AQUINO ADMISSIONS CONSULTING

FOR CLIENTS ONLY

Your Family's Priorities When Searching for Great Fit Schools

Before we meet in-person this summer, I would like you to think more about your family's priorities with regard to schools for your child(ren). Below are some categorized questions to help guide you. Some factors will be more important to your family than others.

I would greatly appreciate it if you kindly share your priorities with me in writing (as bullet points or narrative) at least one week prior to our scheduled in-person meeting. It will help me as I prepare a list of schools for you to consider.

School Location

- How far is it from home or work?
- How will your child(ren) get to school?
- Will you be able to get to the school to participate in events/volunteer?
- Are certain neighborhoods deal breakers?
- Would you be willing to cross a bridge to Marin County or the East Bay? (Note: Most Marin schools have their own transportation)

Logistics

- What school hours are ideal for you?
- Would you require before school care and/or after school care?
- Would you need camps during school holidays and the summer?

Values

- What do you value? (e.g., Academic excellence, Innovation, Critical thinking, Problem solving…Kindness, Compassion, Respect, Responsibility…Diversity: socio-economic, racial/cultural, religious, family configuration…etc.)

Community

- Are you looking for your friend group/your "people"?
- How involved do you anticipate being as a parent in the school community?
- Should the community be diverse? If so, what do you mean by diversity?
- What does an inclusive community look like to you?

Partnership

- What does an ideal partnership with a school look like for you?
- Do you want a school where the school manages everything or do you want to partner in this work?

Approach to Teaching and Learning

Most parents are not educators and may not know what to look for in a classroom/school. Below is a list that is by no means exhaustive. Schools can espouse multiple approaches, so items in the list are not mutually exclusive.

- Teacher-centered instruction = more “traditional” approach
- Small group instruction
- Differentiation in the classroom
- Individualized learning
- Student-centered instruction / Constructivist approach = students play a more active role in their learning
- Project-based learning-as part of the constructivist approach
- Montessori approach
- Inquiry-based learning
- Cooperative learning

Additional Questions to Consider

- What do you want in an elementary school experience for your child(ren)?
- What was your own elementary school experience? How does your own school experience influence what you are looking for in a school for your child(ren)?
- Are you open to exploring single-gender education?
- Are you open to exploring faith-based education?
- Imagine your child as a Grade 8 student who is about to graduate. What characteristics describe him/her/them?
- What else would you like to share that would impact your school choice?