

Private

# Schools



Photo by 7th grade students at Siena School

## Fact & Fiction

When considering private school options, it is easy to focus on “big name” schools or worry about tough admission competition. The reality, however, is a more complex and intriguing picture.

We asked three leaders in the independent education community to respond to some common myths about schools: [Patrick Bassett](#), president of the National Association of Independent Schools; [Peter Sturtevant](#), director of The School Counseling Group in Washington, D.C.; and [Mary Worch](#), executive director of Independent Schools, an association of private schools in the Washington, D.C. region.

**MYTH:**  
The best schools are the big-name schools.

**Fact:** The best school is the school that fits your child’s needs — developmentally, socially, academically and emotionally. For example, a big-name school might be a poor choice for a child who is brilliant but anxious.

Any independent school can be wonderful for the certain students. “Our independent schools wouldn’t be in business if they weren’t providing an excellent academic, co-curricular and social education,” said Worch.