



The Beacon Program

NEWSLETTER

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Open Houses, Placement Tests, & Entrance Exams?

The month of October fills up quickly as every private school begins to host their own version of an Open House and a Placement Test/Entrance Exam. Parents and guardians should make a plan with their students in order to prioritize which schools they will visit for Open House and when and where their student will take a placement test or entrance exam. Having a plan for this month can reduce stress and clarify what schools you want to pursue as January approaches.

Outside of a Shadow Day, an open house is the best way to see what academic programming a school offers such as Advanced Placement (AP), College Credit Plus (CCP), and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) programming.

As your family visits schools, keep track of what you like and what you do not like. These observations will serve you well as you move further along in the admissions process.

October also marks the beginning of placement and entrance exam testing. Schools that use an entrance exam tend to be more selective in admissions and have an average score they want to see a student hit to be admitted. Placement tests are used to see what classes a student can potentially take in high school. Find resources [online](#) or at your local library to help prepare your student for these tests. Scoring well can lead to a merit scholarship! Make the most of these opportunities.

Placement Test Tips:

1. Take a practice test.
2. Keep calm!
3. Answer as many questions as possible.
4. Answer what you know first!
5. Take it again!



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5 Tips for Open House Visits:

Visit Many Schools

During Open House season, families should plan to visit at least three schools. Visiting multiple schools allows you to compare and contrast the aspects of each school which are most important to your family.

Learn about the School's Culture

Many schools will have their administration speak during Open House so that you learn more about the school's culture. Listen carefully and observe the students and faculty to see the school's culture in action throughout the day.

Learn about the Teachers

As a student, think about your favorite subject(s). Seek those department chairs out during Open House and ask about the curriculum. Learning more about what you will study and accomplish will help you compare schools and their academics.

Spend Time with the Students

There will be students around Open House to discuss their experiences at the school. Ask questions to gain insight on how the students feel about their school and the opportunities it provides. How the students respond can be a good indicator of a school's culture and the overall development of the students in its care.

Learn about Sports, Clubs, & Arts

Take the time to learn about all the extracurricular activities a school has available. Speak with coaches, club coordinators, and performing arts teachers to learn about their individual programs. Building a relationship with these faculty and staff members can be key to your final decision.



“One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation.”

Arthur Ashe

Next Month: Financial Aid & Merit Scholarships

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