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JANUARY 2010

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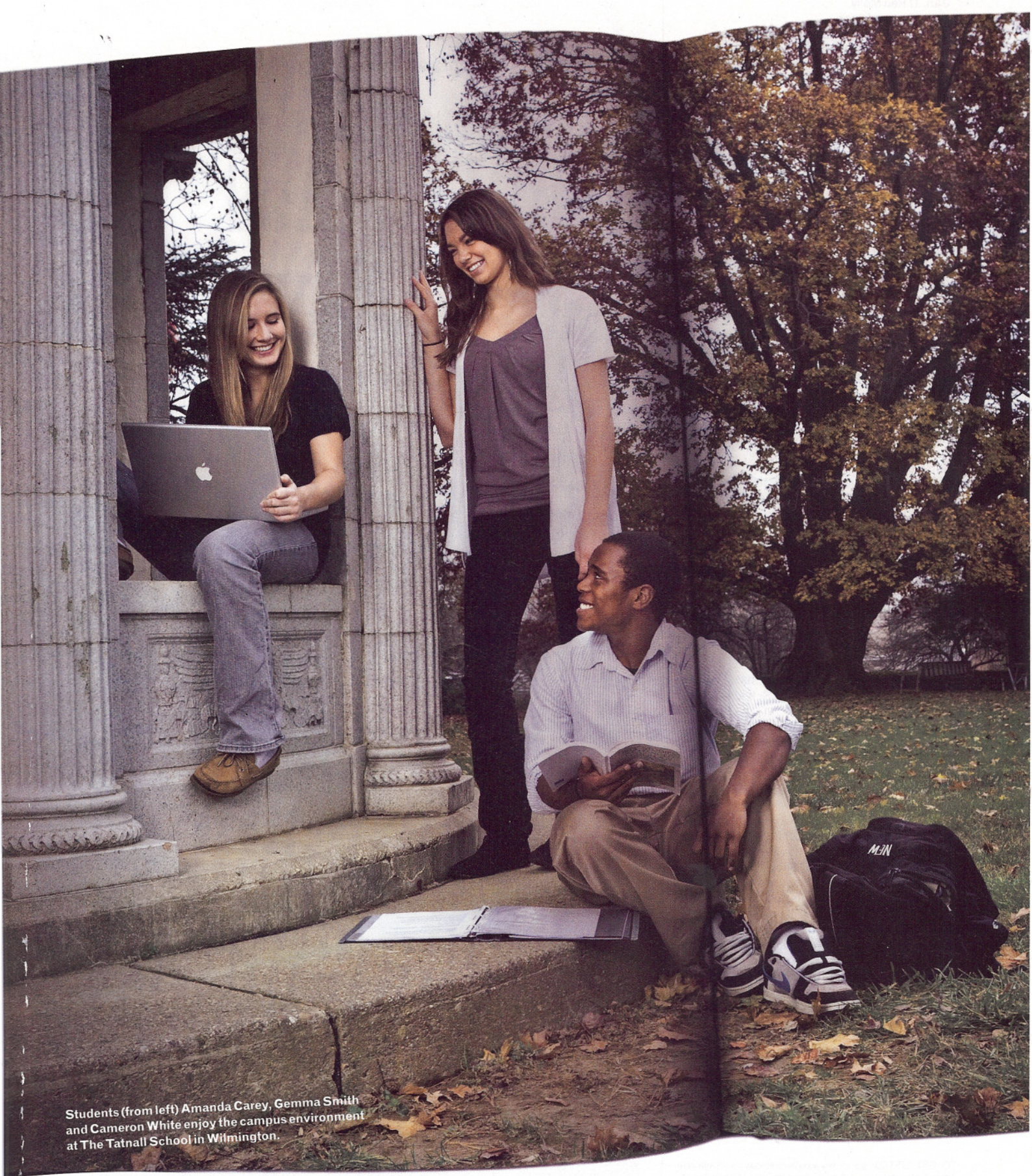


DELAWARE TODAY


PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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JANUARY 2010



Students (from left) Amanda Carey, Gemma Smith and Cameron White enjoy the campus environment at The Tatnall School in Wilmington.



the Private School Primer

What makes a high school right for your young student? Great academics? A moral foundation? Terrific arts? Competitive athletics? Here are the traits that distinguish each from the other.

