**September 2008**

**The School Choice Process
March 1 through 14, 2008**

Yonkers Public Schools is committed to a School Choice Process that is open and equitable to everyone.

Selecting a school for your child involves several steps.

* Read about the schools in District brochures or on the website.
* Make an appointment to visit schools of interest, take a tour and review the school’s literature.
* Attend the Yonkers Public Schools Fair on March 1, 2008 (snow date March 2).
* Complete an official Yonkers Public Schools School Choice Application selecting three schools you would like your child attend.
* Submit the completed application by March 14, 2008. Completed applications may be hand delivered or postmarked on/before March 14, 2008 to the Information Center, 28 Wells Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:00a.m.- 4:00 p.m. or any Yonkers public school.

**The School Choice Process allows parents the opportunity to select from any Yonkers public school that has available seats.**

There are two types of preference given to applicants:

1. sibling
2. attendance zone

First preference is given to siblings of currently enrolled students based upon seat availability if the school is selected as the first choice on the official application.

Siblings are defined as brothers or sisters living in the same household. Preference must be requested on the application at the time it is submitted.

Sibling preference **does not** apply to schools or programs that have entrance requirements or require special education placement.

All schools have attendance zones. These schools give preference based upon seat availability to students living within the attendance zone of the school.

School assignments for attendance zone schools are made in the following order:

* Siblings - if the school is selected as the first choice on the official application
* Special education students and placements for bilingual exiting students
* Bilingual placements for students exiting the program in their present school
* Eighty percent (80%) of the available seats will go to attendance zone students who request the school as their first choice
* Twenty percent (20%) of the available seats will be made available to students from throughout the school district who request the school.

Preference must be requested on the application at the time it is submitted.

**Citywide Instructional Magnet Schools**

*Montessori Schools 11, 27 and 31, Saunders Trades and Technical High School,The College Board Academy, Yonkers High School,and the academically talented programs at the PEARLS Hawthorne School and Yonkers Middle School*

* Some schools or programs have academic entrance requirements
* Applications are accepted from any student without serving any particular attendance zone
* Sibling preference applies to schools that do not have entrance requirements

[Facts You Need to Know](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/schools/0908_home.php#facts)

[Who must submit a School Choice Application?](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/schools/0908_home.php#who)

[When must the School choice Application be submitted?](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/schools/0908_home.php#when)

[Where must the School Choice Application be returned before March 14?](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/schools/0908_home.php#where)

[How are parents and students notified about the September 2008 school assignments?](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/schools/0908_home.php#hownotify)

[How can parents request a Change of School Assignment from the school their child currently attends?](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/schools/0908_home.php#howchange)

[If you need assistance during the School Choice Process, what services are available to you?](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/schools/0908_home.php#help)

**Fact You Need to Know**

* Applications are accepted from March 1 through March 14, 2008. Remember to keep your receipt.
* All on-time applicants will be placed through the School Choice Process.
* All late applicants will be accepted, but placed on waiting lists based on the date received. The waiting lists will be maintained until December 1 of the school year, with the exception of the waiting list for Montessori Prekindergarten that will be maintained throughout the school year.
* No changes will be made to an application once it has been submitted.
* Students will be assigned to one of their choices by a random selection process.
* Currently enrolled students completing the highest grade level at their present school must complete an application.
* Students entering the school district after the deadline date will be placed in schools based on seat availability.
* School placements are conditional upon students successful completion of the current school year. If students are retained, they will be required to remain at their current school.
* If a family has more than one child applying for school placement, an application must be submitted for each child.
* Some specialized services for students with disabilities or students who require bilingual education are not available in all schools.
* Applications for schools or programs with academic entrance requirements will include a review of the student’s transcripts and/or other criteria for placement.
* The Yonkers Public Schools relies on information provided by parents/guardians for placement. If this information is found to be incorrect, the student’s school placement may be changed.

**Who MUST submit a School Choice Application for the 2008-2009 school year?**

Students currently enrolled in a Yonkers public school:

**On the Elementary School Level:**

* All 5th grade students - except 5th graders at Montessori Schools 11, 27 and 31; School 5; School 23; Robert C. Dodson School; Family School 32; Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts; Paideia School 15; PEARLS Hawthorne School; Casimir Pulaski School; Scholastic Academy for Academic Excellence and Westchester Hills School 29
* All Montessori 6th graders at Schools 11, 27 and 31

**On the Secondary School Level:**

* All 8th grade students
* Commerce Middle School students in grades 6 and 7
* All 9th grade students at Saunders Trades & Technical High School

New Students for September 2008

* All pre-registered students
* If your child is not pre-registered, contact the Information Center at 376-8050

**How do you obtain a School Choice Application?**

* Applications will be mailed to students currently enrolled in:

Grade 5 - except 5th graders at Montessori Schools 11, 27 and 31; School 5; School 23; Robert C. Dodson School; Family School 32; Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts; Paideia School 15; PEARLS Hawthorne School; Casimir Pulaski School; Scholastic Academy for Academic Excellence and Westchester Hills School 29

Grade 6 and 7 at Commerce Middle School

Grade 8

Grade 9 at Saunders Trades & Technical High School

* School Choice Applications will be mailed to all pre-registered new students for September 2008
* If you are not currently enrolled or pre-registered, call the Information Center at (914) 376-8050

**When must the School Choice Application be submitted?**

* All School Choice Applications MUST be submitted between Saturday, March 1 at the Yonkers Public Schools Fair and March 3 through 14, 2008

**Where must the School Choice Application be returned before March 14, 2008?**

* To the Yonkers public school in which your child is currently enrolled
* At the Yonkers Public Schools Fair on Saturday, March 1 at Saunders Trades and Technical High School
* At the Information Center and all Yonkers public schools the weeks of March 3 through 14, 2008

**How are parents and students notified about the September 2008 school assignments?**

* Results of the School Choice Process and requests for change of school will be mailed directly to parents by the end of June 2008.

**How can parents request a Change of School Assignment from the school their child currently attends?**

* Currently enrolled students in a Yonkers public school who would like to change their school assignment for September for reasons other than transitioning to middle school or high school must complete the [Change of School Assignment Request Form](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/forms/docs/registration/changeofschoolrequestE.pdf). If the request cannot be accommodated, the student will remain at their current school. Completed forms may be hand delivered or postmarked on/before March 14, 2008 to the Information Center, 28 Wells Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. or to any Yonkers Public School.
* The Change of School Assignment Request Form is available at the Information Center and in [Forms Central](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/forms/forms_home.php#change).

**If you need assistance during the School Choice Process, what services are available to you?**

The Information Center provides information regarding instructional programs, educational choices, school assignments and general information about the Yonkers Public Schools.

The Information Center’s hours during School Choice Weeks:

* 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ONLY to accept applications
* 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to enroll students by appointment

For further information contact:
(914) 376-8050