

Culture & tone

You don't want anarchy... or a police state.

What's the noise level?



Can hear a pin drop.

A productive hum.

What do you hear?



Shouting and yelling.

Grown-ups and kids speak in respectful voices.

Are parents involved?



Parents shut out.

Parents & staff work as a team.

Gym, recess & play

Kids shouldn't sit still all day.

Work/play balance?



All work - no play or recess.

Purposeful play, guided by teachers.

Are students physically active?



No gym, dance or movement in class, watching movies at lunch.

Outdoors every day, jumping, dancing and skipping.

Lunch & after-school

How students spend their time outside the

What's the lunchroom like?



Rowdy, messy, smelly.

Orderly and clean.

After-school programs?



Limited, expensive.

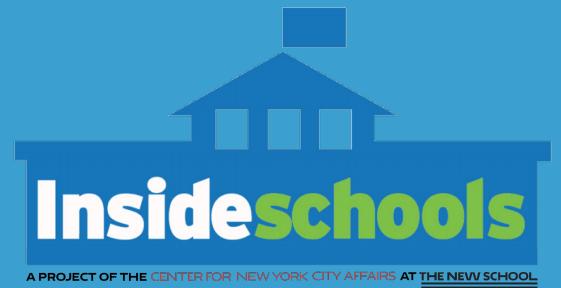
Free for all students, extensive opportunities.

Notes

Did this school match our Insideschools profile?
We want to know what you think – so add your comments on our site.

Insideschools.org

contact@insideschools.org (212) 229 5471



SCHOOL NAME:



What to look for on an elementary school tour

A checklist for parents
by the Insideschools
staff.

First impressions

Trust your instincts. First impressions count.

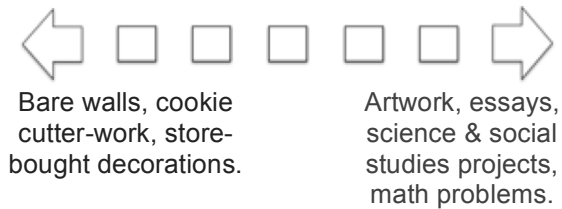
Security guard and office staff



Building



Student work on display



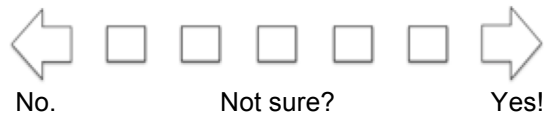
Leadership

A principal can make or break a school.

Does the principal have a clear vision?



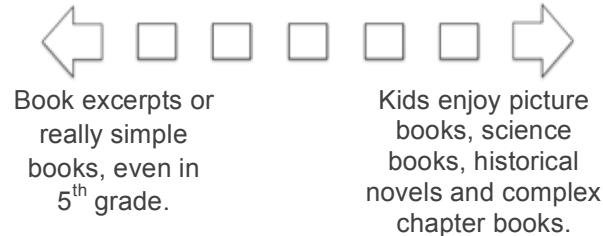
Is there a clear plan to achieve that vision?



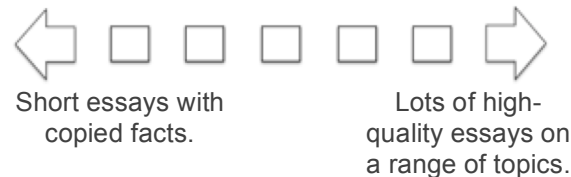
Academics

Great schools explore all subjects.

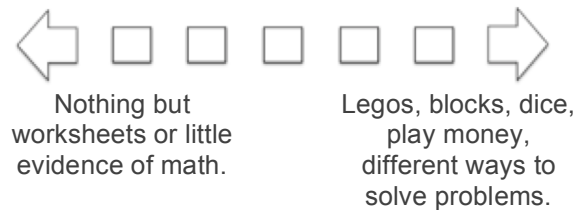
Reading



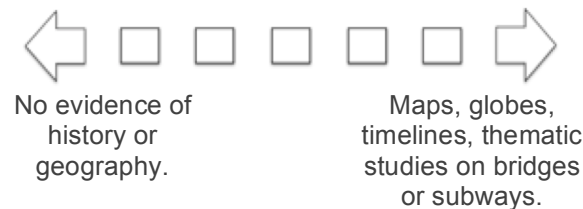
Writing



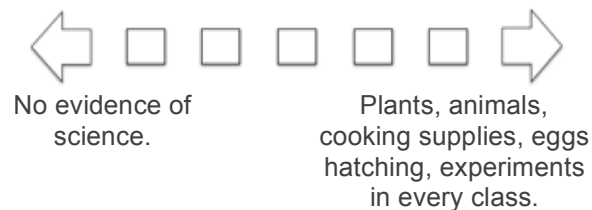
Math



Social studies



Science



Teaching

A great teacher will make you envy your child.

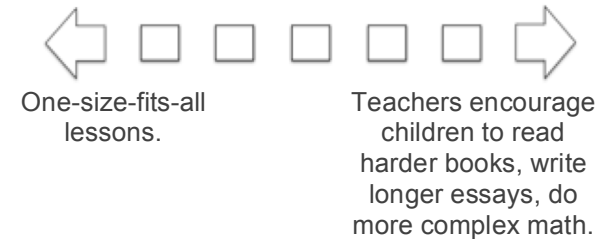
Are students engaged?



Who does the talking?



Do teachers challenge top students?



Do teachers support struggling kids?



Do teachers plan together?

