

Seventeen “Must-ask” Questions When Looking for a Middle School or High School

1. How big are your classes? What is the student-to-teacher ratio?
2. Who are your teachers? How many of them have advanced degrees?
3. Do you offer arts, music, and drama courses as a regular part of your curriculum?
4. Does school scheduling and class availability result in shortened school days? Can my student expect to attend a full school day?
5. How are students placed in classes?
6. How many electives are offered in each department? Will my child be able to choose from a selection of English classes, for example, or do you offer just one English class per grade?
7. Do you have a set college prep curriculum, or may students work within the curriculum to support their strengths and interests?
8. Are AP classes offered? If so, are they required or optional?
9. Do you provide college counseling support? How many students are assigned to each counselor? What form does this support take?
10. Are your sports programs open to all students?
11. What clubs and other extra-curricular activities are available?
12. Is this the permanent location for this school? Do you own or have a long-term lease on this property?
13. What about retention? What percentage of your high school students complete 12th grade at your school?
14. Where do your graduates go next? Do you have a list of colleges where your students have been accepted?
15. What standardized tests will my child take each year? How much class time is used for preparation and administration of standardized tests?
16. How do your teachers ensure that students remain engaged and challenged. How do they foster a love of learning?
17. What adjectives would you use to describe the culture at the school?