



ST. JOHN PAUL II
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

Mr. Courtney and I attended a very informative meeting with area Catholic High Schools to learn more about the admissions process from their perspective. I'd like to share with you some comments that may help you help your child in selecting a "best fit" high school.

In educating parents on "how" to select a high school, the panel recommended considering several factors:

- Create a "list" of what aspects are important to you in choosing a high school for your child. Consult your child for their thoughts, but in the end ... give them a VOICE, not a VOTE. Children should not ultimately be deciding where to attend high school.
- Consider how your personal values and preferences fit in with the high school choices you have.
- Look at the size of the school and teacher:student ratios. Think about how your child might benefit or struggle more depending on the size of the school and think about the school environment from which they are coming.
- Look at the offerings for advanced and AP courses if you feel your child would be taking these classes.
- Look at the school connections to the community (if this is important to you) and in what ways parents are invited to be involved.
- Ask how the school communicates with parents and with what frequency.
- What kinds of supports are in place if your child is struggling socially, emotionally, or academically?
- Where is the school located relative to where you live/work? Are there active carpools? Make the drive to see how long it will take your child to go to their campus.
- Consider tuition costs and find out about financial and merit aid opportunities.
- Look at extra-curricular classes that interest your child to see what is offered.
- If your child currently receives academic accommodations, ask about the school support services and visit these programs to learn more. Ask if there is an additional fee, what accommodations are offered, and how these students are identified.
- VISIT campuses; introduce your child to staff members on your tours who may be of interest to them - coaches, principals, elective teachers (choir, art, theater, etc.)

We are SO blessed in Houston to have a multitude of high schools! With so many great options, it's just a matter of finding which one(s) will be the best fit for your child. The panel strongly encouraged parents to consider more than one school, especially if you are looking at private school options. We are happy to talk more with you and your child about the options that are available to them. Please let us know if you have additional questions or concerns about the admissions process.

All the Best,

Betty Costantini

StJP II Middle School Counselor