





## Stay Connected

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- **Visit a Family Welcome Center**

[schools.nyc.gov/welcomecenters](https://schools.nyc.gov/welcomecenters) or call 718-935-3500

### **Queens Locations for Family Welcome Centers:**

90-27 Sutphin Boulevard, 1st Floor Jamaica, NY 11435

30-48 Linden Place, 2nd Floor Flushing, NY 11354

28-11 Queens Plaza North, 3rd Floor Long Island City, NY 11101

- **If you need assistance contact:**

#### **PS 101 Guidance Counselor–**

Malika Tate: [MTate2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:MTate2@schools.nyc.gov)

#### **PS 101 Parent Coordinator–**

Marisol Barreto: [Mbarreto@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Mbarreto@schools.nyc.gov)

## **What can I expect regarding the Middle School Choice Process?**

- In September, all 5th grade students will receive a Middle School Directory which contains important information on all middle school options for you to review.
- In October, you will have the opportunity to visit Middle School Fairs and Open Houses. This is also the time to “**Request for Testing**” for your child for gifted and talented schools, like Mark Twain. Please contact the Guidance Counselor in your school for this form.
- In early November, all 5th grade students will receive a personalized middle school application from their school with pre-populated and customized middle school choices that your child may apply to. These include programs based on district of attendance, district of residence as well as programs based on submission of Request for Testing for Gifted and Talented schools.
- Borough-wide and City-wide schools that do not appear on your child’s Middle School Application have a school-based application process. ***\*You must contact those schools directly in order to apply.***
- Carefully rank the schools in order of your preference by placing numbers 1,2,3 etc.. in front of the printed school name on the application. ***\*A parent must sign and date the application on the last page. Please do not add any schools to the application.***
- Submit your completed and signed application to your school before December 1st. ***\*Notification letters will arrive by mid April/ May.***
- If you do not want the school choice sent to your child, you will be able to file an Appeals Form which you can request from your Guidance Counselor or the main office.
- In the past 5 years PS 101 students have gone to MELS(167), Halsey (157), Russell Sage(190), and Robert A. Van Wyck(217).

### Types of Middle School Choice Programs

- **Screened** – Schools rank students based on a range of academic criteria
- **Screened Language** – Dual Language and Newcomers Program
- **Test Based** – Admission based on composite test score
- **Limited Unscreened** – Priority to students who attend an event like an Open House
- **Unscreened** – Random selection process
- **Zoned** – Open only to students in the zoned area

#### Important Tips:

- Carefully review the Middle School Directory for what options exist for each district. Make choices together with your child.
- Attend Middle School Fairs and Open Houses to learn more about the schools you are interested in. \*Be sure to sign in when you attend any Open Houses. Some schools require proof of attendance to their open house in order to be considered.
- Consider travel distance for your child when ranking schools on the application.
- Remember, there is no sibling priority for middle school.
- Borough-wide and City-wide schools that do not appear on your middle school application have a school-based application process and must be contacted directly in order to apply to their schools.
- Take note to which schools require testing or an audition.
- If you really want your child to go to a specific school, be sure to rank it first on the application.
- Remember to sign and date the application on the last page.

### Charter Schools

Charter schools are independent public schools founded by not-for-profit Boards of Trustees that operate under a contract or “charter” of up to five years. Many charter schools have unique educational approaches that may include longer school days, a longer school year, and/or thematic programs. Any student eligible for admission to a New York City public school is eligible for admission to a public charter school.

Please note that applying to a charter school does not guarantee placement. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats at a charter school, the charter school must conduct a lottery to determine admissions. Interested students or families should contact each charter school directly to receive specific information about the school’s application process.

If you are interested in applying to a NYC charter school, you can apply to a school directly or you can apply to multiple charter schools at once using the online Common Charter School Application, which can be found at: [www.nyccharterschools.org/apply](http://www.nyccharterschools.org/apply).

For a list of charter schools, visit [schools.nyc.gov/charters](http://schools.nyc.gov/charters) or call **212-374-5419** for more information about charter schools in New York City. For information about specific charter schools, contact the schools directly.

