

RICHMOND MAGAZINE'S

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2024

GUIDE



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A student project in space and more school news

Cristo Rey achieves 100% college acceptance

What's Waldorf? Education ideas explained

A St. Christopher's student enjoys a sweet success

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COVER: *Courtesy Richmond Waldorf School*

PRIVATE SCHOOLS GUIDE

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Published by
Richmond
magazine



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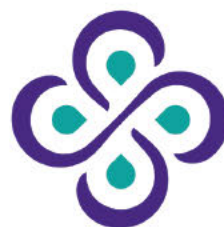
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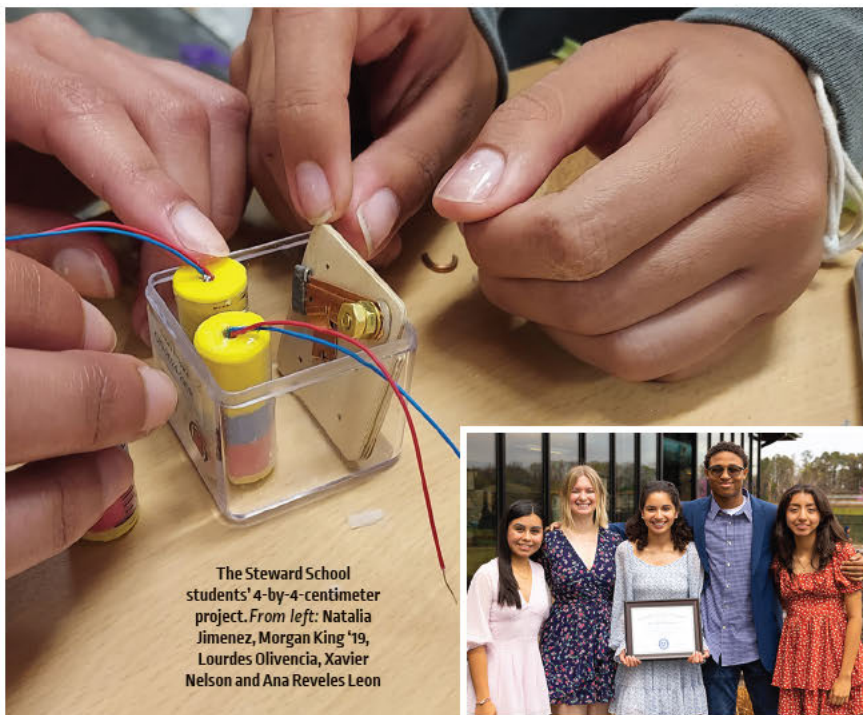
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SCHOOL NEWS

The latest on the private education front



STEM



The Steward School students' 4-by-4-centimeter project. From left: Natalia Jimenez, Morgan King '19, Lourdes Olivencia, Xavier Nelson and Ana Reveles Leon



A Gift from Space

Steward School students will pay it forward with a space experiment

Four Steward School students designed and built a tiny science experiment that was launched into space in June.

The students, Lourdes Olivencia '27, Natalia Jimenez '26, Xavier Nelson '25 and Ana Reveles Leon '24, designed the experiment to mix sand in a cube using the rocket launch's g-force. Olivencia says the rocket launch flipped a switch inside the cube, which turned on motors to mix the sand. "When the rocket goes up, it produces enough force that you can manipulate it and cause it to produce that work," she says. After their design was

approved for launch, the students spent five weeks building it. On June 20, their cube was launched from NASA's Wallops Island facility and returned for analysis.

The four created the experiment as part of the Cubes in Space program, which challenges middle and high school students from around the world to design an experiment for a 4-by-4-centimeter cube; more than 1,300 experiments have been launched as part of the decade-long program.

In the fall, the four plan to give the cube to Knox Robson, the space-loving grandson of The Steward School's former community advancement head, Debbie

Robson, Olivencia says. They are all recipients of the school's Debbie Robson Merit Scholarship, which provides four years of tuition to one rising ninth grader every year. "We find it very impactful that four Robson Scholars worked together to formulate ideas and plan a project that we can all be proud of as we honor Mrs. Robson's legacy," Nelson says. Olivencia says she hopes the gift inspires Knox to further his passion for science and space.

For Olivencia, creating the experiment was an opportunity to practice one of her favorite parts of science: working through mental puzzles and solving problems. The program allowed the four to practice puzzles and problems while they inspire the next generation of scientists to do the same, she says. "You have to have a real passion for it because it's hard, but once you get started, I just think it's so much fun." —*Caleb Ogilvie*

CONSTRUCTION

STRONG AND GROWING

Construction projects expand offerings for students

Three Richmond region private schools have invested in construction projects to expand access to the arts, athletics and academics for their students.

On the 60th anniversary of the school in October 2023, **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School** in Henrico held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new wing of the school, which will include a

gymnasium, music and art classrooms, bathrooms and storage. The \$4.2 million wing is set to open in January 2025.

The school currently uses one large room as a gym, lunchroom and assembly space. "This new space will enhance our programs in so many ways," says Principal Carey Mae Jacobsen. "Our community is growing in various ways, so this expansion supports both the school and the parish."

Donors Kathleen and Keith Brower and school officials at the grand opening of Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School's Brower Student Center



Northstar Academy, a private, nonprofit school in Henrico County that offers K-12 and vocational education to students with disabilities, is building a 16,000-square-foot gym and fitness center. Announced last December, the space will open this winter. The \$6.8 million project will be Northstar's first purpose-built physical fitness space on the campus, which was formerly occupied by Strayer University.

