

The Impact of School Districts on Home Values

Why High-Quality Schools Can Increase Your Home's Worth



For many homebuyers, the quality of the local school district is a major factor in deciding where to live. Even if you don't have children, buying a home in a highly rated school district can have a significant impact on your property's value and long-term investment. Here's why good schools matter when it comes to home prices.

HIGHER DEMAND, HIGHER PRICES

Homes located in top-rated school districts tend to command higher prices due to increased demand. Families with school-age children often prioritize buying in areas where the public schools have a strong reputation. This demand drives up home prices, making properties in these areas more valuable compared to homes in lower-performing districts. Buyers are often willing to pay a premium to ensure their children have access to quality education.

BETTER RESALE VALUE

One of the key benefits of purchasing a home in a good school district is its strong resale value. Even if you don't have children, buying in a district with high-performing schools can make your property more attractive to future buyers. Homes in these areas tend to sell more quickly and at higher prices, offering a better return on investment. This is especially true in markets where school rankings are highly competitive.

STABILITY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Another advantage of buying in a top-tier school district is the stability it offers, even in a downturn. While home values

may fluctuate based on broader economic trends, properties in areas with excellent schools often retain their value better during market slowdowns. Families will always prioritize education, so demand for homes in these districts remains strong even when other factors impact the real estate market.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

School districts with higher ratings often reflect a community's investment in its future. These areas typically offer more than just good schools — they tend to have well-maintained parks, safe neighborhoods and strong local economies. This combination of factors makes them desirable places to live, enhancing the overall quality of life and reinforcing home values in the long term.

RESEARCHING YOUR OPTIONS

Whether or not you have school-age children, it's worth researching the quality of the local school district when considering a home purchase. Look up school ratings online through websites like GreatSchools or Niche, which provide detailed information on test scores, student-teacher ratios and parental reviews. Talk to local real estate agents about how the district impacts home prices in the area and factor this into your decision-making process.

In conclusion, buying a home in a strong school district can be a smart investment, offering both immediate and long-term benefits. Whether you're planning for a family or simply looking to maximize your property's value, the quality of nearby schools should play a role in your homebuying strategy.

Real Estate Trends



Tips to make a home less vulnerable to criminals

There's no shortage of ways for homeowners to make their properties less vulnerable to criminals.

Property crimes are perhaps more common than people may realize. Data from the Council on Criminal Justice indicates residential burglaries declined by 26 percent in 2023 compared to 2019. However, the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates there were nearly seven million property-related crimes committed in 2019, which means there were still more than five million such crimes committed in 2023.

Homeowners recognize the importance of protecting themselves, their loved ones and their valuables. Locking doors at night is one measure of protection anyone can employ, but there's a host of additional steps individuals can take to make their homes less vulnerable to criminals.

- Embrace some simple solutions. The Insurance Information Institute recommends utilizing simple security devices such as padlocks, door and window locks, grates, bars, and bolts. These devices may not prevent burglars from entering a home, but they can increase the amount of time it takes criminals to gain access. That can be enough to discourage criminals and provide extra time for homeowners and neighbors to see and report suspicious individuals lurking around homes.

- Periodically assess existing security devices. Locks, security cameras and additional devices are effective deterrents, but only if they're working properly. It's easy to overlook security devices, but routine inspections can ensure they continue to serve as a security blanket between residents and criminals.

- Install a burglar alarm. Burglar alarms can be effective deterrents and even help homeowners save money on their insurance policies. The Electronic Security Association estimates that home alarm systems can save homeowners as much as 20 percent on their insurance policies. Such savings can offset the cost to purchase and install burglar alarms. Homeowners who doubt the efficacy of burglar alarms as a crime deterrent should know that a study from researchers at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte examining the habits of burglars found that 60 percent decided against burglarizing properties they learned had burglar alarms.

- Trim privacy trees and shrubs around the perimeter of your home. Privacy trees and shrubs can make it harder for passersby to see into a home from a nearby street or sidewalk. However, such features also can provide hiding space for criminals looking to gain access to a property. Routinely trim trees and shrubs near doors and windows so they are not inadvertently providing cover for criminals.

- Light up the outside. Exterior lighting is wildly popular among homeowners for its aesthetic appeal. But lights around walkways and throughout a landscape also illuminate the exterior of a home, making it harder for criminals to get around without being seen. Spotlights and motion detection lights can alert homeowners if someone is outside, and such lighting also can make it easier to spot criminals on exterior cameras, which can deter burglars.

