



The Meadows School Upper School Early Decision Admissions Option

Background

With lengthy waiting lists having become a fact at TMS over the years for entry into Lower and Middle School grades, the Board of Trustees authorized an increase of fifteen (15) additional spaces to a maximum number of 75 students per grade level in the Upper School. This occurred not only to accommodate the long wait-listed applicant pool, but also to create a critical mass to support the division's strong and extremely successful extracurricular programs in athletics, performing and fine arts, and forensics.

As the number of private high school alternatives locally continues to proliferate, more and more families are finding the niche that The Meadows School occupies as truly unique. This is due to the School's focus on providing the most able and ambitious students with a rigorous, challenging, traditional, college preparatory program with priority given to academics and 100% placement in four-year, accredited colleges and universities.

TMS has created an admissions program to allow those families who are desirous of securing a place for their able and ambitious students at the Upper School a means of doing so without the frustration of remaining on a waiting list or the prospect of facing the lack of certainty inherent to the normal admissions process. This program is similar to the program already used by the most selective colleges nationwide: Early Decision.

The Early Decision Admissions Option

The Early Decision Admissions Option described below is intended to meet the needs of:

1. Those families with children already attending TMS and siblings on the waitlist for Middle School.
2. Other families familiar with TMS with one or more children on the waitlist for Middle School.
3. Those families who have researched private high school alternatives when their children are halfway through middle or junior high school, and who have come to the conclusion that the Upper School is their clear first choice for the future.

The Early Decision Admissions Option is available to students and their families after the completion of the first semester of 7th grade. In order to apply, the family must submit the standard TMS application package with a non-refundable application and testing fee. The package includes official transcripts, a school report, and letters of recommendation. Students will be required to perform a battery of tests and be interviewed by the Admissions Committee.

No more than 15 students will be accepted on an Early Decision basis for any entering class. If a student is accepted, his or her family must provide the School with a non-refundable deposit to secure a

place for their child. Acceptance is contingent upon providing the School with a final official transcript detailing coursework through the end of 8th grade and a final school report indicating no significant behavioral issues. Obviously, as is the case with Early Decision college admissions, the School will reserve the right to reverse its decision in the event of a major decline in academic performance or as a result of behavior indicating poor character or other developmental problems.

Early Decision Admissions Option Schedule for 2008-2009
(applying for the 2010-2011 school year)

December 4, 2008

Discuss the Option at Upper School Admissions Open House

January 2009

Early Decision testing and interviews begin

February 2009

Early Decision Option Admissions decision begin; rolling thereafter