The gym will feature an audio-enhancing system for students with hearing impairments. "We are excited to be one of the first in our area to install a hearing loop in the floor that will help those with hearing impairments," says marketing director Chelsea Vrabel.

Blessed Sacrament Huguenot School in Powhatan celebrated the grand opening of the Brower Student Center earlier this year. Named in honor of donors Kathleen and Keith Brower, grandparents of the late Arabella Stuart Bower, class of 2016, the 18,000-square-foot building comes in response to enrollment growth of 80% since 2018, according to a statement from the school. The student center includes 19 classrooms, a Lower School art studio, a green screen studio, the Black Box Theater and a gym. The construction was part of a \$13.3 million capital campaign funded by private donors and foundations.

"We are enthusiastic about the innovative learning and creativity that our students will experience in this signature building on our campus," says Head of School Tracy Hamner.

—Sriyutha Morishetty

STAFF NEWS

Benedictine College Preparatory

Greg Lilly became interim head of school for Benedictine College Preparatory in Richmond on July 1 following the promotion of Del Smith, the previous head, to vice president of mission for Benedictine Schools of Richmond. Lilly previously served as director of admission and also is the school's football coach. The national search for a permanent head of school is ongoing.

Collegiate School

Nick Leonardelli was recently named the boys' varsity basketball coach and program leader at Collegiate School, following the resignation of Del Harris. A college coach for many years, Leonardelli most recently led the team at Henrico High School, which went 18-5 in 2024. Leonardelli will also teach history in Collegiate's Upper School.

Lynnhaven School

Evan Liddiard Jr., a humanities teacher at Lynnhaven School in Henrico, was named one of seven distinguished K-12 Educator Fellows for 2024 by Virginia Humanities, the state council. The fellows receive stipends to create lesson plans on specific topics; Liddiard is researching ways to add breadth and depth to the state's history curriculum.



COMMUNITY

Sorted

MILLWOOD SCHOOL INTRODUCES A HOUSE SYSTEM

Millwood School, a private coed college prep school in Midlothian, implemented a house system during the 2023-24 school year, grouping students into four multi-grade houses to build camaraderie, provide student with leadership opportunities and have year-long competitions.

The four houses are named after Virginia rivers: James, Potomac, Shenandoah and York. Each has a color, chant and motto. To enhance relationships between younger and older students, each house contains students in grades JK-12. Parents, faculty and staff are also included in the houses to cultivate community.

"This system gives young students someone to look up to and allows older students to be role models," says Robin Woods, director of records and communication at Millwood.

Houses earn points for benevolent acts such as donating to food drives. As part of the house games on the last day of school, students participated in activities including tug-of-war and relay races to earn additional points and determine the house champion. Potomac emerged victorious and was named the inaugural champion.

School officials are considering appointing house captains to bolster leadership opportunities and are exploring additional ways for students to earn points. "Reaction from the Millwood community has been very positive," Woods says. "There was a real sense of unity for our first house games."

—Alyssa Trull

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COLLEGE BOUND

A Richmond high school promises a 100% college acceptance rate

By Laura Anders Lee



Sarah Costa is entering her freshman year at the University of Notre Dame, where she earned a full scholarship. While she's nervous about going 800 miles from home, she says it's a dream come true for her and her family.

"Five years ago, I couldn't have named that many colleges," she says. "My zoned schools don't have the best reputation. Armstrong [High School in East Highland Park] has a low graduation rate, which isn't very encouraging. I wanted to be where college is the standard, and not shooting for the stars." The graduation rate at Armstrong is 67%, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Costa's future changed when she was accepted at Cristo Rey Richmond High School, which opened in 2019 in the Museum District.

"Our goal is to get students to and through college," says Lynn Waidelich, principal and chief academic

officer. "We promise students and their parents a 100% college acceptance rate, and our first two graduating classes have accomplished that. But we don't stop there — we stay in touch and offer support until our graduates walk across the stage and get their college degree."

Cristo Rey is part of a national network of 39 private Catholic schools for students with limited economic resources. At Cristo Rey Richmond High School, 98% are students of color — and they are 250% more likely to go to college than peers in similar income brackets.

"As soon as I walked through the door at Cristo Rey as a freshman, I had people asking me my plans for college," Costa recalls. "I was 14 and had no idea what I wanted to do, but they were always asking lots of questions to get us thinking about our future. We heard the word 'college' at least 20 times a day."

Cristo Rey demands high academic standards,



requiring each student to take at least one Advanced Placement class. Costa completed Advanced Placement classes in language and composition, U.S. history and calculus. She graduated with a 4.2 GPA and was class valedictorian.

“My mom is eternally grateful for Cristo Rey,” she says. “She knew I would be successful but never could have envisioned all of this — a speech at graduation and a full scholarship to such a prestigious school.”

Costa says that, without financial assistance, her life would have turned out differently. Her mother is still paying off student loans and Costa didn’t want to pile on more debt. Tuition at comparable private college prep high schools in Richmond is around \$25,000 a year, and tuition and living expenses at Notre Dame exceed \$83,000 a year. Paying off a 30-year loan with 5% interest doubles the cost of college.