## Top City-Wide Schools At A Glance continued...

- **Mark Twain for the Gifted & Talented (IS239)**

Neighborhood: Coney Island- Address: 2401 Neptune Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11224 Phone: 718-266-0814 Website: IS239.schoolwires.com

Students thrive in a community that blends academic rigor with visual and performing arts. Every student has a focus in one of our Talent programs: Art, Athletics, Computer Science STEM, Creative Writing/Journalism, Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music (String or Wind), Media, Science, and Vocal Music. Parents appreciate the personalized attention of our mini-school “cluster” system. Teachers and support staff have time in their weekly schedule to collaborate with parents and caregivers to provide the best academic and social/emotional development for each student. Almost all graduates go on to NYC’s Specialized High Schools and select programs. We have building-wide Next Generation Wireless internet access and all students utilize iPads and interactive digital curriculum throughout their courses.

### **How to apply for Mark Twain for the Gifted and Talented**

Mark Twain for the Gifted & Talented (I.S. 239) is a middle school open to all New York City residents.

### **To be eligible to test for and apply to this school, all applicants must submit a Request for Testing (RFT) form by October to their elementary school.**

On the RFT form, you will need to list the two talent areas for which you would like your child to participate in competitive talent exams.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Does every child have to submit an application, even if they intend on staying at PS 101?**

Yes. We must receive an application from every child, even if they would like to remain at PS 101 or if you plan on moving. You must choose PS 101 as one of the choices on your application if you plan on staying at PS101. We don’t need to be the first choice.

- **If the family does not get an offer for their choices on the application, can they stay at PS 101?**

You must rank PS101 as one of the choices on the application in order to stay at PS101.

- **Do we have to list our zoned school as first choice?**

Not necessarily, however; if your zoned school is the school that you really want, rank it first. Otherwise, rank your zoned school as one of the choices on the application.

- **What if the family does not want the school that is being offered?**

You can file an appeal in May. You can request an “Appeals Form” from the Guidance Counselor or the main office.

- **Does a family automatically get the option to go to their zoned school if they don’t get their first choice listed on the application?**

Yes. However, you must rank your zoned school on your application as one of the choices if you want it to be considered. It does **Not** have to be ranked as first choice.

- **How many schools can I chose on the application?**

We suggest you choose at least three on your application including your zoned school. However, you can choose as many schools that are listed on your child’s application.

- **Can I appeal to go back to PS 101?**

Yes, as long as PS 101 was ranked as one of your choices on your application. You can request an “Appeals Form” from the Guidance Counselor or the main office.

- **Is there going to be a 6th Grade at PS 101 next year?**

PS 101 intends to have a 6th grade for the 2017-2018 school year. There will be a 6th grade at PS 101 as long as there are enough students that choose to stay at PS101 for 6th grade on their Middle School Choice Application.

### A Few Top District 28 Schools At A Glance

- **Stephen A. Halsey (JHS 157)**

Neighborhood: Forest Hills -Address: 63-55 102nd Street, Queens NY 11374

Phone: 718-830-4910 Website: [schools.nyc.gov/schoolportals/28/q157](http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolportals/28/q157)

**\*Priority to students residing in the zone, then to students and residents of D28**

Students enjoy being part of a school that provides a nurturing environment which celebrates their work and achievement and offers a variety of enrichment activities. Students in our accelerated Honors Program take Regents courses. Students also enjoy participating in the Performing Arts Talent Program of their choice, including theatrical productions in drama, concerts in chorus, jazz chorus, concert band, jazz band, and participation in the New York State School Music Association competition. Students may also participate in our Visual Arts or Technology/Computer Talent Programs. Parents like how our school promotes a child-centered learning environment. We promote an open-door policy where parents can come to our school at any time and speak to a member of our staff. We collaborate with parents and guardians to ensure their child's success at J.H.S. 157. As of September 2011, we have a new million dollar state-of-the-art science lab.

