

# City Honors School

## The Admissions Process: A Quick Q&A



### *What are we looking for?*

- Students who get good grades--all or most grades are A's and B's
- Students whose teachers recommend them for extraordinary effort, attitude, study skills and willingness to take on a challenge.
- Students who perform above average on standardized tests. Ideally, Level 4 on the New York State ELA and Math Tests (minimum Level 3).
- We are also looking for students with strong writing skills.

### *Why do you need to be a good student before coming to City Honors?*

When you come to City Honors you will need to “hit the ground running”. You will move faster through work and have more reading, writing, math and projects than in most other programs. Students begin high school coursework in grade 8. Work beyond the school day is a regular expectation and study halls are a rarity. Students are required to take five years of high school math, science and ELA for graduation. All students take a minimum of three Advanced Placement (AP) and two International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Most take much more than this. Because AP and IB courses are college level courses students take while still in high school, 99% of our students leave City Honors with college credits already in hand.

### *How do you apply?*

- **City Honors is a test based Magnet School for students in grades 5 - 12.** You must take a cognitive ability test and standardized essay to be considered. The cognitive ability assessment measures thinking and problem solving skills, not academic subject material..
- **You must complete a School Application** and return it to district officials on the day of testing or to BPS Central Processing Office at School #12, 33 Ash Street, 14204.
- **Your current school must send us:**
  - official teacher recommendation. (form provided by BPS)
  - grades and attendance record: (last school year and first marking period this year)
  - standardized testing scores**These materials must be returned directly to City Honors School via mail or fax by your child's current school officials. Only school to school shared documents will be considered valid.**

### *Then what happens?*

A very basic explanation: A standardized system developed by the Board of Education is used to determine student admission using seven criteria areas: Cognitive Ability, NYS ELA, NYS Math, Essay, Grades, Attendance, Teacher Recommendation. Thresholds are set in each of these seven areas. Students meeting all thresholds are admitted, then students missing one threshold, then missing two thresholds... until all seats are filled. Results are reviewed by a committee of school district and local university officials to verify adherence to the standardized selection system.

We strive to notify students applying to Grade 9 by the end of January and those applying for Grades 5-8 by the end of February.

Failure to supply all information will result in an incomplete folder and deny your entrance into City Honors School. **Please be sure you file your child's application with the BPS Central Processing Office and verify that your child's current school has sent all materials. We really want to consider your child!**

### *Do I have to be a resident of the City of Buffalo for my child to be a part of the admissions process?*

No. However, if your child is admitted and would like to attend, you must establish residency by August prior to the school year that they start at CHS. The Buffalo Public Schools require multiple forms of evidence that you are residing in our city and this is an issue that we take very seriously. Property ownership in the city is not enough. Your family must reside in our city and be a part of our community and economy.