

Apply to Middle School!

All NYC 5th graders (and 6th graders at schools that end in 6th grade) can apply to middle school this winter. The middle school application opens the week of January 10, and the deadline to apply is **March 1**. Here's what to do, when!

✔ 2022 Admissions Checklist

DECEMBER 2021 - EARLY JANUARY 2022

- Get your welcome letter in the mail, from your school counselor, or from a Family Welcome Center (see below). This letter includes your child's unique MySchools account creation code so you can access your account and their application.
- Log in to **MySchools.nyc** to explore your child's middle school options, learn your district (1-32), find out if your child has a zoned middle school, and save favorite programs.
- Check schools' websites or contact them to learn about any virtual or in-person events.

JANUARY - MARCH 1, 2022

- When the application opens, log in to MySchools to add programs to your application.
- If you're applying to specific arts programs, an audition is also required as part of admissions—learn more at **schools.nyc.gov/MSAuditions**.
- Apply to middle school by March 1, 2022.** On your child's application, list up to 12 programs in your order of preference, with your favorite choice as #1. Apply one of the following ways:
 - **Online with MySchools.nyc - Recommended!**
 - **In person**
 - For public DOE/charter school students: Through your child's school counselor.
 - For private/parochial school students: Through a Family Welcome Center—see below.

MAY 2022

- Get your middle school offer, including waitlist information
- Add your child to additional waitlists (optional). If your child gets a waitlist offer, the program will contact you directly.

MySchools.nyc

Throughout the admissions process, use this resource to learn about middle schools. When the application period opens, log in to your account to build and submit your application. Later, you will use this same account to access your offer and manage waitlists.

schools.nyc.gov/Middle

Find the latest admissions updates. Watch videos to learn about middle school admissions, including how to use MySchools and how students get offers.

We're Here to Help!

Talk to your child's current school counselor throughout the process.

schools.nyc.gov/FWC

You can also visit a Family Welcome Center or call us at **718-935-2009** to get personalized support. We can help you explore your school options, access your MySchools account, and apply.

1. UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS

When you are logged in to **MySchools.nyc**, your personalized directory will display all (and only) the options where your child can apply. These programs have a variety of eligibility requirements:

District programs may be open only to students who live or go to school in that district, or to students in a very specific area, or zone. Your child can apply to programs in their middle school district and in the district where they attend elementary school, if different.

Boroughwide programs are open to students who live and/or go to school in the same borough as the school. If, for example, your child lives in Brooklyn, they are eligible to apply to boroughwide programs in Brooklyn.

Citywide programs are open to all students who live in New York City.

2. KNOW YOUR CHANCES

UPDATE | PAUSE ON SCREENING. As we did for students entering middle school in fall 2021, the DOE will continue to pause screening for applicants applying this year to enter middle school in fall 2022. This means that no students will be admitted to a middle school based on their academic record. Instead, offers to formerly screened or composite score programs will be made as they were last year, based on the factors already used by most NYC middle schools (listed below). Screening is paused because equitable measures for evaluating applicants are again unavailable.

These four admissions factors can help you better know your child's chances for each program.

Your Choices

The program choices you add to your application and the order in which you place them matter!

- After listing favorite programs, consider learning about and adding additional choices to your application. Applying to more programs will not affect your child's chances of matching to a top choice.
- There is no better strategy than placing programs in your true order of preference! Schools will not know if they were your first or last choice. You will always be considered for your first-choice program first; if you don't get an offer there, you will be considered for your second-choice program as if it were your first choice, and so on.

Each Program's Seat Availability

The number of available seats at different programs varies.

- For admissions purposes only, all programs set aside seats for and admit students in two designations: general education students (GE) and students with disabilities (SWD.) Your application will indicate GE or SWD.
- A program's number of **applicants per seat** (shown in MySchools) helps show how in-demand a program was last year. Higher-demand programs have many more applicants than available seats, which means a lower chance of getting an offer. If you apply to high-demand programs, also apply to programs with fewer applicants per seat.

Each Program's Priority Groups

Some programs use admissions priorities, meaning they admit specific groups of applicants before others.

- If there are more applicants to a program than seats available, the program admits applicants in priority-group order: all applicants in priority group 1 are considered for offers before any applicants in priority group 2, and so on.
- Some middle schools use a Diversity in Admissions priority: for a portion of seats, they prioritize specific groups of applicants, such as students from low-income families, who live in temporary housing, or who are English Language Learners.
- Find any program's **priority groups** on its MySchools page. Log in to see which priority your child is in for each program. Apply to some programs where your child is in priority group 1: whether you list a program first or last, your child will keep the same priority to attend it.

Each Program's Admissions Methods

Some programs make offers in different ways. For all programs, each applicant is assigned a random number by a computer, as in a lottery.

Middle school programs use one of the following admissions methods:

- **Open.** When there are more applicants than seats to a program, these random numbers are used (within priority groups) to determine who gets offers to that program first, and in what order.
- **Zoned or continuing.** For some programs, students are admitted first based on living in that middle school's zone or on being a continuing (current) student.
- **UPDATE | Audition.** This year, arts-based programs will be permitted to audition applicants virtually. Consistent with the pause on screening, no academic information or tests will be used to admit students for these programs.