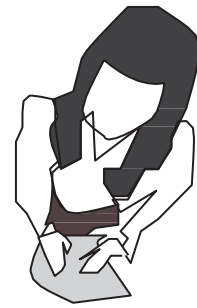


# Middle School Fair Guide

Fall 2015



## TIPS FOR NAVIGATING THE FAIR



Attend  
Presentation

### 1. Attend Tonight's Presentation

- The presentation will give you an overview of how to apply to middle school. This is an opportunity to learn about the process and get your questions answered



Look through  
Directory

### 2. Look through the Middle School Directory

- If you do not already have a middle school directory, you can pick one up at the DOE table
- The directory contains information about the middle schools available to you, and about the application process



Visit with  
Schools

### 3. Visit School Tables

- If the school has a sign-in sheet, make sure to sign it
- Pick up brochures and school-specific publications
- Ask about date(s) for Open House(s) and/or school tours
- Get contact information for school staff members in case you want to ask follow-up questions after the fair



List Questions

### 4. Make a List of Questions and Prepare to Collect New Information

- Ask about the school culture: How do students interact with each other and their teachers? Do students wear uniforms? Do students call teachers by their first names?
- Ask questions about your child's area of interest. How is the focus of the school's program (or programs) integrated into the curriculum? Are there specific courses related to your child's interests?
- How does the school communicate with parents about what's happening at the school and about your child's progress?
- What is the location and what are the transportation routes to and from the school? How long will it take to get there?

# INFORMATION ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- Students may apply to schools in the district to which they are zoned for middle school—your home address determines where you are zoned
- Students who attend 5th grade in a district different from the one where they are zoned to middle school may apply to schools in both districts
- Students may apply to boroughwide or citywide schools, or schools with multiple district eligibilities
- Some schools are open only to students living in the zone. Eligibility to middle school is based on Chancellor’s Regulation A-101: [schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations](https://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations)

## MATCHING PROCESS

### Student Choices on Application

- The middle school application is pre-populated with customized middle school choices
  - All the schools for which you are eligible to apply will be listed on your application
- Students should rank the schools in which they are interested in descending order
  - Students do not need to rank all schools on the application, but should rank enough so that they will match to one of their choices
- Students receive one offer based on their middle school application
  - Students who do not match to one of the choices on their application will be matched to an open seat in their district
- Schools that run their own application process and charter schools will not show up on the middle school application

### Admissions Priorities

Admissions priorities are the order applicants are considered for placement. A school may have programs with different priorities and multiple levels of priorities for each program.

*Below is an example from the Middle School Directory:*

### Admissions Priorities and Programs

#### Admissions Priorities

Programs with different priorities

- For K002A: Open to students and residents of District 17
- For K002U:

Multiple levels of priorities for each program

1. Priority to students residing in the zone
2. Then to students and residents of District 17

- If you don’t fall into any of the priority groups, you are not eligible to apply to the program
- Zoned middle schools will continue to grant priority to students who reside in the zone
- K-8 schools offer priority to continuing 5th graders
- Students keep their priority to a zoned or continuing school no matter where they rank it on their application
  - » If you do not get a higher choice on the application, you will be matched to your zoned or continuing school if you applied to it
  - » A zoned school or K-8 school option should be ranked AFTER any other programs for which the student wants to be considered

## **Admissions Methods**

UNSCREENED: Random lottery selection process

### **LIMITED UNSCREENED**

- » Priority to students who attend and sign in at an information session, school tour, open house event, or by visiting the school's exhibit at the Middle School Fair

ZONED: Open to students in the zoned area

### **TALENT TEST**

- » For I.S. 239 Mark Twain and District 21 schools only
- » Students are admitted in descending order of their scores on talent tests taken at I.S. 239 Mark Twain

### **SCREENED – LANGUAGE**

- » Priority is given to English Language Learners, participants of elementary school level Dual Language and Transitional Bilingual Education programs in the target language, and heritage speakers of the target language

### **COMPOSITE SCORE**

- » Students are admitted in descending order of a composite score consisting of grades, test scores, academic and personal behaviors, attendance, and punctuality. Check the middle school directory to see what each school uses for their composite score

