

While school has not yet started, you should be using the final weeks of summer break to finalize your high school search plan. By now, you have probably spent some time reviewing the web sites of individual schools and have a solid idea of which schools you plan to visit. In the admissions section of school web sites, you will find the date when you can begin calling or e-mailing to schedule shadow visits. Make a note of the days of the week that each school receives visitors. More than likely, you will have most if not all of your visits officially scheduled before you return to school on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. When your shadow visit schedule is complete, send me an e-mail with that list. Be sure the list includes the name of the high school along with the date and time of visit. I will keep a master list in order to assist teachers in their planning.

Prior to school starting at Burke's, girls can be the one to call an admissions office to schedule their visit, with a parent around or a clear understanding of any scheduling conflicts that may exist. After September 2<sup>nd</sup>, it is best for parents to do any scheduling as it will not be possible for high schools to reach our students during the school day, and admissions personnel want to avoid playing phone tag as much as possible. In planning your visits, remember to use the days that Burke's has provided in order to minimize time away from school. Refer to the High School Calendar that was sent out with your report card in June or click on the link on the High School Counseling page of the Burke's web site.

This is also an ideal time to put together your high school placement calendar. I suggest you go through the school calendar on the Burke's web site so that you can fill in any relevant school dates that may impact your visits. The calendar that you create should include the High School Fair (September 12<sup>th</sup>) and the Boarding School Fair (October 17) if relevant. Open house dates for your target schools and the dates of your shadow visits should be written on your calendar as well. Be mindful of not overloading yourself; try to spread out visits and open houses as much as possible.

Be sure to check the High School Counseling web page on a weekly basis. As I receive information from individual schools I will post them in their respective sections. This also marks the start of the Monday Note for the 2010-2011 school year. Each Monday, I will post a note that should be read by parents and students. In the note, I will keep you updated on a variety of topics and due dates and provide you with ideas and perspectives to consider. Once the note is posted on Monday, an e-mail blast will go out to let you know that the note has been posted. You can also sign up for an RSS feed.

Finally, take time in the next week and a half to have fun! Enjoy time together, be active and treat yourself well in the days before school begins. Though there are aspects of the high school search process that can be stressful, our goal will be to move through it as thoughtfully and smoothly as possible. If you enter with a positive, realistic mindset; communicate clearly with each other and with me; and

have an individual understanding of what you need to do to deal with stress, I am confident we will not only be successful, but have a great deal of fun along the way.

I am back at work full time now, so if you have any questions or needs do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,  
Lisa