

## High School Application Calendar for KDBS Class of 2010

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009	High School Fair at Brandeis (1:00 – 4:00)
Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009	Boarding School Fair at Town School (11:00 – 2:00)
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009	SSAT at Burke's
Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009	Preliminary application deadline (Part I) for independent schools
Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010	St. Ignatius & Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep entrance exam
Two dates in January TBD	Lowell entrance exam
Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010	Final application deadline for independent schools
Thursday, March 18, 2010	Independent high schools mail admissions decisions
Wednesday, March 24, 2010	Financial aid contracts due at noon
Friday, March 26, 2010	High school enrollment contracts due at noon

### **High School Visiting Days**

Each high school's schedule of visiting days is different, so make sure to read their websites carefully to understand their practices and expectations. There will be three scheduled High School Visiting Days at Burke's when no eighth grade classes will meet, and there will also be five days when Burke's will be closed and girls might visit high schools. Girls should make every effort to use these days for their visits.

#### **Burke's closed**

Monday 9/28 (Yom Kippur)  
Monday 10/12 (Fall Holiday)  
Friday 10/23 (Festival prep)  
Thursday 11/5 (conference day)  
Friday 11/6 (conference day)

#### **Designated H.S. Visiting Days - No 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes**

Thursday 10/22  
Wednesday 10/28  
Wednesday 11/04

If you plan to visit boarding schools, please have trips completed by November 13<sup>th</sup>, if possible, so that girls will be in attendance as the trimester ends. **Keep in mind that students must be at school October 27 for the SSAT.** Try to take advantage of the dates when 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes are not in session when planning your travel. Note that two of our visiting days back up to Festival Prep and Conference days in order to make these trips more manageable.

Some girls will not be able to arrange all their 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.

The Burke's class schedule for 2009-2010 will include a block of time devoted in the fall to high school-related activities (SSAT practice, mock interviews, etc.). This time, which will be announced in the August mailing, may also be used for high school visits.

### 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.

You should avoid scheduling visits on our SSAT day (10/27) and **September 22-24**, which is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade fall retreat. Photo day is **September 14**.

### 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 27.** Burke's will register all eighth graders for this test. If for some reason you do not want your daughter registered for this test (because she is attending public school or taking a FLEX test elsewhere) please notify me **by September 9**.

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](http://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 24**. As you may recall from the high school information night in April, 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

