

# InsideSchools

## HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ACTION PLAN

### **7th grade**

- Get to school every day and on time.
- Use [InsideSchools](#) to start exploring your options.
- Put together a plan to study for the [Specialized High Schools Admissions Test \(SHSAT\)](#). Better yet, start studying!
- Collect your best work from 7th grade.
- Bring home a copy of the High School Directory, distributed to 7th-graders in June.
- Interested in visual or performing arts programs? Ask your art teachers to help you compile visual arts portfolios and prepare for auditions.

### **Summer before 8th grade**

- Put together a [plan to stay organized](#) throughout the fall
- Continue researching options on Insideschools.
- Browse the High School Directory
- Start weighing your options and creating a list of schools you want to visit.
- Attend the Department of Education's (DOE) high school admissions workshops
- Study for the SHSAT.
- Rehearse for auditions and work on art portfolio.

### **Fall of 8th grade**

#### **September**

- Check DOE's high school admissions calendar and individual school websites for open house and tour dates.
- Sign up for school tours and open houses.
- Register with your guidance counselor to take the SHSAT and to audition for LaGuardia High School.
- Request needed accommodations for the SHSAT and LaGuardia audition (applies to students with I.E.P.s or 504 accommodations).
- Keep studying for the SHSAT and rehearsing for auditions.
- Discuss high school options with your guidance counselor.
- Attend at least one of the [high school fairs](#) being held in each borough.

## **October**

- Attend school tours and open houses.
- Attend at least one more high school fair.
- Confirm your SHSAT and LaGuardia audition accommodations.
- Receive the high school application and check for errors.
- Sign up for interviews, take admission exams and assessments; keep track of dates and deadlines.
- Get your academic work samples and portfolios ready and submit to individual schools per their deadlines.
- Take the SHSAT (end of October for current 8th- and 9th-graders).

## **November**

- Take the SHSAT (early November for students needing accommodations or granted a make-up test)
- Attend school tours and open houses.
- Attend interviews, submit work samples and portfolios and complete any other tasks that individual schools may require for admission.
- [Finalize](#) your list of schools and decide how to rank them on your application.
- [Complete the application](#). Make sure you entered the correct program codes.
- Make a copy of your completed application for your records.
- Submit the application by the deadline (typically late November or early December).

*Tip: Hand in your application at least a day or two ahead of the deadline so your guidance counselor has time to reach out to you to correct any errors.*

## **December & January**

- Wrap up your remaining interviews, auditions, exams and assessments.
- Relax and focus on other things. There's nothing left to do until decision letters arrive in March.