

Advantages of Attending an All Boys Boarding School

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Background Information:

Across the country, attendance in single-sex schools is expected to rise in the coming years. Male students are shown to function better and engage more in their studies in programs that cater to the male style of learning. There are also a number of other benefits for male students that go along with living and studying in the environment unique to all boys private schools.

Advantage #1: Tailored Teaching Style

It has been scientifically shown that boys learn differently than girls and the standard method of teaching in America currently favors female learning styles. Larger portions of a boy's brain are devoted to spatial-mechanical functioning, so boys both pay attention more and learn more effectively when there are props to move around and interact with. Boys compartmentalize new information, so it is harder for them to quickly switch subjects.

Also, because boys have less serotonin in their brains, making them more inclined to act impulsively, they are not as able to sit still and pay attention for long periods of time. Changing the presentation of information to conform to how boys learn shows significant improvements in overall academic success, and boys' private schools are able to put their entire focus on these methods of delivery.

Advantage #2: More Likely to Explore Other Subjects

Often in the public school system, boys are under pressure to study "masculine" subjects, such as math and science. At an all-boys school where this pressure is removed, boys are free to explore the subjects that they are most interested in. In fact, boys who study at all male schools are more than twice as likely as boys in coed schools to pursue advanced studies in art, music, and foreign language, which are subjects typically engaged in by female students. Boys in these schools are also more likely to participate in art, athletics, and community service as extracurricular activities.

Advantage #3: Deeper Sense of Self

Without the pressure to be "masculine," students at all boys schools are able to explore what masculinity means for themselves. Without feeling the need to "prove" their masculinity, young men in male private schools are free to define for themselves their interests, emotional sensitivity, and behavior, which is more limited among students at public or coed schools. The diversity of male role models present in boys' private schools also helps young men see that there is no prescription personality for masculinity. This kind of self-acceptance allows youth to function more effectively within groups and communities as well as build up self-esteem and self-efficacy.

Advantage #4: Young Men Find Lasting Friendships

When boys are more able to pursue interests that are closer to their own passions, they will engage with others who are also passionate about those subjects. This common ground allows the adolescents who attend these schools to forge lasting friendships with their peers that they may maintain throughout their lives. Creating these positive relationships with peers helps students develop personally as well as connect more deeply to the subjects they are engaging in.

The ABLE Initiative

For more information on The ABLE Initiative, please contact the director, Melissa Nipper.

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