

House Prices 2006:
Getting Nervous? See page 102

OCTOBER 2006

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The Best Elementary Schools

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The Chicago area is home to many outstanding private schools, but because there are no standard figures by which to compare them, we chose not to rate the 25 best. Rather, we interviewed education experts in the area to compile a list of schools that are highly recommended and then sought additional data for the chart (page 146) from the schools themselves.

» **Alphonsus Academy and Center for the Arts** 1439 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago; 773-348-4629, www.alphonsusacademy.org

In addition to offering enrichment classes such as dance and visual art, Alphonsus integrates art into every part of its core curriculum.

» **The Ancona School** 4770 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago; 773-924-2356, www.anconaschool.org

Founded as a racially integrated school in the 1960s, Ancona uses the Montessori method, which promotes hands-on, self-directed learning, for younger grades, while older children learn in small instructional groups.

» **Baker Demonstration School** 201 Sheridan Rd., Wilmette; 847-905-2240, www.baker.ni.edu

The school recently added a new media center and other amenities. Faculty members help train future teachers through the school's affiliation with National-Louis University.

» **Chicago City Day School** 541 W. Hawthorne Place, Chicago; 773-327-0900, www.chicagocitydayschool.org

Rather than spend the day with one teacher who covers all subjects, even prekindergartners

learn from a variety of teachers specializing in specific subjects.

» **Chicago Jesuit Academy** 212 S. Francisco Ave., Chicago; 773-638-6103, www.cjacademy.org

The school day doesn't end at 3 p.m. for students at this full-scholarship all-boys' school. They stick around till six, participating in extracurricular activities and attending an evening study hall.

» **Council Oak Montessori School** 11030 S. Longwood

Dr., Chicago; 773-779-7606, www.counciloakmontessori.org

Following the Montessori method, this Morgan Park school teaches in three multiage groups based on the theory that children go through three stages of social and intellectual development.

» **Frances Xavier Warde Schools** Old St. Patrick's Campus, 120 S. Desplaines Ave., Chicago; Holy Name Cathedral Campus, 751 N. State

St., Chicago; 312-466-0700, www.fxw.org

This downtown school gives scholarships to 30 percent of students in order to maintain a diverse enrollment.

» **Francis W. Parker School** 330 W. Webster Ave., Chicago; 773-353-3000, www.fwparker.org

Parker is the only independent school in the city that has pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in one building, creating opportunities for mentoring programs.

» **The Hyde Park Day Schools** 1375 E. 60th St., Chicago; 877-477-5665; 1980 Old Willow Rd., Northfield; 847-446-7075, www.hpds.uchicago.edu

Designed for children with learning disabilities, the school aims to return its students to mainstream schools, a transition one-third make within two years.

» **Immaculate Conception School** 1431 N. North Park Ave., (continued on page 146)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

(continued from page 101)

Private Schools	Religious Affiliation	City	Grades in School	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE		Total School Enrollment	Pupil-Teacher Ratio
				Grade 1	Grade 6		
Alphonsus Academy and Center for the Arts	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K - 8	18	11	222	12.0/1
The Ancona School	none	Chicago	pre-K - 8	25*	16	260	9.0/1
Baker Demonstration School	none	Wilmette	pre-K - 8	20*	16*	360	8.0/1
Chicago City Day School	none	Chicago	pre-K - 8	16	20	275	8.0/1
Chicago Jesuit Academy	Catholic	Chicago	5 - 6	-	10	40	5.7/1
Council Oak Montessori School	none	Chicago	pre-K - 8	18*	10*	80	10.0/1
Frances Xavier Warde Schools	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K - 8	20	24	720	15.0/1
Francis W. Parker School	none	Chicago	pre-K - 12	18	16-18	590	9.0/1
The Hyde Park Day Schools	none	Chicago/Northfield	1 - 8	10	10	85	5.0/1
Immaculate Conception School	Catholic	Chicago (North Park Ave.)	pre-K - 4	20*	20*	210	10.0/1
Lake Forest Country Day School	none	Lake Forest	pre-K - 8	14	15	430	9.0/1
The Latin School of Chicago	none	Chicago	pre-K - 12	21	19	663	8.0/1
Morgan Park Academy	none	Chicago	pre-K - 12	16-18	18	240	12.0/1
North Park Elementary School	none	Chicago	K - 8	20	20	180	15.0/1
North Shore Country Day School	none	Winnetka	pre-K - 12	25*	18	286	9.0/1
P.L.A.I.D. Academy	none	Chicago	K - 8	12*	20*	50	15.0/1
Providence-St. Mel School	none	Chicago	K - 12	16	18	365	17.0/1
Queen of the Rosary School	Catholic	Elk Grove Village	pre-K - 8	15	30*	315	21.0/1
Sacred Heart School	Catholic	Winnetka	pre-K - 8	18	22	317	15.0/1
Sacred Heart Schools at Sheridan Road	Catholic	Chicago	K - 8	18-20*	18-20	650	8.5/1
St. Helen School	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K - 8	25*	25	275	23.0/1
St. Therese Chinese Catholic School	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K - 8	22	22	216	15.0/1
St. Zachary Catholic School	Catholic	Des Plaines	pre-K - 8	12	16	155	16.0/1
Solomon Schechter Day School	Jewish	Skokie/Northbrook	K - 5/K - 8	15	15	980	10.0/1
University of Chicago Laboratory Schools	none	Chicago	pre-K - 12	22	17	1,250	10.0/1

*These classrooms have more than one instructor, often a teacher and an assistant.