



The Beacon Program

NEWSLETTER

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Thinking about Attending Private High School?

Here's What You Need to Know

The transition from middle school to high school can be stressful – not to mention the transition from middle school to a private high school. In this newsletter, we want to alleviate that stress and give you some helpful information about the upcoming admissions season. The columns to the right will give you a brief overview of the fall admissions cycle. We will go into more depth about each part of the process each month going forward!

As September approaches, begin to look up schools that interest your student and family. An easy way to learn more about a school is through its website.

Shadow Days begin in September; it is a good idea to map out which schools you will visit during the fall.

Take advantage of high school nights by attending one hosted by your middle school or by attending a regional high school night.

Also, decide what Open House events you will attend in October and November. These events are a great way to meet the faculty and learn more about a school and its campus.

Identify the placement test that each high school uses. These tests are used as an entrance exam, for honors class placement, and for merit scholarship awards.

Parents should begin the financial aid process as soon as it is available. This section is usually the longest part of the application process.

Financial Aid Tips:

1. Begin Early!
2. Have last year's W2's.
3. Submit before December.
4. Be patient!
5. Learn about Merit Awards & other scholarships.

[Click here for your 8th Grade Checklist](#)

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5 Tips for a Strong Application:

Start Early

When the school(s) to which you would like to apply releases its application, begin the application process immediately. You may need time to gather the required information, or you may want to spend some time thinking about your essay responses. Give yourself time to be thorough.

Show Your Best Self

The application is where students show who they are and what they will bring to an academic community. Be sure to mention all the clubs, community service, and extracurriculars in which your student participates.

Show Academic Improvement

Academic records from the 7th grade are important; but a student who demonstrates that they are growing academically during the fall of their 8th grade year helps display their work ethic and potential for future, high school success.

Have Great Recommendations

Choose who writes your recommendations carefully. These recommendations reveal a great deal about your student's communal relationships and behavior. Great behavior makes it easier for people to give positive recommendations for your student.

Meet Deadlines

Parents reveal how well they handle important matters by responding with promptness. You do not want to miss out on financial aid due to a late submission.



“Continuous effort—not strength of intelligence—is the key to unlocking our potential.”

Winston Churchill

Next Month: Shadow Days & High School Nights

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BEFORE.BETWEEN.BEYOND