BY THERESA GAWLAS MEDOFF

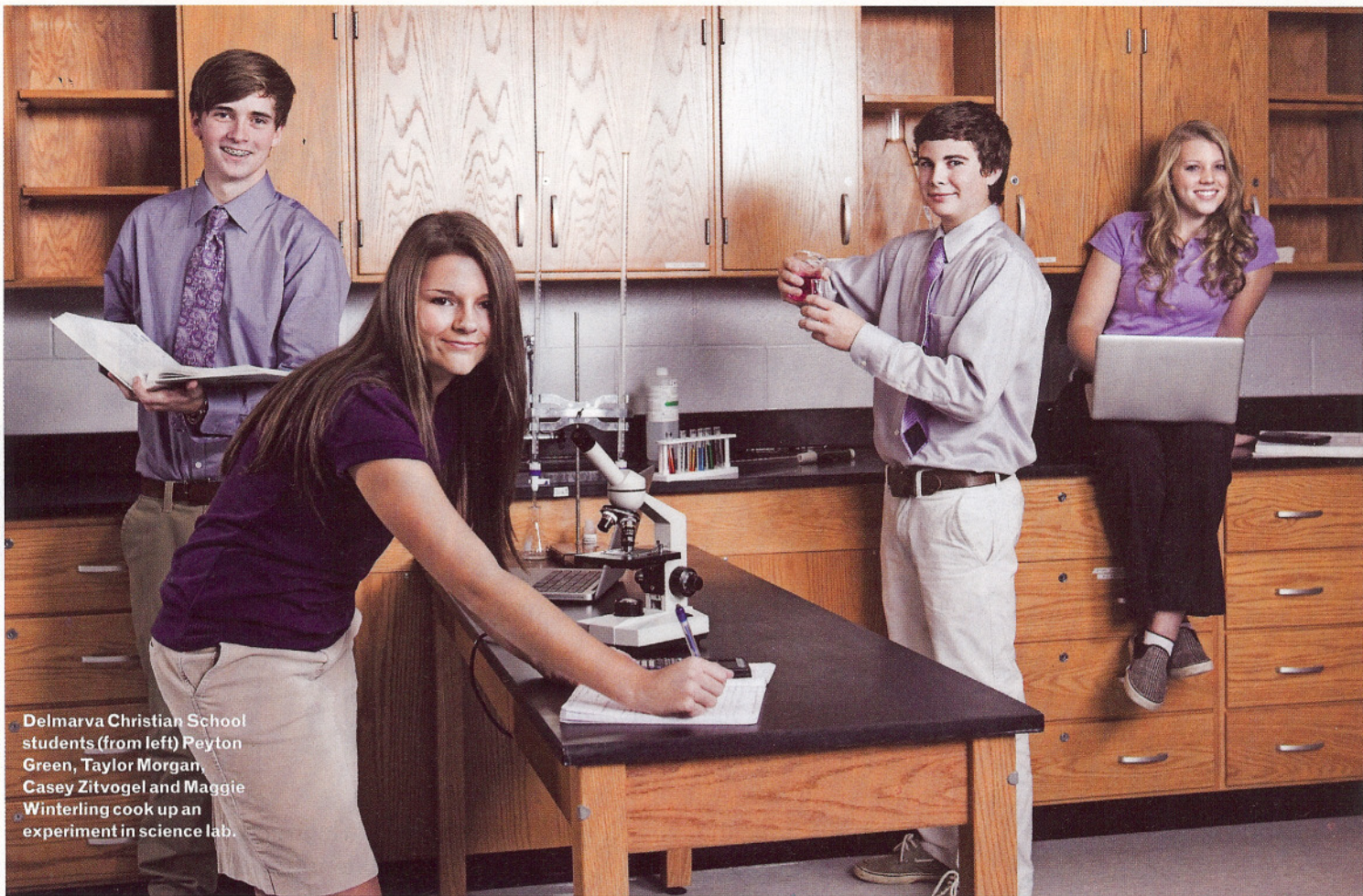
photographs by Jared Castaldi

AQUINAS ACADEMY

With 10 to 15 students per class, Aquinas Academy offers personalized instruction that adapts the curriculum to the child's strengths and needs. The school uses the St. John Bosco educational method, which recognizes that "students are children of God with infinite value" and emphasizes character formation in the way teachers interact with students, says vice principal Marie Redfield. This year, Aquinas expanded both its Aquinas Scholars honors seminar program and its Emmaus program, which provides extra support to students with language-based learning differences.

ARCHMERE ACADEMY

Vice President Joe Biden might be Archmere's most famous alumnus, but Archmere is looking to another to lead the school into the future when Michael Marinelli, class of 1976, takes over next school year as the school's



Delmarva Christian School students (from left) Peyton Green, Taylor Morgan, Casey Zitvogel and Maggie Winterling cook up an experiment in science lab.

first non-Norbertine headmaster. Archmere bills itself as a “big small school” that offers lots of extracurricular variety along with individualized attention and an informal, intimate atmosphere in class discussions. And while the academic bar is set high, the school also places a priority on community service. A mandatory service requirement was instituted this year.

CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Though Calvary Christian comes under the ministry of Calvary Assembly of God Church, it functions separately as an interdenominational Christian school. Teachers and administrators seek to partner with parents in raising their children, so they emphasize frequent communication and welcome parent volunteers. Bob Jones curriculum and Saxon math are used throughout the school. New this year is a distance-learning program that allows high school students to pursue advanced academic studies not regularly offered at Calvary Christian. The focus on service was strengthened this year with the institution

of a community service day for all middle and high school students.

