



College Visitations – Making The Most Of Your Day

Why visit a school?

Your Guidance Counselor, visiting College Representatives and On-line resources are all important aspects of choosing your school, but none are able to tell you all that is important for you. The nearest you can come to understanding the school, understanding the atmosphere, understanding the classes, etc. is to visit first-hand.

When should you visit a school that you are interested in attending?

After you have started to narrow down your selection, it is time to start visiting. At DHHS, Juniors and Seniors are allowed three college visits per year (keeping in mind absentee policies for individual classes like Health, etc.). When you are planning a visit, there are several things to keep in mind; parents must call the school's attendance line at 203.245.6355 and identify that the absence is due to a college visit – this is the only way the absence can be considered exempt. When possible, consider going on dates when we at DHHS are not in session (PT days, etc.) but the college is in session to get an accurate portrayal of the school.

How do you prepare for the campus visit?

Visit the Admission's page of the school's website. As a normal practice, you must register to attend an Admission's event, whether it be an information session, Open House or an interview, etc. Review the website noting any items that you want to see, or questions you may have about attending that school. Make a list and be prepared - do not go to the school knowing nothing about it! Lastly, dress appropriately as you will be touring and that requires lots of walking – outdoors – in all kinds of weather.

What should, if possible, you do when you get there?

- Be on time! Use the directions and know the parking lots that you are expected to park in.
- Visit with an Admissions Officer to answer any questions that you have.
- Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what activities are being held for/by students.
- Ask lots of questions; why do others decide to go there? What is there to do on weekends? What do they like most about the school?
- Walk or drive around the surrounding community. Could that be your home for the next four years?
- Be sure to take the guided tour of the campus. They are usually led by students who understand the campus well.
- Pick up Financial Aid Forms.
- See a dorm room. You will spend more time there then anywhere!
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- If you are a student athlete, try to meet with the coaching staff, training facilities, current athlete in that sport.
- Ask, ask, ask and listen, listen, listen. Take home with you any literature they have and send a follow-up email with unanswered questions.