

Navigating the Path to High School

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Seventh Grade: A Step Ahead

Fall 7th Grade:

Begin to look at websites, attend open house events
Review details such as distance, transportation needs, etc.

Spring 7th Grade:

Create your “short list”, attend ‘Freshman for a Day (as available)
Conduct costs analysis
Review options of in/out of Diocese as well as Private, Public, or Magnet

Summer 7th Grade:

Attend summer learning opportunities and camps (as appropriate)
Consider preparing for placement exams, many of the high schools highlighted today offer HSPT prep





October: Research Phase Open Houses and School Tours


Attend Open Houses

Diocesan High Schools

St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Edison): Open house **October 20th** and Spring Open House **April 10th** (independent tours available)

Immaculata High School (Somerville): Open houses are scheduled for **October 30th** or **November 6th**.

These events allow families to explore academic programs, meet faculty, and tour the campus to get a firsthand experience of the school's environment.

- ❑ **Start Researching Admissions Requirements:** Familiarize yourself with each school's admissions criteria, including the High School Placement Test (HSPT), application deadlines, and other requirements. This step is crucial for preparing a strong application.
 - ❑ **Create a List of Schools:** Narrow down the high schools based on factors such as location, academic strengths, extracurricular offerings, and religious environment. A focused list helps streamline the decision-making process in the following months.
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**October: Research Phase
Open Houses and School Tours**

Independent Catholic High Schools in the Diocese

St. Joseph High School (Metuchen): Open house **October 20th** . Opportunity to tour the campus, meet with Faculty, Coaches, Moderators and Students.

Mount St. Mary Academy (Watchung): Open House on **October 22nd, 2024**, showcasing academic and extracurricular offerings.

Catholic High Schools Outside the Diocese

St. John Vianney (Holmdel): Open House on **October 19th, 2024 & October 24th, 2024**, featuring facilities, academic programs, and activities.

Notre Dame High School (Lawrenceville): Open House on **October 24th, 2024**, providing campus tours and program introductions.



October: Research Phase Open Houses and School Tours



Magnet Schools- previously known as Vo-Tech have since rebranded and offer specialized free education



Edison Academy

- Civil/Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Electrical/Computer Engineering

Woodbridge Academy

- Biomedical Sciences
- Allied Health
- Building Maintenance

Piscataway

- Computer Assisted Drafting
- Machine Tool Technology
- Automated Office Technology

Perth Amboy

- Auto Mechanics
- Carpentry
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning

East Brunswick

- Welding
- Architectural Drafting/CAD
- Performing Arts Theatre



October: Research Phase Open Houses and School Tours



Many private schools in Central New Jersey. A few to consider are:

Rutgers Preparatory School: The school will host an Open House on **October 15, 2024**. You can register through their admissions section for more details on the event.

Ranney School: Their Fall Open House is scheduled for **October 19, 2024**, at their campus in Tinton Falls, NJ

The Hun School of Princeton: Their next open house is scheduled for **October 6, 2024**






Visit Schools for 'Freshman for a Day' Experience: An Essential Step in the Process

Why It's Important: Participating in a 'Freshman for a Day' experience allows students to get an inside look at the daily life of a Catholic high school. This immersive experience helps them gauge the school environment, teaching styles, and student interactions, which is crucial in making an informed decision.

Open to 7th and 8th Graders: The high schools offer 'Freshman for a Day' programs for both 7th and 8th graders. It's never too early to begin exploring; 7th graders can start experiencing different schools to see where they feel most comfortable.

How to Participate: Visit the school's website or contact the admissions office to schedule a 'Freshman for a Day' visit. These programs typically involve shadowing a current student through classes, lunch, and school activities to give prospective students a real feel of the school day.





November: Application & Testing Admissions Testing Deadlines



St. Thomas Aquinas: November 6th with a Makeup on November 13th

St. Joseph's: HSPT provided on several dates between October – November

Immaculata: Testing on October 30 or November 6th

Mount St. Mary Academy: Conducts its own entrance exam on November 4th, 2024, followed by a rigorous interview process for shortlisted candidates.

St. John Vianney: HSPT on November 11th, 2024. Academic performance considered for scholarships.

Notre Dame High School: HSPT offered on November 18th, 2024.

Private & Magnet: Testing varies per schools, with some not requiring admission testing – please check with the school directly.





**December: Finalizing Applications
Completing and Submitting Application Materials**

Catholic High Schools in the Diocese




St. Thomas Aquinas: December 10th



Submit all required documents, including transcripts, letters of recommendation, and personal essays, through the school's online portal.

