

HIGH SCHOOL ADVICE FROM FELLOW CS PARENTS

GENERAL

- **Listen** to the school Guidance Counselors...they do know what they're talking about
- When embarking on this year long process, definitely look at it objectively...be realistic. Inhale...exhale! Don't stress, make it a fun activity
- Make sure to include your child in the process. Listen to what they have to say...allow them to opine. Their input is as invaluable as yours
- While you're looking at every program, forget about the "ideal school" or school with the most mass appeal; think about what's best for your child
- Help your *child challenge* him/herself by seeking schools that offer more than they have already experienced (don't let children get comfortable with sticking with what they already are familiar with)

DO YOUR RESEARCH / BE PREPARED

- Look at every school's overall progress report grade. Not only the most recent grade, but also grades for the past 3 years including:
 - Areas for improvement...did they improve and if so in what areas did they improve in?
 - Consistency...any drop offs in grading that may be of concern
 - State ELA/Math Test Scores
 - Key: College Readiness, Graduation & Post-Secondary Enrollment Rate
- Be cognizant of which schools take District 3 kids and which do not
- Leverage all available resources:
 - Insideschools.org
 - [Borough HS Fairs / Events](#)
 - Open houses
 - High School Directories
 - The Computer School Website
- If your child even *might* be interested in any artistic endeavors (even if it is not his/her main interest), get lessons and direction early on so that, when auditions come up, your child will be prepared.
- Have a plan on who to ask for letters of recommendation
- *Ask the children* who already attend the school what they think of the curriculum, the teachers, the extracurricular activities, the culture, the discipline, etc

- Consider the following:
 - Would you allow your child to travel outside the borough of Manhattan?
 - Profile/Makeup of the Program
 - Do you envision your child in that program for the next 4 years?

TOURS / OPEN HOUSES / FAIRS

- Tour the schools and see for yourself
- Attend tours/open houses in spring of 7th grade if possible
- When you get to the high school fair, *don't try to visit each and every table*: eliminate the obviously undesirable schools (whether due to distance, interest, eligibility, etc)
- Be prepared for Beacon High School to arrive at least an hour early for the tour. Waiting lines are wrapping around three Street blocks.

ESSAYS

- Many schools use the same essays each year. Go online to schools and see what the essay questions are
- Prepare your child early for upcoming essays, don't start last minute; do essay over summer between 7th and 8th grade, if possible

APPLICATION

- When completing the high school application, be sure to include any and all schools your child is interested in (do *not* depend upon your child getting into the one school of his/her choice), in the order of acceptability.

TEST PREP

- Buy test prep book and have child practice
- Make sure that your child takes practices tests at least 4 times
- Leverage tutors