



THE ANDERSON SCHOOL PS 334 (K-8)

JODI HYDE, PRINCIPAL

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K-5 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. What is Anderson's history?** Anderson opened its doors in September, 1987 as a citywide accelerated program for gifted children within PS 9. Our middle school classes began in September, 2003. In July 2005, school status was granted to Anderson, and in July of 2009, we moved to our current location on West 77th Street at Columbus Avenue that we share with two District 3 middle schools.
- 2. What is the difference between Anderson and local districts' Gifted and Talented Programs?** The Anderson School is a citywide 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 just academically enriched.
- 3. How large is Anderson?** In Fall 2019, we expect to have 525 students in grades K-8, with two classes in each grade. The DOE has no plans to expand Anderson in the future. Kindergarten is capped at 25 students, with the class size increasing to 28-29 in grades 1-5. There is a teacher and an assistant teacher in all of our K-5 classrooms and in the middle school classes, 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, Application Design/Coding (5, 7), Library, Enrichment Clusters (K-8). Also: Artist-in-residence (1-2, 5-8 elective), Chess (K-3, 5-8 elective), reading buddies (K/4); robotics (K-2); Symphony Space (Asia/3, Latin America/5), Film Society of Lincoln Center (3 & 6), Law (5), Advisory (4-8), out-of-town field trips (4-8), student council (6-8), electives (6-8). Music specifics: singing, movement, theory (K-3); recorder (2); guitar (5); band (4-8, clarinet, flute, sax, trumpet, trombone, percussion); keyboard lab (6-8); chorus electives (2-8); rock bands (6-8).
- 6. Are there enrichments?** We visit or have affiliations with: MOMA, Met Museum, AMNH, Metropolitan Debate League, NY Math League, Camp Speers, Clearwater, NY Historical Society, Wellness in the Schools Alum Programs. Students participate in national competitions including: Wordmasters, Continental Math, MathCounts, SIGMA, Noetic Math, Mathematical Olympiad, National Geographic Bee, Scripps Spelling Bee and the international AMC 8, AMC 10, and Math Kangaroo competitions.
- 7. Any other features?** Cardiovascular fitness/wellness classroom, Apple computer lab, painted schoolyard, playground climbing structure, library media center, SmartBoard in each classroom, 10 laptop/iPad carts, lateral climbing wall, composting.
- 8. Is there an after-school program?** Yes, Wingspan Arts is our afterschool provider, with academic, athletic and arts classes (K-5, 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. NY Scholastic Chess Club 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), Manhattan Youth afterschool provider for middle school: annual musical (6-8), 16 sports teams (6-8, boy, girl, co-ed, JV) and clubs (6-8, math, debate, robotics, 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, distance eligibility, and route length limitations apply for bus service, or parents may opt for their child to receive a MetroCard. Students beyond yellow school bus service receive MetroCards automatically. Some students living in the Bronx use a private bus service, Baker Bus: 718.320.2523.
- 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 help organize fun community-building events. They run fundraisers – an auction, movie nights and more. Some parents receive training to assist in the library, in art, and help out in lunchroom and at recess.
- 11. Are gender, diversity, or home address considerations in the admissions process?** After sibling preference, only the combined percentile rank on the G&T test is currently considered by the DOE in their placement lottery. We celebrate diversity in all our classrooms and we are working with the DOE to develop a plan to increase diversity in our admissions placements.
- 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, Eleanor Roosevelt, Millennium, Nest + M, Townsend Harris and Upper Lab. In addition, students have been accepted at private schools such as Trinity, Brearley, Dalton, Fieldston, Horace Mann, Nightingale, Regis, Spence, and boarding schools. We have a full-time guidance counselor who helps families with high school articulation.

Questions? Donna Smiley, Admissions: DSmiley@schools.nyc.gov or Ana Crenovich, Parent Coord: ACrenovich@schools.nyc.gov 11/15/18