WESTMINSTER ADMISSIONS EVALUATION & INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARENTS

For Applications to the 2027-2028 School Year

Admissions season is an exciting opportunity for your child to shine. Each evaluation format helps us understand how students may grow and contribute to our community:

- **Rising pre-first, first, and fifth graders participate in on-campus evaluations**, our intentional Lower School entry points. These sessions bring together small groups of children so we can recreate elements of a typical school day. This helps us observe how students interact with peers, follow directions, engage in activities, and respond to classroom routines.
- **Rising second- to fourth-graders take part in virtual evaluations** that highlight individual skills, as these are non-expansion years when spaces typically open only if a student moves or changes schools.
- **Middle school applicants participate in a group interview**, which lets us see how students collaborate, listen, share ideas, and build consensus. These skills are central to the Middle School experience, so the group format helps us understand how applicants might contribute to and benefit from this environment.
- **Upper school applicants complete individual interviews**, which give students the space to reflect on who they are as learners and leaders. The one-to-one format helps us learn about their academic interests, strengths, curiosities, and the ways they hope to contribute to the Upper School community. It also gives insight into how they think, communicate, and approach new ideas.

Across all ages, reassure your child that we want to meet the real them. Mistakes are normal, and asking for clarification shows confidence and comfort. Your encouragement helps them enter the day feeling grounded, supported, and ready to shine.

Supporting Younger Children:

Younger applicants benefit most from feeling at ease in new situations. Here are some ways to help them feel prepared:

- **Explain the Day**: For on-campus evaluations, describe what they'll do with simple, encouraging language, like, "You'll play games, meet new friends, and do some activities. Be on your best behavior and be a good listener." For virtual observations, set your child up for success by creating a quiet, distraction-free space, ensuring they can confidently showcase their skills and personality.

- **Practice Greetings**: Teach them to smile, say hello, and introduce themselves warmly.
- **Make Learning Fun**: Play games like “Simon Says” to practice following instructions or “I Spy” to build focus and observation skills.
- **Encourage Curiosity**: Invite your child to ask questions, as it demonstrates genuine interest and engagement.

Supporting Older Students:

Interviews for middle and upper grades are an opportunity to showcase individuality and character. Help your child make the most of it:

- **Mock Interviews**: Practice common questions like, “What’s your favorite subject?” or “What inspires you?” Role-play with a family member, teacher, or friend to build confidence.
- **Conversation Skills**: Emphasize the importance of eye contact, listening carefully, and asking thoughtful questions.
- **Life Skills Exercise**: Encourage them to practice active listening and polite exchanges by taking the family’s orders at a restaurant and relaying them to the server.
- **Permission to Shine**: Remind them it’s great to share what excites them or talk about experiences that reflect who they are.
- **Calm Nerves**: Reassure them that it’s okay to take a moment to think before answering.

Your Support Matters

Your calm, positive energy sets the tone. Avoid over-coaching. Focus instead on helping your child feel authentic, prepared, and confident. With your guidance, evaluations and interviews can be meaningful, encouraging experiences that help your child put their best foot forward.