



Getting into a Great High School

A Newsletter Focused on the Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Process

Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

Spring 2007, Volume 1A

Upcoming Events

Free SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar

Current 6th and 7th graders: Master the complexities of the Selective Enrollment High School admissions process at a **Free SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar**.

- Saturday, August 25th
 - Saturday, September 15th
- It's free, but space is limited**

SelectivePrep Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam Preparation

Current 7th graders: Excel on the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam. Registration is now open for **September 2007** classes to prepare for the December/January Entrance Exam.

Parents' Corner

SelectivePrep asked parents who have successfully navigated the high school application process to share their experience with parents of current 6th and 7th grade students. Here's what they had to say...

What we asked: What advice would you give to other parents?

Have a safety net or plan on the back burner

"We applied to nearly a dozen different high schools including top schools, safety schools – good schools, still competitive but not our top choices, and last resort schools."

"We are now getting phone calls from panicked parents. You have to have back-ups."

SelectivePrep Note: Fewer than 20% of applicants to a Selective

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Enrollment High School are accepted. Regardless of your 7th grade record, it is wise to have a back-up plan.

Promote study skills

"I would advise parents to instill a strong study ethic."

SelectivePrep Note: Your child will have to work very hard to get into a Selective Enrollment High School. Good study habits developed early can help take the pain out of the process.

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Invest In Your Child's Future



Math Workout Q&A

Q: If Jane had gotten a 30% raise, she would have made \$44,000. Actually, she got a 35% pay cut. What is her new salary?

- a. \$37,000
- b. \$31,000
- c. \$28,400
- d. \$22,000

A: d. Don't do more than you need to! If x is her original salary, then a 30% raise is 130% of x . Similarly a 35% pay cut would leave her with 65% of x . Since 65% of x is exactly half of 130% of x , her new salary must be exactly half of \$44,000, or \$22,000.

Verbal Workout Q&A

Q: She was elected not only President, but also Treasurer. Which is the best choice for the underlined section?

- a. but also Treasurer
- b. but also was elected Treasurer
- c. and also Treasurer
- d. but she was also elected Treasurer

A: a. The phrase *not only, but also* needs parallelism. After not only there's just the noun President, so after but also there should only be a noun, Treasurer.

Parents' Corner continued.

Push for fantastic 7th grade performance"

"Work hard in 7th grade."

SelectivePrep Note: 70% of the admissions score is determined by 7th grade performance – so mediocre 7th grade performance will be difficult to overcome.

"There is no re-take on the test. Don't feel that if you have straight A's that you're prepared."

Be realistic in your rankings

"We calculated our son's points at the end of 7th Grade using "Know the Score!" on SelectivePrep's web-site. We compared his point total to the mean acceptance score of each Selective Enrollment High School. Then we could understand

"With the "Know the Score!" calculator, we improved our admissions odds –by ruling out schools that would be nearly impossible to get into and focusing on ones within range."

what our son needed to get on his Entrance Exam going into the application process. With "Know the Score!" we improved our admissions odds –by ruling out schools that would be nearly impossible to get into and focusing on ones within range."

SelectivePrep Note: Applicants applying to a Selective Enrollment High School can choose four schools and rank these schools from 1 to 4 on the application. A number

of Selective Enrollment High Schools will use your ranking in addition to your point score in their decision making process.

Prepare for the test(s)

"Test preparation is always helpful even though the school program was solid. Whatever test preparation is available – do it."

"There is no re-take on the test. Don't feel that if you have straight A's that you're prepared."

SelectivePrep Note: Parents told us that preparation improved both performance and confidence – and helped reduce stress.

Get a January test date

"Try for a later test date. We realized with a later test date that we would have more time to prepare...but don't wait until the last test date in case your child is ill."

SelectivePrep Note: Check with your guidance counselor to find out when the Selective Enrollment applications are handed in. Many schools hand in all the applications when they are due, rather than sending them as they come. This past year applications were due December 22nd, making a December test date impossible for those that submitted applications on the due date. Another way to get a later test date would be to exclude early test dates on



your application form.

Push for a challenging curriculum

"Your school may not be challenging enough. Pay close attention to what is going on in school. Give your child extra work – extra math and reading in addition to the regular school work."

SelectivePrep Note: Ensure that your school's programs are up to snuff by comparing notes with other parents and your school's graduates. Monitor your school's success in placing its students in advanced programs.

Don't drop the ball in 8th grade

"Don't assume that 8th grades don't matter. Some schools will look at 1st quarter or 1st semester 8th Grade grades."

SelectivePrep Note: Since it's not part of the score – it can be tempting to slack off in 8th grade. Be careful.

Don't take anything for granted

"The Entrance Exam score is not an exact science. Make sure that you get the correct numbers."

SelectivePrep Note: One parent found that CPS had incorrectly computed the composite

Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam score. The parent was able to get the mistake corrected and his child into a Selective Enrollment School, reversing a string of rejections.

"We would have started test preparation even earlier. Getting earlier practice helps take the stress out of the process."

What we asked: If you had to do it again, what if anything, would you do differently?

Earlier and more intensive test preparation

"I did not realize how important the 7th Grade test was. From test taking you can see your weaknesses and hone in on where you are going wrong."

"We would have started test preparation even earlier. Getting earlier practice helps take the stress out of the process"

"Since the process is so competitive, there is only a small point difference between our 3rd or 4th choice and the high school of our dreams – so getting the best score on the standardized tests is extremely important."

FACT:

The Selective Enrollment High Schools accept less than one out of every five students who apply.

The Competitive Environment

Each year the competition intensifies. Last year about 15,000 eighth- graders applied for 2,700 spots available at Selective Enrollment High Schools:

- **6,793** applicants applied for 160 spots at Jones College Prep
- **10,682** applicants applied for 350 spots at Whitney Young
- **9,319** applicants applied for 1,200 spots at Lane Tech
- **6,312** applicants applied for 260 spots at Northside
- **8,371** applicants applied for 210 spots at Walter Payton
- **3,498** applicants applied for 195 spots at Brooks
- **2,959** applicants applied for 220 spots at King
- **2,159** applicants applied for 135 spots at Lindblom

SelectivePrep High School Admissions Calendar

For a comprehensive guide to the high school admissions process, go to www.selectiveprep.com/calendar and download Your Guide to Getting Into a Great High School.



Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

**Register Now!
for a Free High School
Admissions Seminar**

**Call today for more
information at (312) 409-8411
or visit
www.selectiveprep.com
to attend one of our
August or September 2007
Seminars.**



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**Where will
YOUR child
go to high school?**

Walter Payton College Preparatory High School
Northside College Preparatory School
Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
Lane Tech College Preparatory High School
Jones College Preparatory School
Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. College Preparatory High School
Robert Lindblom Math and Science Academy