

How to Talk about MHS Parent/Sponsor Decision to Apply to MHS

Amazing opportunities and outcomes can require hard decisions and sacrifice. MHS can be a hard decision for some of our parents/sponsors, but we believe that this decision becomes clear when one sees the big picture and thinks about their long-range goals. As a caring parent, you want what is best for your child. There are different ways to get to that success. The chart below may help you process your decision in a different way. Of course, if you have any questions about the admissions process or decision, be sure to reach out to our Admissions staff! We are here to help.

Call us at 800.322.3248 or visit us at mhskids.org/admissions.



Common Concerns

Alternate Viewpoint

I can't believe I'm even thinking about sending my kid away from home.	This is difficult but I am thinking about the best opportunity possible to allow my child to thrive.
What if my child struggles at MHS?	Almost all kids will face a problem during their time at school. I just need to prepare my child and myself for this reality.
I'm not going to let someone else parent my child. I love him too much.	I'm willing to make this temporary sacrifice because I know I will always be his parent and best support.
I don't want to lose the relationship with my child.	With education and home life chores and responsibilities being taken care of at MHS, I will now be able to really connect with my child about their hopes, dreams, interests, and relationships.
This application is too difficult. Why do they need all this information?	While this process is intense, my child is worth the extra effort and work. I will do everything necessary to see this to completion.
What will my child think of me? She will think I've abandoned her.	I will reassure my child that I am considering this decision out of love, not rejection. My communication and dedication to her will be even better in quality. Our relationship will be even stronger.
I know that looking into sending my child to MHS would help my child, but what will others think?	I am seeking a better future not only for my child, but for the next generation of our family. The decision to choose MHS has the power to alter our family's course for generations to come.



How to Talk about MHS Parent/Sponsor to Child

Conversation Starters



Let's research the school and take the first step together.

Let's explore what MHS might have to offer you.

I love you so much and I want what is best for you.

We are all going to take care of you.

This is a long-term investment in your future. I know you have the ability to go far in life, and I want to support that.

MHS is a new beginning—a fresh start. You can be who you want to be.

It's okay if you are feeling scared or nervous. Trust me that I am doing what's best for you and your future.



Focus on the Big Picture and Long-Term Rewards

- ✓ Communicate how much you love them and that you are always looking to provide them with the best in life. MHS is one of those opportunities.
- ✓ Deliver the news in a way that lets the child know you are in this process together.
- ✓ Explain how your child will have everything he/she needs to be successful: clothes, hot meals, school supplies, emotional support, educational opportunities, travel opportunities, internship opportunities, etc.
- ✓ Let the child know that they are not being abandoned and that you will be there every step of the way.
- ✓ Focus on what a unique and wonderful opportunity this is.
- ✓ Let them know that they will still stay connected with you while at MHS and that you are excited to join them in this journey.
- ✓ Some students have reported feeling truly special to even have MHS as an option.
- ✓ MHS is a highly selective school and space is limited.
- ✓ What NOT to say to your child:
 - Never use MHS as a threat to "send child away."
 - Never talk about MHS after a behavioral incident occurs.

Have Resources at Your Side and Ready to Show Your Child

Review and research MHS via the website
mhskids.org/fast-facts

See a day in the life of a student
mhskids.org/day-in-the-life

Watch a video about what it means to be enrolled
mhskids.org/every-milt-has-their-day-video

Share Application Journey Map
mhskids.org/application-journey-map

Take a virtual tour
mhskids.org/virtual-tour



How to Talk about MHS Child to Parent/Sponsor

Conversation Starters



Mom and Dad—I have big dreams; I want to be the best version of myself.

Let's take this one step at a time and explore this opportunity together.

Let's check it out together. I want to know what you think.

I know you want what is best for me.



Focus on the Big Picture and Long-Term Rewards

- ✓ Try to get your parents to understand what MHS is all about—use the facts you learned. Get them to the point where they can acknowledge that MHS is a fantastic opportunity.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to say what you want to get out of MHS—dreams and benefits.
- ✓ Focus on the benefits, such as sports, the arts, no cost, money for college, etc.
- ✓ Find a partner, such as a school counselor, friend, neighbor, or another trusted adult who can help you facilitate a productive conversation.
- ✓ Don't give up. More than one conversation will likely be needed.
- ✓ Give your parents more information about MHS by going to the website mhskids.org.
- ✓ Remind parents that their connection with you will not be lost. You are on this journey together.
- ✓ Keep at it and continue to advocate for your future success!
- ✓ Remember to thank your parents for looking into this opportunity.

