

# Checklist for Third - Fifth Grades

	PISGAH	BARNWELL	DOLVIN	HILLSIDE	NORTHWOOD	OTHER	OTHER	QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS
Class Size Max: Third Grade Fourth Grade Fifth Grade	17 20 20	23 ↑ 30 30	23 ↑ 30 30	23 ↑ 30 30	23 ↑ 30 30			How large are classes and what is the teacher-to-student ratio? Are teachers able to provide individualized instruction for students? Can they accommodate differences in learning styles and abilities?
Christian Foundation		X	X	X	X			Do faculty & programs reinforce the Christian foundation and values you have established in your home? Are devotions/chapel part of program? Is Christmas celebrated?
<b>FILL IN BLANKS AS YOU VISIT OR TOUR SCHOOLS AND DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCES.</b>								
Nurturing Environment & Engagement								Do faculty bring out the very best in students, recognizing their unique gifts and talents? Do teachers and other parents know you and your children? Is building lasting relationships an important part of the school's mission? Are students engaged in the school experience?
"Life Ready" Instruction Study Skills, Organization, and Cornell Note-Taking								Do students develop study skills based on their learning style? Are organizational skills taught? Are students fully prepared to handle the transition to middle school?
Music & Art Specialized Teacher Band & Strings Program								Are the elementary arts programs solid and safe from budget cuts? Do specialized teachers provide music and art instruction? <i>More below.**</i>
Science Lab Separate and Equipped								Is there a separate, dedicated science lab where students can explore and experiment ?
World Language Specialized Teacher								Is there a specialized Spanish teacher who creatively incorporates activities & songs to engage students in lessons?
Jr. Athletic Programs								Does the school offer varsity-led athletic programs where skill development & school pride begin to emerge?
Nurse Full Time Regist. Nurse								Is a full time registered nurse on staff at the school <u>every</u> day to provide needed care for students?
Physical Education								Is comprehensive physical education taught by trained and experienced instructors? <i>More below.***</i>
Safety & Security								Are high standards, policies, procedures and equipment utilized to ensure the safety and security of each student?

↑ Class size may increase. Discover Fulton County's education plans for 2010-2011 by clicking on links below.

Fulton County's Education plans for 2010-2011 - [click here.](#)

Board votes to increase class sizes - [click here.](#)

School Board approves massive job cuts - [click here.](#)

Parents fighting elementary music cuts - [see 11Alive news story.](#)

## **\*\*Importance of Arts Education**

Recent John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Report: "Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning," offers clear evidence of how arts can improve academic performance, energize teachers, and transform learning environments. Developed by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in conjunction with several prominent foundations, the report details research projects that included students, educators, artists and others in New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Results include: (MacArthur Foundation, 2000)

- 1) Students with high levels of arts participation outperform "arts-poor" students on virtually every measure
- 2) Learning through the arts has significant effects on learning in other domains
- 3) Arts experiences enhance critical thinking abilities and outcomes
- 4) The arts enable educators to reach students in effective ways.

## **\*\*\*Value of Physical Education**

Studies suggest a connection between physical activity and increased levels of alertness, mental function, and learning. Research indicates that schools that offer intense physical activity programs see positive effects on academic achievement, including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading and writing test scores; and reduced disruptive behavior. From *"Bridging student health risks and academic achievement through comprehensive school health programs"*, *Journal of School Health* 1997; 67(6): 220-227, and *"Appropriate functions of health education in schools: improving health and cognitive performance"*, Krainweber, N., Arasteli, J., Cataldo, ., eds., *Child Health Behavior: A Behavioral Pediatrics Perspective*, John Wiley, New York, NY, 1986.