

PSG Meeting Notes  
Getting Ready for Secondary School  
4/29/09

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Some comments and notes:

Start the process early – take group tours, go on-line  
Many schools have open houses for 7<sup>th</sup> graders  
Send for applications and brochures  
Attend school fairs at TMA or elsewhere

Make your appointments early with the schools  
Dress preppy  
Ask to see faculty from areas you are interested in – they can help with your acceptance  
Send thank-you notes to the school  
Respond to any e-mails they send you

Some schools have summer programs where you can meet the faculty and get a better idea about the school

Have the students (and parents) prepare for the interviews (strengths, weaknesses, why you want to go there)

There are different essays that are required by the schools  
Some student set up a spreadsheet with information after the school visits and to track deadlines  
Interview at your least favorite school first for practice

Take the standardized tests, perhaps starting in September of 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Secondary School Application Test web site with locations, fees, schedules ([www.ssat.org](http://www.ssat.org))  
Possibly use a tutor or on-line classes to get comfortable with the questions and formats  
You can send out the scores later once you've narrowed down your choices

Financial aid is available  
Some of the bigger, more established schools have more aid  
Financial aid forms can be very complex – you may need an accountant

Magnet schools use a lottery  
There are several: Math and Science; University School; Sports and Medicine  
You may not find out until late April  
Deposits for private school are due  
Once you start at a new school:  
Time management is the key  
They have many clubs and activities, plus most schools require some sport

At Choate there are many afterschool activities and some weekend classes  
There is a group that carools in the morning but everyone does their own pickup  
Upperclassmen in the carpool were helpful in adjusting to the school

There are many web sites that give information about the schools:  
CT Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) [www.caisct.org](http://www.caisct.org)  
National Assoc. of Independent Schools (NAIS) [www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)  
[www.boardingschoolreview.org](http://www.boardingschoolreview.org)  
Peterson's Guide to Secondary Schools ([www.petersons.com/pschools/](http://www.petersons.com/pschools/))  
CT State Dept. of Education  
(Mrs. Hampton can probably help out with this)  
Secondary school Admission test ([www.ssat.org](http://www.ssat.org))