

HELPFUL INFO

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THEIR ONE-TIME SECONDARY 1 (GRADE 7) ONLINE ADMISSIONS EXAM

1. TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE SCHOOLS YOU'RE CONSIDERING

This is a decision you should make together. You know what is best for your child, but they know what interests them. Share your point of view and make sure that your child is genuinely interested in the schools being applied for. It's important to explain that they will only have one online exam to take. The results will be automatically sent to all of the schools your child is applying to, provided that they are using our fall 2020 one-time online exam. However, you must complete an admissions application at each school on your list.

2. MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE ARE A UNITED FRONT

Kids need to hear a consistent message from their parents. This is reassuring and can contribute positively to your child's self-esteem. Solidarity between parents can prevent ambiguity, which can undermine a child's confidence.

3. KEEP THE CURRENT CONTEXT IN MIND

Given the current context, your child will not be evaluated on their academic knowledge, but rather on their ability to learn. Therefore, there is no need to study in advance. The evaluation will look at your child's ability to make logical deductions as well as their observational, reasoning and reading skills, and their academic drive.

Warning!

Too much studying can hinder success. It can increase your child's stress levels and cause them to freeze up during the test.

4. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

To do the online exam, your child will need:

- Desktop computer or laptop (Windows or Mac)
- Reliable, high-speed internet
- Webcam and microphone in good working order
- Computer mouse (recommended)
- Headphones
- Minimum operating system requirements: Windows 7 and up or Mac OS 10.9 and up
- Recommended browser: Chrome (best), Mozilla or Firefox. Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge are not compatible

Important!

Mobile devices (tablets, iPads and cell phones) **are not compatible** with the online test platform.

5. STAY POSITIVE!

A positive attitude is proven to help. When paired with positive reinforcement, it can help your child develop self-confidence and increase their drive to succeed. Having a positive attitude is definitely the best way to spark their passion—and it's the easiest advice to apply on a day-to-day basis. Happy children want to give their best effort. Here are a few tips that can help:

Manage the home environment **before** the test and **on the day** of the test:

- Show your child that you feel confident about their abilities and skills
- Avoid little everyday disturbances that could distract them
- Go to bed at the same time in the days before the exam
- Make healthy food choices to improve their concentration
- Make sure your child plays outside and exercises to help calm their nerves
- Set up the computer station in advance and log in 15 minutes before the test start time

Manage the home environment **after** the test:

- Congratulate your child immediately after the test
- Propose a special activity that they enjoy to help get their mind off the test
- Offer reassurance about the exams and remind your child that this is just one of the many options available to them

6. FAMILIARIZE YOUR CHILD WITH MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Your child may not be familiar with timed, multiple-choice tests. Even if they've already answered multiple-choice questions in magazines, it's still worthwhile to spend time practicing how to answer them. For example, students should learn to skip the hardest questions and come back to them at the end of the test, if time permits.

7. MANAGE REJECTION APPROPRIATELY

Check in with your child often, keep the tone positive and make sure both parents are delivering the same message. It's also important to understand that when a child is not accepted at a school it does not necessarily mean that they failed the entrance exam. There are a limited number of spots at each school and not all applicants are admitted.

To prepare for a possible rejection, help your child understand that there are many options available. This is a good time to mention schools you've discussed with your child in the past. Review all the possibilities you shortlisted together, including the different advantages of each one. Of course, you can always register to take the Secondary 2 (Grade 8) admissions test next year, after following a personalized study plan, if necessary.

8. BE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CHILD

Give your child the chance to talk and listen to what they have to say about what they want and why. It's important to make decisions together. Express your love and affection for your child. It will do them a lot of good—and you too! Your child is unique. And you're the best person to know what will make them feel happy and balanced.

9. KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR OUR NEXT EMAIL!

We'll send an email a few days before the exam, so keep an eye on your inbox and don't forget to check your spam folder. The email will explain how the test will be administered and provide instructions on what to do. You'll be able to check your login info in advance and get familiar with the platforms. This will ensure that everything goes smoothly for your child on the day of the test.