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Getting into a Great High School

A Newsletter Focused on the Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Process

Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

Spring 2009, Volume 3

Parents' Corner

SelectivePrep asked parents who have successfully navigated the high school application process to share their expertise. Here's what they had to say...

Investigate Academic Centers

"We didn't know about Academic Centers. If we had known about these accelerated programs, we would have applied."

SelectivePrep Note: Not all parents realize that academically advanced 6th graders can apply to accelerated programs at various Academic Centers. If your 6th grader is not sufficiently challenged, consider applying to an Academic Center.

"Recognize and fix any academic weaknesses, starting in 6th grade."

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"If there are problems in 6th grade – get help then."

"If you're in the 70% percentile range – you're barely in the mix and need to work on it so you will not end up so far off the mark."

SelectivePrep Note: Students must start 7th grade on a solid academic footing. Pay attention
Continued on next page.

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, Aug. 29th 2009
- Saturday, Sept. 19th 2009

It's FREE, but space is limited!

SelectivePrep Selective Enrollment Exam Preparation

Current 7th graders: Excel on the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam. Registration is now open for October 2009 classes to prepare for the December/January Entrance Exam.

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

Where will YOUR child go to high school?



Verbal Workout Q&A

Q: Are you (implying/ inferring) that Selective Enrollment High Schools share your scores with (each other/one another)?

- a. inferring/each other
- b. implying/one another
- c. inferring/one another
- d. implying/each other

A: b. Implying means to suggest without making a direct statement, while inferring means to draw a conclusion based on evidence. Here only a suggestion is made. One another is correct since it is used for groups of three or more.

Math Workout Q&A

Q: Bill gets a 20% raise in 2007. Then in 2008 he gets a 20% pay cut. Which of the following is true of Bill's final salary?

- a. It is the same as his salary before 2007.
- b. It is 4% more than his salary before 2007.
- c. It is 4% less than his salary in 2007.
- d. none of the above

A: c. Even though we don't know his original salary, we can pick numbers. If his original salary was \$100, then in 2007, his salary rose to \$120. Then he lost 20% of \$120, or \$24 causing his salary to drop to \$96, which is \$4 or 4% less than where he started.

Parents' Corner continued.

to any 6th grade lapses, otherwise your child could be playing catch-up all year long and turn in less than fabulous results.

Pursue enrichment opportunities

"If you want to get a great score, make sure that your child is working one grade level ahead."

"Take some form of math enrichment."

SelectivePrep Note: Work at least a grade level ahead, either through your school or independently.

Turn in stellar 7th grade performance

"Get all A's in 7th grade. The point spread between an A and a B is 25 points."

"If your child is not a straight A student, you're in for an awful shock."

SelectivePrep Note: Getting into one of the top Selective Enrollment High Schools requires all A's in core 7th grade subjects.

Prepare for the 7th Grade Standardized Test

"Do the 7th grade prep program with SelectivePrep. It helps with both understanding and discipline."

"If we had known about your program earlier, we would have taken it in 7th grade."

"Take both SelectivePrep courses. They'll help with preparation and calm your kid down."

SelectivePrep Note: Preparation for the 7th grade test can boost scores and even grades as basic skills are refreshed.

What's New at SelectivePrep?

Current 5th graders: Applying to an Academic Center?

Registration is now open for SelectivePrep's NEW Academic Center Admissions Test Preparation Program.

To learn more, go to www.selectiveprep.com/program.php

Support your child

"It gets very intense in 7th grade with your kid's friends comparing notes and freaking out over not getting in."

"The admissions process can be confidence eroding for your child."

SelectivePrep Note: Be mindful of the stress that this process may put on your child. Preparation for the tests and a keen awareness of the rules can help build confidence.

Prepare for the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam

"The selection process came down to about 10 points. So if you're going to apply to one of the most selective schools, the class really helps."

"Taking the class was extremely worthwhile since certain things on the

test were not covered in her school."

"The SelectivePrep classes put him in a good frame of mind and reduced his anxiety."

"Taking the SelectivePrep classes was a huge differentiator and a critical part of his success."

"SelectivePrep improved our son's confidence, provided him with lots of practice, and gave us a feel for where he needs improvement."

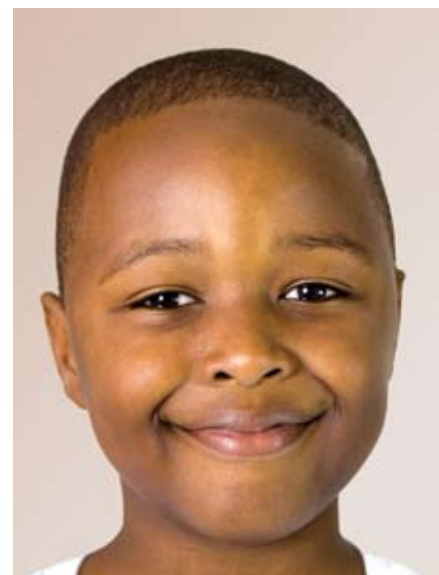
"My daughter got a perfect score on the test and was accepted everywhere she applied."

SelectivePrep Note: Parents report that preparation for the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam boosts performance and confidence.

Be realistic in your ranking

"We knew that our daughter's chances at getting into the most competitive schools were not that strong, so we did not pick Northside or Payton as our top choice."

SelectivePrep Note: Be careful about your rankings. If your child's scores are not in the 90's or there are no special circumstances surrounding your application, don't pick either Northside or Payton as your top choice. On the other hand, if you want to get into Northside or Payton, you need to put them as number one.



Tips for Special Education Students

SelectivePrep asked parents of special education students in our program for their recommendations on how to be successful in this process.

Tip #1: Get your child evaluated

"You have to have the IEP in place before the 7th grade year."

SelectivePrep Note: If you suspect that there may be a learning issue, have your child evaluated no later than 6th grade. Testing accommodations can make a significant difference in scores.

Tip #2: Calculate your points

"I was told that there is a separate pile of applications for students with an IEP. But these applications still get evaluated mathematically using the points system."

SelectivePrep Note: Selective Enrollment schools want special education students who can be put in classes with the rest of the students. Your child's scores and grades need to be at a certain level to prove that he or she can do the work if admitted.

Tip #3: Review special education resources and attitude

"We looked at the special education programs at each of the high schools and the attitude of the school towards kids with special needs. The school we picked was encouraging and actively trying to recruit students who have IEPs."

SelectivePrep Note: Speak directly with the special education coordinator at your target school to assess the attitude, resources, and interest of the school toward special education students.

Tip #4: Verify testing accommodations

"We called the Board of Education to verify that the accommodations that my son should receive would be available."

"Our daughter knows what's in her IEP and that made her quite the advocate in getting what she was entitled to."

SelectivePrep Note: Secure proper testing accommodations ahead of time so your child's needs will be met. Make sure that your child knows what he or she is entitled to in case there are any issues that come up at the testing site.