- **Russell Sage (JHS 190)**

Neighborhood: Forest Hills -Address: 68-17 Austin Street, Queens NY 11375

Phone: 718-830-4970 Website: [schools.nyc.gov/schoolportals/28/q190](http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolportals/28/q190)

**\*Priority to students residing in the zone , then to students and residents of D28**

Students like our challenging and engaging curriculum as well as the opportunity to participate in many rewarding programs. They appreciate the multicultural student body, talent classes, and the extra help they receive from teachers. Students like to participate in Student Council because it provides them with the opportunity to get involved in many community and fundraising activities, such as: Penny Harvest, Japan Relief, Haiti Relief, and a Sock Drive. In addition, students have the opportunity to be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), participate in the Math counts Competition, and perform annually at the Hershey Park Musical Competition. We have a state-of-the-art science lab, a newly renovated student-friendly library, and two computer labs.

### Top City-Wide Schools At A Glance continued...

- **Professional Performing Arts School—PPAS (M408)**

Neighborhood: Clinton Address:-328 West 48th Street, NY, NY 10036

Phone: 212-247-8652 Website: [ppasnyc.org](http://ppasnyc.org)

**Selection Criteria:** Attendance  Audition  Final 4th Grade Report Card  Punctuality  4th Grade New York State ELA and Math Exams

*\*Must be ranked 1st on application \*Audition required*

The Professional Performing Arts School (PPAS) partners with top rated New York City arts organizations to provide high quality training in the performing arts and a competitive academic program. In partnership with the theater company Waterwell, middle school students receive 90 minutes daily of acting, dance, and voice classes. Our curriculum provides students with the artistic and personal skills to be leaders in the field and in whatever profession they choose to pursue. PPAS middle school students are guaranteed a placement in one of the PPAS high school arts programs if they choose to stay. We provide a middle school experience that is well-rounded and considers every child's interests, learning styles, and needs. Students invited for an audition prepare one short monologue and one song to perform without music. Students do not need prior experience in order to apply.

**How to apply to Professional Performing Arts School**

Professional Performing Arts School (PPAS) is a citywide school serving grades 6-12. Eligible students are invited to audition for the PPAS middle school theatrical arts program which includes acting, singing, and dance instruction from professionals in these fields along with an accelerated academic program.

**Students will be considered for enrollment based on academic performance and audition. More information on the process is available on the school website [ppasnyc.org](http://ppasnyc.org).** To be considered for a PPAS audition, you must rank PPAS as one of your choices on the middle school application that you receive from your child's current elementary school. All candidates must be residents of New York City at the time of application.



### A Few Top City-Wide Schools At A Glance

- **New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math School– NEST(M539)**

Neighborhood: Lower East Side- Address: 111 Columbia Street, NY, NY 10002

Phone: 212-677-5190 Website: www.nestmk12.net

**\*Priority to continuing 5th grade students, then to NYC residents.**

**\*Invitation to take entrance exam will be sent to students based on 4th Grade New York State ELA and Math Exams, Final 4th Grade Report Card and Attendance.**

New Explorations into Science, Technology, and Math (NEST+m) is a Citywide G&T K-12 school. Our academically rigorous program has made us one of the finest schools in the city. We are committed to developing each student's capacity for academic and intellectual achievement. We are committed to developing each student's capacity to learn both individually and collaboratively. We provide a range of services for students with disabilities including a full-inclusion program. NEST+m students blossom into practitioners: scientists, mathematicians, engineers, artists, writers, historians, musicians, painters, and linguists who approach their studies with passion and purpose.

- **Ballet Tech, NYC Public School for Dance (M442)**

Neighborhood: Flatiron -Address: 890 Broadway, Manhattan NY 10003

Phone: 212-254-1803 Website: www.ballettech.org

**\*This school has a school-based application process. Please contact the school for more information on how to apply. \*Audition required (For Open Auditions call 212-777-7710 ext. 300)**

Ballet Tech integrates intensive dance training with a full academic curriculum for approximately 150 students in grades four through eight. The middle school dance curriculum, provided on-site by the Ballet Tech Foundation, includes daily classes in ballet technique as well as pointe, modern, character, gymnastics, and repertory choreographed by founder Eliot Feld specifically for these young dancers.

