



Developing Christlike Character  
and Academic Excellence

It is never too early to think about how  
you want your child to be educated.

It is important to evaluate your child's schooling options, because what your child learns in the classroom will either complement or clash with what he/she learns at home. Parents need to be prepared for all possibilities. It is also important to take into consideration the unique style of your child. Ultimately, parents are responsible to determine the source and form of the education their children receive. Whether you decide to send your children to public school, a secular or religious private school, or home school, we encourage you to make it an informed, intentional, and prayerful decision. We hope that the following information will serve as a starting point in your decision making process.

#### **Education choices:**

**Public school:** Our local public school system has many fine, caring teachers and administrators. Public schools are staffed with government employees, run to government standards, and as a result, individual parents can influence but not control, the selection of curriculum, the hiring and firing of teachers, and the general rules of the school. There are some nice conveniences with our public schools. . .your taxes have already paid for the teachers, building, and equipment, and many students can take a school bus to school. Fees that you may need to pick up are for supplies, extra-curricular activities, lunches, other "necessities", and in some cases, textbooks.

**Private school:** There are both secular and religious-based private schools in our area. Private schooling allows you to join with other like-minded parents to pursue a specific philosophy of education. Some of the religious-based schools may have a church as its governing authority, or an independent school board. Tuition is usually extra. Independent Christian schools such as Isaac Newton Christian Academy, are usually run by a parent association, with an elected school board. In the Academy's case, since it is accredited by the State of Iowa, it is eligible for some programs such as transportation reimbursements, as well as the School Tuition Organization (STO) needs-based scholarship program. When contemplating a private education, it truly is never too early to start investigating. Private schools charge tuition, and this is something that may need to be carefully accounted for in your family budget. We view it as an excellent investment in the academic and spiritual development of your children.

**Home school:** The major difference between home schooling and other types of schooling is that the parents have control of curriculum, structure, general rules of behavior and environment. You can also have a more flexible daily schedule to allow for more focus on subject areas of particular interest or areas that need more attention. In the right home school environment, children often learn good self-study habits, they learn to complete longer-term projects by themselves, and they can find opportunities to work with people of different ages and backgrounds. In Iowa, there are compliance rules, including some supervision and evaluation requirements.

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