Checklist for Researching and Choosing a School

GENERAL CAMPUS

- ❏ Campus location
  - ❏ Where is it located?
  - ❏ What is the topography?
  - ❏ What geological features are nearby?
  - ❏ What benefits does this location offer?
  - ❏ What restrictions does this location have?
- ❏ Campus physical size
  - ❏ Is it a compact school? What are its benefits or difficulties?
  - ❏ Is it a spacious school? What are its benefits or difficulties?
- ❏ Campus type
  - ❏ Rural
  - ❏ Suburban
  - ❏ Urban
- ❏ Facilities
  - ❏ Do their dorms look welcoming?
  - ❏ Do their sports facilities support your interests?
  - ❏ Do their arts facilities support your interests?
  - ❏ Are facilities being rebuilt, added, or renewed?
- ❏ Endowment
  - ❏ What is the school's endowment?
  - ❏ How does the school use its endowed funds?

STUDENT BODY

- ❏ Number of students
  - ❏ Is the school too big?
  - ❏ Is the school too small?
  - ❏ What is the diversity of the student body?
- ❏ Percentage of boarding and day students
  - ❏ Is there a large boarding-student population?
  - ❏ Is there a large day-student population?
  - ❏ Why does this matter to you?
- ❏ School type
  - ❏ Does it have a religious component?
  - ❏ Is it a single gender school?
- ❏ Community
  - ❏ Are the students able to have a work/social balance?
  - ❏ Was your tour guide friendly?

STUDENT LIFE

- ❏ How does their advising system work?
- ❏ Dress code
  - ❏ Is there a school uniform?
  - ❏ What is the dress code?
- ❏ Dorms
  - ❏ Are dorms split by grade?
  - ❏ Is there a dorm that you can see yourself living in?
  - ❏ What is the bathroom like?
  - ❏ Do you get to choose your roommate?
  - ❏ How big will your dorm be?

ADMISSIONS

- ❏ Admissions events
  - ❏ Did you enjoy your Open House or Class Visit Day?
  - ❏ Did you have a fun, informative interview?
  - ❏ Did you connect with your tour guide?
- ❏ Acceptance rate
  - ❏ How many students apply and get accepted?
  - ❏ Does it vary by grade?
  - ❏ How many were accepted from your area or demographic?
- ❏ Testing
  - ❏ Is it required?
- ❏ Admission deadline
  - ❏ Is there a priority deadline?

CULTURE

- ❏ What is the school's mission?
- ❏ Does the school seem to live its mission?
- ❏ What are the apparent values of the school?
- ❏ Do the students seem happy? Engaged?
- ❏ Is there access to affinity/identity groups?
- ❏ What traditions bring the school together?
- ❏ Is there any connection between students in different grades, or do they function fairly independently?

FINANCIAL AID

- ❏ Can you afford the tuition at this school?
- ❏ Is there significant financial support for students if needed?
- ❏ Do they offer financial aid for non-tuition expenses? (Money for travel programs or a snack bar?)
- ❏ What is the percentage of students receiving financial aid?

ACADEMICS

- ❏ What does the daily schedule look like?
- ❏ How many courses do they offer?
- ❏ Do they have high level courses in subjects that you're interested in?
- ❏ What is the average number of years teachers have been teaching?
- ❏ Did you meet a faculty member whom you're excited to work with?

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- ❏ Do they offer activities that you're interested in continuing?
- ❏ Do they offer a sports program at a level you can participate in?
- ❏ Do they have a visual arts program at a level you can participate in?
- ❏ Do they have a performing arts program at a level you can participate in?
- ❏ Do they have new options for you to try?
- ❏ Are there groups that you are excited about joining?
- ❏ Can you start your own group?
- ❏ Are there clubs that could support you? (affinity groups, social clubs, etc.)