



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**[Click here to submit a question](#) and we'll get back to you!**

### **Tour Slides**

- We have our tour slides translated into Spanish and Chinese. If you need a copy in either language please email [lydia@counselingschools.org](mailto:lydia@counselingschools.org).
- Tenemos nuestras diapositivas del recorrido virtual traducidas al español y al chino. Si necesita una copia en cualquiera de los idiomas, envíe un correo electrónico a [lydia@counselingschools.org](mailto:lydia@counselingschools.org).
- 我們將虛擬旅遊幻燈片翻譯成西班牙文和中文。如果您需要任一語言的副本，請發送電子郵件至 [lydia@counselingschools.org](mailto:lydia@counselingschools.org).

### **General School Information**

- **What are the hours of the school day?** Early breakfast begins at 7:45 AM. Our school day begins at 8:20 AM and ends at 2:40 PM.
- **What will a typical day look like?** A typical school day will consist of learning experiences that infuse harbor themes into standards based curriculum. Students will have exposure to hands-on projects and field trips that supplement our curriculum.
- **What do the facilities look like?** In our current location, the Harbor Middle School includes STEAM rooms (including a hydroponics lab), a new auditorium, a full size gymnasium, a Harbor lab, a media lab, a large school yard, and a news room.



- **What are the class sizes?** The class size for middle school caps at 30 but currently all of our classes are less than 25 students. We plan to support students through personalized learning and one on one support throughout their learning experiences as often as we can.
- **Do you have ICT classes?** Yes, currently all of our classes are ICT.
- **Is your school appropriate for autistic students?** While we do not have plans at the moment for a formal ASD NEST program, we are planning to keep all of our classes as ICT classes and would be happy to speak with parents individually about their child's specific needs and how we can meet them.
- **What types of students would be most interested in this type of school?** We aspire to engage all students, not just students who already have an interest in harbor and marine studies. We will encourage curiosity and offer many opportunities to engage children through project-based learning and hands-on field trips that we believe will engage all learners.
- **Do you share the building with other schools?** We share our building with Summit Charter School. We have most of the first and second floors and Summit has the third floor. We share common spaces including the gym and cafeteria, but always at different times, and we have no interaction with Summit students other than passing in the hallways. Their arrival time, dismissal time, and period schedules are also different from ours. Once we move into the new school building (TBD when construction will be complete) we will no longer share a building with Summit.



- **Is Harbor Middle School a public school?** Yes, we are a public school in District 15. We are transitioning from an elementary school (Formerly known as PS 676 Red Hook Neighborhood School) into a middle school. Our District Borough Number is 15K676.
- **How will the reconfiguration happen as you become a middle school?** Beginning in September 2022, we will add one new middle school grade and no longer accept Pre-K and Kindergarten students. We will add another middle school grade each year until we reach 8th Grade. As our current elementary school students move up each year, the grade they leave behind will be eliminated until we only have grades 6 to 8. This year we have grades 2 -7, next year we will have 3-8.
- **Will the students currently attending PS 676 be given priority to attend the Harbor Middle School?** Yes, they will. All existing PS 676 students will be guaranteed placement in the Harbor Middle School if they wish to attend, although they will be expected to complete a middle school application.
- **Will the middle school programs and curriculum be the same as what is currently offered to the elementary school students?** The program we are running now incorporates harbor, trips, electives, core curriculum, and physical education. We plan to keep the same programs and add the required middle school programs.
- **Will teachers be experienced middle school teachers?** Yes, we have content certified middle school staff. Many of our current teachers are already middle school certified. Teachers will also have community based expert



support to infuse harbor themes into all aspects of learning from our local partners, RETI Center, Beam Center, Billion Oyster Project, Pioneer Works, Boatworks, and more!

