

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS **(About Public & Catholic High Schools)-Fall 2017**

Q. How do I apply to a public high school and where do I get the applications?

A. There is only **1** application that must be completed to apply to any public high school in New York City. Students will receive their high school application directly from Jessica McInnis in school as soon as they arrive (October). A letter will be sent to parents indicating the exact date that students will be bringing home their application. The public high school application will be due back to Jessica December 1st. Parents will receive specific instructions from Jessica on how to properly complete the application.

Q. How do I go about scheduling school tours or finding out about public high school open houses?

A. Most public high schools host open houses and some may schedule school tours. You should visit their websites if you are interested in attending any events. It is up to the families to schedule their own appointments directly with the schools, if it is required. The school phone numbers can be obtained through the Public High School Directory or on the school's website. There is a list of open house at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/events/default.htm>. School Finder NYC is another great tool: <http://schoolfinder.nyc.gov/>. Jessica will distribute any information that is received or collected about any schools' events as quickly as possible.

IMPORTANT: The NYCDOE offers two fairs:

CITYWIDE HIGH SCHOOL FAIR – 9/16-9/17 at [Brooklyn Technical High School](#) (29 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217), 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

BOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL FAIRS – 10/14-10/15- Various locations. Check DOE website for details. 11:00-3:00PM

Most high schools in the city will be represented at the fair and it is a good opportunity to quickly pick up information about a school and talk with administrators and teachers as well as current students.

Q. When is the Specialized High School Admissions Test and how do I sign up to take the test?

A. The Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) for the 2017-2018 school year for 8th grade general education students- 10/21/17 & 10/22/17. Dates for students with IEP's and 504's- 10/29/17 & 11/4/17.

Students need to complete the High School Student Survey in order to register for the SHSAT. Jessica will distribute the High School Student Survey to all 8th grade students in September. It is due on September 29th. If students indicate that they intend to take the SHSAT, they will also need to identify whether or not they are Religious Observers and if they have testing accommodations.

In order to take the exam, students must have an admission ticket to enter the test site. **Students will get their admission tickets from Jessica in school the week of the exam.**

Q. When are the auditions for the Performing and Visual Arts Public High Schools and how do I sign-up for the auditions?

A. Information regarding auditions, portfolios, etc, is located in the HS directory and on each school's website. Not every performing arts school requires pre-registration for auditions. Those that require pre-registration are indicated on the High School Student Survey. Students must indicate their interest in auditioning on the ***High School Student Survey***. There are no tickets for pre-registration audition schools. It is your responsibility to attend the scheduled audition based on the information in the directory and/or the school's website.

Q. How do I apply to Catholic/Parochial schools? What test do I need to take for admission into these schools?

A. In order to be considered for admission into a Catholic High School, students must take the **TACHS exam** (Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools), which is designed to measure school aptitude & scholastic achievement in reading, math and language. Students must register to take the TACHS and can do so by *applying on-line* at www.tachsinfo.com .

To apply to a Catholic/parochial school, you must complete an application form, known as the **TACHS Applicant Record**. A copy of the application can be found inside the *TACHS Student Handbook*, which you can receive by calling 1-866-61-TACHS or visit www.tachsinfo.com and download a printable version. The *TACHS Student Handbook* also contains other important information (e.g., practice items, test taking tips, list of high school information fairs and open house dates, etc).

***The TACHS exam will be given in November.**

To learn more about a Catholic School and its offerings, school tours or Open Houses are a good starting point. To find dates for these events, please refer to www.tachsinfo.com where you will find a link that lists Open House dates for many of the Catholic High Schools. As an alternative or in addition to attending a catholic school's open house, families can learn more about catholic schools and speak with school representatives by attending a Catholic High School Fair.

*Please note, if a Catholic High School does not have a TACHS code listed, this means that it does NOT require the TACHS exam as part of their admissions process. Please contact that high school directly for info on their application process.