

2011 – 2012 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACEMENT
SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES AND FACTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2012

PLEASE NOTE: I will conduct a question and answer session about this whole process on Friday, May 20th, at 8:45 in the Urquhart Room in the upper school building. If you have any questions, please feel free to come that morning. If you have questions and can't come at that time, feel free to email or call me.

1. If you are thinking about an independent secondary school for your 2012 GUS graduate, now is a good time to start reviewing web sites of schools that might be of interest to you. If you need a list of secondary schools in New England, the AISNE web site is a good place to start. (aisne.org)
2. Speak with Raymond Nance between now and the middle of September to discuss a list of possible schools. Settle on a list of two to five schools at which your child will interview.
3. **CALL SCHOOLS DURING THE SUMMER OR EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR INTERVIEW APPOINTMENTS!** Good days to schedule interviews (so that your child won't miss class here at GUS) are October 27 (parent/teacher conference day), November 4 (Grand Friends' Day), November 11 (Veterans' Day), and the afternoon of November 15 (12:00 dismissal for faculty meeting). Try to schedule your interviews to be completed by Thanksgiving. If those dates don't work, you can schedule them anytime.
4. Attend the Secondary School Fair in September, which will be held at Shore Country Day, exact date to be determined.
5. Register for the SSAT to be given in December. Information will be sent to each family this fall. You can go on the SSAT web site (ssat.org) for complete information.
6. File all preliminary applications in October or before. (Only a few schools have preliminary applications.)
7. Final applications should be completed during Thanksgiving and Winter Vacations and submitted to the schools by mid-January, 2012. Parents should monitor their child's work, and they should mail in the applications directly. Make sure to photocopy the completed applications for your records. The official deadline for most schools is January 31, but some have January 15 deadlines. It is the family's responsibility to be sure that you meet all deadlines.
8. Students applying to any of the Catholic schools (St. John's Prep, Bishop Fenwick, etc.) need to be aware of the fact that those schools have earlier deadlines. Generally, applications are due before Christmas. Check with each school to be sure of the dates.
9. For students who need financial aid, parents should contact secondary schools directly in the fall to make sure of each school's paperwork requirements and deadlines. Some schools have a different deadline for families who are applying for financial aid.
10. All teacher recommendation forms and transcript request forms, properly completed and signed, must be given to Raymond Nance by early December (or earlier) so that they can be distributed to teachers. It is not necessary to provide stamped, addressed envelopes.
11. Teacher recommendations and transcripts will be mailed to each school in order to meet the deadline. The transcript includes all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade (first trimester) progress reports, along with standardized test scores and teacher recommendations. Teacher recommendations are confidential and are not available to parents or students.
12. Secondary schools mail out their decision letters on March 10 (Catholic schools mail earlier). You must reply by April 10 in order to reserve a place in the school of your choice.