

EAST SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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September 7, 2017

Dear 8th Grade Families,

Welcome back! I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful summer. It is now time to begin the High School Articulation Process. This process begins in September of 8th grade and extends all the way until June. The “**Student Survey**”, a very important document, will be backpacked home on September 8th. Every 8th grade student needs to complete this form. Students will indicate if they want to register for the SHSAT, LaGuardia and/or other Performing Arts Schools on this form. This form is due back to me on September 29th. Please be aware that I plan on hosting a parent meeting to provide information regarding the **Public High School Articulation Process** on September 29th at 9:00AM.

In deciding to which high schools your child should apply, it is important to try and learn as much information about a particular high school as possible. One way to start identifying potential schools is by using the **Directory of the NYC Public High Schools**. It is very important that this directory be used as a guide throughout the application process. Applying to high schools is an important educational decision and it is important to keep in mind that parents/guardians are responsible for choosing the appropriate schools for their child. In order to make well-informed decisions regarding this process, please use the directory and read the schools’ pages to find out information about the various schools. **Please note that your child already received a copy of the 2017-2018 edition of the directory last June.**

Another great way that families can learn more about the different high schools is to attend an Open House and/or School Tour hosted by the high school of interest. An **Open House** typically consists of the principal presenting about the school and its offerings. Families usually will not receive a tour of the facilities at these types of events. A **School Tour** will give families the opportunity to visit the building facilities and classrooms and will typically also include an opportunity for families to ask questions about the school while on the tour. Many of the public high schools do offer one of these events and so it is important that you try to attend them. **It is the responsibility of the family to learn about and register for either an Open House and/or School Tour at the various high schools. Some high schools require parents to register for an Open House or School Tour, so please make sure that you do so through the high school directly.** I will always share with you any information I receive about scheduled open houses or tours but it is up to you to do the legwork and schedule your appointments especially as information may be subject to change. You can find contact information for the public high schools in the *High School Directory*. I suggest that you start contacting schools and/or visiting their websites as soon as possible to see if they have finalized their Open House or School Tour schedule for this academic year. ***** Please see attachment #1- open house dates**

Schools will usually ask that a parent and the student applicant attend a tour together on the same date. Since many school tours are scheduled during the morning hours and this means that students will arrive to ESMS late, **please make sure that you receive documentation on school letterhead from the high school you are visiting indicating that your child was attending a school tour that day.** Students must then bring this documentation with them to the ESMS main office when they arrive at school that day and give it to Rosa so that it can be documented.

I would like to point out that you should constantly be on the lookout for any high school information I distribute. As information comes to me with regards to the High School Articulation Process, I will in turn distribute the information to your child as soon as possible. Since I will be distributing crucial information to your child to bring home to you, it is pertinent that you speak with your child about ensuring that they read and pay close attention to all the information they are given. I will be speaking with each 8th grade homeroom and will suggest that students carry a folder with them everyday solely for H.S. information, so that all letters and flyers can be collected and kept in one place. Please read all information carefully as it will usually contain a lot and most answers to family questions can be found through reading my correspondence.

In attachment #2, there is a short **FAQ's Sheet** that may answer some preliminary questions you already have and which lists some important dates to keep in mind. Also, in attachment #3, there is a **Private School Informational Sheet** that lists important information about applying to private schools and lists some important dates to mark down in your calendars. Attachment #4 provides information about schools that have **additional admissions requirements**.

Please use these resources to research high schools:

- High School Admissions Website: www.nyc.gov/schools/ChoicesEnrollment/High
- School Search or Online High Schools At A Glance. Access both of these at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Resources/default.htm>
- Fall High School Admissions Events Calendar <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/events/default.htm>
- Travel Time and Travel Directions: www.mta.info
- School Accountability Information: www.nyc.gov/schools/accountability

I look forward to working with you and your child on this process as well as having a very productive and successful school year! If any specific questions should arise over the course of the year, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jessica McInnis
School Counselor
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