



# **5 QUESTIONS YOU MUST ASK BEFORE CHOOSING A HIGH SCHOOL**

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# INTRODUCTION

Deciding on the perfect high school for your child is no easy task. It's a significant decision that can set the stage for their future. With so many schools to choose from, it's crucial to gather all the important information before making that final choice. As a parent, your ultimate goal is to provide your child with a quality education that equips them for college or their future career. In this guide, we'll walk you through five essential questions that you must ask before selecting a high school. These questions will empower you to make an informed decision and give your child the best possible chance at success.



# 1. WHAT ACADEMIC CURRICULUM IS OFFERED?

The high school curriculum forms the foundation of your child's knowledge, skills, and intellectual development. Some schools offer advanced coursework options like AP or IB programs to prepare students for college-level studies, while others specialize in areas such as STEM, humanities, or arts. When evaluating a high school's curriculum, consider your child's strengths, interests, and aspirations, seeking alignment with their academic goals. It's also helpful to inquire about teaching methodologies, prioritizing student-centered approaches that foster active learning and critical thinking.

Queens Preparatory Academy offers a curriculum focused on STEEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Arts, and Mathematics) as well as 8 Advanced Placement courses that prepare students for challenging college courses.



## 2. WHAT EXTRACURRICULARS ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS?

The availability and variety of extracurricular activities plays a vital role in a student's overall development. These activities encompass sports, clubs, arts, community service, and leadership opportunities. Engaging in extracurriculars brings numerous benefits, allowing students to explore talents, discover new interests, and develop well-rounded personalities. A diverse range of options caters to diverse passions, ensuring students can grow holistically and pursue their interests beyond academics.

QPA students enjoy a wide variety of extracurriculars, including competitive athletics, student clubs, and cultural trips.



# 3. WHAT IS THE SCHOOL CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT LIKE?

The culture and environment of a high school have a profound impact on a student's overall well-being and growth. It is important to assess these aspects when choosing a school for your child, as they shape their experiences, relationships, and sense of belonging. Understanding how they maintain a safe and respectful learning environment, handle disciplinary matters, and promote positive behavior and conflict resolution can help gauge their commitment to student well-being. Additionally, it's crucial to ask about the availability of student support services such as guidance counselors, mental health resources, and academic support programs to ensure that your child will have access to the resources they may need.

At QPA, we offer academic mentoring and personalized guidance to help students achieve their goals. Our community celebrations, educational trips, and community service opportunities foster a strong sense of belonging.



# 4. WHAT RESOURCES AND FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Consider the availability of resources and facilities when exploring high schools. A well-equipped library promotes reading and research, while state-of-the-art laboratories facilitate hands-on learning. Quality sports facilities support physical fitness and athletic development, and dedicated performing arts spaces encourage artistic expression. By evaluating these aspects, you can choose a high school that provides the necessary tools and spaces for your child's educational journey, enhancing their learning experience and fostering success in academics, athletics, and the arts.

QPA's athletic facilities turn students into champions! Our Springfield Gardens Eagles regularly win championship titles in boy's basketball, boy's track, and girl's tennis.



## 5. HOW DOES THE SCHOOL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS?

Ask about how the high school supports college and career preparation, as it greatly influences long-term success. Evaluate the presence of college counseling and career guidance services, which help students navigate applications, explore universities, and understand financial aid. Look for internship or job placement programs that offer real-world experiences, enabling students to apply skills, explore career fields, and build professional networks. These resources play an essential role in preparing students for their future educational and career paths.

Career mentorships and paid internships at QPA give students a competitive advantage to enter the workforce after high school. Our College Now program allows students to earn free college credits when they graduate.



# CONCLUSION

We understand that as busy parents, choosing a high school for your child can be overwhelming. By using the five essential questions we've discussed—evaluating the curriculum, exploring extracurricular activities, considering the school's culture and environment, assessing available resources and facilities, and understanding college and career preparation—you can make the most of your time when making school inquiries. With answers to these questions, you can confidently choose a high school that aligns with your child's needs, interests, and aspirations, setting them on a path to success, growth, and a fulfilling high school experience.







# **QUEENS PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

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