



VIRGINIA & JENNIFER BUSH & ASSOCIATES
INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS SINCE 1975

7 Smart Steps Families Should Take Before Applying to Boarding School

Start early. Find the best fit. Help your child succeed.

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1 Start Your Search Early

The strongest boarding school applications begin months before the application season opens. Starting early creates space and gives your family time to thoroughly explore schools, ask better questions, compare options, reflect on knowledge and make confident decisions for the future.

2 Look Beyond Rankings

Prestigious schools can be wonderful—but they're not always the right choice for every student. A school's academic structure, campus culture, value set and offerings often have a much greater impact on a student's growth potential than a school's reputation alone.

3 Focus on the Right Fit

Every child learns differently and has unique strengths, interests, and goals. Finding the best fit means looking beyond rankings, brochures and websites to understand where your child is most likely to feel confident, grow, contribute, and thrive.

4 Build Your Student's Story Over Time

The strongest applications reflect genuine interests that have developed deeply over time. Students who show authentic engagement in the activities and experiences that matter most to them differentiate themselves from the competition. Make your passions count!

5 Show the Whole Student

Admissions decisions aren't based solely on grades or test scores. Schools are looking for students who will contribute to their community, embrace opportunities, and make a positive impact both inside and outside the classroom.

6 Prepare for Interviews and Essays

These sections of the application help admissions officers get to know the candidate beyond the transcript. Thoughtful oral preparation allows students to present themselves with confidence while sharing their own voice and personality in an interview. The application essays are a way to reinforce this individual voice further on paper. These are great opportunities for admissions officers to really understand who your child is outside the classroom and how this individual will add to the school's campus culture.

7 Create a Balanced School List

A school list should include schools your child would genuinely be excited to attend. The goal is to create opportunities that reflect both your child's aspirations and environments where your child is most likely to feel confident and thrive.

Why Families Work With VJB

For more than 50 years, VJB & Associates has helped families navigate the boarding school admissions process with precision and confidence.

Our team of highly trained and experienced consultants have built trusted relationships with schools and have guided hundreds of families and students to find the best school fits where they can achieve success..

We believe successful boarding school admissions begins with understanding the child—not just the application. That's why our support includes:

- Knowing your child
- Creation of personalized school lists taking into account who the child is socially, emotionally and academically
- Deep knowledge of boarding schools in the U.S.
- Application timeline management
- Interview Preparation
- Essay critiquing
- Advice on standardized testing
- Experienced and honest guidance throughout the admissions process
- Individualized support from your first conversation through enrollment and beyond

Because choosing the best school is about more than getting in—it's about finding the community where your child will feel the most confident, challenged and supported in order to maximize their true growth potential.

Book your complimentary consultation at www.virginiabush.com