



THE ANDERSON SCHOOL PS 334 (K-8)

JODI HYDE, PRINCIPAL

DENISE JORDAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ▪ ROBERT SCHLISSMAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

100 West 77th Street ▪ New York, NY 10024 ▪ 212.595.7193 ▪ www.PS334Anderson.org

K-5 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Anderson's history? Anderson opened its doors in September, 1987 as a city-wide accelerated program for gifted children within P.S. 9 (on W. 84th St. at Columbus Avenue.) Our middle school classes began in September, 2003 - this June we will graduate our tenth 8th grade class. In July 2005, school status was granted to Anderson by the Department of Education (DOE), and in July of 2009, we were moved to our current location on West 77th Street at Columbus Avenue.

2. What is the difference between Anderson and local Districts' Gifted and Talented Programs? The Anderson School is a city-wide admissions school and as such, students living in all five boroughs may apply via the DOE's Gifted and Talented admissions process. Its curriculum is developed internally following the New York State and City core curriculum framework for grades K-8 and is both accelerated and enriched. G&T programs draw students from the local District only and the curriculum is usually academically enriched.

3. How large is Anderson? We currently have 575 students in grades K-8, with two classes in each elementary grade. The DOE has no plans to expand Anderson in the future. We aim to cap each Kindergarten at 25 students, with the class size increasing to 28 in 1st grade. Although we try to cap grades 1-5 at 28 students, those classes may have up to 32 students each. There is a teacher and an assistant teacher in all of our K-5 classrooms and in the middle school as needed.

4. What are the school's hours? The building opens at 7:55 AM, school begins at 8:20 AM and ends at 2:40 PM. Free breakfast is available from 7:55-8:15 AM. Hours could change slightly, if the building's three schools decide to modify the daily schedule.

5. Do you have specials? Yes. Art, Music, Gym, Science, Spanish (K-5, exposure program; 6-8, core subject), Technology, Library. Also: Artist-in-residence (K-1, 5-8 lunchtime elective), Chess (K-2), Law (5), Advisory (5-8), out-of-town field trips (4-8), student council (6-8), electives (6-8). Music specifics: singing, movement, theory (K-3); recorder (2); guitar (3); band/orchestra (4-8 violin, viola, cello, clarinet, flute, sax, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, percussion); keyboard lab (6-8); chorus electives (2-8); rock bands (6-8); string orchestra (6-8).

6. Are there enrichments? We visit or have affiliations with: MOMA, Met Museum, AMNH, Symphony Space, Metropolitan Debate League, NY Math League, Camp Speers, Clearwater, NY Historical Society, Wellness in the Schools (healthier lunches & Kids Cook, K-3). Students participate in national competitions including: Wordmasters, Continental Math, MathCounts, SIGMA, Noetic Math, National Geographic Bee, Scripps Spelling Bee and the international AMC 8, AMC 10, and Math Kangaroo competitions.

7. Any other features? New cardiovascular fitness/wellness classroom, new tech lab, schoolyard painting, playground climbing structure, library media center, SmartBoard in each classroom, 8 laptop carts, climbing wall, composting program.

8. Is there an after-school program? Yes, Wingspan Arts is our afterschool provider, with academic, athletic and arts classes (K-6, www.wingspanarts.org.) They have a moderate fee structure and offer some scholarships. Wingspan begins with a snack when school ends and runs until 6:00 PM. NYChessKids provides afterschool chess instruction and team coaching for tournaments, also for a moderate fee. Anderson offers for free: academic support (3-8), elementary track and intramural programs (3-5), annual musical (5-8), 16 sports teams (6-8, boy, girl, co-ed, JV) and clubs (6-8, math, debate and Science Olympiad teams).

9. Is busing provided? It depends. The DOE does not provide yellow school bus service to Anderson from any borough other than Manhattan. Within Manhattan age and distance eligibility requirements apply for bus service, or parents may opt for their child to receive a MetroCard. Students beyond yellow school bus service will receive MetroCards automatically. Some students living in the Bronx use private buses - Baker Bus: 718.320.2523 or Friendly Bus: 718.588.5050.

10. What role do parents play? Our parents have always been an integral part of Anderson's success. They serve on the School Leadership Team, on the PTA, and as class parents. They volunteer at open houses, tours and orientation events for prospective parents and organize fun events for our kids: KidCreate and KidFit. They run fundraisers – an auction, movie nights, gift wrap drives and more. Some parents receive Learning Leaders training so they can assist the librarian, the art teachers, and help out in lunchroom and at recess.

11. Are gender, diversity, or home address considerations in the admissions process? We do not believe that anything other than the combined percentile rank on the G&T test is considered by the DOE for placement. We celebrate diversity in all our classrooms.

12. Is there life after Anderson? Yes. All Anderson 5th graders who are in good academic standing may choose to continue at Anderson Middle School through 8th grade. We are proud that the vast majority of our 8th graders have consistently received offers from their top choice high schools. Many received acceptances to specialized public high schools (Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, Brooklyn Tech, LaGuardia Arts, American Studies at Lehman College, MSE at City College and Brooklyn Latin) and desirable, high performing local schools including Beacon, Bard Early College HS I and II, Eleanor Roosevelt, Millennium, Nest + M, Townsend Harris and Upper Lab. In addition, students have been accepted at private schools such as Brearley, Dalton, Deerfield, Fieldston, Friends, Horace Mann, Loyola, Nightingale, Regis, Spence and Trinity. We have a full-time guidance counselor who helps families with high school articulation.

More questions? Marcie Shaw, Parent Coord: MShaw6@schools.nyc.gov or Donna Smiley, Admissions: DSmiley@schools.nyc.gov