



Get A Head Start on High School!

Tasks for Students and Parents

- 1) Browse the websites of high schools in the local area
 - a) Look at course offerings, pictures of facilities, lists of sports and clubs
 - b) Check out “Admissions” pages to discover the admission process
- 2) Make a list of high schools you are interested in
 - a) Make a personal “pros” and “cons” list for each school
 - b) Consider transportation limitations
 - c) If considering private schools, prepare for financial aid application
- 3) Save the dates of any tours and open houses the high schools offer
 - a) Call high schools to ask about “shadowing,” which involves following a high school student throughout their school day
- 4) Get a head start on applications
 - a) Practicing will make it less intimidating!
 - b) Some schools do not change their application from one year to the next, so you will know exactly what to expect by the time you’re in 8th grade
 - c) Write drafts of applications’ short answer questions and essays; creative, authentic responses will help your application will stand out
 - d) Note the earliest date each school accepts applications - it can be an advantage for your application to be one of the first received
- 5) Make a plan for achieving your goals for grades, conduct and effort, and attendance for your remaining time in middle school
 - a) Many high schools look carefully at these records
 - b) Build helpful habits: take detailed notes in class, write assignments down in your planner everyday, begin studying for tests and quizzes multiple days in advance, etc.