Cristo Rey not only helps students earn college scholarships and make smart financial decisions but

its tuition model also allows students like Costa to get a high-quality education and job experience. Cristo Rey on its website says it costs more than \$17,000 per student in the previous academic year. Students work at local companies to earn about half of their tuition. The rest is covered by private donors and parents, who pay on a sliding income scale. For most students, that means a cost to a family of no more than \$200 per month.

Cristo Rey Richmond partners with 50 area businesses, representing health care, insurance, government, personal services, finance, law, banking, the arts and nonprofit sectors. Students work five days a month in groups of four, giving corporate work-study partners the equivalent of one full-time employee.

“There are so many benefits to having these kids,” says Pete Quinn, Cristo Rey Richmond High School board chairman and CEO of Riverfront Investment Group. “There’s an intangible cultural benefit — our >



Above left: Sarah Costa; above right: Pete Quinn, Cristo Rey Richmond High School board chairman

associates want to work for a company that has a purpose, there's an important workforce development component and these students do really good work in a really cost-effective way. There are multiple ways you win as a corporate work-study partner, in addition to doing something good for the community."

Class of 2024 graduate Ricardo de la Rosa says working for Davenport & Co., Kinsale Capital Group and Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital helped steer his career path and prepare him for the real world. He's earned a scholarship to Virginia Military Institute, where he'll study civil engineering. "I'm the first in my family to go to college and it feels really good," he says.

His classmate Jose Bautista says he also made the most of work-study programs. In Dominion Energy's talent and acquisition department, he noticed which applications made it to the top of the pile, what schools those candidates attended and what degrees they'd earned. After a work-study at James River Insurance, they hired him as a summer intern for \$17 an hour, which helped him buy a car. At Troutman Pepper law firm, Bautista, who's the first in his family to attend college, relied on his employers



for guidance.

"Virginia Tech has been my dream school, and I got to meet so many alumni, make connections and get phone numbers," he says. "When I found out I got a full ride to their aerospace engineering program, one of the ladies there was the first person I told. She got super excited and hugged me. It was really nice because she felt so proud of me."

When hearing about the many success stories at Cristo Rey, Quinn can't help but think about all the other kids in Richmond who aren't afforded the same access to a college preparatory education. "One of the things you realize when you get involved with Cristo Rey is how much talent goes to waste in our city — and it's just wrong," he says. "These kids are unbelievably talented and having an environment like Cristo Rey allows them to understand that. The talent is there — it just needs a platform to discover itself."

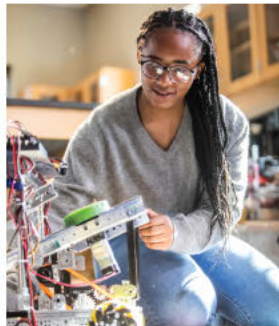
Cristo Rey Richmond wants to grow from 240 students to 350. They have the space on the former Benedictine College Prep campus, but to supplement the tuition, they'll need to sign on 40 more work-study partners. Quinn hopes more companies like his will see the benefit of partnering with Cristo Rey.

"Richmond has tremendous resources for economically disadvantaged kids, whether it's daycares, after-school programs and middle school education, but we've never had a high school like this," he says. "It's the last mile in the pipe — this is why Cristo Rey is so important." ■

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CHARTING A COURSE

Local schools evolve to meet educational challenges

By **PAULA PETERS CHAMBERS**

Change is a constant in schools. Beyond the obvious — students are ever-growing individuals with specific needs and interests — educational philosophies continue to evolve in response to societal, governmental, business and parental demands. The COVID-19 pandemic upended education in a manner unseen for generations. Richmond magazine reached out to several local schools that follow well-established curricula to see how — or if — their approach has shifted.



RICHMOND WALDORF SCHOOL

1301 Robin Hood Road; 804-377-8024, richmondwaldorf.com

Following the approach of Austrian scientist and philosopher Rudolf Steiner, who began teaching the children of factory workers in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1919, the Richmond Waldorf School focuses on multisensory experiences, the beauty of the natural world, the power of community and letting children learn at their own pace.

“Waldorf was created as a response to the first world war,” notes Alexandra Porr Mazerer, the school’s marketing and advancement specialist. “We talk about the head, the heart, the hands — integrating the body and mind. We talk about an education model that will help people build relationships that connect [people].”

To that end, teachers move upward in grade level with their class, a practice called looping. Mazerer’s son had the same lead teacher from first through fifth grades. One teacher just finished a loop that ran from first through eighth grades; in the fall, the teacher returns to

ABOVE: COURTESY RICHMOND WALDORF SCHOOL



Sabot School has expanded its outdoor instruction and gathering spaces.

ABOVE RIGHT: COURTESY SABOT SCHOOL

first grade with a new class.

"This is something Waldorf has been doing for years," Mazerer notes. "It creates better relationships. The teacher gets to know your kid and see your kid grow. And students don't have to adapt every year to a new teacher."

The school also has enrichment in six areas: movement, strings, biking, handwork, woodwork and world languages (Russian and Spanish). "It's a broad education," Mazerer says. "There are a host of different ways to learn, and the curriculum is integrated. There's group learning [and] a lot of opportunity for social-emotional growth."

While experiencing the outdoors was always part of the school's curriculum, pandemic realities led to the building of outdoor classrooms, which are still being used. "If anything, we've become more sure that in-person, social-synchronous learning for young students is the way to be," Mazerer says.

