SECONDARY SCHOOL GUIDE

KENT SCHOOL 6788 Wilkins Lane Chestertown, MD 21620

Considerations When Choosing a High School

Many factors determine where students should apply to high school. Each family will need to decide which factors are most important for their family. The chart below is a guide to help you prioritize. There is no need to establish a ranking. These features are meant to help students and parents begin or continue a dialogue about secondary school choices.

Selection Criteria	Parent Priority	Student Priority
Academic Atmosphere		
Student Diversity		
Daily Class Schedule		
Campus Facilities		
Colleges that Graduates Attend		
How Competitive Is It?		
Cost		
Boarding School		
Day School		
Course Offerings		
Advisory Program		
Cultural Offerings		
Distance from Home		
Extracurricular Offerings		
Financial Assistance		
Honor System		
Independent Study		
Internships		
Methods of Instruction		
Student/Teacher Ratio		
Religious Affiliation		
Grade Size		
Class Size		
Student Government		
Technology Integration		
Transportation		
Urban or Rural Setting		
School Values & Priorities		
Other		

Secondary School Application Timeline

The following steps should be completed within the months listed below. Individual schedules and steps may vary by school, but this provides a general reference.

In the Spring of 7th Grade
Students will take a practice standardized admissions test.

In the Summer
Learn about prospective schools by spending time on secondary school websites. Formulate questions about the schools you might like.

September

- Schedule tours and interviews for your list of prospective secondary schools. Your list should include at least three schools. Kent School has designated three days as excused absences for you to visit secondary schools - **September 25, October 2, and October 9**. In addition, October 12 is a School holiday and could be a good option for a campus visit.
- Schedule a meeting with Nancy Mugele, parents, and the student to discuss Secondary School options as needed.
- Optional, depending on the schools you are applying to: Register for SSAT **(**https://ssat.org/**)** or ISEE (https://erblearn.org/families/isee-by-erb/)**.** Select the schools' codes that should receive your scores. Include Kent School in that list. Our code is 4348. Students should be registered for the upper-level test in **December.** If you wish, you can register them for another upper-level practice test in November.
- Eighth-grade students will take SSAT prep as their first Exploration of the academic year.

October

- To prepare for secondary school visits, students should schedule a 30-minute mock interview with Mrs. Cammerzell, Mrs. Cernak, or Mrs. Mugele.
- Attend the Secondary School Fair on **Wednesday, October 7.**
- Complete in-person or virtual secondary school visits.

November

- Select the schools to which you will be applying and begin the application process.
- Students should apply to at least three schools, making sure they have selected at least one school where they feel confident about their chances for acceptance.
- Determine your timeline for completing all applications, including supplemental essays. We think it is a good idea to have all applications completed and submitted by **December 15**. Make sure you are aware of individual school deadlines.
- Submit all referral and recommendation forms to Kent School by **November 30**.

December

- Complete and submit all applications.
- While most independent school application deadlines are in early January, please avoid a last-minute scramble by completing yours before winter break and by giving your teachers and advisors ample time to complete their letters of recommendation.

January

- Early Decision Admissions (Gunston, and possibly other schools if you have a sibling attending) are mailed or emailed in mid-January.

March

- Regular Admissions decisions are mailed or emailed in early March.
- For Kent County High School STEM applicants, the process begins in March.

Admissions Interview General Questions

These questions help an interviewer understand your personality and background.

- Tell me about your family.
- How would you describe yourself? (see below)
- What do you enjoy reading outside of school?
- Why are you interested in our school?
- What are you passionate about?
- What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- What subject do you enjoy the most and why?
- What subject do you like the least and why?
- What makes you unique?
- What extracurricular activities are you interested in?

How would you describe yourself?

- What would it be if you only had one word to describe yourself?
- What are three words you'd use to describe yourself?"
- How do other people describe you?
- In your opinion, what are your most important traits?
- What words come to mind when you think about yourself?
- What adjectives would you use to describe yourself?
- How would you describe your personality?
- Tell me about yourself.
- Describe yourself in one sentence.

Other Tips

Have a question ready for the School you are visiting. Research the School's website and develop a specific question about a program, class, leadership opportunity, or sport at the school you are visiting.

Please do not say to an Admissions officer at one school that another school is your first choice. You can honestly say that you are looking at a few schools and still learning about them.