



Home Instruction Parent Newsletter

Fall 2008 Edition

Principal: Sandra Ledesma

PC: Edwin Hernández

Welcome To Home Instruction Schools!



Message from your Home Instruction PC:

Welcome back to a brand new and exciting school year. We hope you had a wonderful and restful summer.

I continue to look forward to working with you and your children to ensure that they receive all the help, support, and resources they need to achieve success. In this edition of HIP, we present the highlights of the Manhattan Home Instruction Schools graduation ceremony, information on the Citywide High School Fair, the medical requirements for students entering school, free workshops, and much more.

If you wish to contribute information to our newsletter you may do so by calling me at: (718) 794-7240 or (347) 563-4472.

Yours truly,
Edwin Hernández,
Parent Coordinator

A message from Principal Sandra Ledesma:

Dear Parents,
As we begin the 2008-2009 school year, I am looking forward to working collaboratively with you in order to provide the best possible education experience for our students. Please feel free to contact Mr. Hernández or me in order to address any issues you may have regarding Home Instruction. Working together will ensure that our students will be well prepared to return to school.

Yours truly,
Sandra Ledesma,
Principal

Manhattan Home Instruction Schools Second Annual Graduation Ceremony

On June 25, 2008
Manhattan Home
Instruction Schools held
their second graduation
ceremony. It was a
wonderful experience for
the parents, the teachers
and especially for the
graduating students.



Home Instruction Schools 2nd Annual Graduation Ceremony

On June 25, 2008, Manhattan Home Instruction Schools honored our 8th and 12th grade graduates in the 2nd Annual Home Instruction Graduation. It turned out to be a wonderful and memorable experience for all who attended. Home Instruction Schools provides instructional services for students who are unable to attend school due to severe medical or emotional conditions. The vast majority of our graduates have overcome great adversity to achieve this personal milestone in their lives, displaying a true commitment to the pursuit of their education, while at the same time struggling with very difficult personal tribulations. This graduation was an opportunity to bring joy and recognition into the lives of these very special young people. It was vividly evident by the smiles on their faces, it worked!!!

As the graduates entered the auditorium with their teachers to

the sound of “Pomp and Circumstance”, a dry eye was not found in the audience. Ramona Pizarro, Manhattan’s Assistant Principal of Home Instruction and organizer of the event, greeted the attendees and expressed how much this event meant to all involved. She then introduced our principal, Sandra Ledesma, who gave a moving speech describing how proud she was of all our graduates. This led to the address by an extremely gifted and eloquent young woman, our valedictorian, Christina Sampson. Christina is a graduating senior who told the audience of how her experience on home instruction helped her overcome a very difficult situation in her own life. She also shared a few anecdotes from the lives of her fellow graduates. Christina will be moving on to attend Haverford College this September; an achievement we couldn’t be prouder of. Also addressing the audience was a representative from the office of State Senator Ruth Hassell Thompson. She spoke of her own mother working as a home instruction teacher and relayed the warmest regards of the senator who was unable to attend at the last minute. The handing out of the diplomas and awards was an especially moving moment for

the families of our students, as many could never imagine this special moment occurring in their children’s lives.

A major highlight of the event was the candle ceremony. Each teacher presented their student with a lit candle as they made a special wish to their graduating student. It was clear for all to see how much this meant to our dedicated teachers who have made such a difference in these young peoples’ lives. Each wish expressed how proud they were of their student and the great satisfaction which was brought into their own lives from them. It was emotional and moving for all to witness.

A very special thanks to all the teachers who contributed to making this very special day possible.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008





Christopher Harvey (student) and Family



Devon Cummings (student) and Peter Cummings (parent) performing during the ceremony.



Top row. Home Instruction Schools Principal, Sandra Ledesma and Manhattan Home Instruction Schools Assistant Principal, Ramona Pizarro.
Bottom row: Mr. & Mrs. Sampson and valedictorian, Christina Sampson.



Citywide High School Fair

The Citywide High School Fair will be held September 20-21 at Brooklyn Tech High School (29 Fort Green Place). All Department of Education high schools will be represented at the fair. This is a wonderful opportunity for 8th and 9th grade students and their families to learn about the many educational programs available in our schools.

At the fair, parents and students can attend a variety of workshops on high school admissions, specialized high schools, PSAL, ELL, and special services. Families will also be able to meet staff and student representatives from every high school that participates in the high school admissions process. Interpreters will be available. High school directories and other publications will be provided to all families. The fair will be open to students and parents September 20 and September 21, 10am – 3pm. For more information call 311 or 212-374-2363.



