

# The Best Schools in Lakewood Ranch: A Parent's Guide to Education and Community



## Welcome from Mike Novak

As a Realtor® and Lakewood Ranch resident, I know families choose this community for its exceptional schools, safe neighborhoods, and high quality of life. This guide highlights some of the area's most respected schools for those considering a move.

## Education in Lakewood Ranch: An Overview

Lakewood Ranch is part of both the Manatee County and Sarasota County school districts, two of Florida's highest-rated systems. Many local schools have earned A-ratings from the Florida Department of Education and top marks from GreatSchools.org.

Families here appreciate more than academics, though. Schools in Lakewood Ranch emphasize character, creativity, and community. From STEM labs to arts programs and sports, students benefit from a balanced education that prepares them for the future.



Top-Rated Schools



Private & Charter  
Education Options



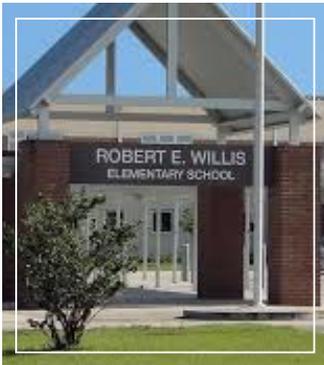
Strong Academics  
& Student Support

Lakewood Ranch Schools

# Top-Rated Public Schools

Families in Lakewood Ranch have access to some of Florida's highest-rated public schools, known for strong academics, engaged communities, and well-rounded student programs.

## Public School Highlights



### Robert E. Willis Elementary

Known for strong academics, leadership programs, and community involvement. Rated 9/10 on GreatSchools.org.

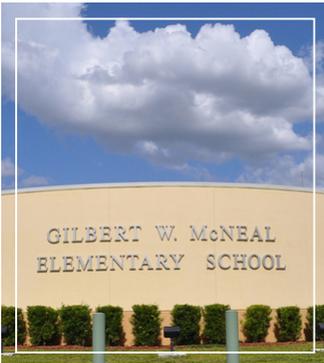
Visit: [www.manateeschools.net/willis](http://www.manateeschools.net/willis)



### Lakewood Ranch High School

Offers AP and honors programs, excellent arts, and competitive sports. Known for strong school pride.

Visit: [www.manateeschools.net/lakewoodranch](http://www.manateeschools.net/lakewoodranch)



### Gilbert W. McNeal Elementary

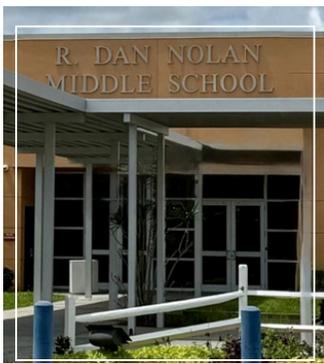
Offers an inclusive environment focused on literacy and creativity, with strong parental engagement.

Visit: [www.manateeschools.net/mcneal](http://www.manateeschools.net/mcneal)



### Additional Public School Options

In addition to these, families also value B.D. Gullett Elementary School, Dr. Mona Jain Middle School, and Lake Manatee K-8 School (details available on community listings such as [lakewoodranch.com/life-on-the-ranch/schools/](http://lakewoodranch.com/life-on-the-ranch/schools/)).



### R. Dan Nolan Middle School

Recognized for its robotics, arts integration, and diverse extracurricular programs.

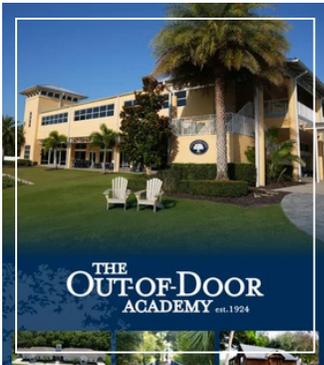
Visit: [www.manateeschools.net/nolan](http://www.manateeschools.net/nolan)

Lakewood Ranch Schools

# Private & Charter School Options

In addition to public schools, Lakewood Ranch offers private and charter options that provide smaller class sizes, specialized programs, and alternative learning approaches.

## Private School Highlights



### The Out-of-Door Academy

Premier private institution with small class sizes, rigorous academics, and an extremely high college acceptance rate.

Visit: [www.oda.edu/](http://www.oda.edu/)



### Pinnacle Academy

Accredited private school offering personalized education and support for diverse learning needs.

Visit: [thepinnacleacademy.com/](http://thepinnacleacademy.com/)



### Imagine School at Lakewood Ranch

Public charter school emphasizing creativity, leadership, and hands-on learning.

Visit: [imagineschoolslr.com/](http://imagineschoolslr.com/)



### Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy

Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy is a free charter school for K-12 students. It focuses on academics and higher learning.

Visit: [www.lakewoodranch-prep.org/](http://www.lakewoodranch-prep.org/)



*"Families love Lakewood Ranch because it blends education, lifestyle, and community perfectly. I often work with parents who choose their next home based on school zones, and it's easy to see why. The schools here are outstanding, and the neighborhoods feel like extensions of the classroom: safe, connected, and full of opportunity."*

— Mike Novak



# After-School & Enrichment Opportunities

Lakewood Ranch offers a wide range of after-school activities, including athletics, music, robotics, and volunteering. Sports programs feature soccer, tennis, golf, and swimming, while arts programs nurture creative expression. STEM clubs, Scouts, and local youth organizations provide additional ways for students to engage and grow.

## Find Your Home Near the Best Schools

If you're planning a move to Lakewood Ranch and want to live near top-rated schools, Mike Novak can help you find the perfect fit, whether it's a single-family home in Mallory Park or a new build in Star Farms.

Visit [LakewoodRanchLifestyle.com](http://LakewoodRanchLifestyle.com) to explore family-friendly homes or schedule a consultation today.



## Curated by **Mike Novak**

With over 28 years in real estate and a family legacy in the industry, Mike Novak combines local insight with professional excellence. Mike's calm, confident approach makes buying or selling a home both efficient and enjoyable. **Our team has sold 1,164 homes in the past 15 years, representing more than \$500 million in total team sales and growing.**

“I don't just sell homes—I help people find the lifestyle they've been dreaming of.”

—Mike Novak

**MIKE NOVAK** |

