



Current 7th graders:

Excel on the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam. Registration is NOW open for September 2014 classes to prepare for the Fall/Winter Entrance Exam.

Walter Payton College Preparatory High School

Northside College Prep

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

Westinghouse College Prep

Where will
YOUR child
go to high school?



Getting into a Great High School

A Newsletter Focused on the Selective Enrollment High School Admissions Process

Get Ready, Get Prepped, Get In!

Spring 2014, Volume 8

Over 350 Seats Added... Yet Scores Rise

Selective Enrollment scores rose despite a massive increase in seats. While the largest additions occurred at Lane Tech (+175 seats) and Westinghouse (+80 seats) – nearly every school in the system added spots – heading off a dramatic score increase. Lane Tech

Continued on next page

Selective Enrollment Admissions Scores (2014-2015)

	2014-2015 composite score	change in points	change in seats (2014 – 2015)
Brooks	779	+13 points	+0 seats
Jones	871	+20 points	+20 seats
King	702	+0 points	+58 seats
Lane	833	+8 points	+175 seats
Lindblom	765	+21 points	-49 seats
Northside	881	+2 points	+20 seats
Payton	888	+7 points	+9 seats
South Shore	696	-3 points	+5 seats
Westinghouse	759	+4 points	+80 seats
Young	872	+1 point	+29 seats
total change in seats			+355 seats



Upcoming Events

SelectiveMath Summer Classes (August 2014)

Registration is NOW OPEN for our NEW 5th Grade Math Enrichment Program (current 4th graders), 6th & 7th Grade Math Enrichment Program (current 5th and 6th graders), and Algebra Program (current 7th & 8th graders). Enjoy a weeklong workshop designed for creative students who are ready to tackle challenging math problems and puzzles – and have fun!

FREE SelectivePrep High School Admissions Seminar (Saturday, September 13th & Saturday, October 4th)

Parents of current 5th, 6th and 7th graders – master the complexities of the Selective Enrollment and Academic Center admissions process by attending one of these interactive sessions.

Selective Enrollment Exam Preparation (September 2014)

Attention current 7th grade parents – registration is NOW open for fall classes to prepare for the Selective Enrollment Entrance Exam.

average scores increased by 8 points even though it added nearly 200 seats. Such a large increase in seats would normally bring down scores, not increase them.

Top Scores Needed by Tier 3 & 4 Students

It continues to be difficult for Tier 3 and Tier 4 students to land a spot at the five most competitive schools. For example, assuming that a Tier 4 student received all A's in 7th Grade,

Minimum Tier 3 & 4 Test Scores (2014-2015)

	Tier 4 minimum score	minimum Tier 4 test percentiles	Tier 3 minimum score	minimum Tier 3 test percentiles
Payton	896	top 1%	883	top 3%
Northside	894	top 2%	879	top 5%
Jones	883	top 3%	857	top 8%
Young	877	top 4%	857	top 8%
Lane Tech	836	top 11%	813	top 15%

he or she would still need to get scores in the top 11% on both the 7th grade standardized test and the Selective Enrollment Exam to meet

the minimum cut-off at Lane Tech -- and the top 1-4% in test scores on both exams to get into any of the other top schools.

Be Wary of Early Testing

This year CPS began Selective Enrollment testing earlier than in the past and provided early testers with test results before applications were due. Despite the fanfare surrounding this new development, early testing will not increase your admissions chances and may even damage them if you are not properly prepared. In fact, there are no benefits to you of earlier testing – and some clear drawbacks. However, it's likely that earlier testing – and the allure of test results -- makes test scheduling logistics easier for CPS since it reduces the number of students who submit their application just before the deadline.

While colleges have something called “rolling admissions”, where a student who applies early can secure a spot before the rest of the applicant pool does, this is not the case with Selective Enrollment schools. Even if you take the test earlier, you must wait until the last student takes it for any admissions

decision to be made.

Some believe that having the test results early will allow you to rank your schools more intelligently. However, this is not true, provided you list your desired schools from most competitive to least competitive. Assuming your top school is also the most difficult to get into, that school should always be ranked first. This is true whether the test is taken early or later.

Your ranking will not be held against you in the admissions process. If another student gets the same point total, CPS will look at the scores on the components of the Selective Enrollment Exam, starting with the math section. Your ranking of the schools is not a tie-breaking factor in the admissions process. In other words, it's all about performance on the Exam. The more time you have to sharpen your math and verbal skills, the better you will perform on the Exam – and the better your admissions chances.

Got Math?

Each year, thousands of elementary school students across Chicago take a test in the hopes of getting into one of the city's accelerated middle school programs. This test is a critical factor in determining whether or not a child is selected. Unfortunately when testing students for its Academic Centers, CPS does not administer any quantitative reasoning (e.g., mathematical) questions.

It is true and perhaps a bit obvious that quantitative reasoning questions provide the best evidence of mathematical abilities. Less obvious is the fact that students with high verbal and spatial reasoning skills (areas that are tested) are often not the same ones that have high quantitative skills. Furthermore, quantitative reasoning tests are particularly useful in identifying talented minority and ELLs students who would benefit from acceleration. By not administering questions that assess mathematical aptitude, CPS is not looking for mathematically gifted students.



By not testing for mathematical ability, CPS is implying that this aptitude is unimportant – and is short changing the educational needs of mathematically talented students.

Preparing for the MAP Test

CPS will now use the MAP test for Selective Enrollment admissions – a test that most parents know little about. One common misconception about the MAP is that

SelectivePrep has incorporated changes into its program so students will enter the testing process well prepared for the new Common Core compliant tests.

since it is administered on a computer, students need computer skills to take it. Another misconception is that the adaptive nature of the test makes it impossible to prepare for.

While the MAP is administered on a computer, computer expertise is not required to take it – only the ability to push a button to enter a response.

A computer adaptive test uses a different method to measure student knowledge. Mastery of the underlying content is critical in getting a good score, on either a computer adaptive or a traditional pencil and paper test. In addition, MAP is not unique in using a computer adaptive test methodology to measure achievement. For example, Educational Testing Services (ETS) uses computer adaptive testing for the GMAT, the most widely used admissions test for business school admissions – and is considering using this methodology for additional tests. Few would contend that it is not helpful to prepare for the GMAT.

All tests that measure student achievement, including MAP, ISAT, Terra Nova, ACT, etc. can be prepared for.

NEW!

5th Grade Math Enrichment Classes NOW Offered for Summer Fun and Challenge

SelectiveMath will launch a new 5th Grade Math Enrichment Program in August 2014. To find out more about SelectiveMath's August Math Programs, go to www.selectivemath.com

Q: How many students are on either the math or cross country teams?

a. 9
b. 12
c. 19
d. 21

HOCKEY: 3
MATH: 5
CROSS COUNTRY: 5
HOCKEY & MATH: 5
HOCKEY & CROSS COUNTRY: 2
MATH & CROSS COUNTRY: 2
HOCKEY & MATH & CROSS COUNTRY: 7

A: d. 21. Add up all the segments on the math circle to get 19. Then see that in the cross country circle, the only segment not already counted is 2. Add these together to get 21.