

# Checklist for Sixth - Eighth Grades

	PISGAH	AUTRY MILL	HAYNES BRIDGE	HOLCOMB BRIDGE	WEBB BRIDGE	OTHER	OTHER	QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS
Maximum Class Size	21	30 ↑	30 ↑	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 the faculty and programs reinforce the Christian values/foundation that you have established in your own home? Is Christmas celebrated? Are devotions/chapel part of program?
<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 and meaningful relationships an important part of the school's mission? Are students actively engaged in the overall school experience?
Comprehensive Advisory Guidance and College Advisement Program								Do students develop a portfolio of life skills? Do they identify their unique strengths and talents, develop vital communication skills, and acquire habits for success?
Music, Art, & Theater Specialized Teacher Band & Strings Program								Are arts programs strong and safe from budget cuts? Are instructors trained & experienced instead of classroom teachers simply presenting general music instruction? <i>* More below.**</i>
Technology Interactive White Boards Technology Lab								Are there interactive white boards in each classroom? Do students visit a dedicated technology lab for hands-on instruction?
World Language Specialized Teacher								Is there a specialized Spanish teacher who creatively incorporates activities & songs to engage students in lessons?
Service Opportunities								Does the school offer opportunities for service? Do students learn valuable lessons through community service and engaging mission work?
Middle School Sports & Physical Education***								Does the school offer varsity coach-led comprehensive programs for baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track, and volleyball?
Fun!								Are there opportunities for students and families to have fun? Are field days, celebrations, outings, activities, and traditions An ongoing part of the school experience?

↑ 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"*, Krairweer, N., Arasteli, J., Cataldo, ., eds., *Child Health Behavior: A Behavioral Pediatrics Perspective*, John Wiley, New York, NY, 1986.