Educational News Brief – November 2018

In this News Brief, you can learn about admissions to NYC public schools (elementary through high school), preschool programs, and special resources to help you explore and enjoy NYC and the greater NYC metro area.

NYU Office of Work Life Opened on October 25

Established by the Office of the Provost, the newly created NYU Office of Work Life is now located at 245 Mercer Street. Work Life will provide family care resources and help support faculty and employees through major life events. More information here.

APPLY TO NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Get in the Know - Sign-up for DOE email newsletters to learn about applications, timelines, tours, and more here.

What Should You Be Doing Now?

- Download school directories from the NYC Department of Education website
- Identify and tour your zoned school and other schools that interest you
- Sign up for the DOE and Inside Schools’ email newsletters
- Attend information sessions in the community
- Complete and submit your application for testing for NYC Gifted & Talented Programs by November 9

Elementary School – Applications for public kindergarten for children born in 2014 will be available between late November 2018 and January 14, 2019. NYC residents can apply for up to 12 schools. It is important to list the schools you like in priority order because your child will be automatically waitlisted at any school listed higher than the one in which your child is offered a seat.

Get a jump start on your application by touring schools now. A quick review of the PS3, PS41, and PS340 webpages reveals that space is still available on tours/open houses scheduled from November through early January. Sign-up today!

- PreK – Children born in 2015 will be eligible for free PreK programs in public schools, PreK Centers, early childhood programs, and family child care homes. Applications for PreK will be available shortly after the Elementary School application deadline. Special tours will be offered for families seeking PreK, however, in most instances, families are welcome on Fall tours, which typically include information about the school’s PreK program.
• **Gifted & Talented (G&T) Programs** – The Friday, November 9 deadline to apply for and schedule the January assessment test is fast approaching. All children entering Kindergarten through Grade 3 are eligible to be tested.

    Are you wondering ... What differentiates a G&T program from a general education program or if a G&T program is right for your child?

    According to the DOE, “Gifted & Talented (G&T) programs are one way that New York City serves the educational needs of exceptional students.” InsideSchools describes G&T programs as “an accelerated curriculum and the chance to be in a class with other academically successful children.”

**Middle School**

• Your child will receive access to a personalized online application that lists every middle school program they are eligible to apply for and attend. Applications are due on Monday, December 3. Families not enrolled in public school can receive an application on-line or from the District 2’s Family Welcome Center, located at 333 Seventh Avenue.

• The Community Education Council (CEC) District 2 offers easy access to the Middle School Directory and a rubric to help families understand the rules that screened schools use to evaluate applications.

**High School**

• **High School**: Applications were distributed to 8th graders enrolled in public middle schools and is due on Monday, December 3. Families not enrolled in public school can receive an application on-line or from the District 2’s Family Welcome Center, located at 333 Seventh Avenue.

• The Community Education Council (CEC) District 2 offers guidance to families seeking additional information about the high school admission and selection process.

• **Having trouble determining a good fit for your student?** Two web-based tools are designed to help:

  1. Inside Schools’ web-based High School Search Tool was introduced in October 2018
  2. A free app, NYC High School Application Guide, developed by NYU students in 2017, and available in English and Spanish, is web-based and designed for iOS and Android phones.
  3. Review articles written by Maurice Frumkin, President and Founder, NYC Admissions Solutions, and former Deputy Executive Director, High School Enrollment, NYC Department of Education.

**Charter Schools**
Charter schools are public schools (elementary through high school) that are independent of the Department of Education. They have a separate application process and any student eligible for admission to a DOE public school is eligible for admission to a public charter school. A list of charter middle schools is available in the School Directory for each district. Additional information is available from the DOE and the NYC Charter School Center.

Neighborhood Early Childhood Programs

Admissions practices can vary from one school to another. For instance, while some programs offer admissions year-round and maintain long waitlists, many programs in the Washington Square Village area accepting applications during the Fall/early Winter and then make admission offers in late February for the September start of the school year.

There are several ways to identify schools. Among the best ways is to seek suggestions from family, friends, and colleagues. In addition, the childcare specialists with NYU’s Employee Assistance Program, Carebridge Life Resources, can provide profiles of programs in your home neighborhood, near a family member who provides backup or after-school care, or near your workplace.

No matter how you compile your list it is important that you visit each school to gain an understanding of their philosophy, the school’s calendar, hours of operation, and to experience if the school feels like a good fit for your family.

To help you get started, listed below are programs near NYU’s Washington Square campus.

- Barrow Street Nursery School
- Bright Horizons
- Creative Steps Early Care & Education Center
- Downing Street Playgroup Co-op
- Manhattan Kids Club
- The Montessori School Soho
- Preschool of America
- Little Missionary Day Nursery’s Sara Curry Preschool
- University Plaza Nursery School
- Village Preschool Center

Useful Parenting Information and Fun Family Activities are Within Easy Reach

There are a number of information rich FREE on-line newsletters and resources for parents of young children living and visiting NYC and the NY-metro area. Explore the following links and learn about educational options, the best places to pick apples and pumpkins, regions to experience the beautiful Autumn colors, and more. Find the one you like best or sign-up for them all.

- NYMetroParents – www.nymetroparents.com
If you are ready for your children experience live theater, look at BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center’s Fall offerings of A Cinderella Tale...Happily Ever After, Pete the Cat, and Dragons Love Tacos. For more information, see http://tribecapac.org/event-family/

Seeking a network with other neighborhood parents or looking for parent education opportunities? Join the ever popular Bowery Babes at www.bowerybabes.com