PARENTS MUST!!

- ** Know the name, address & telephone number of your child's Home Instruction Schools Asst. Principal.
- ** All parents should know their child's NYC ID number/OSIS number.
- ** Know the dates of the Citywide reading and math tests. Speak to your child's teacher. Test dates will be available through your Home Instruction teacher or by visiting our website at:
<http://schools.nycenet.edu/d75/his>
- ** Know the educational goals that have been set for your child for the school year. Speak to your child's teacher about these goals.
- ** Keep your child's immunization records updated.
- ** Keep your child's medical/ psychiatric referral for Home Instruction services up to date.



Medical Requirements for New School Entrants

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene requires that all students entering a New York City public, private or parochial school and day care centers for the first time must have a complete physical examination. This comprehensive medical examination must include all required immunizations, weight, height, body mass index, blood pressure, medical history, nutritional evaluation, vision screening, hearing screening, dental screening and developmental assessments. For students entering a day care, an anemia screening (Hematocrit or Hemoglobin), and a lead poisoning assessment is required. A tuberculosis examination is needed for students entering a secondary school. For more information call 311 for your local NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene or visit their website at:
www.nyc.gov/health



**Resources for Children
with Special Needs offers
FREE Workshops**

Resources for Children with Special Needs continues to offer FREE informative workshops for families and professionals seeking programs and services for New York City children and youth with disabilities and special needs.

Refreshments are served.

To register call

Gary Shulman , MS Ed at
(212) 677-4650 or email
him at:

gshulman@resourcesnyc.org

Bronx sites:

*Jewish Child Care
Association
555 Bergen Avenue
Bx., NY 10455*

November 5, 10am-1pm
Transition from School to
Adult Life

December 3, 10am-1pm
Advocacy Skills for
Parents

*Family Center of the
Children's Aid Society
1515 Southern Blvd.
Bx., NY 10460*

November 7, 10am-1pm
Getting Appropriate
Educational Services

Brooklyn sites:

*Brooklyn Heights Library
280 Cadman Plaza West
Bklyn., NY 11201*

October 24, 10am-1pm
Transition from School to
Adult Life

October 29, 10am-1pm
Early Childhood Services:
Birth to Age 5

November 5, 10am- 1pm
Advocacy Skills for
Parents

December 10, 10am-12pm
Community Resources

December 19, 10am-1pm
Turning 5: Transition to
School-Age

*Central Library
Grand Army Plaza
Flatbush Ave. &
Eastern Pkwy.
Bklyn, NY 11238*

October 23, 10 Am- 1pm
Getting Appropriate
Educational Services

November 12, 10am-1pm
Early Childhood Services:
Birth to Age 5

December 17, 10am- 1pm
Transition from School to
Adult Life

Queens sites:

No workshops scheduled
until the winter.

Manhattan sites:

*Andrew Heiskell Braille &
Talking Book Library
40 W. 20th St.
NYC, NY 10011*

November 14, 10am-1pm
Getting Appropriate
Educational Services

November 20, 10am-1 pm
Transition from School to
Adult Life

November 25, 10am-1pm
Advocacy Skills for
Parents

December 2, 10am-12pm
Early Childhood Services:
Birth to Age 5

December 16, 10am-12pm
Community Resources

*Resources for Children
with Special Needs, Inc.
116 East 16th Street 5th Fl
NYC, NY 10003*

November 18, 10am-1pm
Early Childhood Services:
Birth to Age 5
10am-1pm

Staten Island site:

*Joan and Alan Bernikow
Jewish Community Center
of Staten Island
1466 Manor Rd..
Staten island, NY 10314*

December 4, 10am-1pm
Getting Appropriate
Educational Services



Homework Tips

While on Home Instruction, parents should expect their child to be given assignments on a regular basis. The following homework tips should help you help your child:

- Assist your child by establishing a routine.
- Ask your child about his/her homework assignments on a daily basis. When it comes to long term projects or papers, discuss with your child the timeline of the project and periodically ask about its progress. Emphasize to your child that by completing all assigned homework and projects by their due date, it demonstrates commitment and a high level of responsibility.
- Ask your child's Home Instruction teacher if your child has the necessary books and materials necessary to complete their assignments.

