**High School Application Process Overview**

**Overview of the Application Process:**

**1)** Students will complete one (1) application online and identify up to **five (5) choices** of School District public high schools based on their **7th grade PSSA scores, grades, attendance and behavior.** (C*harter schools and private schools do NOT go on this application*; they have separate applications).

**2)** For Palumbo, Constitution, Bodine, Engineering and Science and Motivation, students are required to write a 5-paragraph essay **to upload with their online application**. This is the student’s opportunity to highlight his or her talents, strengths and interests, and let the high school learn more about them than just their transcripts and test scores. The essay should answer **ALL** of the following questions:

1) Who am I?

2) What do I want to get out of my High School Experience?

3) What can I contribute to the specific school? **(Please tailor this response to what you can contribute to EACH school you are applying to---do not use the same response for all schools!)**

**3)** Students should get (1) letter of recommendation for all schools EXCEPT Bodine, which requires (2). A letter of recommendation can come from a past teacher, a coach, a member of the church or community that knows the student well, an employer, etc. Completed brag sheets must be given to the teacher/community member who is writing the letter

**4)** Applications must be completed online. Ms. Stern will provide assistance if needed. Online applications cannot be submitted without the essay (for those schools that require them) being uploaded. Teachers will give Ms. Stern completed letters of recommendation and she will deliver them.

**Schedule a School Visit/Shadow Day:**

It is highly recommended that families schedule a visit or a shadow-day at schools they are interested in to guide them in the selection process. This is a great way for students to get a real feel for the school, but is also an opportunity for the school to meet the student. These visits can be set up by calling the school directly.

**Interviews:**

Some high schools will require an interview—such as Science Leadership Academy. Students will have to contact the school for specific information about scheduling an interview. Students should dress appropriately for the interview and absolutely be on time. Also, students should be prepared to talk about their strengths, weaknesses, their interest in that school, any projects they have completed, their community involvement, etc.

* If a student has an attendance record or tardy record that may be a concern, he or she should be prepared to discuss that on the interview.
* If a student has a disciplinary record that may be a concern, he or she should be prepared to discuss this at the interview.

Please feel free to contact me at 215-400-7810 (option 1) or via e-mail at [jestern@philasd.org](mailto:jestern@philasd.org) if you require assistance with this process.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jennifer Stern

School Counselor