- **What year will the school move into the new building?** Our school will physically move to a new building on Delavan Street in a few years once construction is complete. Parents are invited to join our design team and contribute ideas about what is important to their children when it comes to our new building.
- **What happens when the new building is complete?** All students and staff will move to that building at that time.
- **Will the elementary and middle school be together or will they be two separate schools?** We will slowly reconfigure from an elementary school into a middle school, but until we have only Grades 6 to 8, all of our students will be together as one school.
- **How many seats will be reserved for 676 students and how many will be available for additional District 15 students?** All PS 676 5th Graders will have admissions priority if they choose to stay. Remaining open seats will be offered to District 15 students. Currently we do not know the exact number of seats that will be available, but we are advocating for as many seats as possible through conversations with enrollment.
- **Can I enroll my child in the elementary school to give them admissions priority for middle school?** All PS 676 students will receive admissions priority to our middle school once they reach 5th Grade. Parents may enroll



their children in a lower grade in anticipation of continuing on to our middle school.

### Middle School

- **What grades do you have currently?** This year we have 6th and 7th grade. Next year we will have a full middle school with grades 6, 7, and 8.
- **What Middle School curriculum will there be?** The Harbor Middle School will use an approved digital standards based core curriculum that will support the infusion of harbor studies. Currently, those curricula include Expeditionary Learning for ELA, Envisions for math, Passport for SS, and Amplify for science.
- **Will students take frequent trips? Will this interfere with standards based learning?** Trips and community visits are strongly encouraged, as they are an important part of the place-based and project-based learning process. Students will explore the harbor and other waterfront environments frequently to gain the experience they need as they apply what they learn in class to real life. This type of learning will actually support and enhance standards based learning. Students will regularly take trips to visit our local Red Hook community partners including RETI Center, Beam Center, and Billion Oyster Project.
- **Will you offer Regents classes in 8th Grade?** Most likely we will not be offering Regents classes in 8th grade, but this is still being discussed with our administration and teachers. Our instruction is very rigorous and project/place based. Regents curriculum cannot be taught in the same way as project-based learning.



- **Will you offer SHSAT prep?** If there is a need and interest among students and parents once we have our 8th grade class in place, it will be considered.
- **What will the total middle school enrollment be?** The total number of students has yet to be determined by DOE enrollment as we do not have an 8th grade yet.
- **How many seats are available for 6th grade next year?** We can't know how many seats we will have for 6th grade next year until applications are in. It depends on how many people rank us 1st or 2nd. It could be 90 seats or more if there's a lot of interest. Very likely, if you rank us 1st and you're in District 15, you will get in. We are very small right now because we are a new middle school but we are definitely getting the word out about our awesome school and growing fast.
- **Will you have an athletics program?** Yes, we plan to have swimming when we move into our new building in addition to the general middle school physical education program. During recess we have Sports Lunch Club and in our afterschool program we have Sports Club as well.
- **Will you have an arts program?** We provide STEAM and infuse art within the project based learning experiences. We also currently have two art teachers who offer art electives. We aim to give students a learning experience that they can apply to real world interactions.
- **What language programs will you offer?** We offer Spanish and French as a foreign language.



- **What will the middle school programs be?** The elective programs will be harbor related, career oriented programs in addition to other middle school required programs such as core subjects, language, and physical education.
- **Will the Harbor Middle School be a feeder school for the Harbor High School?** Harbor Middle School will not officially be a feeder school for the Harbor High School, however students will have prerequisite experiences that will help them to prepare for continued learning in the harbor field, giving them the skills they need to be prepared for success in higher education focused on harbor and maritime education.
- **Are there any plans for bus transportation to/from school for 6th graders?** There are no plans at this time for bussing for 6th Grade, unless transportation is part of a student's IEP or the student lives in transitional housing. We are near many forms of public transportation including the B61 and B57 buses and the F and G trains at Smith and 9th Street. A pedestrian bridge over Hamilton Avenue, connects Red Hook and Carroll Gardens and is just a block away from our school.

### Elementary School

- **What elementary grades do you have currently?** This year we have grades 2 through 5. Next year we will have grades 3 through 5.



