



FOUNDED 1876

FRIENDS ACADEMY

Why Choose a Friends School?

*The Quaker
testimonies
or principles*

Simplicity
Peace
Integrity
Community
Equality
Service

AIMS OF QUAKER EDUCATION

A basic tenet of Quakerism is that truth is continuously revealed and is accessible to the seeker. At Friends schools, this belief is reflected in an open-minded approach to curriculum and teaching, in an emphasis on critical thinking skills, and in a developmental approach to children and learning. Work on individual skills and knowledge is balanced with group learning, in which each person's unique insights contribute to a collective understanding.

A Friends school hopes to offer a community that cares deeply about what kind of persons its members, young and old, are becoming, what goals and motives are effective in their lives, what their response is to the high calling of being human. They hope to be communities of those who have, not only techniques and knowledge, but also a vivid relationship to reality and a passion for truth.

SOCIAL ACTION

Friends education strives to be socially responsible. Peace and war, racism and brotherhood, ignorance and poverty, injustice and law, violence and nonviolence – all these are both subjects for study and issues for commitment for students as they seek to become effective citizens.

Because Friends believe that faith requires action in the world, the schools emphasize the development of a caring community, peaceful resolution of conflict, and service to others, especially those less fortunate. Friends have a long tradition of putting love into action, and the Quaker testimonies of equality, community, harmony, and simplicity are reflected in the life of the school. Students grow into compassionate and responsible adults who recognize their interconnectedness with the larger human family.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Each week a Friends school community gathers for meeting for worship. The form of worship is simple – believing that each person has within him or her the ability, with God's help, to discern the truth, Friends worship silently, waiting upon the Spirit. Students and teachers are encouraged to speak from their hearts, if so moved.

The unstructured nature of meeting for worship, with its focus on the power of the gathered group, gives children of all faiths a powerful tool for spiritual growth. They are asked to turn to their Inner Light for guidance in living their lives. Meeting for worship makes explicit the connection between the inward and outward life that is unique in Quaker education.