



8 FACTS TO
CONSIDER

WHY A **CO-ED** EDUCATION?

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Every child is unique. A co-ed school is uniquely positioned to challenge, encourage, and accept each student individually, without bias or stereotyping. Our world has become increasingly complex and made the importance of empathy and respect for one another more important than ever.

- Cindy Newsom, Director of Enrollment Management, The Episcopal School of Dallas

Why co-ed?

BECAUSE LIFE IS CO-ED.

In co-educational schools, girls and boys are taught in the same classroom – they share in the joy of learning together.

At its heart, co-education doesn't simply denote a mix of genders, but rather a philosophy about schooling, learning, and equality. With students side by side in the classroom, they develop a mutual respect and understanding for those different from them. By learning and growing together in a co-ed school environment, students are better prepared for a co-ed world.



But don't same-sex school students perform better?

NOT NECESSARILY.

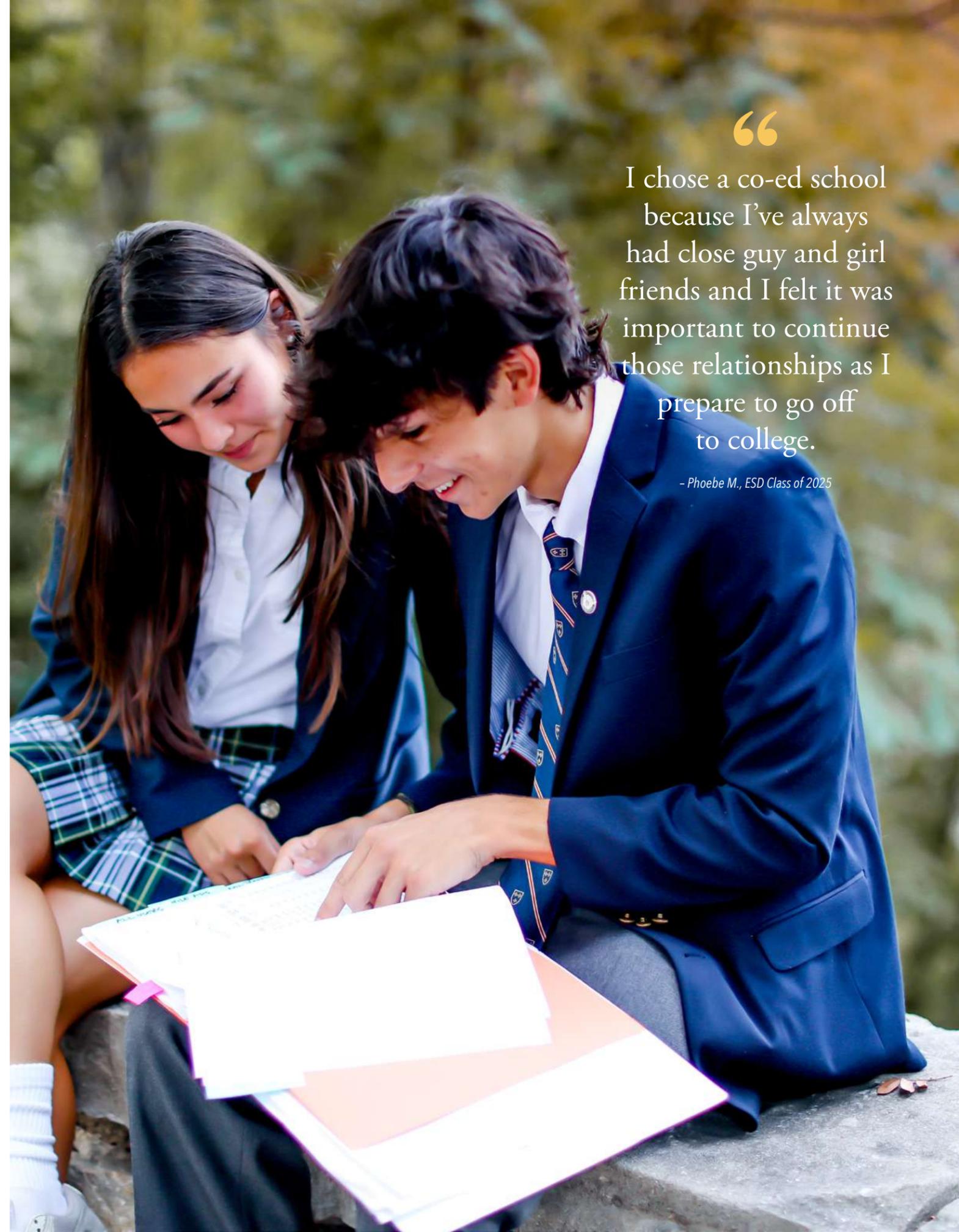
There's thinking that separating boys and girls removes distractions and improves academic achievement – but not according to the American Psychological Association. After analyzing 184 studies of more than 1.6 million students from around the world, together with a separate analysis of just U.S. schools, the APA found: Single-sex education does not educate students any better than co-ed schools.

At the end of the day, it's most important that the school you choose is the best fit for your child.

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I chose a co-ed school because I've always had close guy and girl friends and I felt it was important to continue those relationships as I prepare to go off to college.

– Phoebe M., ESD Class of 2025



There's **MORE** to education than school.

The advantages of co-ed schools extend far beyond the classroom. In addition to lessons on photosynthesis, the Industrial Revolution, and algebraic equations, co-ed school students learn to interact with each other as contemporaries in all aspects of school life. Learning together, they find common ground. They develop an understanding and empathy. They build meaningful relationships. They learn to respect one another and cooperate as equals.



A reflection of the **REAL** world.

Co-educational schools prepare young people for today's diverse society, as mixed-sex learning environments better reflect the world our young men and women will live and work in. To prepare for an increasingly diverse world, it is vital for young people to be exposed to various perspectives, and to see and honor the uniqueness in each individual. Given exposure to diversity at an early age, co-ed school students find it easier to adapt in different environments as adults.



An **EQUAL** partnership.

An inclusive mindset is best learned in an inclusive school, where all students learn through daily interactions how to be equal partners. Negative stereotypes, which can develop when students are separated by gender, are not given room to grow in a co-ed environment. Students learn through repeated experience how to respect, collaborate with, and lead each other.



Prepared to work, **TOGETHER.**

Co-ed schools reflect 21st-century realities. Today's students will enter a working world where they will be required to work alongside opposite genders and have the skills to seamlessly navigate those relationships. The development of these skills takes time and practice. A co-ed school - where boys and girls regularly communicate, collaborate, and meet challenges together - offers a distinct advantage in learning how to work effectively with one's peers, regardless of gender.



Growing social skills

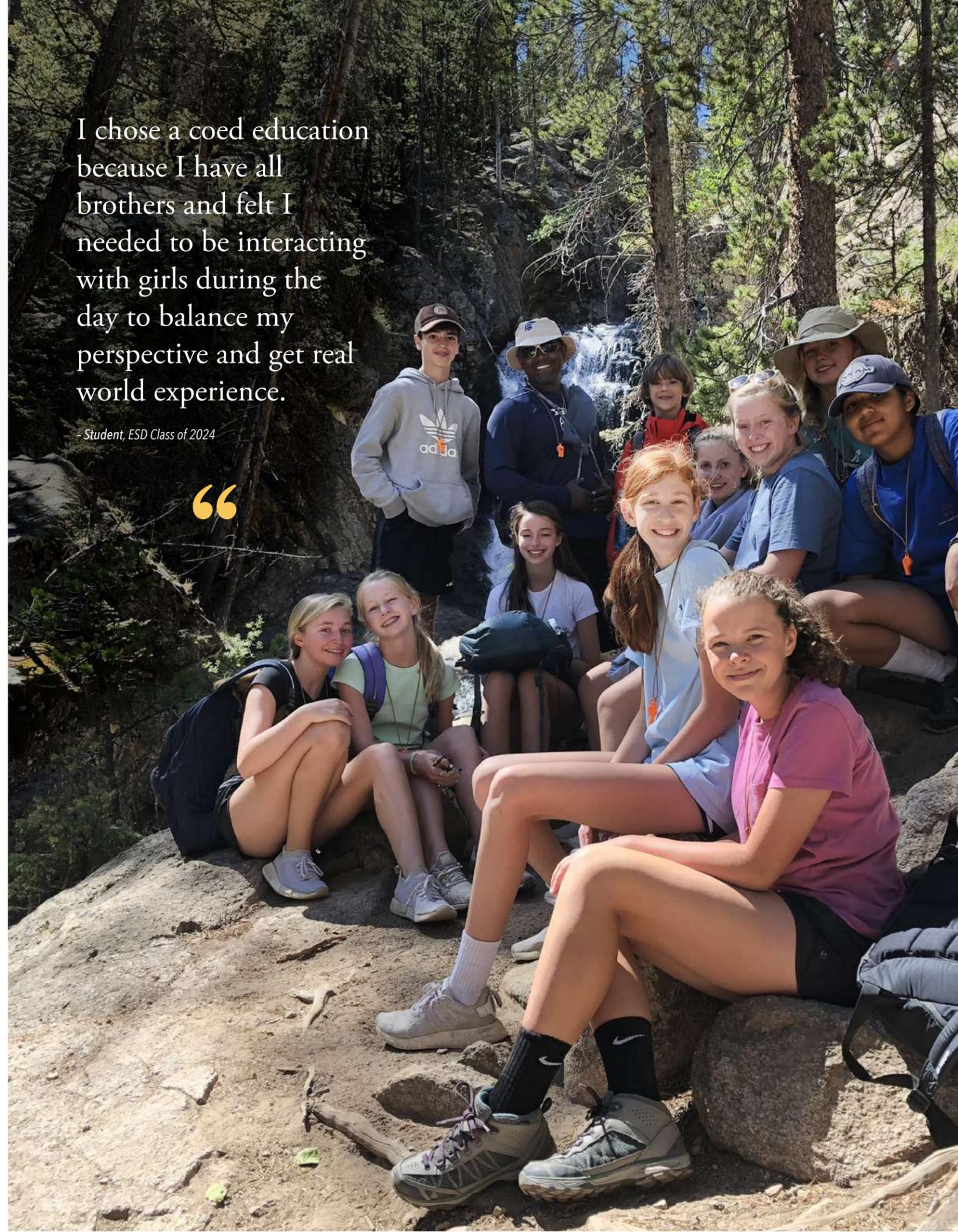
NATURALLY.