Immaculata High School: December 12th, 2024

Submit additional materials, including transcripts, recommendation letters, and personal essays, through their online application system.

Financial aid applications through FACTS; scholarship review.





December: Finalizing Applications Completing and Submitting Application Materials

Independent Catholic High Schools in the Diocese

St. Joseph High School: December 5th


Application materials, including HSPT scores, to be submitted by December 5th .


Provide supporting documents such as academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, and essays through the school's application portal.

Mount St. Mary Academy: December 15th, 2024

Submit all required documents, including transcripts, recommendation letters, and essays, through the school's online portal.

After submitting the application, students must sit for the entrance exam and attend the interview process if shortlisted.





**December: Finalizing Applications
Completing and Submitting Application Materials**

Catholic High Schools Outside the Diocese



St. John Vianney: December 1st, 2024

Fill out the application on the St. John Vianney website.

Submit transcripts, letters of recommendation, and personal statements through the school's application portal.

Notre Dame High School: December 8th, 2024

Complete the online application form available on the Notre Dame High School website

Provide supporting documents, such as transcripts, teacher recommendations, and a personal essay, via the online application system





January: Interviews and Financial Aid Scholarships and Aid Opportunities


Interviews: Some schools in the Diocese may invite students for interviews in January. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss academic goals, extracurricular interests, and explore available programs. It's also a chance for the schools to assess student fit within their community.

- For example, Mount St. Mary Academy conducts interviews as part of a rigorous admission process, while schools like St. John Vianney and Notre Dame High School may use interviews to learn more about students' goals and involvement.

Financial Aid: Most schools in the Diocese process financial aid applications through the **FACTS Management** system. Families are encouraged to complete these applications in January to be considered for both need-based and merit-based aid.

Merit-Based Scholarships: Schools such as St. Joseph High School and Notre Dame High School offer scholarships based on academic performance, leadership, and service.

Need-Based Aid: Almost all schools, including Immaculata High School and Mount St. Mary Academy, review financial aid applications submitted through FACTS to provide assistance based on need.



February-March: Acceptance and Decisions Finalizing School Selection

Acceptance Letters: During February and March, schools in the Diocese, including St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Joseph, Immaculata, Mount St. Mary Academy, St. John Vianney, and Notre Dame High School, will send out acceptance letters to students. This is a crucial period for families to evaluate their options and make final decisions.

(Mount St. Mary Academy and Notre Dame typically send acceptance notifications in early March.)

Securing Your Spot: Once a decision is made, schools like St. Thomas Aquinas, St. John Vianney, and Immaculata require families to secure their child's spot by submitting an enrollment deposit by March or early April. This deposit confirms the student's place in the incoming class.



April: Enrollment and Transition Preparing for High School

Enrollment Deposits: By April, all schools will require the non-refundable deposit

Transition Programs: Many schools offer orientation and transition programs to help incoming students adjust to high school life.

- Each school offers either resources or specific transition programs designed to ease students into the new high school environment



May-June: Preparing for the Transition Orientation and Academic Readiness



Orientation Programs: Schools offer orientation programs in late spring or early summer to help incoming students transition smoothly. These programs cover school policies, academic expectations, extracurricular opportunities, and a preview of high school life.

St. Thomas Aquinas & St Joseph High School

- ❑ Participate in orientation to learn about athletics, academic service expectations and club opportunities. They have a focus on STEM

Mount St. Mary & Notre Dame High Schools

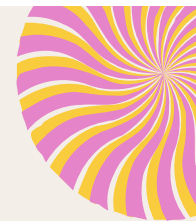
- ❑ Offer reading and study skills workshops to ease into HS coursework



Immaculata & St. John Vianney High School

- ❑ Encourage participation in sports, arts and other programs to build connections with peers

June-August: Thriving in Your Chosen High School

- **Engage in Activities and Sports:** Once your child has chosen their high school, encourage them to get involved in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, and service organizations. Participation fosters a sense of belonging and helps students form new friendships.
- **Finding Their Place:** Schools like St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Joseph, and Immaculata offer a wide range of extracurricular programs designed to cater to students' varied interests. Engaging in these activities is key to helping freshmen find their place and start building connections in their new community.
- **Developing Skills and Confidence:** Joining clubs, sports teams, or other school events not only helps students acclimate but also contributes to their personal growth, developing skills like teamwork, leadership, and time management.
- **Service Hours:** Each of the diocesan and independent Catholic schools will require service hours. Volunteering during the summer is a great way to meet the required minimum hours.





**Have Questions?
We're here to help!**

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