



**Current 7th graders:**

Excel on the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam. Registration is now open for October 2011 classes to prepare for the December/January Entrance Exam.



## Getting into a Great High School

A Newsletter Focused on the Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Process

Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

Spring 2011, Volume 5

### Decoding the Selective Enrollment Admissions Process

#### A Change in the Admissions Blend

This past year, CPS made one critical change in admissions policy. In November 2010, CPS changed the admissions formula from a 40%/60% Rank/Tier mix to a 30%/70% Rank/Tier mix. Students are admitted in the Rank category if they have the highest scores regardless of their socio-economic Tier; while students in Tiers are admitted on the basis of their scores in comparison with other students in that Tier. This change effectively increased the percentage of students admitted in each Tier from 15% to 17.5%.

#### Determining Your Tier

A student's Tier is determined by his/her home address – and which census tract that address lies in. Each of Chicago's 874 census tracts have been rated by CPS according to various socio-economic criteria (e.g., income, percentage of single parent families, percentage of non-English speaking residents, elementary school quality, etc.) and divided into 4 Tiers. Tier 4 is deemed to have the most favorable socio-economic criteria, Tier 3 the next most favorable and so on. Since admissions scores for lower Tiers are usually lower, in the admissions

*Continued on next page.*

### Upcoming Events

#### FREE SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar

Master the complexities of the Selective Enrollment and Academic Center admissions processes. Register now for a FREE SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar.

- Saturday, August 27th
- Saturday, Sept. 17th

**It's FREE, but space is limited.**

#### SelectivePrep Selective Enrollment Exam Preparation

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Walter Payton College Preparatory High School  
 Northside College Preparatory High 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?**



*Invest In Your Child's Future*

process it is advantageous to have a low Tier.

### Admissions Scores Decline as More Students Are Admitted by Tier

This year average admissions scores at nearly all Selective Enrollment High Schools declined. While the scores of Tier 3 and Tier 4 students admitted to the most competitive schools increased or were flat, this was more than offset

by an increased number of students from Tiers 1 and 2 with lower admissions scores.

### Tier 3 and Tier 4 Scores at Northside and Payton Nearly Perfect

The average score of an admitted Northside Tier 3 student was 889, and for Tier 4 it was 894. The average score of an admitted Payton Tier 3 student was 884, and for Tier 4 it was 892.

### Top Tier Students Select Jones as Northside and Payton Become Out of Reach

The average score of an admitted Tier 3 student at Jones increased 11 points to 862; the average score of an admitted Tier 4 student increased 17 points to 873, raising Jones' competitive profile.

### Less Competitive Schools Get Less Competitive Tier 4 Students

### Selective Enrollment Admissions Scores (10-11 through 11-12)

	10-11 average admissions score	11-12 average admissions score	Change In Scores
Brooks College Prep	775	764	-11
Jones College Prep	854	859	+5
King College Prep	731	712	-19
Lane Tech	815	803	-12
Lindblom Math & Science Academy	725	736	+11
Northside College Prep	887	881	-6
Payton College Prep	888	880	-8
Westinghouse	754	752	-2
Young College Prep	868	858	-10

The average score of an admitted Tier 4 student was less than that of a Tier 3 student for Brooks (756 vs. 762), King (683 vs. 707), Lindblom (719 vs. 730), and Westinghouse (737 vs. 746) as Tier 4 students with higher academics vie for other schools. ■

**We asked parents for information about their child's Selective Enrollment Exam scores and their success in the admissions process. These quotes come from their feedback on their child's performance**

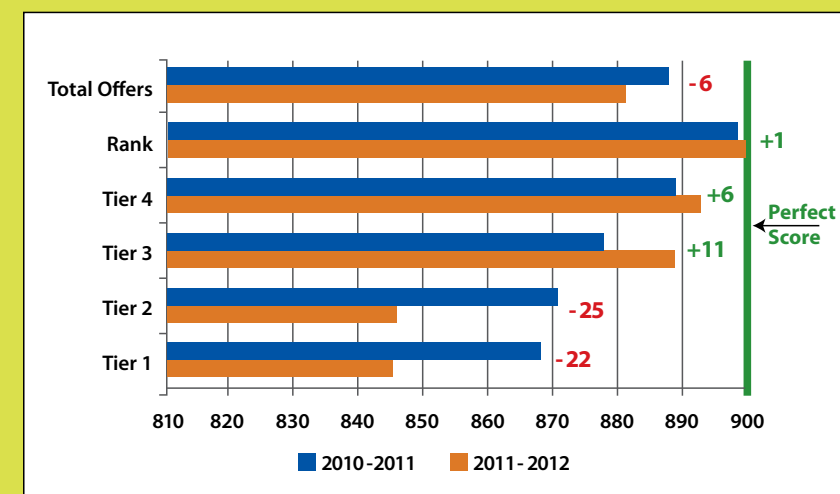
"You've done it again. I cannot say enough about you and your program. My daughter was accepted at Lincoln Park IB and her first choice Northside. I will be a tireless advocate for your work."

