

High School Application Process - Frequently Asked Questions

How do we find out information about the various high schools?

Parents and students have many options available to them to find out about individual schools:

- School websites
- Visits to SFX - admissions staff from each Catholic high school visit with the 8th grade class during school hours at St. Francis.
- Open Houses - each school holds an open house. Check school websites for dates. These are usually held on weekends.
- 8th Grade Days - 8th grade days are for students only and are held during the school day. Parents are responsible for registration and transportation. Parents are also responsible for reporting their student as absent to the school nurse. Students are responsible for communicating their planned absence to their teachers and making up missed work.
- Shadow days - Shadow days are for students only, as the 8th grader will attend a day of school at the high school and “shadow” an existing student. Parents are responsible for registration and transportation. Parents are also responsible for reporting their student as absent to the school nurse. Students are responsible for communicating their planned absence to their teachers and making up missed work. Parents should contact the high school directly to register.

What is the school policy regarding school absences for high school visits? Can my child be absent from SFX to attend as many shadow and/or 8th grade days as they want?

Students are allowed a *total of two unexcused absences* for visits to *2 different* high schools (not the same school twice). As a family you must decide which two events would be most beneficial to attend. Parents are responsible for reporting their student as absent to the school nurse. Students are responsible for letting their teachers know in advance and making up missed work (a high school visit is not an excuse for late work). Parents should contact the high school directly to register and are responsible for transportation.

Should my student/child only apply to their first choice of high school?

We highly recommend that every student apply to at least *two* high schools. It is always better to explore options and to have a choice. Life circumstances have proven that a great deal may change between the fall and spring of one's final school year.

Where do I request my student's transcript?

Mrs. Trousdale will coordinate all transcript requests. Please submit the appropriate forms in the front office. Transcripts and standardized testing materials will be sent in January once Q2 concludes.

Who will complete the various recommendation forms:

Listed below is a detailed list of who will complete each recommendation. Students need to make sure that the recommendation is from their current teacher. In addition, a different teacher must be used for each recommendation. For example, if Mrs. Schoeller is your current Language Arts teacher, she may not also complete the teacher of choice recommendation. **All recommendation requests must be submitted to your teachers no later than December 11, 2026.**

- **English teacher recommendation** - your student's current or 7th grade Language Arts teacher. (Please defer to the individual high school requirements.)
- **Math teacher recommendation**: your student's current or 7th math teacher. (Please defer to the individual high school requirements.)
- **Teacher of choice recommendation**: your student may select one of their 7th grade or current teachers to complete this recommendation.
- **Extracurricular recommendation**: this can be completed by a coach or supervisor of an outside activity (club sports, scouting, music coach etc) or by a moderator/coach of a school extracurricular activity.
- **Principal recommendation**: Mr. Watson will meet with each student before writing their recommendation.
- **Transcript/Standardized test scores** - Please send requests to Mrs. Trousdale.

Is it true Mr. Watson meets every eighth grade student?

Yes. Mr. Watson spends time meeting every eighth grade student before writing his/her recommendation. Meetings are scheduled during the school day and will begin in late August.

These are NOT pressure packed interviews/conversations. That said, please make sure you are prepared to discuss with the following items:

- Their strengths and areas for growth
- Their understanding and personal connection to the **5 SLEs** and our **school mission**
- How they strive to live out those values
- Their current thoughts on high school preferences

These one-on-one conversations typically last **10–15 minutes** and helps Mr. Watson gain deeper insight into each student as a whole person. This insight allows him to craft thoughtful, personalized recommendation letters that reflect the unique contributions and character of each student.