

High School FAQs

Should I make an appointment with the counselor to discuss high school options during the 7th-grade year?

- No. It is not our policy to meet with 7th-grade families as we are already consumed with working with our 8th-grade families and fulfilling our other responsibilities as counselors. It is also too premature to be discussing high school options before having done any prior research on your own. The student's interests, needs, and even location may change by the 8th grade. Everything you need to know in order to give you a jump start is right here on the webpage!

Do high schools see where a student ranked them?

- No- schools do not have access to any student's completed high school applications.

Do we get confirmation of submitted online activities from the high schools?

- Unfortunately, no- each school has its own method to their madness and as a counseling team, we are not notified. Some schools send auto confirmations, and others do not.

How come my child didn't get a ticket for Arts and Design, PPAS, Talent Unlimited, etc?

Only LaGuardia HS requires an audition ticket, none of the other audition schools require one. However, schools like: Talent Unlimited and Special Music School do require a pre-registration through MySchools.

Does the ranking of a high school have an impact on my child's receiving an offer from that school?

Yes, to a certain degree- there is an algorithm that will place your child at a higher percentage of getting into that school should rank them high.

Do we list Specialized High Schools and/or LaGuardia among the 12 high schools on the application?

No- the specialized high schools and LaGuardia are listed separately in MySchools. It is not part of the same application where you list the NON specialized high schools.

If my child applies to more than one program in a school, does that take up more than one choice line on the application?

Yes- each program will have a different code and will take up a choice line on the application.

Some schools have said that I have to list them first in order for my child to have a chance of getting in. Is that true?

No-this is not true. At the least, the school has to be listed on the application, but not necessarily first. Where a school is ranked on your list is super important, however, listing a particular school first isn't a guarantee of your acceptance.

How can I tell what a school is like if I can't visit it?

Research, research, research. Visit their website and other websites like insideschools.org. The directory of NYC public high schools also provides a breadth of information. Does your child have a friend who has older siblings in high school? Can you get in touch with some parents who have been through this process before? Is it possible for you to attend an info session? You also can ask us! :)

Is it important to go to high school fairs?

Very much! Attending fairs gives you an opportunity to talk to representatives of the school and get a better idea of what the school is like. This year's high school fairs will most likely be virtual. Dates TBD

Should my child audition for LaGuardia even though he/she has not been a serious artist/performer/theater technician in the past?

This is completely up to you and the student, however, the programs are incredibly rigorous and students are unlikely to be accepted without experience. While LaGuardia looks for raw talent, they want to see some experience as well. If accepted, each studio requires 3 hours a day of study on that particular concentration.

Is it possible to get into a specialized high school and NOT get into a regular high school?

Yes! Once again, Specialized High Schools ONLY use the results of the SHSAT whereas the nonspecialized screened schools look at everything, and if a student does not meet the criteria to those schools they applied, it is possible they will not get accepted. Therefore, your child can be an excellent test taker and get into a Specialized High School but not a great student and not be accepted into the more competitive screened schools.

If I list only a few schools, doesn't that increase the chances of getting into one of those schools? No. Listing only a few schools is a dangerous and risky route. Should a student not get accepted to those few schools listed, they would then enter the 2nd round which isn't ideal.

Who is responsible for creating a portfolio for those schools that request one?

The student! Teachers are, however, willing to help and assist in choosing a piece to add to their portfolio-this being said, an appointment would have to be made ahead of time.

What is the Computer School's policy around letters of recommendation?

The school's policy is such that the student is responsible for requesting a letter of recommendation no less than 2 weeks in advance of the due date. Also important to note- a teacher can deny the request should the schools listed on the student's application not require a letter to be written for admission.

Will the school counselors keep track of my child's auditions, interviews, school tours, and portfolio submission dates?

The counselors do not keep track of any student's auditions, interviews, school tours, or portfolio needs. It is up to the parents/guardians and students themselves to keep track of this very important and vital information. Having a calendar with these important dates is essential.

How will I know when the auditions are and what to bring?

It's important to visit the website of each school that student is auditioning for as well as refer to those school's pages in the high school directory.

How will I know what a school requires for admission?

Please refer to the directory of NYC Public High Schools and the high school's website.

Thank you, and good luck!

The Counseling Team