

What Sets an Independent School Education Apart?



- As an Independent School, we "OWN" our mission. A government or other entity does not prescribe our mission to us. **The mission of Alexandria Country Day School is to provide a challenging learning culture where all students can become creative, innovative, and future leaders.**
- Independent schools are **small learning communities** where all children are known, and "falling through the cracks" is not an option.
- Independent schools provide opportunities for *a*ll students to be involved in activities designed to educate the **whole child**. Independent schools **recognize the true nature of students**; mind, body, and spirit.
- Independent schools can **influence student behavior** to a higher degree, thus ensuring less behavioral disruptions.
- Independent schools can **hire, develop, and retain excellent teachers** while reserving the right to remove ineffective teachers.
- Independent schools are **accredited** by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest, or ISAS, and the National Association of Independent Schools, or NAIS, and often have stricter rules for governance than some other private schools.
- Public schools are limited in what they teach and how they teach it. They are limited by bureaucracy, by a lack of resources, and often by the law, which dictates the material that teachers must cover from year to year (and which establishes proficiency levels that students are measured against). Independent schools, on the other hand, are much freer to pursue educational practices that **better align with their core missions**, philosophies, and values, which very often aim to not only educate their pupils, but **transform** them into creative, civically-minded leaders.