

High School Information for Burke's Class of 2011

Fall Dates

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010	High School Fair at Burke's (1:00 – 4:00)
Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010	Boarding School Fair at Town School (11:00 – 2:00)
Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010	SSAT at Burke's

High School Visiting Days

Each high school's schedule of shadow visiting days is different, so make sure to read their websites carefully this summer to understand their practices and expectations. There will be three scheduled High School Visiting Days when no eighth grade classes will meet, and there will also be two days when we will not have school and girls might visit high schools. Girls should make every effort to use these days for their visits.

Designated H.S. Visiting Days - No 8th Grade Classes

Thursday, October 7
Friday, October 8
Wednesday, November 10

No School

Monday, October 11 (Fall Holiday)
Friday, October 22 (Festival prep)

If you plan to visit boarding schools, try to plan your trip to take advantage of the designated high school visiting days, if feasible, in order to minimize time away from school. Note that the two visiting days in October are back to back in order to make these trips more manageable. **Keep in mind that students must be at school October 26 for the SSAT.**

Some girls will not be able to arrange all their shadow visit appointments on the designated days and will have to schedule appointments at other times when they will miss classes at Burke's. **Girls will be fully responsible for all work covered in classes they miss.**

High School Visiting Days not used for actual visits should be used for filling out applications, writing essays, and so on. Students may also meet with teachers for missed work or extra help.

Scheduling visits

Girls themselves may call schools to make appointments, with a parent close at hand to make sure that dates are ones that work for the family. Depending on the high school, you may begin scheduling visits during the summer or certainly right after Labor Day. Be persistent, for visiting calendars fill up quickly. Go to the admissions section of individual school websites in order to get the date when you may begin calling or e-mailing them to schedule your shadow visit. Many schools have gone to on-line scheduling, so please follow their instructions on how to set up a shadow visit at individual schools. High schools will be updating their websites throughout the summer so check back frequently.

Many schools have online inquiry forms that they need you to fill out over the summer so that they can send you information as well as get your information into their databases. Summer is a great time to take care of this portion of the process.

Remember, you should avoid scheduling shadow visits on our SSAT day (10/26) and **September 13-17**, which is the 8th grade fall trip. Photo day is **September 28**.

SSAT

Please note that the Upper Level SSAT, the test required for eighth graders for admission to Bay Area independent high schools and most boarding schools, is offered in two versions, the FLEX test and the National test. The FLEX version is given by SSAT member schools, including Burke's, at a time of the school's choosing.

High schools require an eighth grade testing, and all Burke's eighth graders will take the FLEX test here on October 26. Burke's will register all eighth graders for this test in August. Once we receive the registration receipts for each girl, I will mail them home in early September. It is imperative that you hang onto this receipt because it will contain your daughter's Web Login ID for the SSAT site. If you would like to take a national test in addition to the Flex test, you will need to log on to the SSAT website using the specified Web Login ID provided, and follow the instructions to register. When the time comes, this is also the mechanism for sending score reports to high schools.

While **a student may take the FLEX test only once in her eighth grade year**, she may take the National test as many times as she wishes. The National test is given nationwide at specified dates and places, including multiple locations in San Francisco. To get more information on national test dates and locations, visit www.ssat.org. While it is the family's responsibility to register for a national exam if one is to be taken, please feel free to call on me with any questions about this process.

Independent high schools require that all scores be sent to them directly by SSAT rather than having the scores reported through the middle schools. I will give you more information on how this process works when school gets started.

Monday Note

I will begin posting my weekly Monday Note on August 23. As you may recall from the high school information night in May, this is my primary means of communication during the school year. Each Monday I will post a letter that updates you on where we are in the process and gives you tips and ideas to ponder. To access my Monday Note, go to the Academics section of the Burke's website and click on High School Counseling. Click on the date to access each individual note. Also be attentive to the downloadable resources, day school, and boarding school sections on the main High School Counseling page. As I receive relevant information, I will post items in the appropriate sections.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with each family this spring and look forward to a wonderful high school search season in the fall. Have a fantastic summer!

Lisa Spengler
High School Counselor
Katherine Delmar Burke School