Part of the experiential learning includes immersive field trips. Third graders spend five days at an organic, biodynamic farm in Ghent, New York,

where they milk cows, feed chickens, clean stalls and make bread. Eighth graders' capstone journey is a five-day sailing excursion from Baltimore Harbor that includes camping and scientific exploration. "These are experiences [classes] share," Mazerer says. "There's a difference between learning things in the classroom and learning from real life."

Waldorf also deemphasizes early reading, an approach that is more accepted internationally than in the U.S., Mazerer notes. "We're trying not to put pressure on children," she says. "We want them to move their bodies, play, bake bread, make soup, hear stories, do group activities in circles. We want to keep learning interesting for the kids and make it something they connect with, not just checking the boxes."

SABOT SCHOOL

3400 Stony Point Road; 804-272-1341, sabotschool.org

Leaning into the 2023-24 school year's theme of "Movement," fourth graders at the Sabot School in Richmond studied

human migration while third graders, motivated by a marble run, built a working aqueduct.

"Every year, we have a theme the whole school keeps in mind," says Carol-Margaret Bitner, the school's associate head of academics. "It provides a lens for whatever bubbles up."

That approach of following a child's natural curiosity is the cornerstone of the Reggio Emilia Approach, developed in Italy after World War II by a group of parents who wanted to educate children "so that wars like that didn't happen again," Bitner says.

"Reggio Emilia has an image of the child as an already complete being, already full of ideas," she adds. "The role of adults is to follow that process, to encourage curiosity and a love of learning. Children aren't vessels to be filled."

The Reggio approach holds that children learn from three primary sources: their parents, their teachers and the environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sabot expanded its outdoor classroom settings, creating more intentional spaces for instruction and gathering. >

and the school continues to use those enhanced areas. “Being outdoors is a big part of our program,” Bitner says. “During the pandemic, it really came to light [more broadly] how important the connection to nature is.”

While Sabot had a counselor on staff prior to the pandemic, in-class sessions have been added so students are encouraged to express themselves. “The pandemic reinforced how much time we invest in social-emotional development,” Bitner says. “We already did that, but we’ve seen how critical it is to slow down and listen to what children are bringing.”

Last year, Sabot had 224 students ages 2 to 14 in pre-K through eighth grade. Through fifth grade, the school employs team teaching. Middle school introduces single-subject teachers. At every level, the curriculum shifts in response to what’s happening in the classroom.

“The whole process is about following inquiry,” Bitner says. “Preschool looks like a lot of play, but as students advance, there is instruction and structure, and assessment reports. Kids in middle school are doing independent research;

they are prepared for high school.”

The pandemic also changed how the school interacts with parents, Bitner says. “We’re learning what types of communication our community needs, and we’re structuring gatherings [to bring people together] because it’s not happening organically. We’re finding a new structure.”

Ultimately, Bitner says, Sabot continues to follow the Reggio Emilia Approach so children can find their own way into the world. “Reggio believes in the 100 languages, the multitude of ways children can express and make meaning of their experiences,” she says. “Learning doesn’t happen in a vacuum; it happens in relation to one another.”

RICHMOND MONTESSORI SCHOOL
499 N. Parham Road; 804-741-0040,
richmont.org

With an emphasis on all aspects of a child’s development, the Montessori educational approach is positioned to respond to changing needs, say Richmond Montessori School leaders.

“Montessori [philosophy] has been resilient for more than 100 years; it’s timeless but also adaptive,” says interim director Kim Waite, Ed.D. “There is consistency in the learning environment, in pedagogy, in planning across the continuum [of classes]. We have community within multi-age classrooms that provide stability.”

Grounded in the principles of Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori, Richmond Montessori was founded in 1965 and now serves 315 students in preschool through eighth grade in 17 classrooms over two campuses on Parham Road. It is the only Montessori school in the region that is fully accredited by the American Montessori Society and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools.

Elementary-level instructional director Bree Linton notes the Montessori approach focuses on social-emotional development. “We were ready to address [those needs during the pandemic] because we always do that,” she says, adding that the school hired a guidance counselor and nurse during



Richmond Montessori School serves students in preschool through eighth grade.

BELOW LEFT: COURTESY RICHMOND MONTESSORI SCHOOL

the pandemic, who remain on staff and are a “huge” help for teachers. “Everyone has been appreciative of that shift,” she says.

Attention to individual development continues in middle school, where students spend 15 minutes each day in personal reflection, whether journaling, meditation or another discipline. “Some of the kids don’t enjoy that time at first, but we want to help them develop those skills,” says Cassidy Houston, middle-level instructional director.

“The pandemic emphasized the importance of everything we do,” Houston adds. “Middle schoolers can feel emotion like adults but don’t have the same regulation in their prefrontal cortex like adults do. They are preset to feel the thrill of victory and agony of defeat more than adults.”

Additionally, the school expanded its one-to-one computer program beyond the middle school level, providing elementary students with the same technology. While the laptops have stayed, Linton says they aren’t as essential. “We can use them as a tool when needed,”

she says.

Interim director Waite says Richmond Montessori has been able to maintain its staff of certified and trained teachers through an established practice of looking ahead. “Montessori training requirements are highly specialized and stringent,” she says. “We were invested in the [educator] development model before the teacher shortage [began]. We have always developed a bench.”

The school offers whole-school trainings during the school year or programs specific to instructional levels. Teachers also may apply for courses, conferences or additional Montessori certification. A summer institute for teachers fosters communication across the grade levels.

