

Checklist for Ninth - Twelfth Grades

	PISGAH	JOHNS CREEK	CENTENNIAL	ALPHARETTA	OTHER	OTHER	QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS
Class Size Max: 9th - 12th Grades	24	32 ↑	32 ↑	32 ↑			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			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?
FILL IN BLANKS AS YOU VISIT OR TOUR SCHOOLS AND DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCES.							
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 actively engaged in learning & the overall school experience?
Minimesters Concentrated Exploration & Discovery							Do students have more than 60 elective choices for concentrated two-week minimester sessions on a wide range of topics including, Palates of the World, Forensic Science, Video Production, Hiking the Appalachian Trail and more?
Music, Art, & Theater Specialized Teacher Band & Strings Program							Are arts programs solid and safe from budget cuts? Are instructors trained & experienced or does the classroom teacher simply present 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?
Peer Leadership Program							Do students learn leadership skills from upper class mentors? Are bonding opportunities available between younger and older students?
Service Opportunities							Does the school offer opportunities for service? Do students learn valuable lessons through community service and domestic & international mission work?
Athletic Facilities							Does the school offer premier facilities for a wide range of sports, including a state of the art gym, top-notch athletic fields and speed/agility/weight training complex?
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? Does the school have an impressive 1st college choice acceptance rate for graduates?



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.