CAPITOL BAPTIST SCHOOL

Capitol Baptist is a ministry of the Capitol Baptist Church in Dover. The school program “has a biblical foundation and places a strong emphasis on academic fundamentals through traditional classroom instruction,” according to the school’s Website. Students are expected to demonstrate good manners, high moral standards, respect for parents and authority, and patriotism.

CARAVEL ACADEMY

Principal Donald Keister says that faculty and administrators take pride in fostering a family atmosphere at Caravel, something that is made easier by the wide range of ages at the school. “At our pep rallies, for example, we have everyone from first-graders to 12th-graders cheering together,” he says. Caravel is now in the second year of a new character-building initiative that features age-appropriate components for lower and upper school students. The

character-building focus complements the school’s emphasis on service through initiatives such as its annual Relay for Life fundraiser. Thanks to a recent expansion, the school has a new cafeteria and additional classroom space.

CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE ACADEMY

At Christian Tabernacle, the Bible dictates the educational philosophy. “Education without acknowledging the Creator would be lacking because we believe that it is only in acknowledging the Creator that there is purpose,” says administrator Jaime Hurd. She adds that the school is a “very loving place” where teachers are dedicated to the academic, emotional and spiritual growth of every student. New this year is a program through which home-schooled children are welcome at the school to take specific courses or to participate in the sports program. Athletic offerings were expanded this year to include a youth basketball league for children ages 5 through 10.

THE PRIVATE SCHOOL LIST

Only schools that educate high school students are listed. All grades served are noted, followed by the number of students (NOS) enrolled in the school. STR stands for student-teacher ratio. Tuitions are cited for the current academic year. The ranges cited vary according to grade and number of siblings who attend the school. The schools cover the full spectrum of types, from traditional college preparatory to religion-based to alternative education.

SCHOOL WEB ADDRESS	ADDRESS	PHONE	GRADES	NOS	STR	TUITION	HEAD OF SCHOOL
AQUINAS ACADEMY www.aquinasacademy.net	2370 Red Lion Road Bear	838-9601	k-12	100	10 to 1	\$4,050- \$5,150	Administrator: Jack Moore
A private, co-educational day school and home school-support program operated by Catholic laymen dedicated to the spiritual and intellectual formation of its students in the tradition of a Catholic liberal arts education. Aquinas Academy offers personalized instruction, regarding each child as being of infinite value in the sight of God.							
ARCHMERE ACADEMY www.archmereacademy.com	3600 Philadelphia Pike Claymont	798-6632	9-12	480	10 to 1	\$19,375	Headmaster: Father Joseph McLaughlin
Founded in 1932, Archmere is a Catholic school where faith and knowledge and their accompanying values combine for the formation of the entire person.							
CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY www.wearecca.com	1143 E. Lebanon Road Dover	697-7860	pre k-12	250	13 to 1	\$3,875- \$4,300	Administrator: Aaron Coon
Established in 1985, it is the largest interdenominational school in Kent County. Smaller classroom sizes, strong classroom management, and challenging curriculum with biblical integration give students an excellent opportunity to grow academically, spiritually, mentally and physically in a safe, secure and loving environment.							
CAPITOL BAPTIST SCHOOL www.cbcofdover.com	401 Kesselring Ave. Dover	678-9190	pre k-12	—	6 to 1	\$3,250- \$3,700	Principal: Thomas Horne
The school has offered Christian education to area families for nearly 40 years. From a Christian worldview of presuppositions consistent with absolute biblical truth, students are challenged to discern right action and thinking, then exercise a proper role in their families, churches and country.							
CARAVEL ACADEMY www.caravel.org	2801 Del Laws Road Bear	834-8938	pre k-12	1,140	12 to 1	\$6,750- \$8,450	Principal: Donald C. Keister
A private college prep school that upholds the values of honesty, personal integrity and good sportsmanship. Its mission is to inspire students to develop a love of learning and empower them to become self-sufficient adults through effective and challenging instruction, extracurricular activities, and a wide range of experiences.							
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL www.centralchristian.mennonite.net	220 W. Denneys Road Dover	492-8772	k-12	83	8 to 1	\$2,750	Principal: Mark Nissley
Central Christian has used the Accelerated Christian Education program for 32 years. ACE is a Bible-based college prep educational system with a 10 to 1 student-staff ratio. The educational ministry allows students to progress individually in math, social studies, English, science, etymology and various electives.							
CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE ACADEMY www.chrtabernacle.org	18962 Johnson Road Lincoln	422-6471	pre k-12	155	10 to 1	\$3,700	Administrator: John Sigman
Christian Tabernacle Academy was founded in 1973 to give the personal attention to students who were being missed in the classroom. CTA quickly grew into a traditional Christian school. Its small size has allowed it to maintain a family atmosphere and personal attention to students that builds character and encourages academic excellence.							
CONCORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY www.concordchristian.com	2510 Marsh Road Wilmington	475-3247	pre k-12	214	16 to 1	\$5,100	Administrator: Jeffrey Bergey
Concord Christian offers a quality Christian education at an affordable tuition rate. It seeks to enroll Christian families whose foremost desire is that their children receive a quality education in a Christ-centered environment.							
DELMARVA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL www.delmarvachristian.com	21150 Airport Road Georgetown	856-4040	9-12	170	—	\$5,800	Principal: W. Scott Kemerling
Students must earn a minimum of 32.25 credits, perform a minimum of 100 hours of co-curricular service to the community, and successfully complete the Senior Testimony Project in order to earn a diploma. The STP is a 25-page research-reflection paper, a tangible product-process, and an oral presentation-profession.							
FAIRWINDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL www.fcsknights.com	801 Seymour Road Bear	328-7404	pre k-12	185	15 to 1	\$5,500	Principal: Corey Waters
The word of God is the center of the curriculum for every subject, from math and science to social studies, English and physical education.							
GREENWOOD MENNONITE SCHOOL www.gmsflames.org	12802 Mennonite School Road, Greenwood	349-4131	pre k-12	200	13 to 1	\$2,775- \$4,100	Principal: Duane Miller
The school, which opened in 1928, features curriculum developed by A Beka, Bob Jones University and the Association of Christian Schools International. GMS offers band and chorus and is a member of the Peninsula Athletic Christian Conference. GMS graduates have regularly received honors from their colleges and universities.							
KENT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY www.kentchristianacademy.com	4462 W. Denneys Road Dover	678-3837	pre k-12	40	10 to 1	\$3,550- \$3,650	Principal: Jeanette Berry
Founded in 1975 to meet the educational and moral needs of children and to provide a safe environment for spiritual and academic growth. The educational program is based on a biblical philosophy and an individually prescribed curriculum that inspires achievement through awarding of privilege and by teaching goal-setting skills.							
LAYTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL www.laytonprep.org	55 Read's Way New Castle	395-1710	9-12	37	3 to 1	\$24,750	Head of School: Barton Reese
The mission of Layton Prep is to expand educational opportunities for students with identified learning differences and those who seek an upper school program that focuses on individual academic and social needs. Layton Prep School is the only independent high school in Delaware with this mission.							
MILFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL www.firstbaptistofmilford.com	6062 Old Shawnee Road Milford	422-4263	pre k-12	105	12 to 1	\$2,600- \$3,200	Administrator: David Perdue
A member of the Delaware Association of Christian Schools and the American Association of Christian Schools, MCS provides academics with a Christian perspective. MCS also provides a sports program, fine arts and Bible education. Graduates leave with a firm foundation to carry them through life.							
NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY www.nccade.com	901 E. Basin Road New Castle	328-7026	pre k-12	160	12 to 1	\$5,570- \$5,680	Administrator: Mark Unruh
Offers a variety of classes and extracurricular activities. It offers an environment parallel to the teachings of Jesus Christ and a proactive staff that is welcoming to all.							

SCHOOL WEB ADDRESS	ADDRESS	PHONE	GRADES	NOS	STR	TUITION	HEAD OF SCHOOL
THE NEW SCHOOL www.thenewschool.com	812 Elktion Road Newark	456-9838	—	50	—	\$6,000	Founder: Melanie Jago Hiner
Students shape the curriculum and manage the school. The program focuses on rigorous thought, articulate expression, and the integration of thought and feeling. Teachers employ dialectical conversation and the original works of the best thinkers instead of textbooks. Studies are pursued in the manner best suited to each child.							
PADUA ACADEMY www.paduaacademy.org	905 N. Broom St. Wilmington	421-3739	9-12	600	13 to 1	\$9,000	Principal: Cindy Hayes Mann
A Catholic, college prep high school for young women that is rooted in the Gospel and modeled on the values of St. Francis de Sales and St. Francis of Assisi.							
RED LION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY www.redlionca.org	1390 Red Lion Road Bear	834-2526	k-12	850	17 to 1	\$4,665- \$7,360	Headmaster: Shannon Dare
Red Lion offers challenging academics, including honors and AP courses. Leadership and service opportunities are emphasized. Extracurricular activities include a comprehensive fine arts program, scholastic teams, and a full complement of competitive interscholastic sports programs for boys and girls.							
SALESIANUM SCHOOL www.salesianum.org	1801 N. Broom St. Wilmington	654-2495	9-12	1,030	13 to 1	\$10,975	Principal: Father William McCandless, OSFS
All-male Catholic high school offering a college preparatory program guided by the teachings of the gentleman saint, Francis de Sales. Committed to educating the whole person and fostering an environment that leads to personal growth and self-confidence.							
SANFORD SCHOOL www.sanfordschool.org	6900 Lancaster Pike Hockessin	239-5263	pre k-12	620	8 to 1	\$10,250- \$21,250	Head of School: Douglas W. MacKelcan Jr.
Motivated to work hard, Sanford students set high standards for themselves in a safe community guided by an honor code. Talented teachers know their students and carefully stretch them to discover and develop their unique talents.							
SEAFORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY www.seafordchristian.org	110 Holly St. Seaford	629-7161	pre k-12	160	11 to 1	\$1,925- \$3,900	Administrator: Larry Snyder
A college-prep curriculum based on God's Word. An aggressive phonics program is accompanied with Spanish, keyboarding, choir, band, strings, handbells, year-book, art, soccer, volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, softball, baseball, Honor Societies, Interact Club, prayer groups, student council and daily Bible instruction.							
ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL www.standrews-de.org	350 Noxontown Road Middletown	285-4231	9-12	300	5 to 1	\$42,000	Headmaster: Daniel T. Roach Jr.
The state's only boarding school is home to students from 23 states and 15 countries and various socioeconomic strata. (More than 40 percent of students receive financial aid.) In addition to outstanding academic and athletic programs, St. Andrew's opened an arts center three years ago.							
ST. ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL www.sehs.org	1500 Cedar St. Wilmington	656-3369	9-12	441	12 to 1	\$8,990	Principal: Shirley W. Bounds
A small, Catholic, coeducational school founded in 1940 and rooted in the tradition of St. Benedict. The institution takes seriously its motto that "All are welcome to pray, to learn, to serve," and emphasizes community service by making service hours a graduation requirement and encouraging summer service immersion activities.							
ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL www.stmarkshs.net	2501 Pike Creek Road Wilmington	738-3300	9-12	1,400	13.5 to 1	\$9,196	Principal: Mark John Freund
A St. Mark's education provides students not only with the tools needed to succeed intellectually in college and beyond, but with the tools to build a life around the values of faith, humility, integrity and excellence that are grounded in the Catholic faith.							
ST. THOMAS MORE PREPARATORY SCHOOL www.saintmore.org	133 Thomas More Drive Magnolia	697-8100	9-12	166	18 to 1	\$7,200	Principal: David McKenzie
Saint Thomas More Preparatory School is committed to providing the young people entrusted to our care with a community that is spiritual, diverse, dynamic and academically rigorous. We are passionate about our extraordinary environment that pushes students to learn, use their talents, and ultimately succeed in their life's pursuits.							
TALL OAKS CLASSICAL SCHOOL www.talloaksclassicalschool.org	181 Stanton-Christiana Road, Newark	738-3337	k-12	168	8 to 1	\$4,800- \$7,100	Headmaster: Donald Post
A classical Christian education equips children to think critically and communicate accurately with a biblical worldview. This method produced the greatest thinkers in the Western world since the Middle Ages. Tall Oaks springs from a revival of the method in the early 1980s.							
THE TATNALL SCHOOL www.tatnall.org	1501 Barley Mill Road Wilmington	998-2292	pre k-12	641	15 to 1, to 9 to 1	\$10,320- \$22,100	Head of School: Eric Ruoss
An independent, coeducational school that provides students an excellent college prep education within a family atmosphere. Students are encouraged to nurture intellectual curiosity, explore talents and serve their communities. The liberal arts tradition ensures exposure to a balanced program of academics, athletics and arts.							
TOWER HILL SCHOOL www.towerhill.org	2813 W. 17th St. Wilmington	575-0550	pre k-12	748	8 to 1	\$12,250- \$23,600	Headmaster: Chris Wheeler
Committed to its motto, "many things done well," the school challenges students to be their best in an environment that balances academics, the arts, athletics and community involvement. Tower Hill nurtures each student's talents, passions and dreams while helping them become well-rounded individuals.							
URSULINE ACADEMY www.ursuline.org	1106 Pennsylvania Ave. Wilmington	658-7158	pre k-12	593	9 to 1	\$5,200 to \$15,330	President: Cathie Field Lloyd
Ursuline is the only Catholic school in Delaware to offer both preschool and Montessori programs as part of its lower school curriculum. Though it offers programs to boys age 3 through grade 3, the rest of the school is all girls. In the Upper School, the Class of 2009 completed 9,153 hours of community service.							
WILMINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL www.wilmingtonchristian.org	825 Loveville Road Hockessin	239-2121 x3205	pre k-12	455	9 to 1	\$6,900- \$10,750	Head of School: William F. Stevens
Offers competitive programs in academics, athletics and the fine arts that promote lifelong learning in a nurturing environment, based in the Christian faith tradition. The school's mission is to guide students to develop socially, impact their culture, and respond to the diversity of the culture, while maintaining academic excellence.							
WILMINGTON FRIENDS SCHOOL www.wilmingtonfriends.org	101 School Road Wilmington	576-2930	pre k-12	783	11 to 1	\$8,350- \$20,875	Head of School: Bryan Garman
A pioneer in global education, Wilmington Friends was the first school in Delaware authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate program, highly regarded in college admissions, and the first to join the School Year Abroad consortium.							

