

Parents' Alliance
for **Citywide Education**



Building Support for the Advancement and Growth of Citywide Gifted Education
www.citywideschools.org

PACE Spring 2016 Forum

Basic Facts About Each Citywide G & T School

(Prepared by parents; not official school or DOE information)

The Anderson School

Basics	Notes
School Location	Manhattan, Upper West Side, District 3 (77 th between Amsterdam & Columbus)
Year founded	Founded as a program in 1987; established as a school in 2005
Duration (K-5, K-8, K-12)	K - 8
Number of students in the school (up to K-8)	563
Number of sections/grade	2 per grade (3 classes in current 6 th and 7 th grades)
Kindergarten class size	25
Number of teachers in classroom (K-8)	One lead teacher, one p/t teaching assistant
Facility attributes	Anderson shares space with P.S. 452 and The Computer School
Tenure of principal	7 years
Minimum score to get into the candidate pool	99th percentile
Additional Substance	
Curriculum – Type of math	Everyday Math supplemented by Singapore Math etc. e.g. Second grade includes Math Exemplars, Contexts for Learning, Mad Minute Math, and Problem Solver.
Curriculum – Languages offered	Spanish (K – 8)
Enrichments – What is offered and when	K-8: Art, Music, Gym, Spanish, Library, Anderson Action, computer lab, field trips throughout NYC, museums, theater; sustainability programs; Partnerships: N-Y Historical Society, Lincoln Center, Symphony Space; chess (K-3, 6-8 elective); artist-in-residence (1-2); VH-1 music lab, instrumental music (2-8), intramural sports (3-5), after-school academic support for NYS testing (3-8); small group advisory program (4-8); law/mock trial (5th), out-of-town trips: colonial village, Philadelphia, environmental science camp, Boston, Washington DC (4-8); musical theater production (6-8); Teams (6-8): Science Olympiad, robotics, math, debate, sports (soccer, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, tennis, table tennis, track, volleyball; cardio fitness room (6-8), middle school electives; (ballroom dancing (8th).
Transportation – What is offered, issues	DOE busing in Manhattan, private bus service from the Bronx only; MetroCards provided for other students per DOE eligibility.
Main items PTA/PTO raises \$\$ for	Assistant teachers, chess, music, Spanish (K – 4), technology, recess coordinator and equipment, wellness education (WITS), staff professional development, artist-in-residence, and much more.
Biggest changes this year – recent newsworthy developments, e.g., new library, new principal	Mindfulness initiative for K - 8. Free afterschool programs for middle school students through Manhattan Youth. (note: Continuation after next year is contingent upon DOE funding.) Participation in local, national and international academic competitions.

Brooklyn School of Inquiry (BSI)

Basics	Notes
School Location	Brooklyn, Bensonhurst, District 20 (50 Avenue P, at Stillwell Avenue)
Year founded	2009
Duration (K-5, K-8, K-12)	K - 8 (In 2016-2017, BSI will be K-8)
Number of students in the school (up to K-8)	568 at capacity
Number of sections/grade	2 per grade, except current Grade 6 which has 3 classes
Kindergarten class size	25
Number of teachers in classroom (K-5)	One head teacher, p/t specialty teachers
Facility attributes (Gym, auditorium, anything special – BSI is new, Anderson and TAG share space)	There are three schools at the PS/IS 237 campus. On the first floor is The Jim Thorpe School, a District 75 K-8 school, which has 75 students at capacity. On the second floor is The Academy of Talented Scholars (20K682), a choice K-5 school which will have about 450 students at capacity. We share the gym, cafeteria, auditorium, play yard and library. The building is new, erected in 2009.
Tenure of principal	6.5 years
Minimum score to get into the candidate pool	99 th percentile.
Additional Substance	
Curriculum – Type of math	The math curriculum is based on the TERC Investigations program and Math in the City Contexts for Learning. The Contexts for Learning were created by mathematicians from both City College and The Freudenthal Institute.
Curriculum – Languages offered	Spanish for 4th-8th grade
Enrichments – What is offered and when	Every grade gets 34 weeks of enrichments. Most are not 34 weeks long so they dovetail with each other. All students receive: Music, Art, Chess, Tribes. Grades K-2 receive: Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Grades 1 – 3 receive: Brooklyn Historical Society, Reach The World. Grade 3 alone has School Sculpture.
Minimum Transportation – What is offered, issues	Busing if you live within the .5-5 mile radius; Private bus for a fee (approx \$300 per month). Nearest train is the N.
Main items PTA/PTO raises \$\$ for	Teaching Assistants are the biggest ticket, followed by specialty teachers and enrichments (Chess, BCM, BHS, etc.), science supplies, art supplies and musical instruments.
Biggest changes this year – recent newsworthy developments, e.g., new library, new principal	The first middle school class started last year. BSI had 3100 applications for 10 spots in 6th grade. BSI hopes one day to build a hydroponic rooftop greenhouse which could also provide science classrooms and some food for the cafeteria.

NEST+m

Basics	Notes
School Location	Located in Manhattan on the Lower East Side at the corner of Ave. D & Houston; District 1; nearest subways are F, M, J & Z, M14D and M21 bus stops located across the street.
Year founded	2001
Duration (K-5, K-8, K-12)	K-12
Number of students in the school (up to K-8)	K-5 (687); 6-8 (428); 9-12 (612)
Number of sections/grade	4 per grade in Lower School (except 5 in 2015-2016 K)
Kindergarten class size	25 students
Number of teachers in classroom (K-5)	1 teacher, plus full-time Teaching Assistant in every K-3rd grade class; part-time Teaching Assistants in grades 4-5
Facility attributes (Gym, auditorium, anything special)	Large sunny classrooms; gym, auditorium, renovated library, art room, music room; playground equipment in protected courtyard; entire building and staff dedicated to NEST+m
Tenure of principal	Current Interim Acting Principal
Minimum score to get into the candidate pool	99 th percentile
Additional Substance	
Curriculum – Type of math	Singapore Math - Common Core Edition
Curriculum – Languages offered	Mandarin weekly in K-5; Spanish, Mandarin or French 6-8; more languages choices in HS
Enrichments – What is offered and when	Every Lower School child has Art, Music, Chess/Technology, & Mandarin once a week. They have PE twice a week. They also have Enrichment Clusters once a week for 10 weeks at a time (topics can include Korean, Street Hockey, CSI, Knitting, etc.). Many field trips based around curriculum “studies.” Ballroom dancing for 5 th graders, Columbia Student Publishing Initiative for 8 th graders, nationally ranked chess team and multiple math teams..
Transportation – What is offered, issues	Yellow school buses for students who live in Manhattan more than ½ mile from school and less than 5 miles; private buses are organized and paid for by parents who live outside Manhattan and/or further than 5 miles from school and need busing for their child (e.g. buses from Queens, Brooklyn, Tribeca, Upper East Side, Upper West Side).
Main items PTA/PTO raises \$\$ for	Teaching Assistants, a full-time staff developer for K-6 math curriculum, updated technology, Singapore Math textbooks, afterschool hourly wage of faculty providing coaching, tutoring and club mentorship, capital improvements such as AC and library renovation, professional development for teachers, and many other expenditures.
Biggest changes this year – recent newsworthy developments, e.g., new library, new principal	Interim Acting Principal currently in place, new interactive, multimedia language lab for grades 6-12; just awarded a \$100K grant for a renovation/upgrade of our auditorium and have two other substantial grant proposals submitted and under review, including one for an electrical and hardware upgrade for one of our computer labs.

The STEM Academy at PS 85Q – The Judge Charles J. Vallone School

Basics	Notes
School Location	Queens/Astoria/District 30
Year founded	2009
Duration (K-5, K-8, K-12)	3-5 (K-2 have a district G&T program)
Number of students in the school (up to K-8)	90 in STEM; 620 in PS 85Q
Number of sections/grade	1/grade
Kindergarten class size	N/A
Number of teachers in classroom (K-5)	1 (Learning Leaders assist at times)
Facility attributes	Art studio, science lab, technology lab, music room with 30 keyboards, children's garden, large track and field, playground area with rock climbing wall and small zip-line. Building is not shared with other schools.
Tenure of principal	12 years
Minimum score to get into the candidate pool	99 th percentile
Additional Substance	
Curriculum – Type of math	Go Math (supplemented with Singapore Math and other resources)
Curriculum – Languages offered	Spanish
Enrichments – What is offered and when	Music, Technology, Science, Theater, Library, Phys Ed and Visual Art clusters during the school day, plus a separate Studio in a School program and a Friday enrichment program each week that offers choices including Spanish, guitar, art, science, sports, folk singing, improv, newspapers and more. Additional programs in ballroom dance, architecture, theater and language, along with an Audubon Society For the Birds program.
Transportation – What is offered, issues	Yellow busing within five miles of school. No private busing.
Main items PTA/PTO raises \$\$ for	Language, Studio in a School, other art and science programs, supplies and additional materials for classrooms and cluster programs, field trips and additional in-school programming
Biggest changes this year – recent newsworthy developments, e.g., new library, new principal	Auditorium upgrade, including new sound system, additional technology and new smart boards in the classrooms, electrical upgrade to allow for air conditioners to be installed.

The 30th Avenue School (Q300)

Basics	Notes
School Location	Grades K-3: co-located at the P.S. 17Q campus in Astoria (District 30) Grades 6-8: co-located five blocks away at the I.S.126 campus in Long Island City (District 30)
Year founded	2014
Duration	K-8
Number of students in the school	375 (2016-17: grades K-3 & 6-8)
Number of sections/grade	2 for grades K-3 and 7. In 2016-2017, there will be 3 for 6th grade, and 1 for 8th grade.
Kindergarten class size	25
Number of teachers in class (K-5)	1 teacher, plus full-time teaching assistant (TA) in each K-1st grade class; part-time TAs in grades 2-3.
Facility attributes	In the PS 17Q campus, grades K-3 have a computer room ; an explorations room with open-ended materials such as blocks and Legos; an interior yard with playground equipment and an exterior yard . In the I.S. 126 campus, 6th and 7th grades have a science lab , a computer lab , and a large schoolyard .
Tenure of principal	2 years
Minimum score for candidate pool	At least 97 th percentile pursuant to Department of Education guidelines; The following are approximate seats open: 45 K seats; 7 first grade seats; 0 second grade seats; 2-3 third grade seats; 90 sixth grade seats.
Additional Substance	
Curriculum – Type of math	K-5: TERC Investigations and Contexts for Learning; 6-8: Connected Mathematics Project 3
Curriculum – Languages offered	Spanish
Enrichments – What is offered and when	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-School: Grades K-8: Technology/Programming, Art, Music, Spanish, Gym, Field Trips Grades 2-3: Architecture and other enrichments; Grades 6-8: Robotics; Engineering; Dance; Small Group Advisory; 10-week enrichment clusters include: Model UN, Robotics, Knitting, Math League, Photography, Harry Potter, and Fitness Club. Partnerships include Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Global Language Project, Center for Architecture, All Star Studios, and artists-in-residence ● Afterschool: Grades K-3: <i>Serious Fun NYC</i> provides fee-based classes including guitar, keyboard, violin, 3D printing, cartooning, puppet theater, sculpture, soccer, dance, basketball, and martial arts. <i>NY Chess Kids</i> (fee based) has classes once a week. Grades 6-8: <i>Global Kids</i> provides free programming involving leadership development, international affairs, and STEM programming.
Transportation	Public school buses for eligible Queens students; Metrocards for eligible students; in 2015-16, fee-based private school buses operated in areas of Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan.
Main items PTA/PTO raises \$\$ for	Teaching Assistants (K-3); Music enrichment (K-3; 6-8); Architecture (2); Spanish (6-7) ; Robotics Kits (6-8); laptops; Dance (6-7); Model UN; teacher wish lists
Biggest changes this year	Middle School assistant principal was hired. For 2016-2017, there will be 3 entering 6th grade classes. Middle-school Lego robotics team went to the citywide tournament.

Talented & Gifted School for Young Scholars

Basics	Notes
School Location	Located in East Harlem at 109 th St. and 2nd Ave., two blocks from 6 train 110 th street subway
Year founded	Founded as a program in 1987; later established as K-5 school, with 6-8 merging into school in 2006
Duration (K-5, K-8, K-12)	K-8
Number of students in the school (up to K-8)	550
Number of sections/grade	2 per grade (except current grade 5 which has three classes this year)
Kindergarten class size	25
Number of teachers in classroom (K-5)	One lead teacher with half-time assistant teachers in kindergarten and 1st grade. One lead teacher in other grades; many have Hunter College student teachers to assist
Facility attributes	Technology lab, science and art classrooms, large gym, cafeteria, auditorium and play yard, with separate space for kindergarten; TAG shares the building with Esperanza Preparatory Academy as well as a small District 75 program
Tenure of principal	14 years
Minimum score to get into the candidate pool	99 th percentile
Additional Substance	
Curriculum – Type of math	Singapore Math supplemented with other math curricula
Curriculum – Languages offered	Spanish grades 3-8; Latin in Grade 2 and above
Enrichments – What is offered and when	Science (twice a week), Chess (K-1 st), Technology (twice a week), Art, Phys. Ed., Movement, Music (1 st -3 rd funded by PTA), Wind Ensemble (4 th -8 th), Latin Jazz Band (Middle School), Debate Club (2 nd -8 th), Debate Team (middle school), Math Team, Junior Great Books (1 st - 8 th), Basketball team (middle school). Additional Enrichment Clusters offered once a week during spring semester (examples include Stone Age Art, Puppetry, Dance, Archeology, Poetry Club). Writing Clinics offered during fall & winter semester. Harvard Enrichment Program (8 th grade). Free “Ramp Up” preparatory program over summer for rising 6 th graders. Free specialized high school exam prep for all middle schoolers.
Transportation – What is offered, issues	Yellow busing in Manhattan within district 4, 5, 6, and northern part of district 3. Private buses from Queens, Bronx and northern Manhattan organized and paid for by parents as needed. Metrocard to students who meet DOE guidelines.
Main items PTA raises \$\$ for	Teaching assistants for grades K-1, Singapore math curriculum for grades K-5, music instruction for grades 1-3, chess for K and 1, technology (mainly through grants), debate, supplemental physical ed instructors and recess facilitators from Phys. Ed. Plus, middle school basketball team, chess team, and dance instruction.
Biggest changes this year – recent newsworthy developments, e.g., new library, new principal	School gained common space in its building. New assistant principal hired. Lockers installed for middle school students. Basketball, chess teams added, plus dance instruction.