

St. Hugo of the Hills School
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August 30, 2017

Dear Parents of Eighth Grade Students,

The High School Placement Test (HSPT) will be given on **Saturday, November 18, 2017**. To sign up for the test, go to the web site: <http://Detroit.stsusers.com>. Arrival time for the test is generally set as 7:45 A.M. for the 8:00 A.M start. The test lasts until about noon. The cost, which is set by the archdiocese, is \$40. Students are to bring two #2 pencils with them. No calculators are permitted. Be sure to arrive well rested and having eaten a good breakfast.

The HSPT may not be taken by 7th graders; **8th graders may take it only once**. At the test site, students are required to indicate first and second choices of high school. Please be ready to indicate the top two schools they are considering. To ensure your child performs at his/her best, have them:

- get plenty of sleep the night before the test
- eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the test
- stay hydrated (water helps memory and thinking ability)
- RELAX. They will do fine!

If you cannot take the test on November 18 the first make-up date is December 2nd. Students who have an IEP and qualify for special accommodations should take the test on December 2nd. They must bring appropriate documentation to receive accommodations. Please see Mrs. Bartoli to receive this documentation if your student has an IEP and would like to receive special accommodations at the test site. **** We encourage all eighth grade students to take the High School Placement Test whether or not they intend to go to a Catholic high school.**

The on-line applications for Catholic High Schools are expected to be available in mid-September. You can find the online application (after September 15th) either on the web site of the high school to which you are applying, or on the Archdiocese of Detroit web site at: https://schooladmin.one/sign_in?redirect_url=https%3A%2F%2Fschooldadmin.one%2F . The application will be sent directly to the high school(s) you choose. Please be sure to approve the section in the application that allows St. Hugo to send transcripts and teacher evaluations. Please direct this approval form to go to Ann.Bartoli@sthugoschool.org.

If you intent to apply to only one Catholic High School you may fill out a paper application for many of the Catholic High Schools in our area. You may obtain the paper application directly from the Catholic High School of your choice.

In an effort to reduced missed class time due to “shadowing” at the various high schools, please try to have your student shadow on the following two Fridays when St. Hugo is not in session. Those dates are: Friday, October 27 and Friday, November 10. We

recognize that those two dates are not viable shadowing dates at all the Catholic High Schools, (in fact, neither of these dates will work at Marian High School) so you may need to choose another day that works for your student and receive a “regular absence” on that day at St. Hugo. Most students choose to shadow at two high schools. Please notify the high school that your son or daughter will be visiting to set up an appointment. Most high schools have a section of their application web page designated for signing up for a shadow date; in other schools you must call the school to receive a day to shadow. Sign up early to ensure these dates are still available for your student.

After shadowing, many high school will immediately interview or set up a separate date to interview your student. Before the interview, be sure to “mock interview” your child.

Some potential mock interview questions include:

- What happened recently in current events that interests you?
- Why are you interested in our school?
- Tell us more about what you do outside of school.
- What book have you read most recently?
- What would your best friend say about you?
- What is your favorite class/least favorite class? Why?

Additionally, before the interview, make sure your student comes dress appropriately. First impressions are important. Although these days, more casual apparel is acceptable, students should still wear nice pants (or skirt for girls) and a collared shirt. Please tell your student to NOT wear jeans, t-shirts, or sneakers for the interview. Finally, they should act professionally; teach your teen to give a firm handshake, make eye contact, state their name with confidence, be positive and optimistic, and thank the interviewer for their time.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. We are proud of our 8th grade students and wish them the very best on their HSPT and in the high school selection process.

Sincerely,

Ann Bartoli
School Counselor
Ann.Bartoli@sthugoschool.org