Good sports at Tower Hill School in Wilmington include (from left) Ben Keller, Joanna Kelly, Emily Schuckert and Demetrius Murray.



High School have a vision: "To train students to walk with God, walk with their fellow believers, and walk in, but not of, this world." That means a curriculum that stresses moral education but also holds students accountable for success in rigorous college preparatory and Advanced Placement courses.

FAIRWINDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The school is a ministry of Fairwinds Baptist Church. About 50 percent of students also attend Fairwinds Church, but the school welcomes any student who wants a Bible-centered education, says Pastor Carlo DeStefano. All of the teachers are born-again Christians, and chapel services are held every Wednesday morning. The school follows a conservative philosophy, so it requires uniforms in order to encourage modesty. Students and parents are asked to sign a student-conduct code.

GREENWOOD MENNONITE SCHOOL

Under the leadership of new principal Duane Miller, Greenwood Mennonite seeks to encourage its students to take a more challenging academic curriculum. New programs this year include pre-kindergarten and before- and after-school daycare. A new elementary school curriculum also was introduced. Home-schoolers are welcome to attend Greenwood Mennonite part time or for individual courses. The school's long-time emphasis on ministry is evidenced by the high percentage of students who go on to Bible College in preparation for careers in missions and ministries, Miller says.

KENT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

This very small K-12 school has its classrooms in the same building as the church and its daycare program, The Learning Center, which accepts children ages 1 to 5. The school "is an integral and inseparable part of the Pentecostals of Dover, Delaware," according to the school handbook. The basic purpose of Christian education, the handbook notes, "is to assist individuals to accept, progress and apply Christian teaching in a positive way to their everyday situations." The handbook, which is available at the school's Website, also outlines a statement of faith and a statement of purpose.

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Seaford Christian Academy teacher Janet Snyder (second from right) works with (from left) Phillip Wands, Alyssa Davis and Jalisa Jenkins.

CONCORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

With a little more than 200 students, this Christian school is small enough that "everyone knows everyone," says administrator Jeffrey Bergey. Students benefit from having a faculty with an average of 18 years of teaching experience, and the student body as a whole tests more than 18 months ahead of the national average. In the past

few years the school has enhanced the music program and added a speech-drama class that puts on an annual school play. The goal of Concord Christian, Bergey adds, is "to partner with parents, to assist and help them to educate their children."

DELMARVA CHRISTIAN

Administrators of Delmarva Christian

continued from page 55

LAYTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Layton Prep is located at Wilmington University's graduate campus in New Castle Corporate Commons and uses the science labs, library and gymnasium at the university's main campus. Now in its fifth year, Layton Prep graduated its first full class last spring—12 students, all of whom went on to college. Layton Prep's mission has expanded to include not only students with learning differences, but all who want a smaller, more individualized academic and social learning environment. Despite the school's small size—the cap is 60 students—there are several opportunities for sports and clubs.

MILFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nearly two-thirds of Milford Christian students attend churches other than the school's home church, First Baptist of Milford, which school administrator Pastor David Perdue sees as a particular strength. He emphasizes, though, that home, school and church function like the three legs of a stool, and all must match for it to func-

tion properly. "We want good kids from good families," he adds. Milford Christian offers pre-K to grade 12, but while the average class size in the elementary grades is 12 students, in high school the number is down to four per grade.

NEW CASTLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Both administrators and several staff members are alumni of New Castle Christian—evidence, says Pastor Ron Sears, that they love the school and strongly support its mission. The biblically based school has a family atmosphere that is evident beginning first thing in the morning, when administrators stand at the door to welcome students as they arrive. Students have easy access to teachers, who seek to instill critical thinking skills. Last year New Castle Christian added a daycare program for children as young as six weeks, and the daycare space was renovated over the summer.

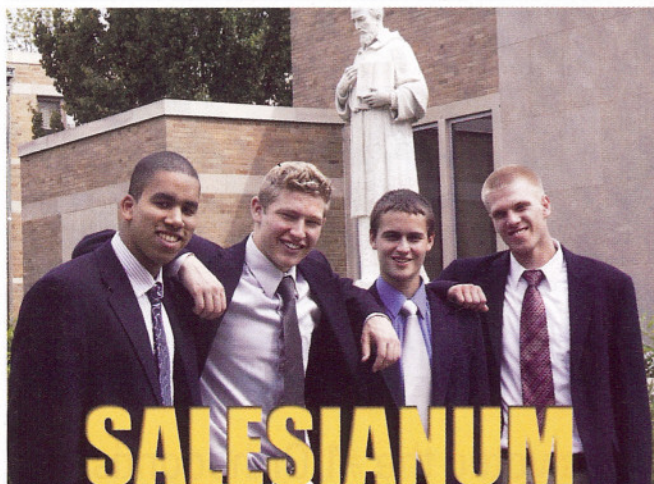
THE NEW SCHOOL

Just how different is The New School? Well, the founder answers to the students, the ones who really run the administra-

tion, finances, discipline—even the building, a converted farmhouse. Founder Melanie Hiner describes the curriculum as "student-directed, question-based, with an emphasis on rigorous thought, articulate expression and virtuous action." A student's schedule might include traditional subjects like biology, geology or Spanish as well as topics like farm project, blacksmithing and alternative building construction. Study might take place independently or in small groups, partnering with University of Delaware professors, business people, artisans or other experts in their fields.