“We want to make sure we’re working as a team and that all classrooms are delivering a consistent experience,” says Kristin Giacco, primary-level instructional director. “This is education for peace. It starts with the individual and is grounded in respect, for one another, the environment and the larger community beyond.”

TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

3850 Pittaway Drive; 804-272-5864, trinityes.org

“Teenagers are beautiful.”

So says Maria Bartz, head of student support and academic program for Trinity Episcopal School, which has just over 500 students in grades eight through 12 and encourages students to follow their passions.

“You have to love teenagers to work at any school happily, but especially at Trinity,” she adds. “[Teens] have a strong sense of what is right and empathy for others; they’re fun and goofy. They’re highly emotional, so helping them learn how to process those emotions is a huge part of the job.”

Founded in 1972 as the first private high school south of the James River, Trinity is not affiliated with the Episcopal Church but incorporates that religious tradition in a weekly chapel service, a religion class requirement and a yearly theme initiated by the school’s chaplain. “We want students to feel comfortable learning about the >



Trinity Episcopal School emphasizes community, student self-discovery and support for parents.





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◀ CHARTING A COURSE |

Christian faith and be open to all faiths that come to the table,” Bartz says.

Trinity was also the first private school in the region authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. On average, 30 students pursue the IB diploma, which requires a two-year commitment to a specified curriculum. Bartz says that nearly 80% of the student body take at least one IB class. “One of the wonderful things about IB is they are doing the research and reviewing the curricula,” Bartz says. “It keeps our curricula and our teachers on their toes. We try to get every teacher some IB training so they understand the philosophy behind it.”


Bartz says the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how small the world is. “One goal of our strategic plan is to strengthen how we show and teach students how to be global citizens, global thinkers, how to live successfully with all the complexities,” she says.

The pandemic also reinforced Trinity’s emphasis on community. “There’s more of a focus on letting students build community in the classroom,” she says. “We’ve also increased community-based events [because] we saw how important it is for us to be together physically.”

Two years ago, the school launched a Parent Pathways program that includes speakers, book clubs and podcasts. “We want to help parents and give them support so we can all do what is needed to help our students thrive,” Bartz says. “

One constant has been Trinity’s mission of student self-discovery, called “Discover Your Path.”

“We live and breathe that slogan; it’s not just something to put on a T-shirt,” Bartz says. “This helps [students] come out of their shells in so many ways. They become confident, caring, capable and feel ready to take the next step on their own. We want them to be ready for the world and to have that global perspective.” ■



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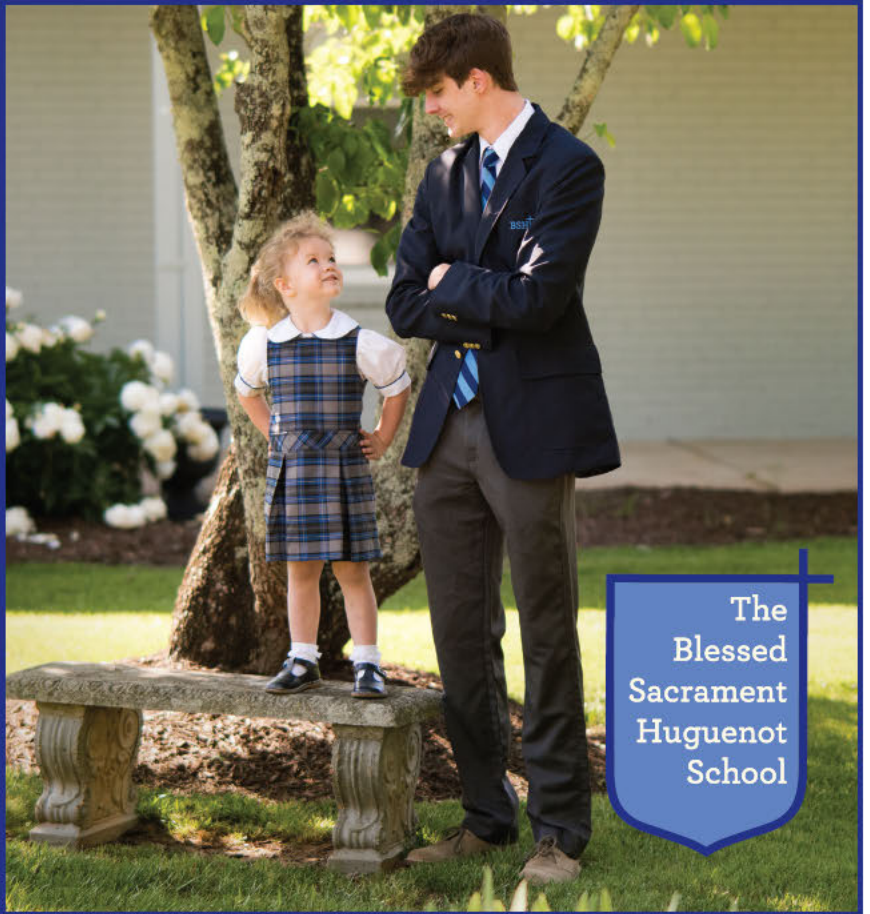
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This directory of private boarding schools outside the Richmond area was provided by the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE). For accreditation status or other information, call 804-423-6435 or visit vcpe.org.

Blue Ridge School

Grades 9-12 boys, boarding, nondenominational. 273 Mayo Drive, St. George, 434-985-2811.

Chatham Hall

Grades 9-12 girls, boarding and day, Episcopal. 800 Chatham Hall Circle, Chatham, 434-432-2941.

