

# How to Choose the Right School Community for Your Family During the COVID-19 Pandemic



**The Children's School**

Nurture the Amazing

## Does the school offer a choice of quality on-campus and remote learning environments and the flexibility and support to move between them effectively as the pandemic unfolds?

Schools that can offer on-campus and remote learning experiences for families who may have varying comfort levels and the flexibility to move from one to the other are uniquely positioned to support students and families consistently and effectively during this uncertain time.

To choose a school that offers high quality on-campus and remote options look for:

- ❑ Schools offering on-campus learning during the pandemic should have **clearly articulated health and safety protocols and procedures** that are rooted in guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local governments. Click [here](#) for a checklist of health and safety measures to look for in potential schools offering on-campus learning during the pandemic.
- ❑ Schools that offer **extended day and summer learning programming** that prioritizes health and safety for both on-campus and remote students to help families as their childcare needs may shift during the pandemic and allows students to continue hobbies and interests they are passionate about.
- ❑ Schools with a **robust remote learning program** should provide the technology necessary for each student to learn from home, intentionally create schedules that balance screen time with

live instruction. The schedules can include uninterrupted academic instruction time with remote students who are in younger grades, teachers who are available to answer questions, one-on-one academic support, opportunities for on-campus and remote students to engage in social connections, ongoing academic assessments in place, and opportunities for students to show what they know while teachers continue to monitor and support remote students' academic growth.

- ❑ Schools that are **able to switch between remote and on-campus** well, have these things in common: individual supply kits should families want or need to shift quickly or unexpectedly between on campus or remote, learning guides, technology such as ipads/laptops that kids can take home and ready-to-use platforms like Zoom, Google Classroom and Seesaw.
- ❑ Well-resourced schools that invest, not only in remote learning technology, but also in the **professional development teachers need to effectively teach on-campus and remote students**
- ❑ Schools with dedicated counselor support and that are committed to supporting students' social and emotional well-being in age-appropriate ways with **character education programs that teach, model, and reinforce skills** such as resilience, flexibility and responsibility will help support students during this uncertain time.
- ❑ **Financial aid programs** that support socio-economically diverse school communities making it easier for families to attend the school,





## Is the school both academically challenging and emotionally nurturing?

The potential for [low-quality remote learning](#) and the possibility of a [negative social-emotional impact](#) on children from being away from teachers and friends makes it more important than ever to find a school that can nurture and challenge your child during the pandemic so they receive the love and support they need to thrive during the pandemic and beyond. To choose a school that cares for its students' hearts as well as their minds, look for:

- ❑ Play- and project-based learning built into flexible on-campus and remote learning plans
- ❑ Passionate and committed teachers who use [innovative teaching methods to nurture students and 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, whether it's on-campus or remote?

Research shows that [children learn better and retain more when they're actively engaged](#) in their education. Schools with robust on-campus and [remote learning](#) experiences that engage students who are in the classroom and at home empower them to take information and apply it to practical solutions across science, social studies, math, and other academic subjects. To choose a school that does this effectively, look for:

- ❑ [Structured play built into on-campus and remote learning schedules](#) that is facilitated by expert teachers, 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 and creates community connection, look for:

- ❑ Intentional and explicit forms of [inclusion, belonging and cultural competence](#) through 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](#)
- ❑ An academic program that [fosters connections](#) between all students whether they're on-campus or online
- ❑ Strong parent partnerships that promote [community connection](#), even when the community can't be together physically

## Are the teachers developing deep relationships with their students?

The potential for students to feel isolated from friends and teachers during the pandemic makes it more important than ever to find a school that fosters a deep relationship between students and their teachers. It is also the key to intellectual and emotional growth and learning.

Being known, understood, believed in, challenged to be their best, and loved selflessly is the greatest gift that educators can bring to their students, especially as students adapt to the “new normal” during the pandemic. To choose a school that values deep relationships between teachers and students look for:

- ❑ Pods or cohorts with a [low teacher-to-student ratio](#) to allow deeper relationships with their students
- ❑ Teachers who [foster connections between on-campus and remote learning students](#) with innovative curricula and creative ways to create connections

### Are students seen and valued?

Students thrive in schools 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 through both on-campus and remote learning approaches, look for:

- ❑ Pod or cohort [environments that are positive, inclusive, and warm](#) and that use methods such as [Responsive Classroom](#)
- ❑ Safe spaces both on-campus and [online](#) where [students feel welcomed, valued and where their voices are heard](#)

### Does the school graduate purpose-driven leaders?

A school needs to have academically prepared students for their next learning journey and support them through what can be an emotionally disruptive time. 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 up students for success](#) in high school and beyond.

To choose a school that prepares children for a successful future beyond the pandemic, 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](#)



The Children’s School has partnered with families since 1970 to be the school community where students are nurtured and challenged.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, [TCS offers families a choice between on-campus and remote learning and the flexibility to move between the two](#) as your comfort level may change.

If you’d like to continue this conversation with us, we invite you to take our [virtual tour](#) and get in touch with [Cheri Menosky](#) in our Admission office at [404-873-6985](#) or [admission@tcsatl.org](#).