

High School Application Process

Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy

MS/HS 141

October 8, 2025

Agenda

- High School Application and Admissions
 - Timeline
 - Methods
 - Application
- Specialized & Audition High Schools
- Private Schools
- Notification Timeline
- Q & A

Admissions Process Timeline

- **September – December** – Visit schools (websites, tours & MySchools)
- **Tuesday, October 7th** – High school applications, LaGuardia Application, and Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) Registration opens
- **Friday, October 31st** - SHSAT Registration closes
- **Mid November** - 8th Grade SHSAT Weekend Testing
- **Wednesday, December 3rd** – High School and Application closes; Deadline to submit LaGuardia audition materials.
- **Thursday, March 5th** – High School Offer release
- **All dates subject to change.*

3 Ways to Learn about High Schools

1. Admissions guides are available online
2. Visit high school tours, information sessions and contact high schools directly with questions
3. Explore programs at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/)

High School Admission Methods

- Educational Option – These programs serve a wide range of students and maintain an academically diverse population through incoming students.
- Screened – For Fall 2026 admissions, screened programs will admit the top-performing applicants from across each middle school and citywide. Students will fall into a screened admissions group based on the average of their final seventh grade core course grades (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Screened with Assessments – A small number of high schools also require applicants to complete a school-based assessment, such as an essay or interview
- Audition – students ranked based on audition (with the exception of LaGuardia high school, audition programs will not use an applicant's academic data)

High Schools Admission Methods (cont.)

- Test – Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) required
- Language Criteria– English Language Learners
- Zoned- priority to students who live in the geographic zone of the high school
- Open – 100% of offers are to students who are randomly selected based on preference order on student's application

When selecting a school, consider the following:

- Learn about the school
- Location & Travel Time
 - MySchools.nyc
 - www.mta.info
- Student's Career Interests
- Student's Capabilities
- Test or Audition Requirements
- Special Programs & Student Support Services

Questions to ask when visiting a school:

1. Where is the school located? What is the travel time?
2. What are the eligibility requirements for the school?
3. How many students attend the school?
4. What academic programs are offered?
5. What extracurricular activities, clubs, and sports are offered?
6. What after school academic support is available to students?
7. Does the school provide any assistance in transitioning students into high school?

HS Application

Starting on October 7th, you can begin adding programs to your online application.

- All students apply on-line
- Rank up to 12 school programs or more in order of preference
- **Make sure to enter the name of the school/program correctly on your application**
- Specialized High Schools or LaGuardia HS are not included on this application
- **Students are matched to the highest ranked school that accepts them.**
- **Prioritize very carefully**
- **Be sure that every school listed on the application is a school that your child wants to attend**
- Applications are due on December 3, 2025

Bottom line:

ALL students must complete a high school application!!

If you want your child to attend RKA for High School above all other non-specialized schools, you must enter RKA first in your HS application.

X80A



How are we working with your child?

- Classroom Visits
- Presentation about the process and our high school offerings
- One on one support through the process as needed
- Raising the bar gradually so that students are ready for hte demands of HS

In Person:

October 21

October 22

November 17

9:00a.m.

Tour the school, meet the staff and students, review curriculum, and ask questions

Info at RKA141.org

RIVERDALE KINGSBRIDGE ACADEMY
MS/HS 141

HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE

*Come experience our
Tiger Pride!*

October 21
October 22
November 17

09:00 AM

660 W. 237th Street
Riverdale, NY 10463

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet staff and students
- ✓ Review curriculum
- ✓ Ask questions

For more info:
718-796-8516

Visit us:
www.RKA141.org

@RKAMSHS141

REGISTER NOW

Specialized and Audition High Schools

Specialized High Schools

- 8 specialized HS that use SHSAT exam + LaGuardia which requires audition= 9 total
- Acceptance depends on student's test score and **priority order of schools**
- Students must rank the schools they want to attend in the MySchools account.
- **October 31st** - ***Deadline*** to register for the SHSAT
- **November 10th** – SHSAT Ticket Release.
- **November 15th & 16th** – RKA 8th graders will take the SHSAT at central DOE locations.
- **New this Year** – SHSAT will be administered online at the testing site!

