

September 11, 2024

Dear 8th Grade Families,

I hope your transition into the new school year is going smoothly. Although the school applications have not yet opened on MySchools, now is an excellent time to start touring schools. I recently discovered a fantastic free resource that could simplify your search for open houses. The website, [NYC Sift](#), aggregates information from MySchools and individual school websites to provide a list of open houses. It's updated weekly and even offers a weekly newsletter. This tool was created by a New York City dad who wanted to ease the process of finding and organizing school visits. However, if you don't see certain schools listed, I recommend keeping an eye on those schools' own websites for the most up-to-date information.

I also wanted to clarify that the SHSAT will be offered to students interested in taking the exam at MS 447 on October 30, 2024. If a student is sick on that day they can take it at an alternative location on the weekend dates.

Following is the timeline of important dates for the high school process.

- **Tuesday, October 1, 2024:** High School Application, LaGuardia Application, and Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) Registration Opens
- **Friday, October 18, 2024:** SHSAT Registration Closes
- **Wednesday, October 30, 2024:** SHSAT School Day Testing at MS 447
- **Sat / Sun, November 16-17, 2024:** SHSAT Testing (8th-grade students not participating in school day testing)
- **Wednesday, December 4, 2024:** High School Application Closes
- **Thursday, March 6, 2025:** High School Offer Release

Please note these dates are subject to change.

Following are some resources to assist you with the high school admissions

process:

- Get organized! Create a chart that highlights some of the most important features to consider when evaluating high schools. You can use [this chart](#) as a template.
- [My Schools High School Directory](#): MySchools features the DOE online NYC public school directory where you can filter your search by size, interest areas, borough,

accessibility, admissions method, and early college. The DOE requires NYC families to submit high school applications via MySchools. If you do not have a MySchools account, you will create an account in the fall 2024 using a PIN number that you will receive from enrollment.

- [DOE High School Information](#): You can find comprehensive information about the high school admissions process on this page.
- [Highlights of New York City High Schools](#): Here you can find a list of New York City High schools organized by school focus.
- [Inside Schools](#): Inside Schools is a project of the Center for New York City Affairs at The New School. They provide independent information about New York City's public schools. Their staff include journalists, parents and public school advocates. Their staff visits many schools every year and interviews principals, teachers, students, and parents. They observe what's happening in the classrooms, cafeterias, hallways and even the bathrooms.
- Exchange resources with other NYC parents through the "Applying to High School NYC" Facebook group.

Warm wishes,

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