

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAIR GUIDE

FALL 2016

NYC
Department of
Education

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Carmen Fariña
Chancellor

TIPS FOR THE FAIR



Attend
Presentation

1. Attend the Presentation

- The presentation will teach you how to apply to middle school. You can learn about the process and get your questions answered.



Read the
Directory

2. Read the Middle School Directory

- The directory contains information about Middle School Admissions and about the schools you may apply to.
- If you do not already have a Middle School Directory, you can pick one up at the Student Enrollment table.



Visit
School
Tables

3. Visit School Tables

- If the school has a sign-in sheet, make sure to sign it.
- Pick up school brochures and publications.
- Ask about date(s) for open house(s) and/or school tours.
- Get contact information for school staff members in case you have questions after the fair.



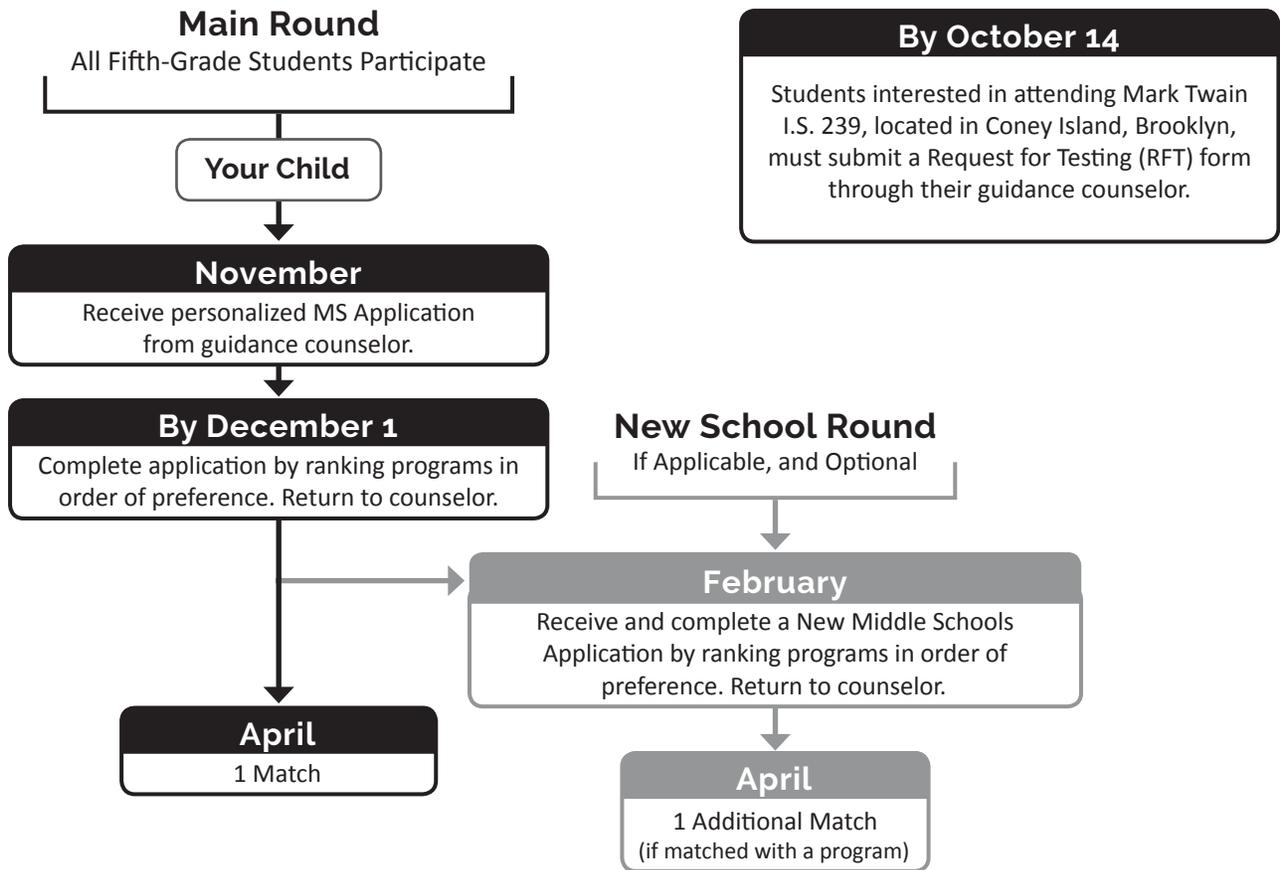
Ask Questions

4. Ask Questions

- Use the list of questions in the activity, "Asking Questions at Middle School Events" on page 16 of the Middle School Directory when you speak with school representatives.

APPLYING TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

To participate in Middle School Admissions, you must submit a Middle School Application by Thursday, December 1, 2016. The application will be personalized for your child and includes all of the middle school programs to which your child may apply.



WHAT SCHOOLS WILL BE ON MY APPLICATION?

