

The Beacon Program

NEWSLETTER

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The Importance of High School Nights and Shadow Days

The admissions season kicks off with high school nights and shadow days. These events serve as opportunities for families to meet admissions teams and learn more about individual high schools.

High school nights are generally hosted by private, independent, or charter middle schools. Families or students can obtain admission materials and speak to multiple admission teams in this setting.

Not every family and student have the ability or opportunity to attend a high school night, so they must make the most of their Shadow Day visits.

Shadow Days are generally a requirement of the high school admissions process. Current 7th and 8th graders may visit a high school for a full or half day while “shadowing” a host from class to class.

These days may contain an informational portion for parents and an interview for the student.

For students, utilize the day to ask about extracurricular activities, clubs, and performing arts opportunities. Students should also inquire about AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes, along with College Credit Plus (CCP) classes. Whether a school has one or both of these programs may help to narrow your search for schools.

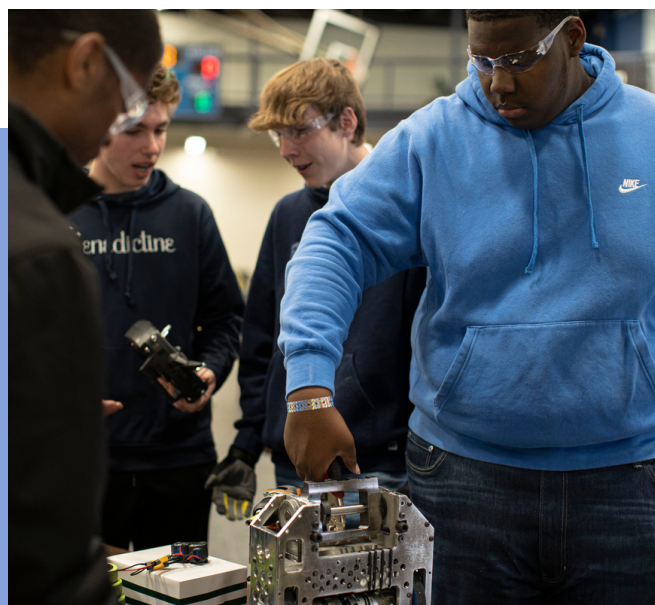
Parents, also ask about transportation at one of these events. Knowing the transportation plan and/or cost can be a major factor in your final decision.

High School Night Tips:

1. Learn about multiple schools.
2. Ask questions!
3. Share your interests.
4. Do an inquiry and/or set up a Shadow Day.
5. Grab some swag!

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5 Tips for Shadow Days:

Know the Dress Code

When visiting a school, take a look at its website and learn about the dress code before you visit. Your arrival in the appropriate attire reveals that you are serious about your visit and want to be a future member of that school's student body.

Be Yourself

Relax and show who you are while on your visit. The admissions team and your hosts want to know the real you! However, remember to mind your manners throughout the day; your visit is part job interview and part testing the water as a student. Leave a great impression!

What's Important to You?

Think about what you want from a high school and its environment. Ask about and look for the things which are important to your family and you. You are interviewing the school, too!

Pay Attention in Class

On your Shadow Day, focus on how the teachers instruct the class. See how the students are taking notes. Also, pay attention to classroom discussions to see if the style suits you. The classroom is a great chance to gauge the educational environment that will help you grow over the next four years. Use your time to gather crucial information that will help you select a high school.

Reflect on the Visit

After your visit, write/type how you feel about the school. Create a list of likes and dislikes or pros and cons. Those details will help you in January and February, especially for the schools you visit in early September and October.



"Setting a goal is not the main thing. It is deciding how you will go about achieving it and staying with the plan. The key is discipline—without it there is no morale."

Tom Landry

Next Month: Open House & Placement/Entrance Tests

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BEFORE.BETWEEN.BEYOND