PADUA ACADEMY

Principal Cindy Mann says that Catholic, all-female Padua Academy is "all about empowering and inspiring students to reach their goals," but it also hopes to broaden the horizon for the types of goals and careers their students consider. A new student entrepreneurship program, for example, seeks to get the girls "thinking not in terms of being middle managers but of being CEOs or starting their own businesses." A new technology course and CISCO certification program are designed to give



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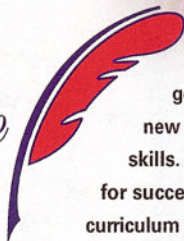
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girls "a taste of the field of technology" to encourage them to enter engineering and technology fields.

RED LION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Faculty and administration at Red Lion Christian expect students to strive for excellence in everything they do—academics, athletics, the arts and social activities, says principal Cathy Swalm, "because we believe that is what God wants us to do." A new student support resource program at the school is allowing teachers to better address the needs of struggling students, as well as those who are gifted and talented. The school is also adding AP classes and dual-credit classes that can be taken online or through Delaware Technical and Community College.

SALESIANUM SCHOOL

It's not just that Salesianum is the only all-male high school in the state that makes it unique. "It's also the spirituality and charisma that the Oblates [of St. Francis de Sales] bring to the school," says admissions director Mark Winchell. "When you walk in you can feel that sense of spirit, tradition and respect." Salesianum encourages its students to follow the admonition of St. Francis: "Be who you are and be that well." Last year Salesianum received a National Jefferson Award for Outstanding Service by a High School.

SANFORD SCHOOL

Sanford has the academic rigor and rich opportunities that one expects from an independent, private school. What sets it apart, says admissions director Andrew Walpole, is "the engaged, friendly and collaborative environment. Sanford students don't feel as if they need to compete with each other academically or socially. People can feel safe being themselves." Even visiting prospective students comment that they leave at the end of the day having made new friends. Students also embrace the school's motto, "no talent lies latent," by taking risks and trying new things, Walpole adds. Sanford's 100-acre campus is akin to a college campus, with students walking from building to building for their classes.

SEAFORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Administrator Larry Snyder believes that the family atmosphere at Seaford Christian Academy sets it apart. "People get along,



The DuPont Environmental Education Center

at the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge

Creative and innovative programming is the hallmark of the Delaware Nature Society. The DuPont Environmental Education Center on Wilmington's riverfront offers a full complement of public, group and school programs specially designed for each grade level and tied to state educational standards. Public programs are offered for ages 1 1/2 on up and include canoe trips, guided bird walks, marsh walks with cast and dip net exploration, river cruises, astronomy programs and much more.

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We are friendly and close-knit," he says. Parents and grandparents volunteer in the school, and older students tutor and mentor peers and younger students. Students and staff "are encouraged to do all things with excellence so that their efforts bring glory and honor to the Lord," Snyder adds. The purchase of new equipment is allowing the school to expand its use of instructional technology this year at all grade levels in order to address different types of learning styles and to allow for active participation.

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL

At Delaware's only boarding school, not only the students, but also the faculty and their families, live on a 2,200-acre campus in Middletown, so that they can live and learn together, says Louisa Zendt, director of admission and financial aid. St. Andrew's is an Episcopal school, but it welcomes students of all faiths—or no faith—and from all socioeconomic backgrounds, she adds. Classes, which range from five students to 16, are held around an oval table to facilitate the Oxford tutorial-style of teaching used at the school. Ninety percent of students participate in after-school sports, and a quarter of them play in the school's orchestra.

ST. ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL

Although St. Elizabeth is a parish school, more than 80 percent of students come from outside the parish. The Benedictine tradition, with its emphasis on prayer, hospitality, work, compassion and stability, remains strong at St. Elizabeth. "Because we are small (enrollment is capped at 450), we can really get to know our students and their needs so we can prepare them to meet the expectations of higher education," says principal Shirley Bounds. Though the school building is old on the outside, it is not old on the inside. "We have kept very current with computers, and technology is integrated throughout the curriculum," she says.

ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL

What makes St. Mark's different is its amazing variety of academic and co-curricular offerings, says principal Mark Freund. Students with a wide range of academic abilities can be accommodated, and 98 percent go on to higher education. Prayer, faith and service are integrated throughout the day. Every class begins with a prayer, and there is a strong commitment to service, Freund adds. A team of volunteers goes to



SAINT EDMOND'S ACADEMY

An Independent, Catholic Academy for Boys in the Tradition of Holy Cross

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What's New
Grades JK-8!**

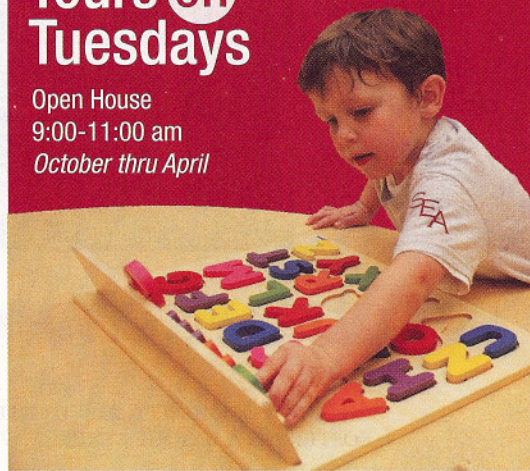
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College: University of Pennsylvania



