



Office of Undergraduate Admissions

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Orchard Lake Middle School
6000 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield Township, MI 48322

Dear Orchard Lake students:

I am an admission counselor at Marquette University. This means I'm one of the few who read students' applications when they apply to Marquette. Not long ago I heard that your class is interested in learning more about Marquette University and colleges in general, so I've come up with a few questions for you to ask yourselves now before you get to high school. Thinking about these questions will help you prepare yourselves as best you can for the challenges in high school, college, and beyond!

What do I want to be when I grow up? This may seem like a silly question and you may even have a silly response. But it's a very important one. The first thing to remember is that there are no wrong answers. The second thing to remember is that you need to find something that you love to do. Ignore pressure from friends or family members who say, "You should do this, or be that," because you will be happiest if you follow **your** interests and find something that makes **you** excited to think about and do.

What does it take for me to become that? This next question will determine how you prepare yourself to make a career out of that thing you love to do. Usually, this will mean attending either a **trade** (or technical) school or a **college**. One is not better than the other; each type of school simply prepares people for different types of careers.

If I need to go to a college, how can I get there? What you do now in grade school **will** determine if you are able to attend college. In order to be accepted by a college or university, you will need to complete a **college preparatory high school curriculum**. This means that in high school, you must complete a series of classes that prepare you to succeed in college. A high school diploma does not automatically mean that you are ready for college. Remember, not all high schools have the same quality of college prep classes, so the harder you work right now means more options when it's time to attend high school, better grades in the college prep classes, and eventually a better chance of being accepted to the college of your dreams.

Keep in mind: not everyone who wants to go to college can. You must have good grades and demonstrate hard work in order to be accepted.

I've given you three very simple questions to think about, but how you respond in both thought and action will determine what you spend the rest of your life doing after school. For this reason, these questions are very important.

I wish you the best of luck in your classes and in deciding what your career will be. Remember to be open to changing your mind. Most of us do and that's okay. If you always work hard and do your best, you will have the option to do whatever makes you happiest!

Sincerely,

Austin Gilmour