



October 4, 2011

Dear Parents,

The Private School Admissions season has begun. Enclosed you will find some basic information about registering for school. Please read this material carefully and make note of the deadlines mentioned. If you will be applying to private school(s), you must complete a Permission to Release Information form provided by our office and submit it with your signed teacher evaluation form(s), provided by the school(s) to which you're applying. In addition, please submit a mailing fee of \$1.00 per school evaluation form, as the preschool sends all teacher evaluation forms via Fed Ex. This practice allows us to track the arrival of the forms and send a cover letter introducing our students. We may not accept any piece of your teacher evaluation request without the three items listed above. Please ***do not*** send a stamped addressed envelope.

The preschool is positive, honest and professional in completing all evaluations. These evaluations remain confidential both at the preschool and the independent school level. It is not appropriate for parents to ask a teacher to discuss the contents of the evaluation; ask for a copy of the evaluation, or ask a teacher to evaluate a child in an unfair manner.

Please remember that although our school provides the highest standard of early childhood education, enrollment in First Presbyterian Preschool should not be considered a guarantee of acceptance to any subsequent school. We will however, help you through the process. I am happy to meet with you individually to discuss your child's application or to clear up any questions you may have about making application at one of the various private schools in Atlanta. Good luck with this important decision and let me know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Laurie Campbell

Laurie Campbell

A Guide for Parents to the Independent School Admission Process

The admission process for many independent schools follows a basic pattern:

- Parents contact the schools in which they may be interested to request an admission packet. Check school's website as several schools have an on-line option to make inquiries.
- Some schools will require JATP testing (dates for completion vary by school).
- All schools will require an interview with the child.
- Most schools will require the child's preschool teacher to complete a confidential evaluation form for the child (submitted by the preschool to the admitting school by January 31).
- Parents complete the application forms and submit them by the appropriate date for each school. Check school's website as some schools have forms available on-line to complete or to download.

Parents should plan to visit all schools in which they have an interest. School tours should be listed on the website for each school.

Parents should visit the AAAIS website (www.atlantaprivateschools.com) to plan for the scheduling of school visits and interviews.

Depending on the schools selected, parents may need to contact a psychologist to arrange for testing for the Joint Admissions Testing Program (JATP).

Parents should arrange for JATP testing early in the process (when parents wait until winter, they may run into flu season. It can be helpful to complete JATP testing before the winter holidays). There are no benefits to your child being chronologically older at the time of testing.

The JATP tests are cognitive tests and not achievement tests. Therefore, no tutoring or prepping is necessary for this test. If a psychologist feels that a child has been prepped for the tests, it is reported to the schools. The best way to help a child be ready for the testing process is for the parents to remain calm and positive about the experience. Children can become anxious about the process if they sense that their parents are anxious. Most children actually enjoy the testing process.

Many schools require the child to attend an interview at the school. Many interviews take place in January and February. Parents should avoid scheduling conflicts during these Saturdays in January and February. Schools will not reschedule interviews to accommodate birthday parties or family vacations. Do not schedule more than one interview per day.

Parents may request a subsequent meeting with the JATP testing psychologist to have their child's testing results explained completely (for an additional fee). Parents must remember that this test is not a predictor of their child's long-term school performance. Parents may gain valuable insight about the strengths and weaknesses of their child's performance from the psychologist.

AAAIS schools have a Common Notification Date of April 1, 2012.

The deadline to reply to the schools is April 15, 2012.