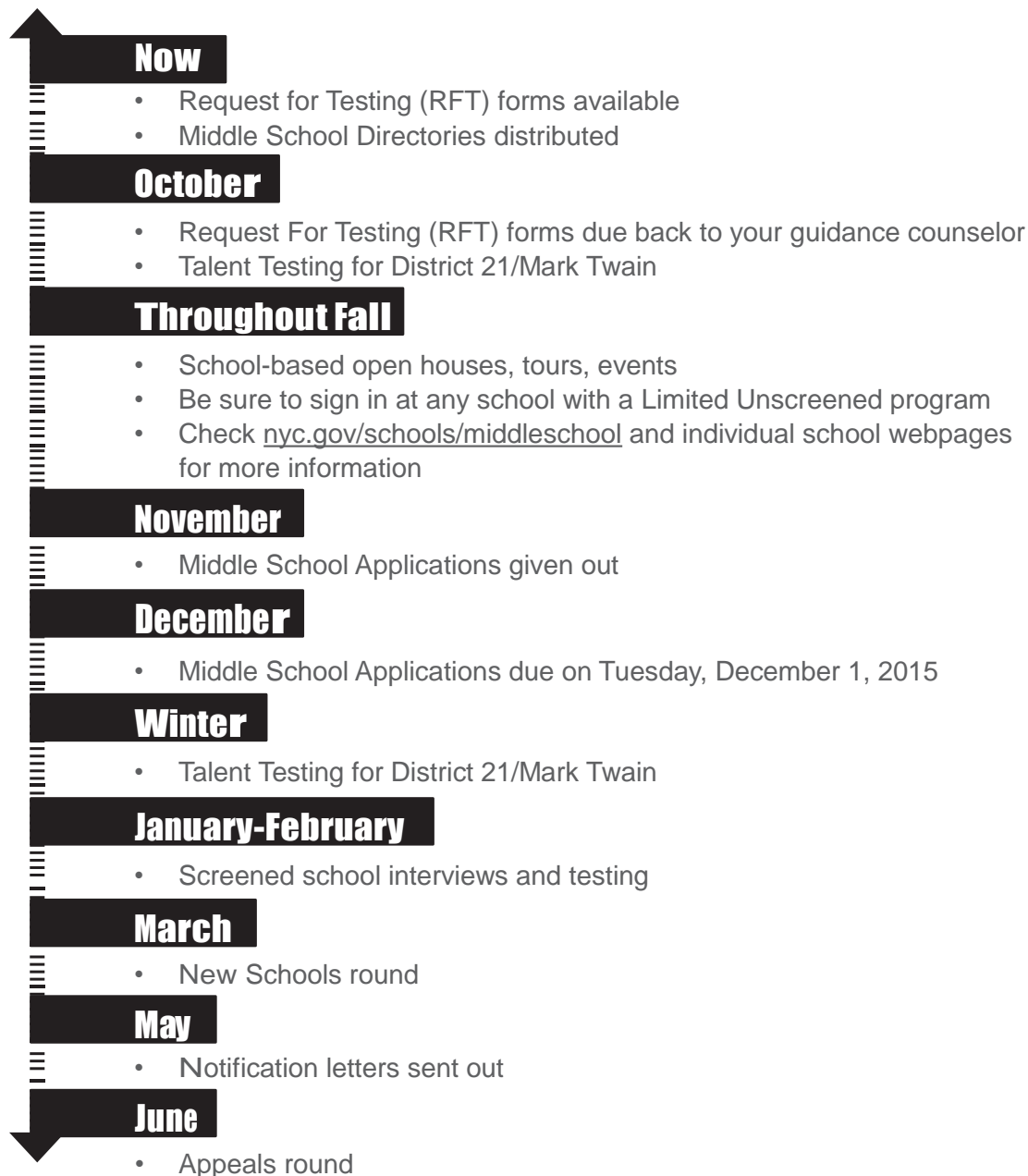
### **SCREENED**

- » Students are ranked based on a range of criteria
- » Schools may also ask students to complete an academic or performance assessment
- » State Law: “[n]o school district shall make any student promotion or placement decisions based solely or primarily on student performance on the state administered standardized English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for grades three through eight.”

## **Seat Availability**

- Review the number of available seats in a program, listed in the middle school directory
- Demand, or the number of applicants per seat, will affect your likelihood of being matched
- You have a lower chance of matching to programs with higher demand
- If you rank programs with lower demand, you increase your chance of matching to one of your choices

# MIDDLE SCHOOL PROCESS APPLICATION TIMELINE



## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Visit** the Middle School Admissions page: [nyc.gov/schools/middleschool](http://nyc.gov/schools/middleschool)
- **Sign up** for our email list: [nyc.gov/schools/subscribe](http://nyc.gov/schools/subscribe)
- **Contact** your Family Welcome Center:  
[nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/newStudents/welcomecenters](http://nyc.gov/schools/choicesenrollment/newStudents/welcomecenters)
- **Call** P311 at 718-935-2398
- **Email** [MS\\_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:MS_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov)