



# THE ANDERSON SCHOOL (PS 334)

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## DESCRIPTION

The Anderson School provides a judicious combination of accelerated and enriched curriculum for the distinct needs of gifted learners. Our upper grades are fully integrated within our highly successful K-8 school. With only two classes per grade, the relationship between students and teachers is very personal and supportive.

Students are guided by skilled educators who recognize the special needs of children with outstanding intellectual potential, in general education and ICT classes. The Anderson School provides intimate, differentiated and departmentalized instruction that encourages higher level critical thinking skills, creative problem solving, divergent thinking, research, independent study, collaborative projects, social/emotional reflection, and self-evaluation.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

- ❖ Technology is incorporated throughout the curriculum, including the use of SmartBoards, a technology lab, Apple laptop and iPad carts, and other multi-media, as well as a state-of-the-art cardio wellness/fitness room, thanks to City Council technology grants and PTA donations.
- ❖ Accelerated and enriched math curriculum including Integrated Algebra leading to Regents exam
- ❖ Regents Living Environment (Biology) course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade leading to Regents exam; science room utilizing hands-on and virtual labs; science fair research & professional presentations by students
- ❖ English and Social Studies are taught as separate core subjects (Anderson does NOT combine the two into a Humanities course but there is collaboration across subjects through Facing History and Teachers College Reading and Writing Program.)
- ❖ The study of Spanish language and culture, including opportunities for students to utilize their Spanish language skills; includes preparation for the NYC High School Spanish proficiency exam
- ❖ Continental Math League, Math Counts, Math League, Math Kangaroo, the AMC 8 and 10, Noetic Learning, American Scholastic Math and SIGMA math competitions
- ❖ Robotics, Science Olympiad, and Debate teams
- ❖ WordMasters Challenge – a national challenge that encourages growth in vocabulary and verbal reasoning; Scripps Spelling Bee, National Geographic Bee
- ❖ Small group advisory sessions for all students in grades 6-8
- ❖ All AMS students have Music, Art, Physical Education classes weekly: ballroom dance (8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- ❖ Music programs integrate our VH1 Save the Music keyboard lab, Social Studies curriculum, music theory and composition using Sibelius software. Electives: pops orchestra, chorus, rock, and jazz bands.
- ❖ Electives that rotate by semester. Choices change each year, but recent classes have included: digital photography, watercolor painting, dance, MOUSE squad, Manga, floor hockey, STEM design, Chidogu inventions, Shark Tank, food and culture, mindful arts & crafts, origami, jazz band, chamber music, poetry slam, yearbook, chess, 3D modeling, yoga, stock market game, debate, fantasy sports, game shows, improvisational theater, ultimate Frisbee, and video editing.
- ❖ Appropriate curriculum-related field trips, including overnight trips
- ❖ Teaching assistants in every core subject classroom
- ❖ Documented personal community service requirement each year
- ❖ Sports teams this year: flag football (boys' JV and varsity), soccer (boys' and girls'), basketball (boys' and girls' JV, boys' and girls' varsity), volleyball (girls' JV and varsity), lacrosse (boys' and girls'), co-ed baseball, co-ed track, co-ed tennis, co-ed table tennis

## ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW

**Students must apply to the Anderson School using the DOE's District Middle School Application online at MySchools.nyc.** *Students from any district or borough may apply.* No middle school can see where you ranked their school so your child can be considered/screened by multiple middle schools at once that formerly all required you to select them as your first choice. This gives your child a better chance to be matched to their highest choice schools, including Anderson. **The most important thing about ranking is to list the schools in YOUR order of preference.**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade applicants to Anderson will be evaluated initially based on a rubric using the student's fourth grade report card (30% report card grades, 30% attendance/punctuality, 40% NYS ELA and Math tests). Anderson plans to invite the top 500 students from this evaluation to the school's onsite admissions testing on either January 13<sup>th</sup> (ICT) or February 2<sup>nd</sup> (general education). (There will be a weekday afternoon make-up test date in early February for religious conflicts or documented illness.) Anderson will determine who will invited to the onsite testing in January and will notify families via the email address provided on the DOE's application.

Admissions decisions will be made using the results of Anderson's onsite test (75%), and the Initial Eligibility Score (25%) comprised of the NYS ELA and Mathematics scores, and the final fourth grade report card grades and attendance data. There is no preference given to where these students live, nor do we have a sibling policy. We do not review portfolios of work.

Admissions notifications will be provided to you in May from the Department of Education's enrollment office. If your child is offered admission at Anderson, you will have an opportunity to take a daytime tour of the school and your child will be invited to participate in a buddy/orientation day in the spring to attend a day of classes with current Anderson students.

The Anderson School seeks a diverse student population from any of the five boroughs. We encourage twice exceptional ICT students – students with high intellect and exceptional academic abilities in one or more subjects (ELA or Math) who may need extra support in areas such as organization, attention, and work behaviors - to apply to The Anderson School. ICT students are ranked relative to other ICT student applicants. General education students with a demonstrated strong academic record, and who have been exposed to work that is above grade level have the best chance of scoring high enough for admission. Students must also have a history of punctuality and have the character and work habits that show they are motivated to learn at a rigorous and accelerated pace.

## APPLICATION

The Anderson School is listed on every district's Middle School Application because we are a citywide admissions school. There are no additional materials to submit for consideration. Please rank Anderson in your true order of preference on your district's application. Middle schools will not know in what order students have ranked them on their application.

## SEATS AVAILABLE

**6<sup>th</sup> grade:** We are a K-8 school; therefore 5<sup>th</sup> graders currently enrolled in Anderson are guaranteed a seat in our 6<sup>th</sup> grade if they choose to continue at Anderson, as long as they are in good academic standing. However, we expand our class size slightly in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, so this year we will have at least ten seats available.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade:** We cannot accept new applicants for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The waitlist from each year's 6<sup>th</sup> grade screening process will not expire and Anderson will make offers to fill our 7<sup>th</sup> grade seats from the prior year's 6<sup>th</sup> grade admissions cycle wait list. Most years, a significant number of our students are accepted into Hunter College High School, which begins at 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We won't know how many 7<sup>th</sup> grade seats are available until those students decide whether or not to attend Hunter in March. We typically fill 12 or more seats in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

*Unfortunately, we do not have enough staff to handle all of our admissions phone calls. We ask that you visit our website before contacting us, since many questions may be answered there, and call the school only if you have no internet access whatsoever - thank you for understanding. If you don't find answers on the website, [www.ps334anderson.org](http://www.ps334anderson.org) then contact [dsmiley@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:dsmiley@schools.nyc.gov) 11/15/18*