

MEET THE  
QUAKERS



# QUAKERS

are humble people.

Because of our humility, writing a booklet about what makes Quakers special seems like bragging.

And Quakers don't like to brag.

Which explains why this booklet is so little. A big book about George School would be braggadocio.



Quakers take seriously  
the goal to

“LET THEIR  
LIVES  
SPEAK.”

T

hat’s Quaker jargon for being a good citizen of the world. Or, to put it in another way, Quakers try to “talk the talk and walk the walk.”

That means that George School has a surprising ability to be a community that tries to live out its Quaker values and philosophy. All the time. Well, most of the time.

We aren’t perfect...but we strive to be the best we can be. So that means you will have the pleasure of attending a school where you are surrounded by people who are open-minded and open-hearted.

Quakers—and those who attend (or work at) Quaker schools—tend to be thoughtful, kind, and cheerful. They take care of each other...and the earth.



# WHAT IS IT LIKE

to go to a Quaker School?

**F**

irst off, don't worry that George School will try to turn you into a Quaker.

We won't. But we do want you to understand the basic testimonies Quakers care

about. We sometimes call them **S.P.I.C.E.S.S.:** simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, stewardship, and service.

One of the most important ideas in Quakerism is that there is "that of God" (we also call it "**THE INNER LIGHT**") inside us. All of us.

It's also a concept that fosters introspection...and permits each person to tap into his or her own religious traditions to find a spiritual center.

The impact of this on our community is deep and far reaching. It means that "doing unto others as you would have them do unto you," is more than just a nice idea, it is a daily habit.



Our  
**QUAKER**  
 point of view  
 informs even the way  
 we address each other.

**W**e don't use titles like mister or miss, and we think adults and students should all be on a first name basis. It might be unusual, but we think it empowers students to connect—and connect comfortably and respectfully—with faculty and staff members.

This tradition of calling adults by their first name is inspired by our spiritual emphasis on equality. We believe that all individuals are equal and that every person has a wonderful, special something somewhere inside them—that makes certain things unambiguous to us.

For example, the **SERVICE WORK** we do is just a part of life, a responsibility we cheerfully accept as simply the right thing to do.



Visit our website to hear several students talk about their perspective on the school's spiritual dimensions at [georgeschool.org/Quakerism](https://georgeschool.org/Quakerism).





You'll also notice that  
our religious services are  
**DIFFERENT.**

**Q** uaker religious practices evolved from the belief that every person can have a direct relationship with God. So there is no minister, priest, rabbi, or imam needed as an intermediary.

Our meetings for worship—as we call our bi-weekly gatherings—are mostly silent. It is a time for quiet reflection. But, sometimes, as we sit together—tuning out distractions, and looking within—we feel **“MOVED TO SPEAK.”**

Students who have spoken in meeting often describe this as a message flowing through them rather than from them. It might be a question, a statement, a story, or a song. Those listening can fold it into their own thoughts and prayers, or just let it drift past them.



Anyone can stand up to share messages aloud in meeting for worship.

Actually,  
George School  
is different in  
**A LOT**  
of ways.



One of the biggest surprises might be that George School—with its focus on simplicity—also embraces complexity and ambiguity.

Students and teachers don't fit a single mold. In fact, there isn't a mold at all.

We enthusiastically embrace different ideas, economic backgrounds, religions, and cultures. As a result, our community is enriched by a global perspective. And the ultimate outcome is a transformational educational experience.



Visit our website to see a playful video that busts Quaker myths about George School at [georgeschool.org/quakermyths](https://georgeschool.org/quakermyths).



We  
**FOSTER**  
self-awareness  
and self-sufficiency.



As a student here, you will find that living in such a vibrant and interesting community has a way of nourishing the voice inside you.

And that's part of our goal, too. We want you to share your thoughts and opinions, no matter how controversial they might seem.

In fact, Quakers refer to the process of carefully seeking multiple points of view before making a decision as **BUILDING CONSENSUS** (or reaching a sense of the meeting). It requires compromise and the ability to listen to others...and to listen deeply.

The school's commitment to a culture of collaborative problem-solving—and learning by experience and through example—creates confident, capable graduates.



So what does  
this all  
**REALLY**  
mean?



Our goal is to inspire our students to seek their authentic selves. And to provide them with a well-rounded preparation for life.

You will find that George School students and graduates have a can-do spirit and a rock-solid belief that one's actions really matter.

This combination creates an uncommon inclination to take on challenges and lead by doing. They “let their lives speak,” a Quaker goal that we wholeheartedly endorse.

We humbly believe you will **REALLY LIKE** everything about George School.



We hope to see you on campus soon.



Until then, visit [georgeschool.org/meetinghouse](http://georgeschool.org/meetinghouse) to learn about the heart and soul of campus, the meetinghouse.

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