

FENN SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

SECONDARY SCHOOL INTERVIEW

SUGGESTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEW

1. Read the list of “Topics to Have at Your Fingertips” and “Typical Interview Questions” (below).
2. Be acquainted with the school. Before you go for your interview, visit the website to learn about the academic program, athletics, and school culture.
3. Focus on your area of interest. If you are interested in a specific program or activity, make sure you contact the teacher/coach and plan to meet during your visit.
4. Be on time. Early is better. Smile, and be nice to everyone. First impressions go a long way.
5. Dress up or down? It is always a good idea to dress up for an interview. Jacket and tie are recommended at most schools where Fenn families usually interview, even though boys may not wear them to classes. If the school has a more relaxed dress code, you can always remove your jacket and tie. You can check with the school as well as with our office if you have questions about the dress code.

When you arrive for your interview, you will most likely first go on a tour of the campus with a student-guided tour. The tour guides will take you around campus, talk to you about the school, and answer any questions you may have. They are your best resource because they attend the school.

6. Pay attention during your tour. You may take notes and ask questions. Make sure that you find something specific during your tour that you can talk about with the admissions representative after your tour: a piece of art, a classroom, a class dynamic that made an impression, sports fields, the cafeteria.
7. Keep a positive tone. Listen carefully (try not to interrupt your interviewer), and be interested in what your interviewer has to say. Always speak positively of your teachers, your friends, your family, and your school.
8. Answer all questions thoroughly, with as much detail as you can. Here are a few examples:

Q. How was your tour? What did you think of our campus?

A. I really enjoyed my tour, and was especially impressed by... (this is the time to talk about something that caught your attention). I can see myself being part of this community.

Q. Tell me about your school. I see that you are at Fenn.

A. Yes, I arrived at Fenn in ___ grade and have been there for ___ years. I especially love _____, and this year my favorite subject is _____ because_____.

Q. What is your favorite class? Why is it your favorite?

A. My favorite subject is English because we use blogs, and we interact with our classmates and get to know them really well. My favorite book has been _____ because _____.

9. Highlight your interests, accomplishments, and leadership experiences at and outside of Fenn.
10. WRITE “thank you notes.” Make sure that you write thank you notes/emails to your tour guide, admissions officer, and anyone else whom you met during your visit (coach, teacher).

TOPICS TO HAVE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

1. your passions – what you really like to do
2. academic subjects most liked/most challenging
3. athletics you enjoy
4. arts activities you have liked and want to continue
5. volunteer service inside and outside of Fenn
6. favorite ways to spend your free time/hobbies
7. summer activities and travel experiences
8. recent books read or movies seen
9. your two greatest strengths
10. WHY DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THIS COMMUNITY

TYPICAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe yourself? / How would your friends describe you?
2. How would you describe your family?
3. What do you most enjoy doing?
4. What is your greatest skill or talent?
5. Do you like to read and what have you read lately?
6. What do you hope to gain from your education?
7. In what ways might you make an impact at your next school?
8. Can you describe a challenging experience you have had and how you resolved it?
9. When have you shown leadership?
10. If you could talk to any person at any time in history, who would it be and why?

VIRTUAL (ZOOM OR SKYPE) INTERVIEWS

1. You are on camera for everyone to see. Dress for success; dress as you would for any on-campus interview.
2. Find a comfortable chair/table and a quiet room with no distractions. Do not use a swivel chair. Do not squirm or slump.
3. Try to have your back against the wall and away from windows. Having a light source in front of you rather than behind you allows for better video quality.
4. Set your camera/computer at eye level so you can make eye contact without having to look up at or down into the camera. Sit at an appropriate distance from the camera; your head and part of your upper body should be visible.
5. Consider your facial expressions, as your interviewer will see them clearly. Smile!
6. Be respectful. Be a good listener. Don't interrupt your interviewer. Answer questions and stay on topic.
7. Practice!