As a student at an independent school, you really get the chance to stand out.

At an independent school, you'll stand out and be recognized for your unique interests, personality, and talents. At the same time, you'll be part of a close-knit community, where you can make strong friendships and really get to know teachers who are passionate about what they do. The personal attention you'll receive will help you to excel academically and pursue your interests. You'll learn how to think for yourself, not just what facts to know.

You'll stand out at an independent school.
You'll stand out in the future, too.
What are independent schools?

There are more than 2,000 independent schools across the United States. They are called “independent” because they have distinct missions and are primarily supported by tuition payments and charitable contributions. They include co-educational and single sex institutions, as well as boarding and day schools.

Why go to an independent school?

At an independent school, you’ll stand out:

In class. Independent schools typically have small classes. This means teachers have more time to get to know you and your interests, to understand the way you learn, and to give you individualized attention. Teachers at independent schools are excited about teaching and they bring this enthusiasm to the classroom.

Through your interests. At an independent school, you'll find a wide variety of ways to pursue your interests beyond academics. You'll have opportunities to explore activities that could become lifelong passions.

As part of a close-knit community. Belonging to a close-knit community where you feel comfortable allows you to be yourself. It gives you a chance to really get to know your fellow students and your teachers—and they get to know you. Students at independent schools routinely praise the strong sense of community at their schools. It helps to foster strong friendships, which can last a lifetime.

As you prepare for the next step in your education. The education you receive at an independent school will give you an excellent foundation for success in the future. Independent schools encourage you to be responsible, independent, and to become involved in your community. These skills and values will help you to succeed throughout your education, and in life. Whether your next step is middle school, high school, or college, you'll be ready.

What is it like at an independent school?

One of the best ways to learn about independent schools is from actual students:

"What I like about my school is that it is a place where you realize that there are so many doors open for you. The school teaches you that you can do anything. The world is your oyster. I can make anything happen, as long as I have the perseverance, the determination, and the creativity to pull it off."

– Junior, Day school, Chicago, IL

"Teachers are not only your teachers, but your mentors or your friends. I had an English class last year that was challenging, but I was learning every step of the way. There was never a dull moment in that class and when I came out of it at the end of last year I was forever so proud of that teacher."

– Junior, Day school, Sarasota, FL

"It feels like a home away from home. It feels that way because I can be myself. I have people who care about me – I have a lot of really good friends here."

– Sophomore, Boarding school, Concord, NH

Why to learn more:

• Talk with your parents. Your parents can help you decide whether an independent school is right for you.

• Check out schools’ websites.

• Visit schools and talk with students, teachers, and admissions officers to find the best “fit” for you. Here are five questions to ask students during your visit:

  – What’s special about your classes and teachers?
  – Is it easy to get in with the rest of the students?
  – Do you think that what you are learning will help you do well in high school or get into college?
  – Do you get to learn about things you’re interested in?
  – What else is there to do at your school besides go to class?

• Explore financial aid. Many independent schools have scholarships, grants, and other funding to help make a great education affordable.

• Visit www.isadvocacy.org/students to find information about independent schools.

Stand out. Be part of a unique community. Discover and pursue your interests. See for yourself what independent schools are all about. Visit www.isadvocacy.org/students.