

SCHOOLS:

There is no single measure that will tell you the perfect school for your child. As a parent you know your child best; you know their personality and the environment that complements their learning style. Personally, I look for a setting where a child will be stimulated, challenged, and excited about what is happening in the classroom. Most importantly, I want children to feel good about themselves. Confidence and risk taking are paramount to getting the most out of any educational opportunity. Cultivating thinking skills and the ability to access information would be my primary objectives.

I encourage you to visit schools, sit in the classrooms, and find the right setting. Relying on references from friends and colleagues and studying the academic scores is only a beginning.

That being said . . . the following web links are those I have found most helpful in garnering local school information.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

The most comprehensive information on both individual schools and school districts in the state of North Carolina is found on the web at: <http://www.NCSchoolReportCard.org>

School Profile section includes:

- The name of Principal, address of the school and other general information

- The number of students in the school

- The average class / course size

High Student Performance section includes:

- The performance of each grade on the ABC's End-of-Grade-Tests. These tests are NOT nationally standardized.

- They are created by the state of North Carolina to be used in all schools. For each grade level there are a minimum of 10 different "equivalent and parallel" forms of each test. Consistency of a school's overall scores is indicative of performance. However, by reliability and validity standards, a few points in either direction is statistically insignificant.

- High School SAT scores are nationally standardized and obviously draw from a larger database. They may be a more accurate measure of achievement. I would consider looking at "feeder" high school scores even in evaluating elementary schools. We all know that many changes will occur, but it is a piece of national data to include in the analysis.

Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools includes:

- Here you will find data about a school's safety record. It includes all acts of crime or violence reported in school, at a bus stop, on a school bus, on school grounds, or during off-campus school-sponsored activities.

- Access to technology is located in this section as well. You can see the number of library books per student, the number of computers accessible and the internet availability.

Quality Teachers includes:

The data here includes the percentage of teachers who are fully licensed, deemed highly qualified or who have advanced degrees. You can see the number of teachers who have National Board Certification and evaluate teaching experience and turnover rate.

Chapel Hill Carrboro City School System: www.chccs.k12.nc.us/

Visit individual school websites, learn what information you need to bring for registration, and see an overview of educational philosophy and programs. Attendance zone maps are available in pdf format.

Durham Public Schools: www.dpsnc.net/

Visit individual school websites, learn what information you need to bring for registration, and see an overview of educational philosophy and programs. Attendance zone maps are available in pdf format.

Wake County Public Schools: www.wcpss.net/

Visit individual school websites, learn what information you need to bring for registration, and see an overview of educational philosophy and programs. Attendance zone maps are available in pdf format.

Chatham County Public Schools: www.chatham.k12.nc.us/

The Schools tab at the top of the district website links to each school. This is where you will find attendance zones and individual school data.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS:

There are many excellent private schools in the area. This list along with an accompanying website address is designed to present a broad spectrum and does not include every option.

Durham Academy	www.da.org	pre-k through high school
Duke School for Children	www.dukeschool.org	pre-k through 8th grade
Trinity School	www.trinityschoolinc.org	pre-k through high school
Carolina Friends School	www.cfsnc.org	pre-k through high school
Camelot Academy	www.camelotacademy.org	k through high school
Montessori Children's House	www.mchdurham.org	pre-k through 6th grade
Immaculata Catholic School	www.immaculataschool.org	pre-k through 8th grade
Saint Thomas More School	school.st-thomasmore.org	pre-k through 8th grade
Emerson Waldorf School	www.emersonwaldorf.org	pre-k through 8th grade
Triangle Day School	www.triangledayschool.org	k through 8th grade
Montessori Day School	www.mdsch.org	pre-k through 6th grade

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The Raleigh School	www.raleighschool.org	pre-k through 5th grade
Cary Academy	www.caryacademy.org	6th grade through high school
Ravenscroft School	www.ravenscroft.org	pre-k through high school
St. Timothy's Episcopal School	www.sttimothys.org	pre-k through 8th grade
Saint Marys School	www.sms.edu	9th grade through high school

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

We are very fortunate to have major universities, museums and a planetarium in the area. All have a myriad of programs that enrich and augment our children's lives.

Below are websites and a listing of some of the classes or camps available:

Duke Continuing Studies

<http://learnmore.duke.edu>

Youth Programs include Biosciences and Engineering Camp, Action Science Camp for Young Women, Computer Camp, Drama Workshop, Expressions! Performing Arts Camp, Imagine . . . Leading by Example, Young Writers' Camp, Creative Writers' Workshop, Constructing your College Experience, and various Weekend Workshops.

Duke University Talent Identification Program

<http://www.tip.duke.edu>

The Duke University Talent Identification Program is a global leader in identifying academically gifted students and providing them with innovative programming to support their development. Participants must apply.

UNC School of Education

<http://soe.unc.edu/outreach/precollege.php>

Offerings include the North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network (NC-MSEN) Pre-College Program and Upward Bound.

NC State Biology and Agricultural Engineering

<http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/resources/youth/>

Summer studies include a 4-H Electric Program, an Engineering High School Program and workshops in Bioprocessing, Environmental Studies, and Biofuels and Engine Cycles.

Girls On Track at NC State University

<http://www.ncsu.edu/extension/education-youth/>

Girls on Track (GoT) is a summer camp for high achieving middle school girls (grades 6-8). Its purpose is to increase their interest in math-related careers by engaging them in computer-based mathematical explorations of urban problems in their communities.

NC-MSEN Pre-College Program

<http://www.ncsu.edu/crmse/programs/msen/>

The NC-MSEN Pre-College Program enrolls 450 middle grades and high school students in year-round enrichment activities. The mission of this program is to keep underrepresented students on a college-bound track leading to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

<http://www.moreheadplanetarium.org/>

The Morehead Planetarium offers a variety of youth programs. They include Summer Science Camp, an After School Program, once a month Meet a Scientist, Middle School Science Club, Family Science Night, and Girl Scout Workshops.

North Carolina Museum of Life and Science

<http://www.ncmls.org/>

Award winning “hands on” museum. There are special classes and activities throughout the year for all age groups. Summer camps are a favorite of children from ages 4 to 8. There are indoor and outdoor exhibits.

Sarah Duke Gardens

http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/childrens_education.htm

Sarah P. Duke Gardens offers a variety of programs for children, families, and students. Our programs are designed for children to explore and discover the complexity of the Garden environment. Programs explore the total garden environment discovering the inter-connections between plants, animals, and people.

North Carolina Museum of History

<http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/fko/index.html>

On-line and on-site activities for children age 2 and older. Summer camp is available.

North Carolina Museum of Art

<http://ncartmuseum.org/interim/families.php>

From pre-school Playshops to Family Fun Saturdays, check the website for current programs.

SPORTS PROGRAMS:

Duke University

<http://www.goduke.com> search camps

Summer athletic camps are available for elementary through high school youth of all skill levels. Strength and Conditioning Camp is year-round. Field Hockey is offered in the winter. All other sports camps are offered in the summer.

UNC

<http://tarheelblue.cstv.com/camps/unc-camps.html>

Summer athletic camps are available for elementary through high school youth of all skill levels. Baseball camp is offered in the winter and in the summer.

NC State University

<http://www.gopack.com/>

Summer athletic camps are available for elementary through high school youth of all skill levels.