

Cheat Sheet for 7th Grade High School Readiness

What to do now?

- Check out all the High School information on our website (Under the Academic Excellence Tab on AACA website).

High School Readiness

- Start attending Open Houses, sporting events, or other events at the high schools you are interested in. Please check out specific high school websites at this time for the most up to date info.
- Students should continue to work hard and be the best student they can be. Come to class prepared and on time, email teachers with questions, advocate for yourself. These are all ways you can have input into the high school application process.

Exams and application process:

Catholic High Schools:

- You pick and can apply to **one** school and test there.
- The entrance exam (HSPT) is the first Saturday in December of 8th grade.
- Catholic High Schools look at the whole child. This **may** include:
 - Entrance exam results
 - 6th, 7th-grade year-end report card and first-trimester 8th-grade
 - 7th-grade standardized test results (low stakes, no prep needed)
 - Essays from parent and student
 - Recommendation letters from teachers
 - List of activities involved in

CPS High Schools:

- One application and you can apply to up to 20 schools (including 6 selective enrollment)
- Entrance Exam dates are typically in late fall of 8th grade (you pick one date)
- CPS looks at two items only:
 - Entrance exam results
 - Year-end grades from 7th grade

Private High Schools:

- Each private high school (e.g. Latin, Parker, LAB, Lycée Frances, etc.) all have different application processes – please look at each school's website.

Test prep for Entrance Exams:

- In November of 8th grade, in the weeks prior to the Catholic entrance exam, the uMS teachers stop content and only focus on preparation for the entrance exam. Most students find that this is enough.
- If outside test prep, we recommend starting in the summer before 8th grade or fall of 8th grade. A list of several companies that offer test prep can be found [here](#).

Keep in mind:

- Selective Enrollment high schools (Lane, Whitney, Jones, Payton, and Northside) are all very challenging to get into. They are looking for students with all A's (from end of year 7th grade) and high 90s on their Admissions test.
- You will have a much better idea of your student's grades, test scores, and viability to apply to certain schools at the end of 7th grade.

Shadow dates (catholic/private HS):

- 7th graders are allowed one excused absence in the **spring** to shadow at a high school. Each high school decides on when shadow days occur.
- Many schools only allow 8th graders to shadow in the fall