

Family Resources Blurb: Secondary School Information

The placement process begins in the fall of the 5th grade year when CHS families are invited to attend the traditional Grade 7 Placement Coffee. Moderated by the Head of School, this forum is important not only because it provides families an opportunity to hear directly from secondary school representatives, but also because it encourages them to begin educating themselves about the kind of options that may be most appropriate for their families.

The process begins more formally at the end of the 5th grade year, when the entire class meets together with the Head of School to review documents and procedures. Then, in the month of August immediately prior to the beginning of the 6th grade year, families meet individually with the Head of School. This begins a six-month relationship marked by frequent conversation and systematic sharing of information.

CHS recognizes that public school options may be attractive for many of its families and tries to encourage a balanced approach. The following guidelines provide a basic framework for families exploring independent school interviews and applications:

1. Avoid Friday appointments if possible.
2. Find out the dress culture of each particular school.
3. The children generally prefer morning appointments.
4. Treat your child to an occasional lunch after an interview.
5. Be prepared for basic questions about single-sex or coed schools.
6. Ask in advance about the details of a school visit: time, format, etc.
7. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Steve or the teachers at any time.
8. Everyone is encouraged to begin by filling out practice applications.
9. Everyone is encouraged to make copies of all completed applications.
10. Don't worry too much about practice interviews: we do this in school.
11. Resist the temptation to be bothered by *factual* claims by other parents.
12. The children are asked not to talk about school preferences in school.
13. Your child needs to answer all essay questions in his or her own voice.
14. Thank you notes: be sure to ask for the card of the admission counselor.
15. Note: Roxbury Latin requires completed applications before scheduling appointments.
16. Students applying to Boston Examination Schools need to take the ISEE in December.