

7th Grade Intro to High Schools

What do you need to know now?

1. Everyone will be registered to take the Specialized High School test (SHSAT) in October. This test **alone** determines whether or not you get accepted to the specialized high schools. Start studying for this test now if you haven't done so already. You will bring a ticket to the test with you. On this ticket, you will rank your schools in order of preference. Try and visit the schools in September and October so you can figure out which ones you like the best. The specialized high schools are:
 - a. Bronx Science
 - b. Brooklyn Latin
 - c. Brooklyn Tech
 - d. High School for Math, Science and Engineering at City College
 - e. Lehman
 - f. Queens High School for the Sciences at York College
 - g. Staten Island Tech
 - h. Stuyvesant
2. LaGuardia is also considered a specialized high school, but you audition or show a portfolio to get in. LaGuardia also looks at your grades, test scores and attendance. If you are thinking about auditioning for LaGuardia or one of the other performing arts schools (which are non-specialized) like PPAS, Frank Sinatra, Special Music School, Talent Unlimited, etc., you should start preparing now. You should save your artwork to make a portfolio. You can see specific requirements in the directory.
3. All the other high schools are considered "non-specialized high schools." You will apply to them in December by filling out a paper where you rank up to 12 schools in order of preference. You will list your very favorite school first and your least favorite school last. There is no trick to this. The more schools you list, the better chance you have of matching to a school.
4. Even if your grades, test scores and attendance are outstanding, you still need to list schools on your application that are not "reach" schools. This is because there are so many students around the city who are well-qualified and many of these schools have limited seats. Popular reach schools include:
 - a. Beacon (portfolio required)
 - b. Bard Queens and Manhattan (test and interview required- BQ priority to low-income students)
 - c. Columbia Secondary (portfolio required)
 - d. Manhattan/Hunter (portfolio required)
 - e. NEST + M
 - f. Clinton
 - g. Millennium (priority to downtown students)
 - h. Eleanor Roosevelt (priority to D2 students)
 - i. LAB (priority to D2 students)
 - j. Museum School (priority to D2 students)

- k. School of the Future (priority to D2 students)
 - l. Baruch (priority to D2 students)
 - m. Manhattan Center
5. You must also consider schools that are not “reach” schools. I want you to list schools that are “target” and “likely match” schools. This means you exceed the minimum requirements in terms of grades, test scores and attendance BUT ALSO that the schools have fewer than 10 applicants per seat. Over the summer, please look through your directory to find schools that seem interesting to you. You can also go to <http://schoolfinder.nyc.gov/> and <https://insideschools.org/> There are lots of amazing schools in NYC that are not listed above. Some schools which might be “target” schools I would like you to consider are:
- a. Quest to Learn
 - b. Frank McCourt (tour and interview required)
 - c. Harvest Collegiate (priority to low-income students)
 - d. NYC-iSchool (on-line activity required; priority to low-income students)
 - e. High School for Environmental Studies
 - f. Park East High School
6. You will be required to have a minimum of SIX schools on your application, NOT INCLUDING SCHOOLS THAT DRAW FROM A PRIORITY GROUP OF WHICH YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER. For example, if you live in District 3, you may list all of the D2 priority schools and Millennium but they do not count towards your six schools. You must list an additional six schools. You can and should put the schools on your application in true preference order, but you must have at least six that are not D2 priority or downtown priority. THIS IS THE RULE.
7. Now that school is winding down, start getting organized at home. Keep your directory and Specialized Handbook in a safe space and dedicate a folder to storing work and art that could go in your portfolio next year. Also, SAVE YOUR SEVENTH GRADE REPORT CARD and make copies of it. Put these copies in the folder. You will need your report card for many of the schools and it will make your life easier if you just save the one you get in June. In September, I will review everything in more detail with you. Take time this summer to make lists of schools, work on your portfolio, study for the SHSAT and **plan your fall calendar**. The DOE will come out with an open house schedule and you will want to get to as many of the schools as possible in the fall.
8. If you are applying to private schools, I will be helping you with your transcript requests and your counselor/principal recommendation. I will tell you more in September but keep in mind everything will be due to me by Thanksgiving.

Good luck. Have a fun summer and I will see you in September.

Come to my office any time if you want to chat. I am in on Tuesdays and Thursdays and am in room 302a across from Ms. Mishtal.

Ms Mansell

