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

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

InsideSchools.org
contact@insideschools.org (212) 229-5471

How to rank your middle school choices

A checklist for parents by InsideSchools staff
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.

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?