Christchurch School

Grades 9-12 coed, boarding and day school, Episcopal. 49 Seahorse Lane, Christchurch, 804-758-2306.

Episcopal High School

Grades 9-12 coed, boarding, Episcopal. 1200 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, 703-933-3000.

Fishburne Military School

Grades 7-12 boys, boarding, five-day boarding, day. U.S. Army JROTC. 225 S. Wayne Ave., Waynesboro, 800-946-7773.

Fork Union Military Academy

Grades 7-12/postgraduate boys, boarding, military. 4744 James Madison Highway, Fork Union, 434-842-4205.

Foxcroft School

Grades 9-12 girls, boarding and day. 22407 Foxhound Lane, Middleburg, 540-687-5555.

Hargrave Military Academy

Grades 7-12/postgraduate boys, military. 200 Military Drive, Chatham, 434-432-2481. >



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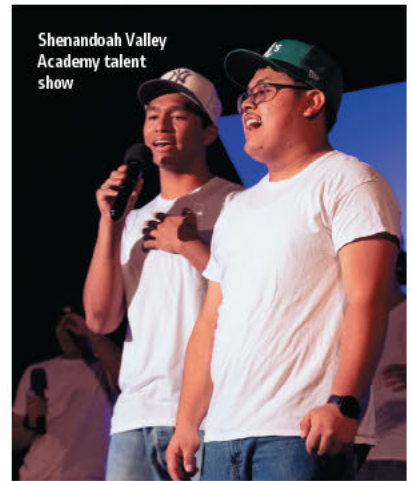
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day Adventist. 234 W. Lee Highway, New
Market, 540-740-3161.

St. Anne's-Belfield School

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PS-12 and boarding for 9-12. PS-8 school:
799 Faulconer Drive, Charlottesville,
434-296-5106. 9-12 school: 2132 Ivy
Road, Charlottesville, 434-296-5106.

St. Margaret's School

Grades 8-12/post-graduate girls,
boarding and day, Episcopal. 444 Water
Lane, Tappahannock, 804-443-3357.

Stuart Hall School

Grades 6-12 coed, boarding for 8-12 and
day for 6-12, Episcopal. Upper/middle
school: 235 W. Frederick St., Staunton,
540-248-2404.

Virginia Episcopal School

Grades 9-12 coed, boarding and day,
Episcopal. 400 VES Road, Lynchburg,
434-385-3600.

Wakefield Country Day School

PS-12 coed. 1059 Zachary Taylor Highway,
Huntly, 540-635-8555.

Williamsburg Christian Academy

PS-12 coed, boarding and day, Christian.
101 School House Lane, Williamsburg,
757-220-1978.

Woodberry Forest School

Grades 9-12 boys, boarding.
898 Woodberry Forest Road,
Woodberry Forest, 540-672-3900. ■

Updated July 2024. To suggest an update to this
listing, contact the special projects editor at
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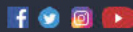
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PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE RICHMOND REGION

This is a sampling of private schools in the Richmond region. Information for this chart was provided by the schools. For the latest tuition information or to learn more, contact the schools' admissions offices.

Name/address/phone	Type	Established	Enrollment/grades taught	Dress code	Tuition	Afterschool program	Student-teacher ratio	Percent of color students
Academy of Academic Excellence 12345 Gayton Road, 804-740-6500	Coed	1997	60/PK-5	✓	\$18,100	✓	11:1	94
Al Medina School 10700 Academy Drive, 804-330-6888	Islamic	2016	123/PK-12	uniforms	\$6,000-\$7,350	✗	7:1	70
All Saints Catholic School 3418 Noble Ave., 804-329-7524	Coed Catholic	1982	200/JK-8	uniforms	\$8,600	✓	20:1	80
Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School 2100 N. 29th St., 804-822-6610	Coed Independent	2009	185/K-8	uniforms	All students on scholarship	✓	13:1	85
Banner Christian School 5831 Courthouse Road, 804-276-5200	Coed Christian	2002	238/K-12	uniforms	\$11,200-\$11,975	daycare	10:1	45
Benedictine College Preparatory 12829 River Road, 804-708-9500	Boys Catholic	1911	300/9-12	uniforms	\$24,900	✓ and before school	12:1	24
Blessed Sacrament Huguenot 2501 Academy Road, Powhatan, 804-598-4211	Coed Catholic	1998	467/PS-12	uniforms	\$5,500-\$17,150	✓	10:1	15
Cardinal Newman Academy 711000 Smoke Tree Drive, North Chesterfield, 804-464-3575	Coed college prep	2017	22/9-12	✓	\$9,250	✓ sports	2:1	27
Carmel School 9020 Jericho Road, Ruther Glen, 804-446-3288	Coed, college prep, Christian	1986	250/PK-12	✓	\$8,950-\$11,280	✓	12:1	22.8
Central Montessori School 323 N. 20th St., 804-447-7493	Montessori, day	2007	300/3 months-middle school	✗	\$1,550-\$2,000 per month (depending on program)	✗	3:1 to 18:1	n/p
Collegiate School 103 N. Mooreland Road, 804-740-7077	Coed college prep	1915	1,687/JK-12	✓	\$19,560-\$32,820	✓	8:1	23
Cristo Rey Richmond High School 304 N. Sheppard St., 804-447-4704	Coed Catholic	2019	240/9-12	uniforms	\$200 per month	✓	14:1	79
Educational Development Center 3001 Fifth Ave., 804-228-2600	The rapeutic day/special education	1992	45 to 60/K-12	uniforms	Contact school	✗ before school only	varies	60
Eljah House Academy 6627-B Jahinke Road, 804-755-7051	Coed Christian	1989	200/PK-8	uniforms	Based on income	✗ sports programs only	15:1	85
Ephesus Junior Academy 3700 Midlothian Turnpike, 804-233-4582	Seventh-day Adventist	1956	20/K-8	uniforms	\$4,500-\$4,600	✓	15:1	98
Faith Life Academy 420 Oranoco Ave., 804-321-1333	Coed Christian	1991	10/PK-K	uniforms	\$130 per week	✓	10:1	85
Good Shepherd Episcopal School 4207 Forest Hill Ave., 804-231-1452	Coed Episcopal, day	1971	141/K-8	uniforms on chapel days	PK variable, K-8-\$14,500	✓	10:1	25
Grace Christian School 8067 Altlee Road, Mechanicsville, 804-231-1452	Coed Christian	2013	261/6-12	uniforms	6-8-\$7,800, 9-12-\$8,820	✓	n/p	n/p

