

Yum! Cinnabon // Ooh! Gold Dome Scandal // Aha! Tiny Hats!

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# Atlanta

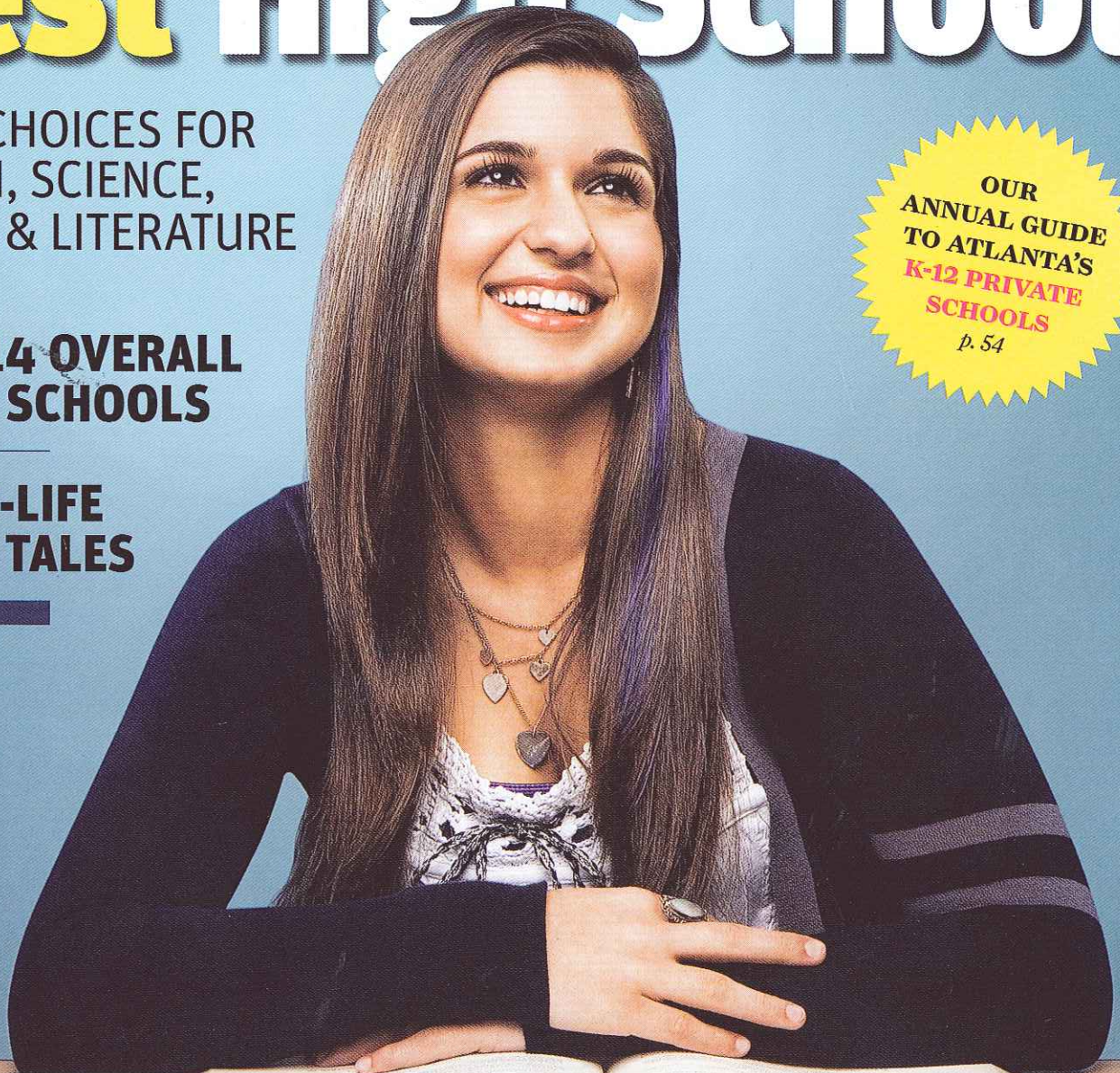
## Best High Schools

TOP CHOICES FOR  
MATH, SCIENCE,  
ARTS & LITERATURE

*plus*  
**THE 14 OVERALL  
BEST SCHOOLS**

**TRUE-LIFE  
TEEN TALES**

**OUR  
ANNUAL GUIDE  
TO ATLANTA'S  
K-12 PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS**  
p. 54



#BXN0VRV \*\*\*\*\*CR LOT 0027A\*\*C-009  
#0650100020742012# 0901 JUN10  
KIM BLASS  
THE LOVETT SCHOOL  
4075 PACES FERRY RD NW  
ATLANTA, GA 30327-3099  
01 12 35-F08

Yasmeen Malik  
Senior, The Weber School

It's Bigfoot! And he's brought a bunch of  
2008's dumbest stories with him! p. 64



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# ALL-AROUND

These schools made our top tiers in three or more fields. (We used SAT scores as tiebreakers.)

