



# Getting into a Great High School

A Newsletter Focused on the  
Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Process

Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

Spring 2008, Volume 2A

## 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 23rd
- Saturday, September 13th

**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 **October 2008** 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?**

#### Start early

*"Start thinking about high school in 6th grade."*

*"We are glad that we started the process in 7th grade. Starting in 8th grade would have been overwhelming."*

*"You really need to know the selection criteria before 7th grade."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Start researching various high school options at the beginning of 7th grade...or sooner.

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## Go to Open Houses

*"Go to the Open Houses in 6th and 7th grade."*

*"We started going to Open Houses in 7th Grade. Some Open Houses we went to twice – to take a second look. It was impossible to get to all of them during one round."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Open House visits are a great way to investigate a school's total environment. But it's a big time commitment – up to four hours

*Continued on next page.*



**Invest In Your Child's Future**

## Verbal Workout Q&A

**Q:** What an (ingenious/ingenuous) idea! Don't you think that studying for the Selective Enrollment Exam could have a dramatic (effect/affect) on your score?

- a. ingenious/affect
- b. ingenuous/effect
- c. ingenious/effect
- d. ingenuous/affect

**A:** c. Ingenious means clever or smart, while ingenuous meaning innocently childlike. Effect is correct since the word is used as a noun. Words that sound and look alike can be easily confused. Make sure that you know the difference.

## Math Workout Q&A

**Q:** A class has 8 girls and 7 boys. The teacher calls out two different names. What is the probability that both names are boys?

- a.  $\frac{7}{15}$
- b.  $\frac{14}{15}$
- c.  $\frac{49}{225}$
- d.  $\frac{1}{5}$

**A:** d. The probability that the first name is a boy is  $\frac{7}{15}$  since there are seven boys and fifteen students. The probability that the second name is a boy, given that the first boy has already been called, is  $\frac{6}{14}$ , since there are six remaining boys and fourteen remaining students.  $\frac{7}{15} \times \frac{6}{14}$  can be reduced to  $\frac{1}{5}$ .

*Parents' Corner continued.*

on a weekend. Do your initial visits in 6th and 7th grade.

## Prepare for the 7th Grade Standardized Test

*"The ISAT is so important. Make sure that you are prepared. If there is an ISAT review – take it."*

*"We didn't sign up for help preparing for the 7th grade test. If we had known, we would have signed up."*

*"You have to watch those 6th grade test scores. Our son's score was 60% in Math and 75% in Reading Comprehension."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Preparation for the 7th grade test can boost scores and even grades as basic skills are brushed up. Treat any 6th grade scores below 80% as a warning sign that more intensive work in 7th grade is required.

## Get fabulous 7th Grade grades

*"If you want to get into one of these schools, you have to push your kids in 7th grade. If you get 2B's – you're done with Selective Enrollment."*

*"Getting a couple of Bs killed a lot of people. It's a pretty competitive process."*

*"Our son needed a boost in the 7th grade – not just on the test but also his grades. If he had prepared sooner, things would be different now."*

*"If we did anything differently it would have been to have our son take his 7th grade grades more seriously."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Getting into the top Selective Enrollment Schools requires final 7th grades of all or nearly all A's in Math, Science, Social Studies and Reading.

## Prepare for the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam

*"Our school did not do much test taking review. We would have liked to prepare more for the test, particularly since our son is not traditionally such a good test taker."*



*"If we had done one thing differently it would have been doing more preparation for the test."*

*"We would have started preparing for the test earlier to give our son more confidence."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Preparation for the Selective Enrollment Exam improved both performance and confidence. Don't wait too long to start the preparation process.

## Know how the game is played

*"If your child is dreaming of attending a certain school, make sure that you know the requirements of that school."*

*"We used SelectivePrep's "Know the Score" to understand how students accepted into the schools scored."*

*"We looked at the cut-off points to determine how likely it was that our daughter would be accepted."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Know how your child's performance compares to the cut-off points for the different schools. Be realistic in your choices.

## Be careful in your rankings

*"You need to put the school that you really want to get into as #1; otherwise they really don't look at you."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** The top Selective Enrollment Schools use your ranking as part of their selection criteria.

## Explore lots of choices

*"Be open to everything – explore lots of choices."*

*"In addition to Selective Enrollment, we applied to Lincoln Park IB and Double Honors, Von Steuben Scholars and to charter schools."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Apply to a wide range of schools so you'll be in the driver's seat once selections are made.

## Seek out enrichment sources

*"We supplemented with various math, reading, science and language work."*

*"Read as much as you can. The kids who got into the top schools were all strong readers."*

*"Supplement in home with your own program – even if it's only 10 minutes a day – but do it on a daily basis."*

*"Send your kids to a preparation or an enrichment program in the summer when there's no pressure."*

*"I've always had my child in some sort of science or math program."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Parents understand that critical learning happens outside the classroom. Challenging math, science and reading programs will keep your child motivated.

## SelectivePrep in the News

SelectivePrep featured in recent Chicago Sun-Times article: *Youth seek edge for college prep test*. To read the entire article, go to [www.selectiveprep.com/news.php](http://www.selectiveprep.com/news.php)

## Surround your child with motivated students

*"Make sure that your child is in an environment where he or she is pushed to excel."*

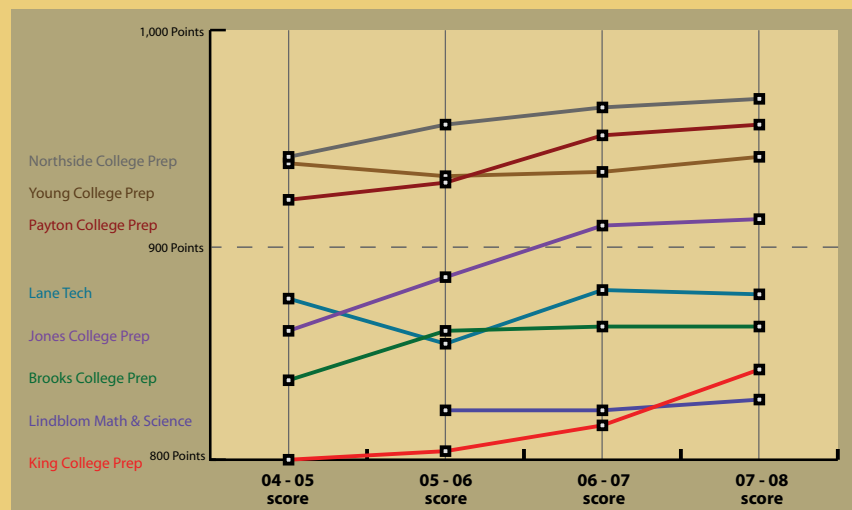
*"If you want to get into a gifted or classical school, keep taking the test – don't give up."*

*"Make sure that your child is surrounded by people who have aspirations."*

**SelectivePrep Note:** Make sure that your child's academic program is up to snuff. Be open to changing schools if it isn't.

## The Competitive Environment

This year about 15,500 eighth-graders applied for 2,700 spots available at Selective Enrollment High Schools. Each year the competition intensifies – more students apply and average scores of accepted students increase.





*Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!*

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

**Call today for more  
information at (312) 409-8411  
or visit  
[www.selectiveprep.com](http://www.selectiveprep.com)  
to attend one of our  
August or September 2008  
Seminars.**

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Walter Payton College Preparatory High School

Northside College Preparatory School



*Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!*

Whitney M. Young Magnet High School

Lane Tech College Preparatory High School

**Where will  
YOUR child  
go to 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