LaGuardia Audition

- Step 1: Apply to LaGuardia's audition programs. Do not list LaGuardia programs on your high school application.
- Step 2: Submit audition materials on MySchools portal by **December 3, 2025**
- Only LaGuardia high school considers a student's academic record in admissions. Students must have demonstrated that they attained academic achievement.

Specialized HS Admission Process

The process is designed to match students based on their SHSAT scores and how they ranked the Specialized High Schools.*

- Acceptance to a Specialized High School is based first on the student's test score, then on the priority order in which the student placed the Specialized High Schools and on seat availability.
- All scores of the students taking the test are ranked from highest score to lowest score.
- The student with the highest score is placed in his/her first choice (highest prioritized school).

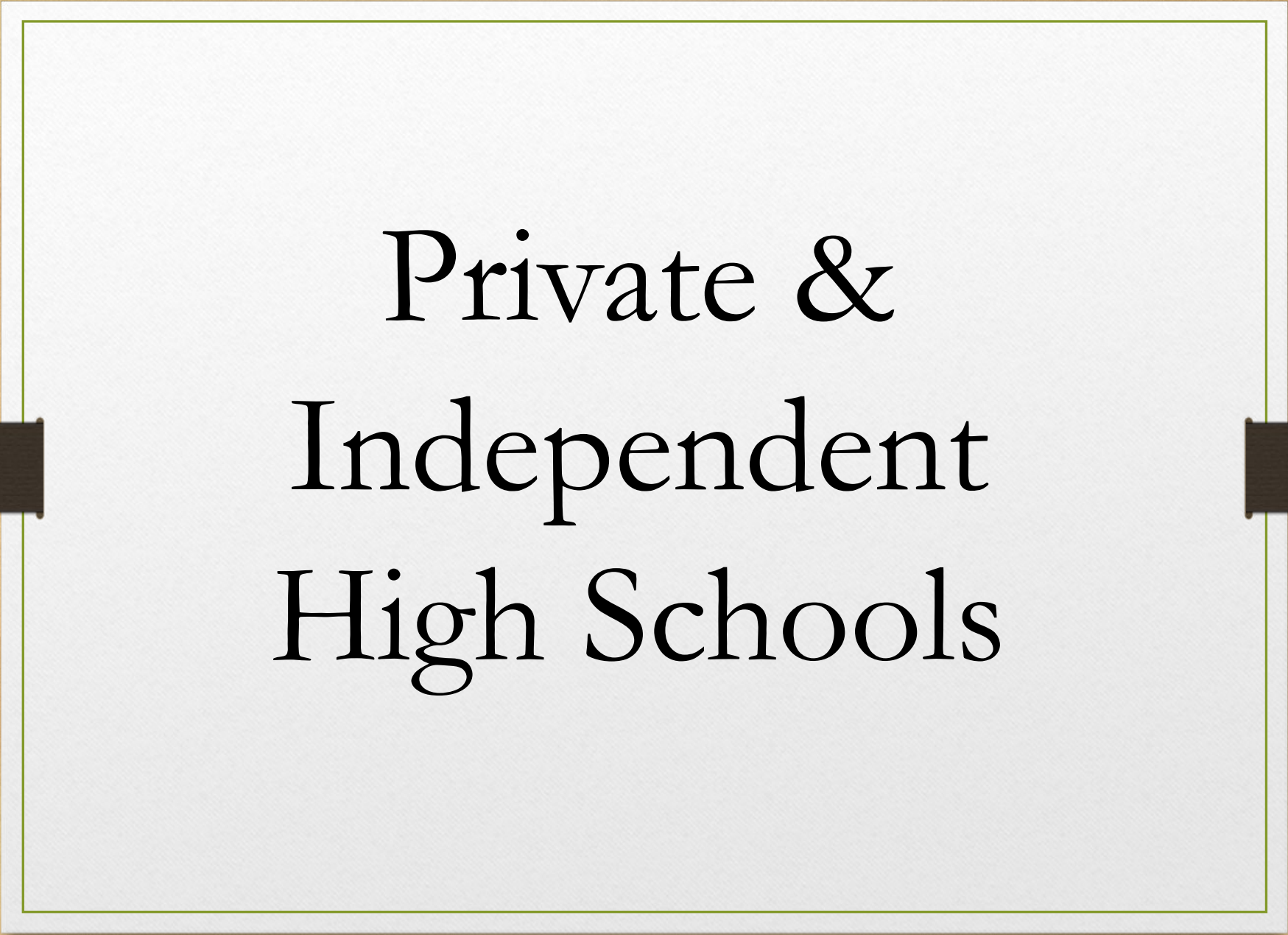
** This process was implemented beginning with the entering class of September 2003.*