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## ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL

This relatively new North Fulton school was constructed so that nearly all classrooms receive natural daylight. Facilities include twelve science labs and a separate arts building that is home to more than a dozen performing ensembles such as Underground Theater, an improv troupe, and a puppet theater. The school's strong arts program, which leads to excellent showings in national competitions, includes twenty arts electives as well as exciting special events such as annual band clinics for local elementary school students and juried art exhibits held in conjunction with the Savannah College of Art and Design. Students can take part in a vast array of extracurriculars ranging from equestrian and roller hockey to medical and book clubs.

## CHATTAHOOCHEE HIGH SCHOOL

Dozens of electives, running the gamut from computer art to wind ensemble, are part of the curriculum at this Johns Creek school, which supports thirty-one performing groups and has hosted several regional percussion competitions. On the language arts front, the school has an award-winning debate team, holds an annual poetry festival, and publishes a yearbook, newspaper, and literary magazine. There are unusual science electives such as Introduction to Healthcare Science Technology Education, and the school hosts an annual Rubik's Cube competition. Athletically, the school boasts a synthetic turf field, 6,000-square-foot weight-training center, varsity and junior varsity teams in nearly every possible sport, and diverse clubs, including paintball, martial arts, roller hockey, and table tennis.

## LASSITER HIGH SCHOOL

There's a lot to like at this East Cobb school, but you have to start with the marching band—the two-time Grand National Championship-winning Trojans have won fifty marching band championships in the past sixteen years. They've played in the Tournament of Roses and Macy's Thanksgiving Day parades, as well as for President Reagan and in the 1988 movie *Leader of the Band*. The school offers specialized science electives such as forensics and zoology and science organizations as varied as a robotics team and an environmental/green club. The football, soccer, and lacrosse teams play on a synthetic turf field, and the stadium has a Jumbotron video screen. Additional extracurricular activities range from anime to fencing.

## THE LOVETT SCHOOL

As if this independent school's verdant 100-acre Buckhead campus isn't impressive enough, the institution also has an 850-acre research station in Ecuador, where students can study cloud forest ecology. Lovett's curriculum includes twenty-two AP courses and more than 100 electives, from architectural design and dance choreography to robotics and marine biology. Foreign language instruction, which begins in kindergarten, includes Chinese. More than 90 percent of Lovett's student body participate in at least one fine arts activity annually, and 74 percent of students in grades seven through twelve are members of a sports team—taking advantage of the school's six playing fields, three gyms, indoor and outdoor tracks, ten tennis courts, indoor pool, and football field, dramatically situated on the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

## MARIST SCHOOL

This nondiocesan Catholic school's unique trimester academic calendar enables students to take more classes and explore the varied curriculum, which includes twenty AP classes and electives such as Fantasy as a Genre, marine biology, robotics, and desktop publishing. Typically, more than 95 percent of all Marist students participate in at least one club, extracurricular activity, or athletic team. A sports behemoth, the school last year was awarded the esteemed Georgia Athletic Directors Association Directors Cup for the ninth year in a row. Young journalists can write for the school's award-winning publications: literary magazine *Rapier*, school newspaper *Blue and Gold*, and yearbook *Guidon*.

## MILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Although this North Fulton school's unique "academy" model—which divided the student body into science and math, arts and humanities, and social sciences tracks—only lasted for two years due to budget cuts, the school still promotes interdisciplinary instruction. For example, it's not unusual for science and language arts teachers to collaborate on vocabulary words or writing assignments. In the arts, there are forty electives, five AP classes, and a dozen performing ensembles. Milton's marching band was a finalist in the 2005 Bands of America Regional Championships, and students regularly receive awards in language arts, fine arts, robotics, science, and math. Eagles teams consistently win championships, and recently the baseball, girls' lacrosse, and boys' tennis teams captured state titles.

## NORTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

At this school with the highest average SAT score in Fulton County, the award-winning student publications are produced in journalism classes rather than clubs, and participation is determined by application. In science, the Techno Titans robotics team has racked up impressive state and

# ALL-AROUND *cont.*

regional wins in important FIRST Robotics and BEST competitions, while math students have scored big in the Georgia Tech High School Mathematics Competition and American Mathematics Competitions. Northview offers twenty-two varsity and twelve junior varsity sports, with separate ninth-grade teams for football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and tennis. Nontraditional sports include ice hockey, fencing, and crew clubs.