Homework Tips cont'd.

- Encourage your child to ask questions if something is unclear regarding their homework assignments.
- If you feel your child is having difficulties with their homework, contact their teacher for help or contact your child's school guidance counselor and or parent coordinator regarding any tutorial opportunities that may be available in your community.



Important Dates!!!

September 2

First day of School for All Students

September 10

Citywide Council on Special Education-6 pm
45-18 Court Square Rm.620
L.I.C., N.Y. 11101

September 20-21

Citywide High School Fair
Brooklyn Tech High School
29 Ft. Greene Place
Bklyn, NY 11217

September 30 and October 1

Rosh Hashanah-
Schools Closed

October 9

Yom Kippur-
Schools Closed

October 13

Columbus Day-
Schools Closed

October 15

Citywide Council on Special Education- 6:30 pm
PS 372 K
512 Carroll St.
Bklyn. NY 11215

October 25, 26

Specialized High School
Admissions Test (SHSAT)
Grade 8

November 4

Election Day Students will
not be in attendance

November 8

Specialized High School
Admissions Test (SHSAT)
Grade 9
Grades 8-9 Special needs &
504 applicants

November 11

Veterans Day
Schools Closed

November 12

Citywide Council on Special Education-6:30pm
PS 75 Q
16-66 Hancock St.
Queens, NY 11385

November 23

Specialized High School
Admissions Test (SHSAT)
Make-ups

November 27-28

Thanksgiving Recess
Schools Closed



**Home Instruction
Directory:**

**Home Instruction
Schools**

Principal:
Sandra Ledesma

Main Site

3450 E. Tremont Ave.
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
(718) 794-7200

Bronx Home Instruction

Asst. Principals:
Michelle Oleksiak
Robert Walpole

P.S. 754 X
470 Jackson Ave.
Bronx, N.Y. 10455
(718) 742-0972

**Manhattan
Home Instruction**

Asst. Principal:
Ramona Pizarro

P.S. 721 M
250 W. Houston St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10014
(646) 486-3557

**Brooklyn Home
Instruction**

Asst. Principals:
Geraldine Langella
Bill Cornelius

P.S. 371 K Annex
360 36 St. Rm. 301
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11232
(718) 499-0636

Queens Home Instruction

Asst. Principals:
Danny Rayder
George Lombardi

P.S. 752 Q
142-10 Linden Blvd.
Jamaica, N.Y. 11436
(718) 529-0266

**Staten Island Home
Instruction**

Asst. Principal:
Eileen Pryor

P.S. 721 R
155 Tompkins Ave.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10304
(718) 447-4447

**Home Instruction
Parent Coordinator:**

Edwin Hernández
(718) 794-7240
(347) 563-4472



Library Information

Below you will find a list
of phone numbers for the
NYC Public Library
central office in each
borough.

Brooklyn 718-230-2100
Manhattan 212-621-0626
Bronx 718-579-4200
Queens 718-990-0700
Staten Island 718-442-
8562

Visit the website at
www.nypl.org

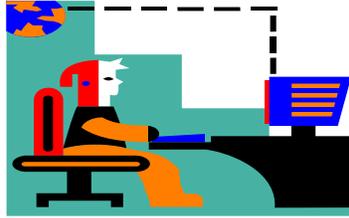




HOME INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS' MISSION STATEMENT

As developed by the School Leadership Team.

- Students, parents and the Home Instruction Leadership Team will work collaboratively to ensure that each child, commensurate with his/her skills, will maximize achievement and address performance standards.
- Students who receive home instruction will become productive members of their communities and society. Home Instruction Schools will continue to develop and implement procedures that ensure successful transition from the student's school of affiliation to Home Instruction Schools and then back to the school of affiliation.



Home Instruction

Website:

Visit the Home Instruction Schools website at:

<http://homeinstructionschools.com>

Our website is an educational tool that is very helpful for both parents and students. It offers a wide variety of useful information, such as Regents preparation and other valuable website links

Helpful websites for Parents

www.epicforchildren.org

www.resourcesnyc.org

www.insideschools.org

www.learningleaders.org

www.nycenet.org

www.nysed.gov

[www.advocatesforchildren](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org)

[.org](http://www.nypl.org)

www.nypl.org

[gshulman@resourcesnyc.o](mailto:gshulman@resourcesnyc.org)

[rg](mailto:gshulman@resourcesnyc.org)