

# HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF EVERY OPEN HOUSE

A lot of information is covered at an open house. Schools try to share the whole picture in the few short hours that you are visiting campus. Sometimes, it's a bit of a whirlwind. When you're racing around an unfamiliar campus, trying to make it from one presentation to the next, it's easy to walk away from the experience unsure of anything.

Open houses are about more than showing up to the presentations on time and talking to the "right" people—they're a chance to get a better feel for a school and its community. But how do you actually accomplish this when you're one of a few hundred people visiting campus? That's where this guide can help. We've shared the three things you MUST do to get the most out of every open house you attend.

## GET THE INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

At any open house, your goal should be to gather as much information as possible from the people who make up that school's community. That means talking to more than just the Director of Admission.

Ask teachers about the school, their classes and their teaching philosophy. Chat with current students. What activities are they involved in? How did they adjust as a new student? What are their classes like?

Presentations are definitely important, but these one-on-one conversations will give you a better idea of who makes up the school's community and if you could picture your family being a part of it one day.



## LEARN THE SCHOOL'S MISSION AND VISION

You need to leave an open house with a grasp of what the school stands for, its values and the goals driving it forward.

This is where the vision of the administration comes into play. How does a school live into its mission, beyond the words? What are the top priorities the school is focusing on for the next five years?

Do these line up with your personal aspirations for your child's education and your family's values? Alignment here is important. If your feelings don't match the aspirations of the school, it may not be the place to pursue admission.



## OBSERVE THE FACILITIES

It's important to assess the campus, its facilities and the physical resources provided to students during the open house.

Do the buildings look up to date? Does the school have the space to adequately offer all of its curricular and extracurricular opportunities? Pay attention to the classrooms, the art rooms, the athletic facilities. How do they look?

## THE TAKEAWAY

Your goal should be to leave each open house feeling like you understand the big picture. You should walk away knowing what a school stands for, what it has to offer and where its strengths and challenges lie. Your next task is to determine which schools can meet your child's specific needs and interests while still encouraging them to discover new passions.



## GET IN TOUCH

We're more than happy to answer questions! Please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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