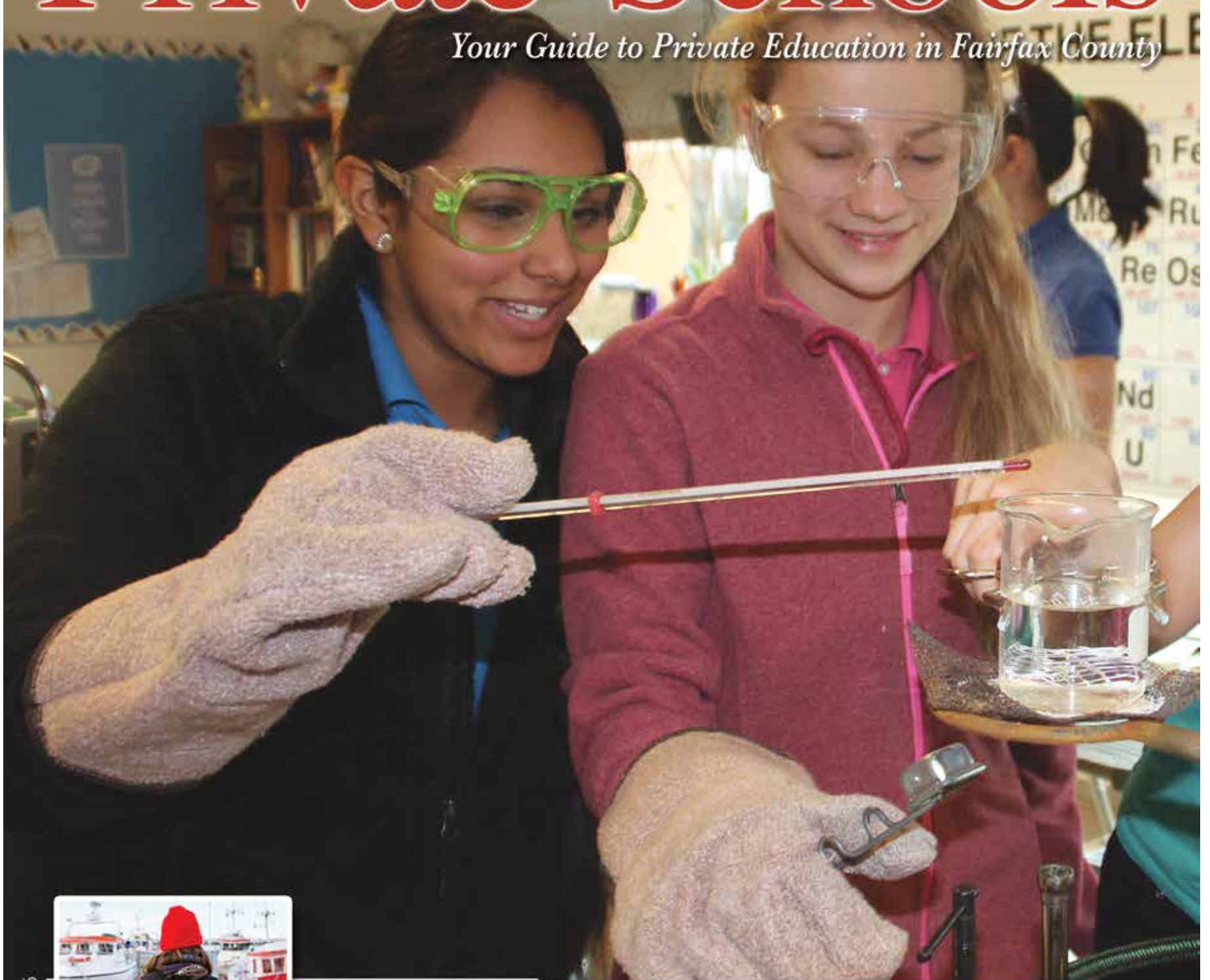


Fairfax County Times

Private Schools

Your Guide to Private Education in Fairfax County



FEBRUARY 2016

ECO-SUPPLIES

Solar Backpacks, Recycled Paperclips, and more!

- **Nysmith School:** A Top Ten School in the World
- **Extracurriculars:** Finding The Right After School Program
- **School Uniforms:** Enforcing Uniforms: The Debate Continues

Top 10 School In The World



Small Classes 1:9 Ratio

The award-winning Nysmith School diversifies academics up to four grade levels in a loving environment to meet the needs of each child. Daily science, computers, foreign language, logic, and much more. Minimal repetition, minimal homework. Come see how Nysmith will prepare your child for the future while having fun.

