

How to Choose the Right School Community for Your Family

You have a smart child who loves to learn, and you're trying to find just the right school that will both challenge them academically and ensure they are a well-rounded person. After careful research, you've identified several school communities that could be a good fit for your family, but what questions should you ask and what should you look for to find, not just a good school, but the right school for your family?

Is the school both academically challenging and emotionally nurturing?

You don't have to trade academic rigor for a nurturing environment. To choose a school that cares for its students' hearts as well as their minds, look for:

- ❑ Caring, experienced and collaborative faculty who will foster a warm, nurturing environment where students love to learn
- ❑ A challenging curriculum that is academically rigorous and incorporates tough-to-teach intangible skills like curiosity, creativity, adaptability, resilience, and critical thinking - the [important skills our children need to prepare](#) them for what's ahead in school and in life

Are students actively engaged in their learning?

Research shows that [children learn better and retain more when they're actively engaged in their education](#). To choose a school that empowers students to take info and apply it to practical solutions across science, social studies, math, and other academic subjects, look for:

- ❑ [Structured play](#), facilitated by expert teachers, that taps into students' natural curiosity, stokes their desire to learn, creates an academic foundation, and builds skills like reflective thinking, adaptability, planning and adjusting, independence, and resiliency
- ❑ [Project-based learning](#) that engages students by taking academics outside the textbook and beyond the walls of the classroom with projects that are designed around real-world problems

Does the school create a sense of community?

We know that [a diverse community improves the educational process and outcomes](#) for everyone because students learn through multiple perspectives, develop strong cultural global and local competence, and recognize that we are all collectively incomplete if we don't invite all voices. To choose a school that fosters a sense of belonging, look for:

- ❑ Intentional and explicit forms of [inclusion, belonging and cultural competence](#) created with programs such as an [anti-bias curriculum](#) and a strong [World Languages program](#)
- ❑ A school culture where everyone feels comfortable enough to [show up as their authentic selves](#)

Are the teachers developing deep relationships with their students?

A deep relationship between students and their teachers is the key to intellectual and emotional growth, learning, and accomplishment over the years. Being known, understood, believed in, held to a high standard, and loved selflessly is the greatest gift that educators can bring to their students. To choose a school that values deep relationships between teachers and students look for:

- ❑ A co-teaching model where each classroom is staffed with more than one full-time teacher to allow deeper relationships with their students to develop. A co-teaching model also offers more flexibility and differentiation for teaching in smaller groups.

Are students seen and valued?

Students thrive in classrooms where [academics and social-emotional learning](#) are carefully delivered by expert teachers. This allows them to build confidence that is vital to their growth. To choose a school that offers intentional methods for delivering balanced learning, look for:

- ❑ Classroom environments that are positive, inclusive, and warm using methods such as [Responsive Classroom](#)
- ❑ Safe spaces throughout campus where students feel welcomed, valued and where their voices are heard

Does the school graduate purpose-driven leaders?

Schools that offer [powerful and innovative experiences](#) where students build academic, collaborative and creative skills, take on leadership responsibilities, and establish a lifelong foundation for themselves as innovators and world contributors [set students up for success in high school and beyond](#). To choose a school that prepares children for their futures, look for:

- ❑ [Graduates](#) who are empowered with critical intellectual and communications skills and who are strong self-advocates with cultural sensitivity and curiosity that drives lifelong learning
- ❑ Graduates who excel in a diversity of schools - private and public, single-sex and co-ed, big and small - who can live and lead in a big world and are prepared to shape it for good

We hope these questions will help you consider what's most important in your future school and empower you to feel good about the school community you choose for your family.

The Children's School has partnered with families since 1970 to be the school community where they feel valued and their children love to learn.

If you'd like to continue this conversation with us, we invite you to get in touch with our Admission office at 404-873-6985 or admission@tcsatl.org.