Have Resources at Your Side and Ready to Show Your Parents

See a day in the life of a student
mhskids.org/day-in-the-life

Watch our overview video
mhskids.org/tour-mhs-video

Visit the website
mhskids.org/admissions

Consider attending events with other families
mhskids.org/virtual-open-houses



How to Talk about MHS Parent/Sponsor to Other Relatives

Conversation Starters



Some families love their child so much they could never send them to MHS and some families love their child so much that they **MUST** send their child to MHS.

MHS has some of the highest academic standards, offers an extremely safe environment, and is known for high-achieving students. If my child is selected to attend, that would be an amazing opportunity.

I value and respect your opinion. I ask that you please value and respect my opinion and decision.

I am not giving away this child; instead, I am giving them the gift of an opportunity of a lifetime.

This is a temporary sacrifice that will prepare them for a successful future.

I am a grandparent and this will give me the opportunity to BE a grandparent.

It's not about me ... it's about my child's success.



Focus on the Big Picture and Long-Term Rewards

- ✓ Be prepared to have multiple conversations with friends and family members. Understand that not everyone will agree with your decision.
- ✓ Know you are not alone—many parents have been faced with this big decision and found it was the best choice they ever made for their child.
- ✓ Be HONEST—MHS is a great opportunity and a selfless decision to make as a parent.
- ✓ TRUST your belief that this will benefit your child in the long run.
- ✓ Take the high road—don't get angry or start to doubt your decision. Agree that it will be in your child's best interest to attend.

Have Resources at Your Side and Ready to Show Your Family and Friends

Review and research MHS via the website
mhskids.org/admissions

Show real-life alumni success stories and videos highlighting what you can accomplish as an MHS graduate
mhskids.org/success-stories

Share overview—*Be Your Greatest Self*
mhskids.org/be-your-greatest-self-video

Share Application Journey Map
mhskids.org/application-journey-map

Learn more about our school by attending a future event
mhskids.org/virtual-open-houses

Learn from other parents/sponsors
mhskids.org/parents-journey-video

Take a virtual tour
mhskids.org/virtual-tour



How to Talk about MHS Professionals to Prospective Families

Ask Questions: Conversation Starters



Tell me what you know about MHS.

MHS is a great choice for some families. Would you like to discuss the pros and cons?

How do you feel about the opportunity to change your child's future?

MHS can offer its students some great things, all at no cost, such as Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), STEM, athletics, internships, international travel, health care, etc. It may be worth looking into.

What are your goals for your child? Perhaps this is something that MHS can help you achieve. Is that something you are interested in learning about?

There is nothing to lose in exploring MHS as an option.



Be Positive

- ✓ Remind parents that they can stay/remain involved while their child is at MHS.
- ✓ Discuss the child's interests and strengths and see if MHS has these offerings. Help the family to determine if it would be a good match.
- ✓ All families should know about MHS and all that it has to offer children.
- ✓ Do a soft sell: "I'm not sure if you're interested or if you'd be interested in learning more about MHS, but your child is pretty remarkable and it might be worth a look."
 - Have empathy—encourage them to visit, look into it, take a tour—don't push.
- ✓ Cite what current parents are telling us as reasons why they are choosing MHS as an option:
 - Good educational opportunities
 - Achieve dreams and reach potential
 - Become best version of him/herself
 - Develop self-confidence and maturity
 - Safety and stability
- ✓ Remind families that this would be a partnership—this is a support to the family, not a replacement for the family.
- ✓ Focus on the child's strengths—not on what is lacking in his/her family situation.
- ✓ Talk about the competitive nature of the school: "It's a great place, and students who get the opportunity to attend have reported feeling pretty special."

What Not to Do

- Do not:** Be afraid to mention MHS to families as an option.
- Focus on parents' deficits or what is lacking.
 - Focus only on the financial benefits of MHS; MHS has so much more to offer students.
 - Focus on the financial burdens of the family.
 - Overpromise what MHS can do.
 - Be too aggressive in selling this to parents.

Have Resources

- Share our overview video mhskids.org/tour-mhs-video
- Offer to assist families with the application mhskids.org/application-for-admission
- Consider attending events with families mhskids.org/virtual-open-houses
- Review the criteria for eligibility to MHS on website mhskids.org/admissions-criteria
- Learn from other parents/sponsors mhskids.org/how-to-parent-from-afar-video