### Top District 28 Schools continued...

- **Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School– MELS (JHS 167)**

Neighborhood: Forest Hills -Address: 91-30 Metropolitan Avenue, Queens NY 11375 Phone: 718-286-3500 Website: www.metropolitanelsonline.com

**\*Priority to students and residents of District 28 who sign in at an Open House, then to students and residents of District 28.**

**\*Must sign in when you attend their Open House**

We follow the Expeditionary Learning model, in which students engage in learning expeditions and have multiple opportunities for hands-on learning. Students participate in fieldwork experiences with civic leaders, industry figures, and environmental scientists that take them outside of the classroom and give them a chance to experience the concepts they are learning. Students receive a strong background in science, technology, and sustainability and have multiple opportunities after school to apply the ideas learned in class to real-world projects. Parents play a major role in the school, from attending student-led conferences to being chaperones and participants for fieldwork to contributing to various school committees. Students belong to Crews, which are small advisory groups with an advisor. Students participate in a four-day wilderness/backpacking adventure.

## A Few Top Borough-Wide Schools At A Glance

- **Robert A. Van Wyck (JHS 217)**

Neighborhood: Briarwood -Address: 85-05 144th Street, Queens NY 11435

Phone: 718-657-1120 Website: 28q217.nycdoe.org

**\*Priority to students residing in the zone , then to students and residents of D28**

Students like our technology-based education. They use their laptops in class to take notes via the use of Google Docs, do research, and create iMovie's, PowerPoints, class wikis, and class blogs. Through our Green Magnet Educating for Sustainability curriculum, students are involved in studying about and taking actions in their local and global communities. Students also like the wide range of in-class programs and after-school activities we offer. Parents appreciate our parent education classes and the school's communication efforts, including many opportunities for parental involvement. We utilize a web-based communication portal called Pupil Path that permits parents and students to track student academic and behavior progress daily and in real time. Laptops and additional digital devices are utilized in all classrooms. Our school community is diverse, with over 40 nations represented. We have a greenhouse, pollinators' garden, and an organic vegetable garden on our campus.

- **Scholars Academy (JHS 323)**

Neighborhood: Breezy Point-Address: 320 Beach 104th Street, Queens NY 11694

Phone: 718-474-6918 Website: scholarsnyc.com

**\*This school has a school-based application process. Applications available on their website in November. (Go to [Scholarsnyc.com/admissions](http://Scholarsnyc.com/admissions))**

Scholars' Academy is a school-based competitive application school. Parents/students must apply for admission each November-December online via the school's website. A highly rigorous and exceptional school, the Scholars' Academy earned "Well Developed" ratings on the Quality Review. Scholars' Academy is an Innovation Zone Ambassador School. Scholars' Academy teachers and students collaborate using online tools to engage in projects which are Common Core-anchored and engaging. Scholars' Academy follows the Scale-Up cooperative learning model used by many top universities such as MIT. All students are expected to complete three high school Regents courses in middle school. The primary career and college readiness partner of the Scholars' Academy is Broad ridge Financial Solutions, Inc. Broad ridge executives provide career awareness training, on-site shadowing opportunities, mentoring, college essay support, and scholarships to select Scholars' Academy students. Friday dismissal is 1:12pm.

## Borough-Wide Schools continued...

- **Louis Armstrong– LAMS (IS 227)**

Neighborhood: East Elmhurst -Address: 32-02 Junction Boulevard, Queens NY 11369

Phone: 718-335-7500 Website: [www.armstrong227q.com](http://www.armstrong227q.com)

**\*This school has a school-based application process. Please contact the school directly for more information. Applications can be requested from your Guidance Counselor. Applications must be returned to PS101 to the Guidance Counselor.**

The Louis Armstrong Middle School (LAMS), opened in 1979 with the mission of bringing together a group of culturally diverse children to help them grow academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. At LAMS, students are provided a personalized, caring, and supportive environment. The staff works to build the children's' confidence and work ethic in order to develop a sense of pride in their choices, actions, and quality of work. In addition to the core subjects, LAMS offers Accelerated Regents classes, foreign language classes, music classes, art classes, physical and adaptive fitness classes, and technology courses. The school is affiliated with Queens College, Vaughn College, National Middle School Association, and National School Reform Policy. Our school is an original recipient of the U.S. President Award For Excellence, has been recognized four consecutive years as a Reward Status School, and by the NASSP as being, "one of the top 100 most effective middle schools in the U.S."