"My daughter scored a 293 on the Exam. She had all A's and did well on last year's 7th grade test. The practice sessions were a huge help and confidence builder for her and I'm sure that it made a world of difference. I look forward to working with you in two years with my younger daughter."

"I thought you would like to know that my son along with several colleagues at his school took your class for the

### Behind the Numbers —

### Northside College Prep Average Admissions Scores



### Observation 1: Average Northside admissions scores decline as more students are admitted by Tier.

Admissions scores for admitted Northside students declined 6 points to 881 from 887 as a greater number of low scoring Tier 1 and Tier 2 students were admitted.

### Observation 2: Tier 1 and Tier 2 students gained admissions to Northside with significantly lower scores than students in other Tiers -- and significantly lower scores than those required last year.

The average score of an admitted Tier 1 student fell by 22 points to 846 and for Tier 2 fell 25 points to 865.

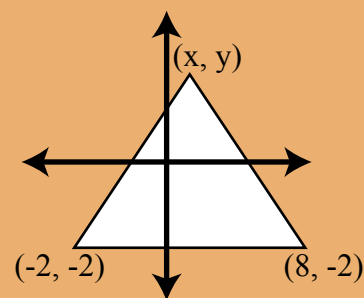
Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam and received a nearly perfect score, only three points off. I think that your class was fun and encouraging. It gave tremendous confidence to our students."

"My son scored 297 out of 300 and

got into Whitney Young. Not only did SelectivePrep help him accomplish this, but also it improved his confidence in standardized tests so much that he cracked the ISEE, HSPT, and was accepted to the Lab School and Lincoln Park IB. This \$400 program saved me \$100K."

### What's Your Algebra IQ?

To find out more about SelectivePrep's Algebra Program, go to [www.selectiveprep.com/algebra-program-overview](http://www.selectiveprep.com/algebra-program-overview)



**Q:** The area of the triangle is 30;  $y = ?$

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 6
- d. 8

**A: b.** The area of a triangle is  $\frac{1}{2} \times b \times h$ . The base is 10 since it goes from -2 to 8, so  $\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times h = 30$ ;  $5h = 30$ ;  $h = 6$ . Since the height is 6, and it "begins" at -2, it must go up to 4.

### Are Illinois Students Cheated By Low Math Standards?

At a time when attaining high levels of mathematical fluency has become critical to academic and career success, Illinois is close to the bottom in setting goals for math knowledge. While the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) performance of Chicago Public School (CPS) students has

climbed dramatically over the past several years, actual math aptitude has stagnated at abysmal levels. Low Illinois elementary school math standards threaten a student's chances for subsequent math achievement -- and can lull parents into complacency by letting them believe that their child has mastered math when his/her child's actual skill level is low. To learn more, go to -- [selectiveprep.com/cheated.pdf](http://selectiveprep.com/cheated.pdf)

### Lane Tech to Open an Academic Center Fall 2011

Lane Tech is planning to open an Academic Center this fall that will accommodate 90 students per grade level. Academic Centers are advanced middle school programs for 7th and

8th graders. Students apply in their 6th grade year using a formula similar to Selective Enrollment High School admissions -- but relying on 5th and 6th grade performance.

CPS currently has 6 Academic Centers: Harlan, Kenwood, Lindblom, Morgan Park, Taft, and Whitney Young. Students who gain admissions to Lane Tech's Academic Center could choose

to remain there for high school -- without going through the Selective Enrollment High School admissions process. The new Lane Tech Academic Center would be the first such accelerated middle school

at a north side Selective Enrollment High School. To find out more about SelectivePrep's Academic Center Admissions Test Program, go to <http://www.selectiveprep.com/6th-academic-center-overview>