The Tatnall School
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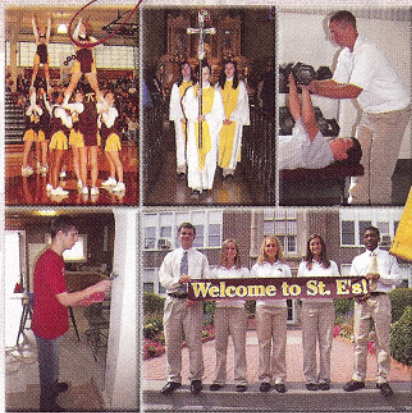
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New Orleans every summer to help those in need. Recent renovations include fine arts classrooms and studios, \$1 million in athletic field improvements, and the addition of an aerobic fitness facility.

ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

Though this is a Catholic, faith-based high school, nearly one-third of its students are non-Catholics. Principal David McKenzie says that students take great pride in the school's honor code, which goes far beyond academic honesty. "It's about living life with honor, integrity and respect for others." So successful is the code that students leave computers and iPods lying around, with no fear of theft. Students take challenging academic courses, as well as courses in music and the visual arts.

TALL OAKS CLASSICAL SCHOOL

To understand how a Tall Oaks' education is different, it's important to key in on the word "classical" in the school's name. It refers not only to classical content, such as Latin, logic and classical literature, but also to the classical method of instruction used at the school, says Janet Baumann, director of admissions and community life. The classical method of instruction recognizes three levels of learning and thinking: the Grammar, the Dialectic and the Rhetoric stages, which correspond to the biblical terms knowledge, understanding and wisdom. The school teaches children "to think biblically, resulting in righteous living in the world."

THE TATNALL SCHOOL

Recent additions at Tatnall have improved upon an already enviable campus environment. The Laird Performing Arts Center, opened in 2007, has everything a performer or audience could want, including nearly perfect acoustics. The music and multimedia center has a specialized computing lab dedicated to the arts, including digital music composition and video editing. Upgraded science labs and improvements to the campus' natural setting enhance opportunities for a hands-on science curriculum that begins as early as pre-K.

TOWER HILL SCHOOL

Tower Hill's character-education program begins in pre-K, where good deeds earn the use of a Beanie Baby for the evening, perhaps Kindness Koala or Respectful Rhino. In middle school there are

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The image shows a close-up of a dish with red sauce and garnish on the left. On the right is a screenshot of the Delaware Today website's dining guide. The website header includes 'DELAWARE TODAY' and 'Limited Edition Available through December 2009'. The dining guide lists various restaurants and offers, such as 'Pho-get About It', 'Nacho on Mission', 'Cherrel', 'The Wine Wife', and 'A Season of Change'. There are also sections for 'Subscribe', 'Dining Events', and 'Newsletters'.



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monthly themes on core values. Upper school courses include studies of people of character, as well as a community service requirement. Tower Hill recently expanded its Spanish-language instruction to start as early as 3 years old. Tower Hill prides itself on its rigorous physical education and sports program and is currently renovating the fieldhouse. The school also is working to increase diversity—not only ethnic, but also religious and socioeconomic, says admissions director Kelly DeShane.

URSULINE ACADEMY

The Ursulines are an order of Catholic nuns that operates schools for girls around the world. Though boys are welcome in pre-K to grade 3, from grade 4 up Ursuline is all girls. "Serviam," or to serve, is the motto of all Ursuline schools, and students at the Wilmington school embrace the motto enthusiastically. Ursuline's learning-with-laptops program has all students in grades seven through 12 using laptops in class throughout the school day.

WILMINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

At Wilmington Christian, curriculum and academics are approached from a biblical worldview and a Christian perspective, says Yvonne Deadwyler, director for advancement. Teachers challenge students to integrate biblical truth into their daily life and to impact the world through Christ. There is a strong focus on academics, athletics and the fine arts. In the past few years the school has built a new auditorium, expanded and upgraded gymnasiums, and renovated classrooms and laboratories.

WILMINGTON FRIENDS SCHOOL

The Quaker values that infuse the academic and social learning environment at Wilmington Friends is what most sets it apart, says admissions director Cathy Hopkins. "We are teaching students to always be working their hardest to do their best, whether it's in the classroom, on the athletic field, or in their clubs and activities," she says. The school's new Quest Center is evidence of its focus on global education and preparing students for a diverse world. The center brings in guest speakers and encourages and supports student projects that engage them in the world beyond Wilmington. Environmental stewardship is emphasized at all grade levels. **D**



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