

School Tour Questions

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Bring this page on school visits. Check off what you learn and jot quick notes – Then compare schools against your family’s “why.”

1. CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE & TEACHING APPROACH

- How do teachers support different levels and ways of learning in the same classroom (i.e., small groups, intervention, enrichment)?
- How is student progress measured and shared (e.g., assessments, report cards, conferences)?
- What are the homework expectations by grade? What if a child struggles?

2. STUDENT SUPPORT & WELL-BEING

- What supports are available if my child needs extra academic help?
- How do you identify concerns early and respond to them? (For example, is there an assigned teacher, mentor, or staff member who looks out for students? How and when are families contacted, and what might a support plan look like?)
- How do you support students’ social-emotional well-being day to day (i.e., counseling, conflict resolution, classroom practices)?

3. COMMUNITY, BELONGING & SCHOOL CULTURE

- How do you help new students feel welcomed and connected to their schools and peers from day one?
- Can you describe the school’s culture? What’s the atmosphere really like for students and families – not just what’s written on the website? Are there any traditions, routines, or moments that really capture what it feels like to be part of this community?
- How does the school address bullying, ongoing conflicts, or incidents of harm between students? At what point – and in what ways – are families informed or included in the process?

4. ENRICHMENT (ARTS, STEM, ATHLETICS, CLUBS)

- What enrichment activities are guaranteed during the school day (art/music/STEM/PE/library)?
- What enrichment opportunities are available to students outside of regular school hours? Are there additional costs, limited spots, transportation challenges, or other barriers families should be aware of (i.e., cost, transportation, limited spots)?
- How do you identify and nurture a child’s strengths and interests over their time at the school?

5. PRACTICAL DETAILS + COST + “DAY IN THE LIFE”

- What do daily logistics really look like (i.e., arrival and dismissal protocols, before/after care, transportation, meals, family communication)?
- What is the true total cost beyond tuition, and what financial aid/scholarship support is available (i.e., fees, uniforms, devices, trips)?
- Can my child experience a real day – not just a tour – before we decide whether to attend? (i.e., class observation, shadow day, speaking with current families/students)?

NOTES (WHAT STOOD OUT/FOLLOW-UPS): _____