Grafton Integrated Health Network 4100 Price Club Blvd., Midlothian, 804-674-8888	Special education and group homes	1989	72/K-12	X	Contact school	6:1	n/p
Grove Christian School 8701 Ridge Road, 804-741-2860	Coed Christian	1978	193/PK-12	uniforms on chapel days	\$3,800-\$8,900	11:1	38
Guardian Christian Academy 6851 Courthouse Road, 804-715-3210	Christian	1975	398/PK-12	✓	\$10,750-\$11,050	18:1	44
Hanover Academy 117 Frances Road, Ashland, 804-798-8413	Coed	1959	90/PK-6	✓	n/p	10:1	n/p
Harambee Day School at Elk Hill 1975 Elk Hill Road, Goochland, 804-457-4666	Coed for mental & behavioral health	1992	40/6-12	uniforms	\$200-\$250 for self-contained classroom per day	4:1	67
Hunter Classical Christian School 635 Manakin Road, Manakin-Sabot, 804-708-0048	Coed Classical Christian	2010	115/K-8	uniforms	\$10,800-\$12,000	12:1	n/p
John G. Wood School 8716 W. Broad St., 804-270-6566	Coed for trauma survivors/ learning disabled	1974	32/K-12	X	\$150 per year	4:1	67
Landmark Christian School 4000 Creighton Road, 804-644-5550	Coed Christian	1966	115/K-12	✓	\$6,000 per year	10:1	n/p
Lynnhaven School 1538 East Parham Road, Henrico, 804-750-2300	Coed college prep	2012	49/9-12	✓	\$19,980	6:1	46
Millwood School 15100 Millwood School Lane, 804-639-3200	Independent coed college prep	1989	265/PK-12	✓	\$15,950-\$19,200	12:1	24
Northstar Academy & Career Center 11501 Nuckols Road, 804-747-1003	Nontraditional learners, students w/ disabilities	1996	120/K-12	✓	varies	8:1	28
Orchard House School 500 N. Allen Ave., 804-228-2436	Girls	1998	80/5-8	X	\$23,320	10:1	15
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School 8250 Woodman Road, 804-262-1770	Coed Catholic	1963	357/JK-8	uniforms on chapel days	\$11,445	18:1	35
Providence Montessori Christian School 1200 Wilmington Ave., 804-584-6390	Coed Montessori	2009	8/PK-K	✓	\$3,750-\$6,250	4:1	50
Redeemer Episcopal Day School 2341 Winterfield Road, 804-378-8909	Coed Episcopal	2020	100/JK-5	X	\$9,810	18:1	n/p
Richmond Academy 12285 Patterson Ave., 804-784-0036	Coed Christian	1911	135/PK-12	uniforms	\$6,700-\$8,700	15:1	73
Richmond Christian School 6511 Belmont Road, 804-276-3193	Coed Christian	1950	350/K-12	X	\$7,470-\$9,500	15:1	40
Richmond Montessori School 499 N. Parham Road, 804-741-0040	Coed Montessori	1965	31.6/18 months- 8th grade	X	\$12,950-\$26,165	5:1 toddlers 10-13:1 others	39
Richmond Waldorf School 1301 Robin Hood Road, 804-377-8024	Waldorf	1996	180/PK-8	✓	\$7,750-\$18,035	Early child- hood: 8:1; grade school: 14:1	24
Riverside School 2110 McRae Road, Bon Air, 804-320-3465	Coed for students with dyslexia	1974	93/K-8	✓	\$34,120	1:1 reading, 9:1 classroom	n/p
Rudlin Torah Academy 3809 Patterson Ave., 804-353-1110	Coed Hebrew day school	1966	97/K-8	✓	\$9,235-\$11,679	10:1	n/p
Sabot School 3600 Stony Point Road, 804-272-1341	Coed, Reggio-inspired	2007	200/PK-8	X	\$13,500-\$20,995	7:1	18

