



## Your Open House Visit: How to Make the Most of It

*a handy checklist - use the back for notes!*

### QUESTIONS TO ASK

As a parent visiting a school for an Open House, what should you look for? What questions should you ask? Here are some recommendations:

- What is the curriculum like? Open Houses are an opportunity to discover more about the academics and special area classes that a school has to offer.
- What is the typical class size?
- Are there breaks in the school day? What is the availability of recess and other chances for students to get some fresh air?
- How much time do students spend on homework each night?
- What role does technology play at the school? Is there a 1:1 program of laptops, iPads, or other tablets?
- What are the lunch options? Is lunch provided by the school or delivered by vendors? Can students bring their own lunches?
- What can students do after school? Is there a program of optional after-school activities? Is extended care available, and for how long?
- What team sports are sponsored by the school and at what grade levels?
- What support systems are in place should a child begin to struggle at school, either academically or socially?
- Where do most students attend school at the next level? (High school or college, depending on the grade range of the school)
- Is financial assistance available for families who may need help with the costs of attendance? What is the application process like for financial assistance?
- For students entering in upper elementary or middle grades, what skills are important that may not have been emphasized at their previous school?

### GET A FEEL FOR THE SCHOOL

In addition to asking the questions that are important to you, use an Open House as a chance to experience the climate or “feel” of a school. Open Houses can give you insight into intangible aspects of a school, such as:

- Is there a welcoming feel to the school? How are parents and children received there?
- What are the interactions like between students? Between adults?
- Does the school seem to be student-centered or adult-centered?
- What is important to the school? A great deal can be learned at any school’s Open House – be sure to ask the questions that matter to you and your family!

Join us for a Mason Prep Open House: October 6, October 16 & November 12.  
Visit [masonprep.org/openhouse](http://masonprep.org/openhouse).