

# CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS GUIDANCE

1. **Start Preparing Early:** Catholic High School Admissions look at all three years of a student's middle school career when considering applications. Do not wait until the fall of 8th grade to start taking grades, behavior, and attendance seriously!
2. **Seek Application Guidance:** Meet with teachers and/or administrators from your child's middle school to review which Catholic high schools your child plans on applying to. Middle school teachers and administrators can help to manage expectations, and steer families to consider other options when appropriate.
3. **Behavior Matters:** When making admissions decisions, Catholic high schools look at the number of tardies and absences a student has, as well as overall behavior during the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years. The high schools consider behavior displayed during a student's Shadow Day, as well as interview. Finally, Catholic high schools may consider content students post on social media.
4. **Increasing Competition:** Catholic high schools have seen an uptick in the quantity and quality of applications from students attending Catholic schools, private schools, and public schools. Catholic high schools do not have the capacity to guarantee acceptance into a Catholic high school. Students are encouraged to apply to three Catholic high schools, to keep their options open in this competitive environment. Admission criteria and capacity vary by individual high school, so acceptance or denial at one Catholic high school does not imply the same outcome at another Catholic high school.
5. **Academics:** Catholic high schools look at MAP scores, HSPT scores, and middle school grades and report card comments.
6. **Affordability:** Wonderful candidates may not be offered scholarship money to attend a Catholic high school. The Catholic high school admissions environment is competitive, and financial need of applicants far outweighs the amount of scholarship money schools have to offer.

