

Purpose Statement

We are all parents who have gone through the process of seeking education for our children. We have spent time researching schools, talking to friends and neighbors, and navigating the processes around choosing a school. We believe that having a process in mind can help make choosing a school for you and your child easier. We want to share our knowledge about a handful of schools and to provide a set of resources that you can use for your own school selection.

What This Meeting Is

This meeting is an opportunity for a group of parents to share their experiences with the specific schools which their children attend. They may also share information about schools to which they applied, but that information will be about the process of applying and visiting those schools. We are here to talk positively about the schools we've encountered. We want to share positive stories and lessons learned that may help you. This is not a meeting to complaining about particular schools or school policies. We all have complaints, but we are interested in sharing successes.

Scope

We defined a geographic area of the city within which we were familiar. This area is bounded by Manchester Road and Chippewa in the north and south, and Grand and Kingshighway on the east and west. We did this to provide ourselves with some scope, so we weren't trying to talk about every school in the urban area. We have included a handful of schools outside that region, either because they were across the street from the catchment (South City Community School and Shaw Visual/Performing Arts), or because they were specific schools to the St. Louis Public School system (Kennard, Mallinckrodt, and Shenandoah Elementary).

We have limited ourselves to pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade schools, the traditional break for elementary schools. There are wonderful middle schools and high schools in the city, we just haven't encountered them yet. We will look to change that in the future.