REAL ESTATE 101



Research School District Ratings Before You Buy

Even if you don't have children, buying a home in a highly rated school district can significantly impact your property's value and resale potential. Be sure to research school district ratings and talk to your real estate agent about how schools influence home prices in the area.

HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

School District Rating: A score or evaluation of a public school district's performance, typically based on factors such as student test scores, graduation rates, teacher quality and extracurricular offerings. Higher-rated school districts often increase the desirability of homes within their boundaries, impacting property values.

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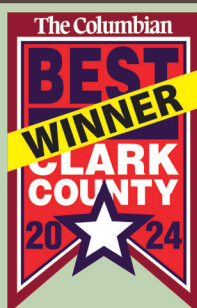
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a family who can help
me burn off energy with
exercise, playtime, and
outdoor adventures.

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Age: 4 Years
Breed: Siberian Husky

Here's what I need in
my new home:

- 🐾 I've been in the shelter longer than most and my adoption fee has been paid by someone who loves me.
- 🐾 I'd like to meet any dogs or kids living in my new home before I'm adopted. I just want to make sure we all get along.
- 🐾 I've done well with cats in my foster home.
- 🐾 My foster parent knows me better than anyone! They've shared that I enjoy playing in the water or going out for a car ride.

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The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE: Explained at 119-Across
by Fred Piscop

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 70 Ghana's capital | 128 Water power, for short |
| 1 <i>Gone With the Wind</i> surname | 72 22-Across filler | DOWN |
| 6 Just ___ (not much) | 73 Pop singer/songwriter King | 1 Planets, to poets |
| 10 Really annoys | 74 Derisive laugh | 2 Luau dance |
| 15 Ran in the wash | 75 Less green, as bananas | 3 Rickman of the Potter films |
| 19 Kaiser or czar | 77 BBC clock setting | 4 "I guess" |
| 20 Voice of the iPhone | 80 Cotillion girls | 5 Old Testament ship |
| 21 Media mogul Winfrey | 81 "Shucks!" | 6 Drained of color |
| 22 Stage work | 84 Workbench device | 7 Headed for overtime |
| 23 Ne'er-do-well | 85 Boathouse implement | 8 Zone |
| 25 Little Bighorn victor | 86 Macaroni shape | 9 Embassy officials |
| 27 Lost altitude | 88 Nashville-based awards org. | 10 Coffee orders |
| 28 Part of a piano | 89 007 in <i>Skyfall</i> | 11 "Here's hoping..." |
| 29 Abhor | 91 Great distress | 12 Campus club |
| 30 Vicuñas' habitat | 93 Quarterback Manning | 13 Disconcert |
| 31 Amenable (to) | 94 Geological period | 14 Far from outgoing |
| 33 Anthem start | 96 Sharp, as eyesight | 15 <i>Wuthering Heights</i> author |
| 35 Crunchy sandwich letters | 97 Exodus VIP | 16 Tennyson title |
| 36 Came to light | 98 Indy team | 17 Alternatively |
| 39 Numbers in weather charts | 100 Orbital periods | 18 Low marks |
| 41 Doorkeeper guys | 101 Abhor | 24 Made haste |
| 45 Falstaff-like | 102 Obviously embarrassed | 26 Summer blouse |
| 46 Forest growler | 103 Compromise | 32 Look through, as a keyhole |
| 47 Sharp, as eyesight | 104 Pasternak heroine | 34 Young person |
| 49 Off ___ tangent | 105 Ancient Peruvian | 35 Vampire guise |
| 50 Medal-worthy behavior | 108 Trees with needles | 36 Pacifists |
| 51 Conductor Georg | 110 Everyday | 37 Disconcert |
| 52 Architect from China | 113 Barely defeats | 38 Cheese-and-toast dish |
| 53 Dilapidated | 117 Abrupt way to quit | 39 Steakhouse selection |
| 55 Double curve | 119 Theme of the puzzle | 40 Sushi bar fish |
| 56 Lend of tennis | 121 Carrier to Tel Aviv | 41 Experimental subject |
| 58 Attach with a click | 122 Skein fliers | 42 Nursery rhyme byline |
| 60 Mares and sows | 123 Leave off | 43 Enroll |
| 61 "No talking!" | 124 Game fish | 44 Parliamentary votes |
| 62 More amiable | 125 A handful of | 47 Emerge |
| 64 College sr.'s test | 126 Qualifying races | 48 Big boss, briefly |
| 65 Parade day | 127 Exodus river | 51 Person above criticism |
| 68 Copter part | | 54 Concerning |

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| 57 Bass ___ (stringed instrument) | 82 Basic cable channel | 106 Court plea, in brief |
| 59 O'Hare abbr. | 83 Trample underfoot | 107 Chowder morsel |
| 63 Gung-ho | 87 Didn't exist | 108 For the asking |
| 66 Star pilots | 90 Starter like atm- | 109 Scandinavian furniture chain |
| 67 Party decoration | 92 Became irate | 111 Prefix for sweet |
| 69 Approximately | 95 ___ XING (road sign) | 112 Gas or electric co. |
| 71 Tuna holder | 99 Nursery furniture | 114 Sport shirt brand |
| 73 Stringed instruments | 100 Ardent assent | 115 Decant |
| 76 Columnist Molly | 101 Painter of melting clocks | 116 ___ speak (in a way) |
| 78 Leonine locks | 103 Port of Brittany | 118 Sound of discomfort |
| 79 Covert meeting | 104 Coffee order | 120 Imprecise degree |
| 80 Low in pitch | 105 Tops with frosting | |

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People associate planting with spring, but in many cases what you do during the autumn months is just as important.

Invest in the future of your garden right now to ensure a vibrant display of flowers as the weather warms. Take advantage of the cooler weather to prepare the soil for the season to come. You'll be creating the perfect environment for a stunning array of blooms.

SELECTING BULBS

When selecting bulbs, be prepared for a wide variety of choices. All will offer their own unique colors, blooming times and shapes. Popular options for autumn planting include tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses. To create a visually appealing garden, consider the sunlight requirements, height and bloom time of each variety. To increase the chances of success, choose bulbs that are free of blemishes, firm and — perhaps most importantly — suitable for your specific climate zone.

CONSIDER THE TIMING

Autumn is the ideal time to plant bulbs since this allows for the establishment of strong roots before the ground freezes. Aim to plant bulbs six to eight weeks before the typical freezing period in your particular area. The timing may vary depending on your climate zone, so it's smart to consult with local gardening resources. Talk to experts at your local extension office or nearby nursery to determine the optimal planting window for your region.

PREPARING THE SOIL

Proper soil preparation is essential for promoting healthy root development and vibrant blooms. To create the best conditions, choose a well-drained location that receives ample sunlight. Clear the planting area of any rocks, weeds or debris. Loosen the soil and enrich it with organic matter or compost to bolster its fertility



and overall health. This can help with drainage.

READY TO DIG?

Different types of bulbs require different planting depths,

so always follow the specific guidelines for each variety. As a general rule, bulbs should be planted at a depth that is two to three times their particular height. Encourage proper growth and air circulation by spacing bulbs according to the

recommendations provided on the package. Consult with a local gardening expert if you're unsure about this. For a more natural and visually appealing effect, consider planting in clusters.

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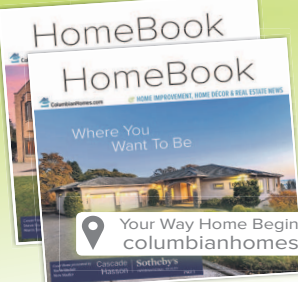
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“Kaiser” and “czar” (19-Across) as terms for absolute **RULERS** are both derived from **“Caesar.”** The name of iPhone’s voice **SIRI** (20-Across) is a shortened form of the Old Norse female name Sigrid. Selling some 100 million pieces of furniture annually, **IKEA** (109-Down) is believed to be the world’s largest consumer of wood.

You can contact crossword puzzle editor Stanley Newman at www.StanXwords.com. 10/20/24

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OUR MISSION

Friends of Vancouver Lake provides leadership to restore our magnificent resource by partnering with public and private entities to ensure that Vancouver Lake provides enhanced environmental, recreational, and economic benefits to our community for current and future generations.



OUR VISION

Vancouver Lake is home to diverse fish, animal, and plant species, attracts outdoor and water recreation enthusiasts, and returns economic benefits for our region.

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

- Visionary leadership
- Action that leads to results
- Collaboration
- Evidence-based solutions
- Focus on Community needs and desires
- Well-being and health of our community
- Increasing public access to public places
- Stewardship of our environment



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