

Making Informed Decisions: Next Steps

High School Admissions Checklist

Summer

- Review High School Directory and Specialized High Schools Student Handbook
- Prepare for the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)
- Begin identifying programs and schools of interest
- Plan your fall schedule – save dates on your calendar for fairs, open houses, auditions and school visits

September

- Register for the SHSAT and auditions through your counselor
- Attend open houses
- Go on school visits
- Attend the Citywide High School Fair

October and November

- Review the high school application that you receive from your counselor
- Attend one or more Borough High School Fair(s)
- Take the SHSAT
- Attend auditions and interviews
- Continue to attend open houses and go on school visits

December

- Submit High School Application to your counselor on **December 2**

High School Admissions Calendar: 2011

Date	Event
September 24-25	Citywide High School Fair
October 12	Last day to register for the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)
Early October	Students receive High School Applications from guidance counselors
October 21	Guidance counselors issue SHSAT tickets
October 22-23	Borough High School Fairs
October 29 or 30	Specialized High Schools Admissions Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All current 8th graders
November 5	Specialized High Schools Admissions Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All current 9th grade students • 8th and 9th grade students with special needs, 504 accommodations, and extended time
November 20	Specialized High Schools Admissions Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 9th grade Sabbath observers • 8th and 9th grade Sabbath observers with special needs, 504 accommodations, and extended time
November 20	Specialized High Schools Admissions Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make-up test (with permission only)
December 2	High School Applications due to guidance counselors

How to Navigate the Citywide High School Fair

⇒ Make a List of Questions and Prepare to Collect New Information

- Ask about school culture: How do students interact with each other and their teachers, etc.?
- Ask about the typical freshman program: What time does the day start and end? What time do students generally finish their extracurricular activities?
- Ask questions about your child's area of interest. How is the school theme integrated into the curriculum and specific classes? Are there specific courses pertinent to your child's interest?
- Ask about what opportunities there are for freshmen to take some of the courses listed in the Directory.
- Ask about the average class size in a particular school.
- If the Directory says students are required to adhere to a uniform dress code, ask what the uniform consists of and if there is a cost.
- What are some of the issues voiced by students at your school?
- How does the school communicate with parents about (a) what's occurring at the school and (b) the academic progress of their child?

⇒ Visit Specific School Tables

- Before you pick up pamphlets from a table, find someone to whom you may ask your questions. There are usually teachers, guidance staff, parents and students staffing each table. Often the principal is in attendance too.
- If there are many parents at a particular table, don't give up. Pick up a brochure and look it over while you are waiting.
- Don't forget to obtain the name, title and phone number of a school contact person for follow up questions and the dates of the open house or tour.
- Be sure to **sign in** at every table you visit.

After visiting a table, take a few moments to discuss the school and its programs with your child. Is there anything else your child wants to know? Encourage your child to speak up when meeting with high school representatives at a table.

Once you have finished visiting the schools you have identified, look through the Directory one more time to determine whether or not there are other schools you would like to visit. If so, spend your last hour or so visiting those school tables.

⇒ Take Notes

After visiting many tables, you may need to be reminded of the answers to your school-specific questions, so take notes. Jot down key words and phrases.

⇒ Before You Leave the Fair...

Check to make sure you have visited all the schools you outlined in your High School Directory. If you have any questions about the High School admissions process, ask a staff person from the Office of Student Enrollment.

⇒ Additional Resources

- High School Events and Calendar website: www.nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/high/calendar
- High School Publications website: www.nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/high/publications