NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL RESOURCES

PUBLICATIONS

*The Parents’ Guide to New York City’s Best Public Elementary Schools* by Clara Hemphill. This book was updated in 2005 with many examples of wonderful New York City public schools.

*The Manhattan Guide to Private Schools and Selective Public Schools* by Victoria Goldman revised in 2010. The latter part of this book has an excellent section on public schools. The beginning of the book, while geared to private schools, also has valuable information.

*West Side Spirit, Our Town, NY Press, and Westside/Chelsea Clinton* published by Manhattan Media, LLC. Each year they feature the “Blackboard Awards” which honor successful public, private and parochial schools and have valuable statistics.

INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

*The Department of Education* has a website with valuable information including standardized test scores and progress reports for individual districts and schools. The general website is [http://schools.nyc.gov](http://schools.nyc.gov), the more specific one is [http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability](http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability). Some schools have their own independent websites, but most can be accessed via the *School Search* link on the DOE homepage, and from there you will find links to specific statistics for that school.

The latest *English Language Arts and Math Tests* Grades 3-8 scores are available at: [http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/TestResults/ELAandMathTestResults](http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/data/TestResults/ELAandMathTestResults).

When assessing test scores, the higher the 3/4 scores and the lower the 1 scores, the better.

*School progress reports*, as designated by a letter grade, can be found at: [http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/tools/report/default.htm](http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/tools/report/default.htm) or on individual school websites.

Some schools have their own *independent websites*, but most can be accessed by [http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/District#/MSchool#](http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/District#/MSchool#). The District number is a two digit number, e.g. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06 and the School number is a three digit number preceded by M, e.g. M009, M087, M333: [http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/03/M009](http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/03/M009).

Updated information on *gifted and talented* admission procedures can be found at: [http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/GiftedandTalented/default.htm](http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/GiftedandTalented/default.htm).


*InsideSchools* has an indispensable website at [http://www.insideschools.org](http://www.insideschools.org). It is instrumental in dispersing pertinent information to parents about the New York City public school experience and has a write-up on each school. You can be put on an email list for public school news alerts or have questions answered in a forum.


*Hunter College Elementary School*, open to Manhattan residences for elementary school, has all of its admission information available at [http://www.hunterschools.org/es/admissions](http://www.hunterschools.org/es/admissions).

*The Special Music School*, a citywide option for musically talented children, has all of its admission information available at [http://www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/sms/](http://www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/sms/).

*Gotham Schools* is an education website that features daily news reports and features on the NYC public school system. Its website is: [www.gothamschools.org](http://www.gothamschools.org).

*Keep in touch with your district’s Community Education Council (CEC) to learn about issues involving your district including rezoning. If you are prepared to be inundated with emails, and don’t mind reading many to glean valuable information from a few, then register with your district’s parent listserv. Also, many nursery schools and independent consultants, sponsor workshops and panel discussions on the process of applying to schools.*

*School Search NYC*, founded by Robin Aronow, maintains a website, which has valuable links to schools and organizations. In addition, Robin offers workshops, individual consultations, and an email updating service to keep you informed about public school programs, policies, timelines, deadlines, testing, etc. [http://www.schoolsearchnyc.com](http://www.schoolsearchnyc.com), 212-316-0186, robin@schoolsearchnyc.com.