



College Visits

Should I visit colleges before I decide to apply to them? It's up to you. If financial resources are limited, save your college visits until after you are admitted, when you actually have a decision to make. Admitted students are often encouraged to spend the night in a dorm and go to classes for a day or two. This is a great way to find out if a college is a good match for you.

What can I expect if I visit a college before being admitted? You will likely visit the admissions office, hear a presentation about the college, go on a tour, have a meal in one of the dining halls, and attend one or two classes. You may have an interview as well. Visiting a college is a very strong indicator of your interest. Make sure that you register with the admissions office so that they will know that you visited.

Should I make an appointment to visit? Yes. Call at least a week ahead of your visit, and check the college's online calendar to be sure classes will be in session.

What should I wear? MCDS dress code is a good idea. Although the college students will be dressed more casually, it is a good idea to look professional for an interview.

What do parents do during a college visit? Generally, parents are not allowed to attend classes. Sometimes, parents and siblings are given passes to eat in the dining hall. Parents are encouraged to go on the campus tour and to hear the presentation about the college. Some colleges have special programs for parents to attend while students are visiting classes. These typically deal with campus life, financial aid, etc.

Will MCDS excuse my absence while I visit colleges? Within reason, and you are responsible for making up all missed work. If you visit a class, your absence will be excused.

And if I do not visit any classes? The "landscape architecture tour" of a college is not a valid excuse for missing school. You need to do more than walk around (or drive around) admiring trees and ivy.

What should I do when I return? Your classmates will benefit from hearing about your experiences. Be prepared to give a short presentation in Advisory shortly after you return.

Are there any lists of things I should look for when I visit? Yes. Pick up a College Visits Tip Sheet before you leave. They are in the vertical file in room 127 or on this website. You can also find a variety of lists online.

Any other advice? Take notes, and write a brief summary of your visit to keep for your files. Particularly if you visit more than one campus, your memory might fade a bit.

Should I write a thank you note to the admissions office? Yes. See Mrs. Schweber if you need help or an example to look at.