## **PACE ACADEMY**

Recognized for its landmark "castle" on West Paces Ferry Road, this Buckhead school boasts a debate team that has held the Georgia High School Association State Debate Championship title for twenty-one consecutive years. The math team has won the state AA math championship for three straight years, and students have earned sixteen regional and national Scholastic Art Awards over the past three years. Known for its fine arts program, the school boasts a 600-seat theater, ten art studios for media from ceramics to sculpture, four indoor kilns as well as outdoor salt and raku kilns, and a photography lab and darkroom. More than 80 percent of Upper School and Middle School students play on one of Pace's teams, choosing from fifteen sports—including its first varsity football team, which plays at the school's fast-growing new Riverview Road athletic complex.

## **PAIDEIA SCHOOL**

Recent additions to Paideia's Druid Hills campus include a new junior high building, practice gym, black box theater, expanded game gym, and campus green. During "short terms" that run in winter and late spring, students can construct curricula tailored to their interests. For instance, science electives include vertebrate anatomy, field ecology, and emerging infectious diseases. The wide offerings help students prepare for making smart course selections in college. Nearly half of the diverse school's high school students are involved in performance groups (madrigals, chorus, jazz ensemble, chamber orchestra, and chamber music ensembles), and many also take part

in extracurriculars such as acting troupe, Club Jam music club, Club Moda fashion club, and clubs for opera, improv, juggling, and cooking.

## **ROSWELL HIGH SCHOOL**

The science and math departments at this North Fulton public school are particularly strong, with offerings such as microbiology, oceanography, and botany; student organizations that include Riverkeepers, Sierra, and robotics clubs; and facilities ranging from an outdoor classroom to four new chemistry labs. The school also offers nearly forty arts electives and performing groups as varied as jazz show choir, symphonic band, and percussion ensemble. In addition to the usual athletic amenities, the campus sports a lacrosse facility, tennis courts, indoor and outdoor tracks, and two gyms, and there are clubs for crew, Ping-Pong, flag football, bowling, ice hockey, cycling, and fencing.

## **THE WALKER SCHOOL**

At this Marietta independent school, an on-campus art gallery exhibits local artists' work as well as student creations, and an annual program of visiting professional artists and writers culminates in a month-long celebration of the arts. Science electives include genetics, epidemiology, zoology, botany, environmental science, geology, and astronomy. Over the past decade, the school's growing athletics program has won nine soccer, eight tennis, two baseball, and one softball state championship. There are clubs for students interested in rock 'n' roll, pop culture, fashion, video, rock climbing, and homeless pets. All middle school students are required to take drama and music, which primes them for high school performing groups such as drumline, barbershop quartet, and Renaissance singers.

## **WALTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Boasting the highest average SAT score among public schools in metro Atlanta, this East Cobb institution has garnered academic prizes ranging from publication and arts awards to regional Science Bowl championships; its Academic Bowl team has

won several state championships. Walton's curriculum includes thirty-two AP classes and electives as diverse as astronomy, serenade orchestra, and newspaper journalism. In athletics, Walton won the vaunted GADA Directors Cup four times in the past nine seasons. Athletic amenities include an outdoor speed and agility facility, two indoor batting facilities, and one of the few on-campus sports medicine facilities in Georgia.

## **THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS**

Sometimes referred to as "the Harvard of Atlanta," this Buckhead independent school has earned the title by excelling in every academic and athletic arena, garnering top arts, science, math, and sports honors in dozens of elite local, regional, and national competitions. On average, half of the school's seniors win National Merit recognition each year. Students can choose from thirty-one AP courses, write for one of the school's three literary magazines and two newspapers, join one of ten performing ensembles, or participate in an exchange program that reaches Argentina, the Netherlands, and Kenya. The school has won the GADA Directors Cup title nine times; fields teams for nearly every imaginable varsity sport, including squash; and has impressive facilities that include a 1,428-seat gym, natatorium with diving well, and eight athletic fields.

## **WOODWARD ACADEMY**

The facilities—whether athletic or academic—are wide-ranging on the wireless-enabled campus of this high-achieving school. In arts, there are two theaters and two art galleries, an outdoor amphitheater, two music libraries, and an assortment of arts studios. On the science front, amenities range from a planetarium to a meteorology and weather lab; there's also an independent science lab where students perform research in partnership with Emory and Georgia Tech professors. In sports, there are archery and rifle ranges, as well as a tennis complex and natatorium. The school offers twenty-three AP classes and an impressive array of electives, including oceanography, botany, electronic music, and two classes on the Middle East. The debate team has won state championships in its division for eight out of the past nine years.