All schools your child may apply to will be printed on your child’s application, including the following:

Zoned School(s) <small>*not all students have a zoned middle school or schools</small>	District Schools	Boroughwide Schools	Citywide Schools
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- Students may apply to schools in the district to which they are zoned for middle school.
- Students who attend fifth grade outside the district they live in may apply to schools in both districts.

School-based application schools and charter schools will not be on your application. Contact these schools directly to learn how to apply.

*To learn if you have a zoned school, visit schools.nyc.gov/SchoolSearch

MATCHING PROCESS

Students receive one match based on their Middle School Application. Students who do not match to a program ranked on their application are matched to a program with availability in their district.

Choices on Your Application

You should rank up to 12 programs in the order of preference that you'd like to attend.

- Rank your favorite program with a "1"; your second choice with a "2"; and so on,
- After ranking your favorite programs, rank additional programs you'd prefer over your least favorite programs,
- Rank programs you'd prefer to your zoned or continuing school *ahead* of your zoned or continuing school.

Admissions Priorities

Admissions Priorities determine the order applicants are considered for placement. If a program has multiple Admissions Priorities, students who fall into the first priority group will be considered for placement first. Be sure to carefully review the "Program Admissions" section on school pages in the Middle School Directory.

Below is an example from the Middle School Directory:

Admissions Priorities →

PROGRAM ADMISSIONS				Prior Year Admissions			
Program Name	Code	Admissions Method	Type	Applicants	Seats	Applicants Per Seat	Seats Filled
(I.S. 123) Academic Honors Program	A123S	Screened	GE	225	55	4	Y
			SWD	75	18	4	Y
Eligibility: Open to students and residents of Brooklyn Admissions Priorities: ❶ Priority to students and residents of the District ❷ Then to students and residents of Brooklyn. <i>Last year, this program admitted students from all priority groups.</i> Selection Criteria: Academic and Personal Behaviors ■ Attendance ■ Final 4th Grade Report Card ■ Punctuality ■ 4th Grade New York State ELA and Math Exams							
(I.S. 123) Zoned Program	A123Z	Zoned			Zoned		
Eligibility: Open to students residing in the zone							

This example shows that priority group 1 is all students and residents of the district who ranked this program on their applications. These students will be considered before priority group 2, which is all Brooklyn students or residents who ranked this program on their applications. Other admissions priorities you will see include:

- Zoned middle schools give priority to students who reside in the zone.
- K-8 schools give priority to continuing 5th graders.

Remember, students keep their priority to a zoned or continuing school no matter where they rank it on their application.

Admissions Methods

An Admissions Method is the way a school program considers and matches with applicants. Each program uses one of the following Admissions Methods:

Admissions Methods that DO NOT see applicants' academic information			
Zoned Based on address.	Unscreened Random selection.	Limited Unscreened Random selection, but students may move into a higher priority group by signing in at a school event.	Talent Test I.S. 239 Mark Twain and some District 21 programs admit applicants in descending order of scores on talent tests.
Admissions Methods that DO see applicants' academic information			
Screened School ranks applicants based on fourth-grade attendance, state tests, and grades. Additional requirements may exist.	Composite Score Applicants are admitted based on a score that's calculated using fourth grade report cards, state ELA and math exams, attendance, and behavior.		Screened for Language School bases admissions on applicants' home or native language.

Seat Availability

Review the number of available seats in a program and the number of applicants for those seats to learn how competitive a program is.

ACTION STEPS CHECKLIST

Use this Action Steps Checklist to plan out your fifth-grade year.
Check the exact deadlines with your guidance counselor.

SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Review the Middle School Directory.<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your middle school options and the Request for Testing (RFT) form where applicable.<input type="checkbox"/> Contact schools of interest about open houses, information sessions, and audition dates.<input type="checkbox"/> Check the middle school website for important dates: schools.nyc.gov/middle.<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the District Middle School Fairs.
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Attend the District Middle School Fairs.<input type="checkbox"/> Return RFT to your guidance counselor, if applicable.<input type="checkbox"/> Attend information sessions and open houses.<input type="checkbox"/> Review Admissions Priorities for each school.
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Receive the Middle School Application.<input type="checkbox"/> Check your commute for schools of interest.<input type="checkbox"/> Get your application ready:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rank the schools you are interested in attending.• Sign and make a copy of the application.
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Submit your completed application to your guidance counselor by Thursday, December 1, 2016.
JANUARY/ FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Attend auditions and interviews.<input type="checkbox"/> Complete school-based assessments and/or portfolios.
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Receive and return New Middle Schools Application to guidance counselor (optional).
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Middle school results letters distributed to families by guidance counselors.
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Students who submitted a New Middle Schools Application and received two matches, return notification letter to guidance counselor with choice of which match to accept.<input type="checkbox"/> Students who wish to appeal must also return notification letter to their school, then return completed Appeal Application.
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Middle School appeal results distributed to families.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Middle School Admissions page: schools.nyc.gov/middle.
- Sign up for our email list: schools.nyc.gov/subscribe.
- Contact your Family Welcome Center: schools.nyc.gov/welcomecenters.
- Call us at **718-935-2398**.