



Tips and Tricks for Interviewing

It is wonderful that you are considering attending a boarding school for your high school years. Boarding schools offer robust academics within a supportive, close-knit community where students have opportunities in athletics, the arts, community service and more, literally right outside of their doors! Boarding school is one of the best ways to prepare for college.

All boarding schools require students to have an interview. Whether you will be interviewing on campus, with an admission representative at your school or via Skype, there are some things you should think about prior to the interview.

Suggestions for prior to the interview:

- Read everything you can online about the school(s) at which you will interview.
- Make notes about what you read and come up with a few questions for the interviewer. Some sample questions might be: "Can you tell me about the curriculum at your school?", "Can you tell me more about how students are supported at your school?" and "What might a new student expect to find when he/she comes to campus for the first day of classes?"
- You can bring notes, a notebook, etc. with you to your interview.
- Make sure that you are dressed nicely for the interview. You do not need to go out and buy new clothes or have the finest clothes, but avoid tee-shirts, shorts, ripped jeans. Wear shoes, not sneakers or flip-flops.
- If you are someone who is anxious to meet new people, do a "mock" interview with a parent of a friend or a neighbor.
- Be on time for your interview!

Suggestions for during the interview:

- Smile!
- Be sure to shake your interviewer's hand (wave if you are on Skype) and clearly and slowly state your name and thank them for interviewing you.
- The interviewer will likely ask you some of the questions below:
 - What is your favorite class at school?
 - What is your most challenging class at school?
 - What do you like to do when you are not at school or on the weekends?
 - Tell me about your family.
 - What do you think you would bring to my school/Why do you want to come to my school?
 - What are your goals for high school? What are your goals for college?
 - How would your teacher describe you?
 - Give me three words that describe you.
 - What is your favorite book and why?
 - Who is your favorite YouTuber?

During the interview it is important not to simply answer with one-word responses. For example, if asked for three words that describe you, rather than saying, "creative, intelligent, and kind," you might say, "Creative, because I love art, and last week I created a mural with my friends; intelligent, because I do very well in school; and kind, because I have stood up to bullies when my friends were being made fun of."

The very best interview is when the student being interviewed turns the interview on the interviewer and creates a conversation. For example, when the interviewer asks, "What is your favorite book?" you can answer and then ask, "Did you ever read that book?" or "What is your favorite book?"

Suggestions for after the interview:

- Remember to shake the interviewer's hand at the end of the interview (or wave if you are on Skype) and thank them again for their time.
- After the interview, send the interviewer a note either by mail or by email. It may be good to mention something in the note that is specific about your conversation. For example, "Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me during my visit to your school! I especially liked hearing about your favorite book."