n/p = not provided

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE RICHMOND REGION CONTINUED

Name/address/phone	Type	Established	Enrollment/grades taught	Dress code	Tuition	After-school program	Student-teacher ratio	Percent students of color
Saint Bridget School 6011 York Road, 804-288-1994	Coed Catholic	1952	520/JK-8	uniforms	\$6,800-\$16,500	✓	17:1	5
Saint Gertrude High School 12829 River Road, 804-708-9500	Girls Catholic college prep	1922	243/9-12	uniforms	\$24,900	✓	7:1	16
Saint Joseph Catholic School 123 Franklin St., Petersburg, 804-732-3931	Coed Catholic	1876	166/JK-8	uniforms	\$7,522-\$8,522	✓	10:1	50
Salem Christian School 35 Church Lane, Gum Spring, 804-556-6070	Coed Christian	1996	93/PK-12	✓	\$2,200-\$7,150	✓ and before school	7:1	n/p
Seven Hills School 1311 Overbrook Road, 804-329-6300	Boys	2001	90/5-8	✗	\$25,190	✓ sports and clubs	6:1	32
Spiritos School 400 Coalfield Road, 804-897-7440	Early intervention focus on autism, developmental delay	2002	10/PK-8	✗	Contact school	✓	1:1	20
St. Andrew's School 227 S. Cherry St., 804-648-4545	Coed Episcopal	1894	96/K-5	uniforms	All students receive 100% scholarship	✗	16:1	90
St. Benedict Catholic School 3100 Grove Ave., 804-254-8850	Coed Catholic	1919	212/JK-8	uniforms	\$6,932-\$9,965	✓ and before school	16:1	35
St. Catherine's School 6001 Grove Ave., 804-288-2804	Episcopal girls	1890	945/toddler-12	✓	\$18,650-\$31,980	✓	varies	20
St. Christopher's School 711 St. Christopher's Road, 804-282-3185	Episcopal boys	1911	1,002/JK-12	✓	\$19,750-\$32,200	✓ (coed)	5:1	16
St. Edward Epiphany 10701 W. Huguenot Road, 804-272-2881	Coed Catholic	1961	480/PK-8	uniforms	\$6,850-\$12,015	✓ and before school	20:1	13
St. Mary's Catholic School 9501 Gayton Road, 804-740-1048	Coed Catholic	1965	410/JK-8	uniforms	\$10,410	✓	8:1	60
St. Michael's Episcopal School 10510 Hobby Hill Road, 804-272-3514	Coed Episcopal	1957	386/K-8	✓	\$14,650-\$16,035	✓ and before school	10:1	9
The Faison Center 1701 Byrd Ave., 804-612-1947	Serves children with autism and other developmental disabilities	1999	193/19 months - 22 years	✗	Contact school	✓	7:1	34
The New Community School 4211 Hermitage Road, 804-266-2494	Coed college prep for students with dyslexia and related learning differences	1974	223/5-12	✓	\$36,000	✓ athletics and clubs	4:1	9.6
The Steward School 11600 Gayton Road, 804-740-3394	Coed college prep	1972	715/JK-12	✓	\$19,275-\$31,280	✓	12:1	28
Trinity Episcopal School 3850 Pittaway Drive, 804-272-5864	Coed Episcopal	1972	514/8-12	✓	\$28,850	✓	8:1	23
Veritas School 3400 Brook Road, 804-272-9517	Classical Christian	2000	656/JK-12	uniforms	K-12: \$14,560-\$16,120; JK: \$1,500-\$4,225	✓	16:1	16

n/p = not provided Updated July 2024. To suggest an update to this listing, contact the special projects editor at clairref@richmag.com.



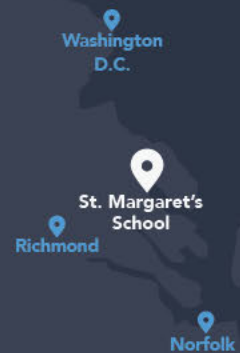
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Patteson's elaborate decorations include piping, college logos, fruit, cookies and sugar art [on the geode-themed cake at right].

LAST LOOK

SWEET SUCCESS

A pandemic pastime has become a business for a St. Christopher's student

By Alyssa Trull

Like many around the world, Patteson Branch, a 17-year-old rising senior at St. Christopher's School, experimented with baking back in 2020. Inspired by the success of a rainbow layered cake, Patteson regularly tried new recipes and gifted the results to family and friends. "It was just a cool,

creative process," he says in a school press release. "I became kind of obsessed and started making new stuff every day."

Patteson recruited his sister, Alice, now a rising sophomore at St. Catherine's School, and younger brother Charlie, a rising seventh grader at St. Christopher's who has since resigned from the business, to found PAC Sweets.

The trio used their home kitchen to make and sell fudge, safe-to-eat cookie dough and custom cakes.

Their break came in May 2022, when a friend requested a cake for a school event. The cake was a hit both at St. Christopher's and on Instagram (@pacsweets). The



siblings have made over 300 cakes, decorating them with traditional roses and piping but also college logos, sugar art, swirls of fruit, cookies and more.

Running a business has been a learning experience, Patteson says. "We learned a lot about perseverance and resilience. We have learned from our fair share of mistakes." Throughout, the siblings' goal has been satisfying their customers, he adds. "We will bake until 2 a.m. if that's what we need to do."

Patteson says he enjoys the creativity of making cakes and the flexibility of owning a small business. Of necessity, though, he'll step back next year when he goes to college and Alice will lead PAC Sweets. "I'm excited for the marketing

and communication side of things, as well as planning out and executing everything," she says.

"I don't know if I will continue baking as a business, but I will definitely use it as a hobby," Patteson concludes. "My sister and I joke that we'll never have to buy a birthday cake ever again." ■



Patteson and Alice Branch

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