**Understanding High Schools Handout**

Each student below corresponds to one of the examples on the website. Read the story and then look at the example to determine if the high school is the right fit for the student.

**Student #1: Luisa** (goes with Example #1 on the Website)

Luisa is an 8th grader who lives in Harlem (upper Manhattan). She loves people and is very interested in working as a counselor or a psychologist when she groups up. She likes the idea of having a career focused on helping people through their problems. Luisa thinks she’d like a medium sized school (between 500-800 students). Going to a school where teachers and students really care about learning, and there is a lot of attention given to preparing for college is most important to her. She hopes to go to college and study psychology. She doesn’t mind traveling a little for the right school, but she doesn’t want to go too far.

What is the name of the school?

Is the school located far from where Luisa lives? Explain.

Is the school environment what she wants (size, attitude, college bound programs)? Explain.

Will she be able to take classes that will prepare her for what she hopes to study in college? Explain.

**Explain whether or not you think this school is right for Luisa:**

**Student #2: Forest** (goes with Example #2 on the Website)

Forest is an 8th grader from the Ditmas Park neighborhood of Brooklyn. He definitely knows that his spark is sports, and he really wants to participate in sports every season of the year. Forest wants a large school because he is not really sure what he wants to study, or what he wants to do for a career. He thinks that a big school will give him more choice and opportunity when it comes to selecting classes. And, he likes the idea of only one high school in a building. He also hopes that a high school can help him to create a vision for what he wants to do with his life. Forest is a real individual, and he hates the idea of uniforms.

What is the name of the school?

Do you think this school would support Forest’s sparks? Explain.

Is the school environment what he wants (size, setting, class selection, student body)? Explain.

What is the admissions method?

Does Forest meet the admission criteria? Explain how he would apply to this school.

**Explain whether or not you think this school is right for Forest:**

**Student #3: Tori** (goes with Example #3 on the Website)

Tori is an 8th grader from Queens. She is super into math and science and she would say that her spark is robotics. She loves to build electronic things and make them come alive. Another spark is running. Stress seems to melt away when she runs. Her uncle is an airplane mechanic at LaGuardia Airport and he told her about the Aviation Maintenance Technology program because he thought she might also one day work for the airport. She loves that idea! She scored a 90 on her math exam, a 94 on her science exam, and she got 80s on her social studies and English exams.

What is the name of the school?

Do you think this school would support Tori’s sparks? Explain.

What is the admissions method?

Does Toni meet the criteria for this admissions method? Explain how she would apply to this school.

Does the academic focus support her vision for her future career? Explain.

**Explain whether or not you think this school is right for Forest:**