • Internet Access • AP Classes • Gifted/Talented Program • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Transportation • Extended Day • Summer Program • ESL Program

The Fairfax Christian School is an award-winning, independent, university-preparatory school serving Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Open House:

Tuesday Tours.

GRACE EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

graceschoolalex.org, admissions@graceschoolalex.org

703-549-5067

3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA

Grades: Preschool-Grade 5 • Year Founded: 1959 • Religious • Coed • Enrollment: 110 • % of Minorities: 27% • Student-Teacher Ratio: 1:6 • Entrance Exam • Grading System: A-F • Uniforms • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in Jr. K. • Tuition Range: \$9,290 - \$19,230 • Number of Computer: 1:1 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Summer Program

Grace Episcopal School fosters an enthusiasm for learning through academic excellence in a nurturing environment. Students receive individual attention in small classes, and are

inspired to learn and develop intellectually, physically and spiritually.

Open House:

2017: Nov. 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

2018: Jan. 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

GREEN HEDGES SCHOOL

greenhedges.org; kvazquez@greenhedges.org
703-938-8323

415 Windover Ave., N.W., Vienna, VA

Ages: 3-Grade 8 • Year Founded: 1942 • Coed • Enrollment: 1942 • % of Minorities: 61% • Average Class Size: 16 • Student-Teacher Ratio 1:8 • Entrance Exam • Grading System: A-F • Uniforms • Foreign Languages: French, Spanish, Latin beginning at age 3 • Tuition Rate: \$17,280-\$30,260 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Extended Day • Summer Program

At Green Hedges, we raise children who raise their hands—curious, engaged students who enjoy learning from our challenging, complete liberal arts program. Our small size lets us understand each student, partner with each family, and provide opportunities that lead to big, lasting benefits.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 12, Nov. 8, Dec. 12 starting at 9 a.m.

KENWOOD SCHOOL

kenwoodschool.com; alison@kenwoodschool.com
703-256-4711

4955 Sunset Ln., Annandale, VA

Grades: K-6th • Year Founded: 1957 • Coed • Enrollment: 75 • % of Minorities: 50% • Average Class Size: 8 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 8:1 • Grading System: A-F • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in K • Tuition Range: \$775 per month • Number of Computers: 20 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Summer Program • Additional Programs: Gymnastics, Taekwondo, Soccer

Kenwood is a charming environment to learn in. The classes are small (average of 10, maximum of 15), which offers more one-on-one time with the teacher than your average school. The students receive an individualized experience, which helps them grow and learn more than is possible in a large classroom setting. We pride ourselves on our home-like atmosphere and loving faculty.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

LEPORT MONTESSORI ALDIE

leport.com/nova; aldie@leportschools.com
703-810-7160

24328 Marrwood Dr., Aldie, VA

Grades: Infant-Elementary • Coed • Student-Teacher Ratio: 1:3, 1:6, 1:12 • Foreign Languages: Mandarin Immersion Option beginning in Preschool • Tuition: Please call school • Extended Day • Summer Program

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

CONTINUED ON PG. 30



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Quaker Progressive
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Grades K-8

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GRACE

PS - Grade 5 | Alexandria, VA



OPEN HOUSE DATES

Friday, 11/10/2017
Wednesday, 1/17/2018
9:30 - 11:30am

Grace
Episcopal
School



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703-549-5067
www.GraceSchoolAlex.org







3601 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305

PRIVATE SCHOOL DIRECTORY

LEPORT MONTESSORI BROADLANDS

leport.com/nova; broadlands@leportschools.com

703-810-7808

42945 Waxpool Rd., Ashburn, VA

Grades: Toddler- 6th Grade • Coed • Student-Teacher Ratio: 1:6, 1:12 • Tuition: Please call school • Extended Day • Summer Program

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI CHANTILLY

leport.com/nova; chantilly@leportschools.com

571-222-4728

4550 Walney Rd., Chantilly, VA

Grades: Toddler-6th Grade • Coed • Student-Teacher Ratio: 1:6, 1:12 • Tuition: Please call school • Extended Day • Summer Program

