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Talking to Parents about The Snapshot

The Snapshot can be an invaluable piece of a student's application, telling admission officers more about those things parents have always wanted schools to consider in admission decisions—their child's wonderful character; the things that set them apart. The most important part of talking to parents about The Snapshot is explaining how The Snapshot complements your current character program and how your school uses it in the admission process.

Answers to Parent Questions

Can students "game" or "cheat" on The Snapshot?

Because The Snapshot is designed to provide a student's view of his or her developing character skills, and because there are no wrong answers, it is both difficult and counterproductive for a child to try to "game" the assessment. Given the fact that students are choosing the answer that is most and least like *themselves*, it is not in the parent's or adviser's interest to either coach or assist a student in the completion of The Snapshot.

What if I disagree with the results of The Snapshot?

The Snapshot is designed solely to measure skills at a very specific moment in time – it is not meant to be a determinant of a child's ability to develop a certain skill or skills. Also important to remember: children complete The Snapshot with answers that they feel best describe **themselves**; their view of their own character development may be significantly different than that which is perceived by others, like teachers and parents. Your child's Snapshot results will provide admission teams with a better idea of the skills with which your child already identifies strongly, as well as those their school communities can help build and nurture.

Will it hurt my child's chances of admission if they have more "emerging" than "demonstrating" skill levels?

Every school has its own strengths and goals when it comes to the character development of its students, and appreciates the ability to demonstrate their positive character education outcomes. Admission offices will likely see "emerging" skills in applicants as a chance to tell you about the many ways their strong curriculum and character education will help your child learn and grow, developing those character areas that are emerging and strengthening those that are already demonstrated. An emerging skill is an opportunity, not a drawback.

Will some students gain an advantage with The Snapshot?

We think that **every** student gains an advantage with The Snapshot. While all schools consider character in the admission process, until now there has been no way to objectively assess it. If a student doesn't perform as well as they might in an interview, if their file isn't as robust as it could be in terms of character-building experiences that illustrate these skills to an admission team, or if their academic profile doesn't present as strongly as it may truly be, The Snapshot report gives admission offices an additional window into a child's development, sense of self, and, importantly, areas in which their school's particular educational program can assist a child in growing and nurturing specific character skills. The Snapshot has been expressly designed to be fair and unbiased, giving every child a level playing field from which to demonstrate their unique selves.