



### **How do I make the most of my Open House experience?**

There is simply no substitute for seeing your prospective schools up close and in person at an open house. These school visits provide you with an invaluable opportunity to see the teachers in action and to ask key questions of the school representatives. This can give you a better sense of how the school functions day-to-day and how your child would navigate a particular school. Unless a school requires a child to attend an open house with the family, plan to attend open house events on your own. Your child will have another chance to visit the school, once you begin the admission process and submit your application.

**Do your homework before visiting schools** - Read all you can about the school you plan to tour.

**Schedule your visit** – Call the school or visit their website for open house dates. Ask to speak with the admission office and let them know that you would like to register for their open house, whether the event is on campus or online. Many schools will offer virtual alternatives to a traditional open house tour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Ask and observe** – When you visit a school, whether in person or online, be sure to observe the environment, not only what happens in class between students and teachers, but also how teachers and students interact in the hallways and common areas and how they speak about their interactions during virtual admission events.

### **Potential Questions to Ask During an Open House**

1. How does the school incorporate technology into their teaching and learning?
2. What extracurricular opportunities are there for students? (Sports teams, clubs, community service, etc.)
3. How does the school support students, both academically and socially, who are new to the community?
4. How has the school effectively met the challenges of the pandemic?

5. What professional development opportunities exist for teachers? How do teachers continue to learn and grow?
6. What are some of the school's greatest accomplishments? What are some of the school's greatest challenges?
7. How does the school guide and prepare students for major academic decisions that will define their options for high school and post-secondary school(s)?
8. What percentage of families receive financial aid?
9. How does the school determine the size of the award/scholarship?
10. What is the largest percentage of financial aid awarded to a family? (25%, 50% or 75% of overall cost?)