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI FAIRFAX

leport.com/nova; fairfax@leportschools.com

703-810-7247

3909 Oak St., Fairfax, VA

Grades: Preschool-Kindergarten • Coed • Student-Teacher Ratio: 1:6, 1:12 • Tuition: Please call school • Extended Day • Summer Program

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI HERNDON

leport.com/nova; herndon@leportschools.com

571-222-4931

13251 Woodland Park Rd., Herndon, VA

Grades: Toddler-Kindergarten • Coed • Student-Teacher Ratio: 1:6, 1:12 • Tuition: Please call school • Extended Day • Summer Program

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

LEPORT MONTESSORI RESTON

leport.com/nova; reston@leportschools.com

703-810-7811

11579 Cedar Chase Rd., Herndon, VA

Grades: Toddler-Kindergarten • Coed • Student-Teacher Ratio: 1:6, 1:12 • Tuition: Please call school • Extended Day • Summer Program

Please see Open House dates on website at leport.com/nova.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF CEDAR LANE

preschoolmontessori.com; info@cedarlanemontessori.com

703-560-4379

3035 Cedar Ln., Fairfax, VA

Grades: PreK-K • Year Founded: 1971 • Coed • Enrollment: 100 • Average Class Size: 25 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 12:1 • Foreign Language: Spanish • Tuition Range: \$8,510-\$15,810 • Internet Access • Sports • Half and Full-Day Program • Summer Program • Additional Programs: Yoga

Montessori School of Cedar Lane has been providing over 40 years of Montessori tradition to Northern Virginia. We offer a complete educational and social environment and utilize the

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"It shaped me and helped me to grow."

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Accelerated Classical Curriculum Including:

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Drama | Daily P.E. | Sports

Art | Music | Orchestra | Clubs

Open Houses

K - 8th Grade - October 11th, 2017

Preschool - October 13th, 2017

RSVP on Our Website

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Open House

Saturday, October 14

11 am - 1 pm

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barrie.org

13500 Layhill Road,
Silver Spring, MD

admission@barrie.org

301.576.2800

Minutes from ICC & Glenmont Metro
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discoveries and methods of Dr. Montessori to help the child develop more fully the potential within him.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF MCLEAN

mcleanmontessori.org

703-790-1049

1711 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA

Ages: 2 ½-12 • Preschool and Elementary classes • Spanish, French, Science, Drama, Music, P.E., Computer, Art • Summer School • Transportation Available

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

msnv.org; info@msnv.org

703-256-9577 or 703-992-0255

The Montessori School of Northern Virginia (MSNV) is a leading independent school in the Washington Metropolitan area providing authentic Montessori education for children ages 2 through 12 with locations in Falls Church and Annandale.

Open House:

Private tours from October through January.

NYSMITH SCHOOL FOR THE GIFTED

nysmith.com; ebalberde@nysmith.com

703-713-3332

13625 Eds Dr., Herndon, VA

Grades: 3-years-old -Grade 8 • Year Founded: 1983 • Coed • Enrollment: 551 • Average Class Size: 18 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 9:1 • Entrance Exam • Grading System: O/S lower, A-F upper • Foreign Language: French, Spanish, Latin beginning at age 3 • Tuition Range: \$23,000-33,880 • Number of Computers: 501 • Internet Access • Gifted/Talented Program • Special Needs Program • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Transportation • Extended Day • Summer Program

The Nysmith School is committed to nurturing your student's love of learning and provides rich opportunities so students develop their potential.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 14

2018: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, April 19

OAKCREST SCHOOL

oakcrest.org; admissions@oakcrest.org

703-790-5450

1619 Crowell Rd., Vienna, VA

Grades 6-12 • Year Founded: 1976 • Girls Only • Enrollment: 223 • % of Minorities 32% • Student-Teacher Ratio: 7:1 • Entrance Exam • Grading System: A-F • Uniforms • Foreign Languages: Spanish, Latin beginning in grade 6 • Tuition Range: \$24,350-\$25,540 • AP Classes • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Transportation

Oakcrest, an independent school, educates the whole person.

CONTINUED ON PG. 32

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Open House:

2017: Oct. 21, 2-5 p.m.

THE PAVILION AT BEANTREE

beantreelearning.com

571-223-3113

43635 Greenway Corporate Dr., Ashburn, VA

The Pavilion at BeanTree in Ashburn caters to ages 5 to 14 offering an advanced accredited curriculum. Offering full day private Kindergarten, half day Kindergarten enrichment, Before/After School Programs in addition to multiple summer camp offerings for school age children, The Pavilion at BeanTree provides an unparalleled environment for academic excellence.

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

PINECREST SCHOOL

pinecrestschool.org; admissions@pinecrestschool.org

703-354-3446

7209 Quiet Cove, Annandale, VA

Grades: Preschool-6th • Year Founded: 1957 • Coed • Enrollment: 72 • % of Minorities: 32% • Average Class Size: 9 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 9:1 • Grading System: Number • Foreign Language: Spanish beginning in Preschool • Tuition Range: \$7,450-\$15,300 • Number of Computers: 20 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Extended Day • Summer Program • Additional Programs: Community Service Club Small classes, hands-on curriculum emphasizes problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Individualized approach; each child grows academically, socially and emotionally within caring and positive environment. Summer camp. Before- and after-care.

Open House:

2017: Nov. 10, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

2018: Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Feb. 11, 1-4 p.m.; Mar. 18, 1-4 p.m.; April 21, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY

rma.edu; admission@rma.edu

540-636-5200 or 800-272-1172

200 Academy Dr., Front Royal, VA

Grades: 6-12 • Year Founded: 1892 • Religious • Coed • Enrollment: 305 • % of Minorities: 32% • Average Class Size: 13-15 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 8:1 • Entrance Exam • Grading System: A-F • Foreign Languages: German, Spanish, French beginning age 8 • Tuition Range: \$15,972-\$36,156 • Number of Computers: 585 • Internet Access • AP Classes • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Summer Program • Flight Program • Air Force Junior ROTC

Randolph-Macon Academy focuses on preparing students for college through rigorous academics and Air Force JROTC. The 59 graduates of the Class of 2017 were offered nearly \$6 million in college scholarship offers and 242 acceptances to 145 different colleges and universities.

Open House:

2017: Oct. 9, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

RESTON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

restonmontessori.com; office@restonmontessori.com

703-481-2922

1928 Isaac Newton Sq. West, Reston, VA

Grades: Infant-6th • Year Founded: 1986 • Coed • Enrollment: 200+ • Average Class Size: 24 • Uniforms: K and up • Foreign Language: French beginning at Toddler • Number of Computers: 12 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Extended Day • Summer Program • Additional Programs: Music, PE, Art

Open House:

Call to schedule a tour.

VIRGINIA ACADEMY

virginia-academy.com; admissions@virginia-academy.org

571-209-5500

19790 Ashburn Rd., Ashburn, VA

Grades: Pre K – 12th • Year Founded: 1997 • Religious • Coed • Enrollment: 500 • Average Class Size: 18 • Student to Teacher Ratio: 9:1 • Grading System: A-F • Foreign Languages: Spanish, French beginning in Kindergarten • Tuition Range: \$9,200-\$18,000 • Internet Access • AP Classes • Gifted/Talented Program • Learning Disabled Program • Special Needs Program • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Extended Day • Summer Program • International Student • Leadership Development

Virginia Academy is a dually accredited, college prep Christian school for students age 2 through 12th grade. Beginning in preschool, students are challenged to excel at their highest level while being given the attention and support needed to perform. Christian character development, a life-long love for learning, and a desire and ability to make a positive impact in the world are the desired outcomes for every student. With an advanced curriculum and a staff fully committed to each child's success, students flourish in an environment of great expectation and care.

Open House:

2017: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month from 9 a.m.-Noon

2018: Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-Noon

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

westminsterschool.com; admissions@westminsterschool.com

703-256-3620

3819 Gallows Rd., Annandale, VA

Grades: Pre-K-8 • Year Founded: 1962 • Coed • Enrollment: 270 • Average Class Size: 14 • Student-Teacher Ratio: 7:1 to 18:1 • Entrance Exam • Uniforms • Foreign Languages: French, Latin beginning in K • Tuition Range: \$10,926-\$23,466 • Internet Access • Enrichment Activities • Sports • Transportation • Extended Day • Summer Program • Drama • Arts • Orchestra • Daily PE • Odyssey of the Mind • Math Counts • Science Olympiad

Westminster School provides a unique elementary education based on a classical curriculum, accelerated academics enhanced by the arts and an emphasis on personal responsibility and good character. Students enjoy small classes taught by teachers who specialize in their field.

Open House:

2017: Preschool - Oct. 13; K-8 - Oct. 11, Nov. 12

2018: Preschool - Jan. 12, April 20; K-8 - Jan. 10



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Open Houses

October 18th, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
November 15th, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
December 10th, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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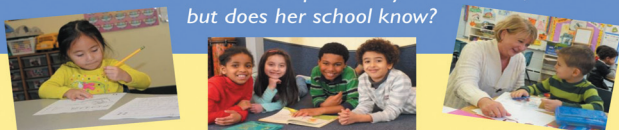
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www.FairfaxChristianSchool.com

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M is for Monster Educational Boxes

Mis for Monster is dubbed “Preschool in a Box” and delivers four weeks of activities to those who sign up for a monthly subscription. The four activities we tested included one about flags, the beach, the dentist and watermelon – all fun things for a child (yes, even the dentist). These educational activities are designed to allow children to practice math skills, gross and fine motor skills, letter recognition and cognitive development, among other things.

My children loved the coloring activities that accompanied each week, really appreciated the beach ball game (any time we let them throw a ball in the house it is a win in their book!) and enjoyed learning how to properly brush their teeth.

In week one, the lesson was about flags. The kids select various flag stickers and count each sticker as they match them to the number on a card. My 3-year-old loved counting all the stickers and doling them out to his little sister. We also talked to them about what country the flag was for, but this generally went over their heads. The passport activity is also a fun way to document special places over a period of time – school, the park, the ice cream store – particularly if you start it at the beginning of a busy travel season when the family is going to be out and about a lot. In our case, it didn’t really work as intended,

but they still liked having the passport and covering it with stickers.

The beach ball game was fun for our whole family and was the most engaging out of any of the activities. Sitting in a circle, we passed the ball back-and-forth to each other and made it a game. While we passed the ball, we said the next letter in the alphabet, which made practicing letters fun for my little one. We also played beach ball BINGO, and that was a fun game my 3-year-old had not yet learned. It is a pretty simple board, so it makes learning the game easy for little ones.

The week of the dental activity was fun and timely since we are nearing our first appointment at the dentist. We practiced counting the teeth, coloring on plaque with a dry erase marker and cleaning the marker off with a toothbrush. The kit also provided a book about visiting the dentist, which was a nice addition, as my children love to read. Furthermore, the kit came with a travel case with



all the accessories one needs to clean their teeth. We went over each item with the kids, although this part was less engaging for them.

My oldest child, who is 3 ½-years-old, got far more from this activity set than my 20-month-old based on the activities included, and even then, some activities struggled to keep my older child’s attention. For example, the fourth week we were supposed to glue watermelon seeds onto a paper watermelon.

While he loved the opportunity to use glue, he lost interest after a few of the seeds and declared his watermelon finished.

Overall, my kids looked forward to these activities as something new and different from their normal toys and games. And I love activities that turn fun play into a learning opportunity. The kids were interested in participating and seeing what was included in each game. We tried the preschool box and, as advertised on the website, is recommended for ages 4-5. Try the toddler box if your kids are younger like mine.

For more information or to sign up for a subscription visit: <http://misformonster.com/>.

MEET THE REVIEWER!

Tracey S. lives in Falls Church, VA with her husband and two children. She loves trying new products and learning from others what products work best and are worth a try.

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15 LOCAL FALL FESTIVALS

There is almost nothing more perfect than fall weather. Between the colors and the cool weather, attending outdoor festivals and activities is a must this season. We've rounded up fifteen of our favorite upcoming fall festivals. Bring your friends, your family and for some of these - your dog!

1. Oakland Autumn Glory Festival

- Oct. 11-15 | Visit visitdeepcreek.com/50th-annual-autumn-glory-festival for more info.
- Oakland, MD

Celebrate the beauty of fall at the annual Oakland Autumn Glory Festival in Oakland, MD. Voted as one of the 'Top 50 Small Towns with the Best Fall Foliage' by Good Housekeeping, there is something for everyone to enjoy. This five-day celebration consists of parades, live music, art exhibits, shopping, food and so much more!

2. All Things Go Fall Classic

- Oct. 6-8 | Visit allthingsofalloclassic.com/for

lineup and ticket info.

- Union Market, 1309 5th St., NE, D.C.

From the shining sun 'til the glowing moon, anything goes at this fall festival in Washington, D.C. A slew of artists like Galantis, Foster the People and Bleachers will bring their feel-good sounds to compete with the sound of rustling leaves and enthusiastic fans. Local D.C. chefs will also be there to cook you up some delicious flavor to keep you fueled throughout the festival.

3. Das Best Oktoberfest

- Oct. 14, Noon-2 p.m. VIP admission 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Visit dasbestoktoberfest.com for more info.
- M&T Bank Stadium Lots

Baltimore, MD

Great beer, great food and great times! Das Best Oktoberfest offers over 150 international, domestic, and local beers, wines and Schnapps. Live oompah bands, fun contests and tons of chances to win prizes.

4. Fairfax Fall Festival

- Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. free admission.
- Old Town Fairfax 3999 University Dr., Fairfax, VA

Come celebrate the 41st annual Fairfax Fall Festival. What began as a small art market has turned into a festival with over 400 vendors including arts and crafts, gourmet food, live entertainment and children's activities. Fun for all ages!

5. Cox Farms Fall Festival

- Sept. 22-Oct. 31 | Visit coxfarms.com for more info.

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6. Taste of DC

- **Oct. 7-8, Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Taste After Dark 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m.**
- **Visit thetasteofdc.org for more info.**
- **Lot 8 at the festival grounds of RFK Stadium, 2400 East Capitol St., SE, Washington, D.C.**

Bringing food and family together since 1989, Taste of DC is a deliciously packed weekend bringing you all that D.C. has to offer. This culinary festival is a cultural gathering of the best local food in the nation's capital. Don't miss the chili eating championship on Saturday!



7. Boo at the Zoo

- **Oct. 20-22, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Visit nationalzoo.si.edu/events/boo-zoo for more info.**
- **3001 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, D.C.**

The National Zoo's annual Boo at the Zoo is fun for the whole family. Enjoy some treats, animal demonstrations and magicians. Let the little one dress up and have after-hours access to the Great Ape House, Think Tank, Great Cats Circle and so much more!

8. Northern Virginia Brewfest

- **Oct 21-22, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. | Visit novabrewfest.com for more info.**
- **7700 Bull Run Dr.
Centreville, VA**

Enjoy the fine tastings of local

breweries from the Northern Virginia, D.C., Maryland and the Pennsylvania area all in one location. Compete in the cornhole tournament or enjoy the TV tent. And for the kids, there is a moon bounce, face painter, balloon twister and a family area. At the Northern Virginia Brewfest there is plenty of beer, food and entertainment to go around.

9. Flavors of Fall

- **Oct. 7-8, Noon-11 p.m. free admission.**
- **11900 Market St., Reston, VA**

Sample all of Reston's favorite fall menus at the Flavors of Fall festival at Reston Town Center. Friends, family, children and pets are all welcome! Enjoy live music, the pumpkin 5K run, cornhole tournament and so many activities for the kids. This is an event that the whole family will love.

10. VA StrEats Trucktoberfest

- **Oct. 28 | Visit vastreats.com for more info.**
- **G. Pfitzner Stadium, Woodbridge, VA**

Pair some of the best truck food with the best brews this fall at the VA StrEats Trucktoberfest. Try new beers from some of the best breweries around the world and new foods from some of the best food trucks in the D.C. area.



11. Pumpkin Village Fall Festival

- **Sept. 16-Nov. 7 | Visit pumpkinfestleesburg.com for more info.**
- **19270 James Monroe Hwy. Leesburg, VA**

Pumpkin Village Fall Festival at Leesburg Animal Park is a must this fall season. With tons of great performers, games, animals and pumpkins - who wouldn't have fun? There is so much to do and to see at this fall-filled event.

12. Wildlife Festival

- **Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free admission.**
- **10901 Sc1arlet Tanager Loop Laurel, MD**

Visit the Patuxent National Wildlife for crafts, live music, live animals and tram tours! All ages are welcome. Refreshments are available for purchase.



13. Fall Jubilee

- **Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. free admission.**

The annual Fall Jubilee is held in the Historic Downtown Manassas. The Jubilee includes an assortment of crafts, live entertainment and a wine and beer garden. Get a head start on your holiday shopping with over 100 vendors!

14. Columbus Day Parade

- **Oct. 8 | Visit promotioncenterforlittleitaly.org for more info.**

Join the longest-running parade and commemoration held by Baltimore's Italian community. For over 127 years, the Columbus Day parade has brought together schools, cultural dancers, civic and community groups alike. Enjoy live music and an entertaining event.

15. Graves Mountain Apple Harvest Fest

- **Oct. 7-8, Oct. 14-15, Oct. 21-22, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Free admission.**
- **3626 Old Blue Ridge Turnpike, Syria, VA**

Come and see a breathtaking view at Graves Mountain this fall. Live Bluegrass music, arts and crafts vendors, hayrides, and horseback riding, are just a few of the activities available. On the way up to the orchards for some apple picking, stop by and say hello to the farm animals. Rain or shine, Graves Mountain is open.

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8 Easy HALLOWEEN

Treats

Whether you need some festive baking inspiration for an upcoming party, or if you just want to get your family in the spooky spirit, try out one of these chillingly sweet Halloween treats!



Mummy Brownies

Ingredients:

- 1 box of brownie mix
- White chocolate melts
- Candy eyes

Instructions:

1. Bake the brownies according to the instructions on the box.
2. Melt the white chocolate melts in the microwave.
3. Pour the melted chocolate into a Ziploc bag and cut a small opening in the corner.
4. Once the brownies have cooled, pour the melted white chocolate in a zig zag motion.
5. Place candy eyes onto icing before icing dries.
6. Enjoy!

(SOURCE: PRETTYPROVIDENCE.COM)



Chocolate Chip Spider Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 cups plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ sticks melted and cooled until warm
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg + 1 egg yolk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups of chocolate chips

Instructions:

1. Heat oven to 325 degrees F.
2. Mix together the flour, salt and baking soda in one bowl.
3. In a separate bowl, mix together the butter and sugar.
4. Once the butter and sugar is well blended, add the egg, egg yolk and vanilla.
5. Stir in the dry ingredients and mix until it's all combined, then gently stir in the chocolate chips until the dough is soft.
6. Roll the dough into small balls and place on a cookie sheet and bake for 10-12 minutes.
7. Once cookies are done baking, place a couple chocolate chips on the top of the cookie, point side up.
8. Melt additional chocolate chips in the microwave and pour into a

Ziploc bag and cut a corner to create a squeezing tube (wanting the hole to be very small to draw on spider legs).

9. Draw on the spider legs using the melted chocolate.
10. Enjoy!

(SOURCE: TASTEBETTERFROMSCRATCH.COM)



Witch Finger Pretzels

Ingredients:

- 1 bag of pretzel rods
- Green candy melts
- Black food dye
- Sliced almonds

Instructions:

1. Melt the green candy melts in the microwave and pour into a tall glass.
2. Dip each pretzel into the melted green candy melts and place onto a cookie sheet.
3. While the pretzel rods are still wet, push a sliced almond into the candy melts on the top of the pretzel rod.
4. With a toothpick, add lines onto the witches fingers to create knuckles.
5. Wait until dry, then paint the almond slices with the black food dye.
6. Let dry and enjoy!

(SOURCE: CRAFTYMORNING.COM)

TREATS » PAGE 44

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TREATS » FROM PAGE 42



Boo Bark

Ingredients:

- 3 cups of orange candy melts
- MARS fun sized candy bars
- 1 pack of M&M's
- Candy corn
- Candy eyes
- Halloween sprinkles

Instructions:

1. Melt the orange candy melts in the microwave for about 1-2 minutes.
2. Spread the melted candy in a lined cookie sheet.
3. Chop up the fun sized candy bars and evenly place them on the top of the melted orange candy.
4. Add in M&M's, sprinkles, candy corn, candy eyes, and any other Halloween candies.
5. Put in the refrigerator and let cool until bark is solid.
6. Enjoy!

(SOURCE: EAZYPEAZYMEALZ.COM)



Jack Skellington Cupcakes

Ingredients:

- 1 box of cake mix
- 1 container of white icing
- 1 container of black icing

Instructions:

1. Bake the cupcakes according to the instructions on the box.
2. Once the cupcakes have cooled, spread the white icing all over.
3. Pour the black icing into a Ziploc bag

and cut a corner of the bag.

4. With the black icing create the eyes, nose and mouth.

(SOURCE: PAINT-ME-PINK.COM)



Rice Krispie Pumpkins

Ingredients:

- 6 cups of Rice Krispies cereal
- ¼ cup of butter
- 4 cups of mini marshmallows
- Orange food coloring
- Black frosting pen
- Green frosting pen
- Pretzel sticks

Instructions:

1. Melt the butter in the microwave. Add the marshmallows and several drops of orange food coloring and mix well until marshmallows are completely melted.
2. Add the Rice Krispies and mix very well.
3. Insert a pretzel into the top of the Rice Krispie balls.
4. Form the Rice Krispies into balls and let cool for about 30-45 minutes.
5. With the black frosting pen draw the face of a pumpkin and with the green icing draw the vines on the top of the pumpkin.
6. Let dry and enjoy!

(SOURCE: SHEKNOWS.COM)

Candy Corn Milkshakes

Ingredients:

- 1 quart vanilla icecream
- 1 quart orange sherbet
- Whipped cream
- Yellow food coloring
- Halloween sprinkles

Instructions:

1. Let vanilla ice cream soften outside of the freezer for about 25 minutes then take 1/3 of the ice cream and put it into a bowl, place the rest back in the freezer.
2. Add the yellow food coloring to the bowl and mix well, place in freezer

until satisfied with the consistency.

3. Take all 3 ice creams (vanilla, orange sherbert, yellow colored vanilla) and place the yellow colored ice cream in a glass, then put orange sherbert, then the vanilla on top.
4. Add whipped cream and sprinkles.
5. Enjoy!

(SOURCE: KARASPARTYIDEAS.COM)

Spooky Black Caramel Apples

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons of corn syrup
- 2 tablespoons of water
- ½ cups of granulated sugar
- ¼ cup of heavy cream
- Pinch of salt
- ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter
- Apples
- Black food dye

Instructions:

1. Prepare the apples by washing and drying them and insert the sticks into the center and set aside.
2. In a bowl, add the corn syrup, water, and granulated sugar and microwave for 5-7 minutes until boils and turns an amber color.
3. Stir in the heavy cream, followed by the salt, vanilla and food coloring and mix well.
4. Then stir in the butter until texture is smooth.
5. Immediately start to dip the apples into the coating and set aside on a cookie sheet.
6. Let caramel set for 30-60 minutes.
7. Enjoy!

(SOURCE: BAKEDBYRACHEL.COM)





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