Specialized HS Admission Process cont.

- Starting from the highest score on down, each student, in turn, is placed in his/her highest prioritized school in which seats are still available. Therefore, if all the seats in the student's first-choice school have been offered to students who scored higher, he/she is placed in his/her second-choice school if seats are available. If all the seats in his/her second-choice school have been given to students who scored higher, the student is offered a seat in his/her third-choice school if there are still seats available, and so on. This process continues until there are no seats available in any of the eight Specialized High Schools.

From year to year, the number of offers and projected seats for each Specialized High School may be subject to an increase or decrease based on school enrollment.

** This process was implemented beginning with the entering class of September 2003.*



Private & Independent High Schools

Catholic Schools

- www.tachsinfo.com including Open House info & application
- The last day to register for the TACHS exam is **October 29th**
- **November 5th** - Students will receive an email confirming test date, time, and site
- **November 8th** – Deadline to enter your high school choices on www.tachsinfo.com
- TACHS exam will be administered on **November 7th**
- Applicant Record must be printed **by the family** from the TACHS website
- ***Students must have “portion A” completed before emailing it to Ms. Aponte-Acosta; give to Ms. Aponte Acosta with 2 weeks notice**
- Deadline for submission to individual schools by the family is **December 10, 2025**
- HS acceptance letters are released on **January 23, 2026**
- **February 2026** – Response Cards due back to high schools

Private/Independent Schools

- Check with individual schools for their admissions practices
- Staff are available for recommendations, but you must provide reasonable time with requests
- Charter high schools have a separate admissions process- you cannot add them to your high school application. If you would like to apply to a charter high school, please contact that school directly to find out how to apply.

Notification Timeline

Notification Process – March 2026

Get your high school offer letter!

- Families can log into MySchools (myschools.nyc) to get their results.

This letter will include:

- **Your high school offer and/or, if applicable, your specialized high schools' results**, which may include an offer from a Specialized high school and/or any offers from LaGuardia studios. **If you get more than one offer, you will be given a deadline to choose one.** After offers are released, you can use your MySchools account to: Access your offer information and choose between multiple offers (*if applicable).

Offer Chances

- MySchools now projects for each applicant if they have a low, medium or high chance of getting an offer to high school programs.
- When a high school applicant starts their application in MySchools they will be able to see their predicted chance of getting an offer in two places: the search page and the application builder.
- There are some programs where there is not enough information for MySchools to show the chances of getting an offer. An icon with three dots will show for the following admission programs; Audition & Screened with Assessment

Resources for Families

Explore the school directory! Later you'll be able to register and apply: **[MySchools.nyc](#)**

Get detailed admissions information and watch helpful videos:

[schools.nyc.gov/High](#)

[schools.nyc.gov/SHS](#)

[Schools.nyc.gov/specialeducation](#)

A list of screened schools with assessments:

[schools.nyc.gov/AssessmentHS](#)

Find audition information: **[schools.nyc.gov/HSAuditions](#)**

Subscribe for email updates: **[schools.nyc.gov/SignUp](#)**

Get Help

AT RKA:

Mrs. Aponte-Acosta, Guidance Counselor
(718)796-8516 Extension: 2301 Office
JAponte-Acosta@schools.nyc.gov

HS Enrollment:

For online support, please contact 718-935-2009 or email the High School Enrollment office at HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov