








Ask questions

You can get a feel for the tone and culture of a school if you ask questions like these at an open house or middle school fair:

-  How does the school help 6th graders adjust to a new school?
-  How do you challenge top students?
-  How do you support children who are struggling?
-  How much homework do children have?
-  How do you handle behavior problems?
-  Are there any sports teams or clubs?
-  How do you help kids find a good high school?

Notes

InsideSchools



How to rank your middle school choices

A checklist for parents by InsideSchools staff









For parents, by parents, your free independent guide to New York City public schools.

InsideSchools.org

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A PROJECT OF **CENTER FOR NEW YORK CITY AFFAIRS** **THE NEW SCHOOL**




Research schools

-  Read our handy guides and school profiles.
-  Search for schools by your home address, neighborhood or district.
-  Profiles of our favorite schools are labeled “staff picks” or “up and coming.”
-  Our photos show you what the school looks like.
-  Our reviews tell you “what’s special” and “the downside.”
-  “Admissions” tells you if you are eligible to get in.



Dive into the data

Click on “school stats” to learn:

Is the school safe?




-  How many teachers say order and discipline are maintained?
-  How many students say bullying happens most or all the time?
-  How many children feel safe in the hallways and bathrooms?

Do teachers like the school?

-  How many teachers recommend the school to other families?
-  How many teachers trust the principal?



Does the school prepare kids for high school?

-  How many students take accelerated classes (algebra or biology) in 8th grade?
-  Where do most children go to high school?
-  How do children perform on state standardized tests?