SCHOOL
Nysmith
FOR THE GIFTED

3 Years- 8th Grade
Enrolling Now For Fall
Herndon, Virginia
Transportation Available
703 552-2912
nysmith.com

Fairfax County Times

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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ON THE COVER:
PHOTO COURTESY NYSMITH SCHOOL

8th grade Physics students Tarina A. and Anna N. collecting data for their Temperature, Matter and Energy Lab Report.

GOOD HEALTH AND SHOPPING PROWESS ARE LIKE PEAS IN A POD



PHOTO COURTESY ST. TIMOTHY'S

Peapod's Kids Give Back Program is designed to teach students about nutrition, shopping on a budget, and how to use this knowledge to give back to local food banks. Online grocer Peapod.com challenged St. Timothy Catholic School's 5th grade classroom to utilize a \$250 donation from Peapod to create a delivery order of the most nutritious foods possible. The students used nutrition and budgeting lessons to put together a complete Peapod.com order that they will help unload from a Peapod delivery truck on Wednesday, February 17th at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.



OAKCREST SCHOOL

An independent school for girls grades 6-12 guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church

Portrait of an Oakcrest Graduate

Oakcrest recognizes the vocation of women as trustees of humanity * and provides a culture of freedom and responsibility in which young women thrive. The joy that comes from knowing she is a child of God impels our graduate to positively impact family and society through:

- An understanding of faith and a commitment to personal friendship with God
- Academic excellence that drives her to pursue lifelong learning
- The ability to recognize and articulate truth, and the courage to stand by it
- Self-knowledge that informs her growth in virtue
- A love for beauty in the world, and a sense of responsibility to sustain and create it
- Leadership and a spirit of collaboration that inspire her to serve

* Saint John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, *On the Dignity and Vocation of Women*, n. 30

Academic Excellence



Liberal Arts Curriculum: Tradition and Innovation where our students learn critical, creative and ethical thinking, problem solving, collaborative work, written and oral presentation skills for the XXI century.

- 12 Advanced Placement courses
- 84% of Oakcrest seniors were accepted early to at least one first tier school, as per *U.S. News & World Report* rankings
- At least 70% of our faculty hold advanced degrees.
- The student/teacher ratio is 6:1.

Every Oakcrest educator fully understands the transcendental value of shaping the minds and hearts of our students during the most formative years of their lives.

Character and Faith



- An education grounded in the teachings of the Catholic Church and the spirit of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church.
- We educate our students to be women who know that faith is a gift and a responsibility that calls for integrity and a compassionate heart.
- Our students learn to be open to a healthy pluralism of opinions. We welcome students of all faiths or of no particular faith, respecting the religious freedom of all.

Through our mentoring program, leadership workshops and commitment to service, we offer each girl the opportunity to develop her intellect, will and soul: the three aspects of character.

Leadership and Service



- More than 30 clubs and activities
- 17 athletic teams
- 2 theatre productions
- 2 student publications
- Individualized college guidance support that starts in 9th grade

Whether making lunches for the homeless, serving as a peer tutor, or volunteering to take on more responsibilities at home, Oakcrest students understand service as the basis for all leadership and learn to seize opportunities to serve others.

Find out more at Oakcrest.org



Moving to 1619 Crowell Road, Vienna, VA

HERNDON SCHOOL AMONG TOP 10 IN THE WORLD

BY TIMES STAFF

The award winning Nysmith School in Herndon is a family owned and operated private school with over 550 students from three years old - 8th grade. The Nysmith educational philosophy is based on low teacher/student ratios, loving teachers, creative problem solving and individualized, accelerated programs for reading, math, daily science, computers, logic, foreign language, and much more to make learning exciting.

The Nysmith School is best known for its unusual common sense approach to education. The school uses a 1:9 teacher student ratio, engaging and fun curriculum, minimization of repetition and homework home work, to teach children up to four grade levels above grade level.

“When I walk with visitors through the school, they are struck by how much fun the children are having, yet at the same time, they are amazed how advanced the concept is that the children are working,” said Principal Ken Nysmith. “At The Nysmith School, we work hard to teach each child to their potential, to make school fun and stimulating. You can have advanced academics without pressure.”

The Nysmith School features four computer labs, 5 science labs, two gyms, and 48 light filled classrooms on over 13 acres.

Located just minutes off the Dulles Road at Exit 9A (Chantilly/Herndon) in Herndon, it is convenient to both Fairfax and Loudoun County residents.

Established in 1983, the nationally recognized program has been named a Top Ten School in the World by Johns Hopkins 2015 CTY talent search.

In 2014, Nysmith was awarded the Tommy award from TJ for the “disproportionate” achievement of Nysmith Alumni at TJ.

The Nysmith School offers personal tours daily as well as monthly Open Houses. Come see for yourself why parents from all over the Country have relocated their families to attend The Nysmith School.