Students at co-ed schools are used to interacting and talking to members of the opposite sex - it's a natural part of their school day. With that familiarity comes an increased level of comfort and confidence in social situations. Communication skills are improved. Social skills are sharpened. Meaningful friendships are formed. They grow comfortable with peers of the opposite sex. They grow comfortable with themselves.

I chose a coed education because I have all brothers and felt I needed to be interacting with girls during the day to balance my perspective and get real world experience.

- Student, ESD Class of 2024

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Prepared for **SUCCESS.**

Co-education provides a more realistic way of preparing young people for success. Early in life, if students are taught and encouraged to interact with everyone, they can use those strong interpersonal skills – such as empathy, teamwork, and communication – to succeed in college, at work, and in every aspect of their life. A co-educational school paves the way for success in the real world, because, more than any other education, it is the real world.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CINDY NEWSOM is the Director of Enrollment Management at The Episcopal School of Dallas, joining the ESD Admission Office over 20 years ago. Cindy is passionate about developing relationships, making connections, and establishing trust with prospective families while helping them find the right fit school for their student.

Cindy also serves as the Student Ambassador Program Director and an upper school student advisor. Cindy is active in the independent school professional community in Dallas having recently served as the President of the Dallas Independent School Consortium (ISAAD), currently serving as ISAAD's Director of Marketing, and speaking at various Early Childhood Associations in the DFW area. She is also active at the national level, presenting at conferences such as Enrollment Management Association in addition to partnering with various educational consultants and relocation specialists over the years.

Cindy graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Advertising from The University of Texas at Austin but somehow managed to marry an Aggie and currently has two children attending Texas A&M. Cindy also attended the Erdmann Institute for Enrollment Leadership and is a member of the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals (AISAP).



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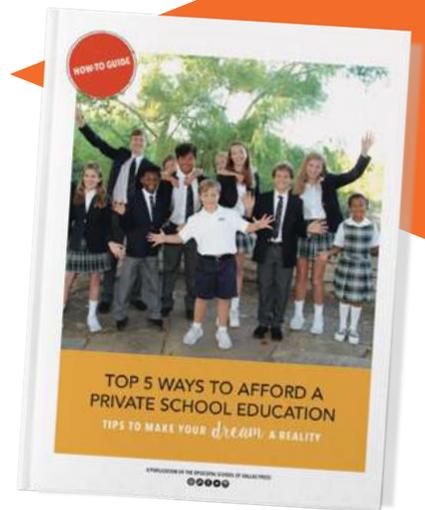
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