

# The Application Process

Where to begin?

# Visit the Admission Page for each School

- **Note deadlines** - they may differ by school
  - Deadlines are “hard!”
- Look for a school-developed or application platform **application checklist**
- Check to see which **online application** platform is used
  - SAO, Gateway to Prep, Ravenna
- Determine if educational **tests** are required (SSAT, ISEE)

# Schedule Campus Tour & Interview

Before the tour/interview:

- Review the website and write 3-5 questions about the school
- Contact the admission office if there is a coach or teacher or administrator you would like to meet with
- Practice your interview skills with these [Interview Tips](#)

# Schedule Campus Tour & Interview

Things to look for during tour:

- Fit is key
- Do you see yourself with the students?
- Do the faculty seem approachable and friendly?
- Does the school have your special interests/sports?

Stop a student and ask one of your questions!

# What are schools looking for in an applicant?

- Demonstrated academic interest and ability
- Demonstrated interest in something outside of school
  - Music
  - Arts
  - Service
  - Sports
- Demonstrated ability to converse in an interview
- “Non-Cognitive variables”
  - Goals and dreams
  - Ability to access help when needed

# Three Platforms

## [Standard Application Online \(SAO\)](#)

- Accepted at over 400 independent schools

## [Gateway to Prep](#)

- Includes 60 independent schools

## [Ravena](#)

# Benefits of Online Applications

- Apply to more than one school using the same application
  - Some schools have a supplemental form specific for their applicants
- Consolidation of application materials (recommendations, transcripts, test scores)
- Easy to get recommendation information to teachers
- Easy to track progress
- Easy to upload artwork, highlight videos

# Sections of the Online Application

- General demographics family information
- Essays
- Test scores
- Recommendations
- **Supplemental Application**
  - Additional essay, short answers, etc. specific to each school
- Application fee



# Start Applications Now

- Need them for teacher recommendations, transcript requests, test scores
- At Crossroads, we ask teachers to complete recs before holiday break
- Schools close for Thanksgiving and Holiday breaks - so not as available to help
- Give you and your student enough time to prepare answers without rushing

# Applying for Financial Aid

Multiple systems:

[“SSS”](#)

[Clarity](#)

[FAST](#)

ALL of these verify with the IRS...

If you are considering applying for financial aid, be sure to connect with the director of financial aid.

# Resources for Families

## Gateway to Prep

- [Webinar](#) and [video](#) with helpful information

## Standard Application Online

- [Resources for use](#)
- [Student Instructions for using SAO](#) (kind of old)

## Ravenna

- [How to Create an Account](#)
- [Navigating Ravenna HUB](#)

## Other Helpful Links

### [Mastering the Application Process Workshops](#)

- Provided through Northfield Mount Hermon

### [The Association of Boarding Schools](#)

### [Boarding School Review](#)

### [Private School Review](#)

## Thinking way down the road...

You will be invited to “accepted student” days at schools to which your student is accepted.

These are crucial in the decision making process.