Limited enrollment is available.

1) Nysmith maintains the unique and somewhat controversial policy of giving very



PHOTO
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Nysmith student Arman M. shows off his science project.

little or no homework and minimizing classroom repetition.

2) In response to what many educators consider a national crisis when it comes to our young people competing on a global scale in Science and Technology, Nysmith’s STEM curriculum is unmatched in the area, challenging students as young as kindergarteners to apply themselves to learning in these fields.

3) The most recent Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth report included Nysmith as one of the Top 10 Schools in the World, and honored 27 Nysmith students for achieving highest honors in their completion of a rigorous, above-grade-level test given to academically talented 2nd to 8th graders.

4) Aside from being the largest fully private school for gifted children in the country, Nysmith students consistently place in the Top 1% in the country in each category of the standardized tests, including math, reading and language.

5) Individual students as well as teams from Nysmith frequently compete and record remarkable results in national and worldwide competitions. A few examples:

- A five-member team of Nysmith students won the National Youth Cyber Defense competition, outperforming close to 200 teams from around the country in identifying and resolving cybersecurity vulnerabilities in simulated business environments.
- Two Nysmith teams finished in the Top 10 in the

world in the most recent “Odyssey of the Mind” event against students from China, Japan, Korea and many others.

• Nysmith students earned top statewide, national and international honors in such prestigious events as the National Science Foundation Spelling Bee, the “You Be The Chemist” Competition, the American Computer Science League and the MathCounts National Championships among many others.

6) The highly-regarded Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (Va.) recognized The Nysmith School for “Excellence in Education” by presenting it with a Tommy Award that had never before been given to an educational institution.

7) In the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills—the standardized tests designed to measure specific academic skills and help with choosing curriculum and instructional planning—Nysmith’s fourth and sixth grade students achieved percentile rankings of 99 in Reading, Language and Math, which I understand is equivalent to the scores from the average high school senior.

8) Nysmith’s academic model and methodology is often imitated but never duplicated. A contingent from William & Mary visited and concluded the school’s approach is “the right way to teach.” Always looking to improve, founder Carole Nysmith and teachers traveled recently to Harvard and other top universities to learn what’s new in teaching—and to reconfirm that Nysmith’s philosophy of mixing “exceptional academics and serious fun” continues to prepare tomorrow’s leaders.

9) Growing from its humble beginning—opening with 55 kids and six teachers at the Reston (Va.) Visitor Center in 1983—The Nysmith School’s standing as one of the country’s top private schools is a testament to Carole Nysmith’s vision of challenging students at the level they are ready for intellectually. It also is the story of her crusade to convince local parents of the wisdom of her proposed approach, validating her passion to create a new way of teaching that would capture those kids who were “turned off by education” because they were being taught things they already knew.

10) At the start of the current school year, Nysmith’s student body represented 55 different countries. I have to believe that no other school in Virginia can make such a multicultural claim.

• Several youngsters from Nysmith have advanced to the Washington-area regional finals of the National History Bee.

Those include:

- Herndon’s Vance Kreider & Anuraag Kashyap (both 7th graders) and Aaron Joy (5th)
- Great Falls’ Audrey McKnight (6th)
- Vienna’s Justin Ward (7th)
- Reston’s Casey Willard (7th)
- Arlington’s Sean Bender-Proudy (6th)
- Ashburn’s Ishaan Kumar (8th)

• Competing against students throughout the country, from Canada and around the world, a number of Nysmith students earned high marks in the recent Mathematical Association of America’s (MAA) “AMC 8 Test” for middle schoolers. Those receiving recognition include:

- Oak Hill’s Andrew Jing/8th Grade (“Distinguished Honor Roll”/top 1% of participants)
- Fairfax’s Ajit Kadaveru/8th Grade (“Distinguished Honor Roll”)
- Oak Hill’s Kirthi Kumar/8th Grade (“Honor Roll”/top 5%)
- Centreville’s Grayson Newell/6th Grade (“Achievement” level)
- Herndon’s Anand Advani/6th Grade (“Achievement”)
- Vienna’s Spencer Huang/6th Grade (“Achievement”)

• Two Nysmith students achieved great success at the DC Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Competition. 7th grader Kaien Yang of Chantilly’s memoir (“A Loving Journey in Neuroscience”) received a Golden Key Award, as did Oak Hill 8th grader Kirthi Kumar with his entry entitled “Entries Received From Innovator 6 Before Losing Contact.” Both students will be recognized at the award ceremony to be held March 6 at the Gala Theatre in Washington, D.C.



Fourth-graders Audrey B. and Maddie B. dissect a frog in biology class.

PHOTOS COURTESY NYSMITH