- **Are the students currently being exposed to Harbor Studies?** Yes, we are currently infusing harbor studies in our existing curriculum for Grade 2 through Grade 5, along with place-based, project-based learning opportunities.
- **Can I enroll my child in the elementary school to give them admissions priority for middle school?** All PS 676 students will receive admissions priority to our middle school once they reach 5th Grade. Parents may enroll their children in a lower grade in anticipation of continuing on to our middle school.
- **Do you offer afterschool for elementary students?** Yes, Elementary afterschool is provided through the YMCA Monday through Friday 2:40pm-6pm. They will have daily homework help and many fun activities like art and sports scheduled throughout the week.

### Afterschool & Lunch Clubs

- **Will the students be offered after-school programs that relate to their Harbor Studies?** Yes! Our current after school program runs from 2:45 PM and ends at either 4:30 PM or 5:00 PM, depending on the club. In middle school we are currently offering after school programming including Theater Club, Sports Club, Reti Climate Club, Billion Oyster Project Club, Green Team, Podcast Club, Taekwondo, Dance Team, Guitar Club, Debate Team, Apparel Club, Art Club, Anime Club, and Future is Inclusive Equity Club.
- **Will there be lunch clubs?** Yes! We have many lunch clubs that students can join based on their interests including News/leadership, Library, Art, Crochet, Sports, Work out, Lego, and Recess. During Recess the students can choose



to play an organized game, have monitored Ipad time playing educational games, and play in the playground.

### Parent Engagement

- **What are the dates for the parent coffees?** Parent coffees at Harbor Middle School/PS 676 happen every Friday at 8:30AM in person in the family resource room, Room 131, and they are a great way to meet school staff and other parents. Email our parent coordinator, Marie Hueston, with any questions: [mhueston@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:mhueston@schools.nyc.gov).
- **Do you have a PTA/SLT?** We have an active PTA and SLT! Our dedicated PTA holds meetings every last Friday of the month 8:30am-9:30am and SLT meetings are every last Wednesday of the month 4:00-5:00pm.
- **What kind of events does the school host?** We have a monthly Family Fun Night that is a different theme. Some examples include Game Night, Hispanic Heritage Art Night, Community Thanksgiving Potluck, Holidays Around the World, Autism Awareness, Sports Night, Women in STEM, Black History Month Celebration, Family Reading Night, End of Year Carnival, and more! Our afterschool Theater program also puts on a musical every year. Last year the students performed Willy Wonka and this year the musical is Seussical The Musical!



- **Are parents invited to go into the classrooms?** Yes! Every month we have Open Classrooms where parents are invited to their child's class for a presentation or showcase of the end of a mission.
- **Are parents allowed to go on trips or attend school events?** Yes! We welcome families to attend all school events, after school clubs, and school trips. So far this year we have had many parents offer their time to help decorate/chaperone the Halloween dance, bake and pass out cupcakes to students during the Halloween parade, serve students a catered lunch during our Hispanic Heritage celebration, and attend a field trip to our first annual Red Hook Regatta. A few generous parents are also leading weekly after school clubs including TaeKwonDo and Anime Club.

### School Policies

- **What is C.O.A.S.T.?** C.O.A.S.T. is an acronym that stands for Communication Owed After School Today. As educators, we've learned that when students have a problem in class, it's often easier to reflect and grow from it after a little time has passed. Additionally, we've found that parents/guardians like to be aware of the smaller problems and mistakes, and not just big ones that means someone is "in trouble" and it feels like a total surprise. So, if a student makes a bad choice in class that negatively impacts another person or otherwise goes against our code of student conduct, they can be given a Reminder in class. If a student has two Reminders from any teachers throughout the course of a school day, they are assigned C.O.A.S.T. for that day. Students that have



C.O.A.S.T. go to the family resource room (Room 131) right at the end of the school day to fill out a form with four questions to help them reflect on what happened and what they might do differently next time. The student spends no more than 15 minutes filling out the form then takes the form home where they can discuss what happened with their parent/guardian, who signs the form to let us know they talked about the issue with their child. We DON'T call it "detention" because it's not meant to be a punishment! However, if a student with C.O.A.S.T. doesn't hold up their side of the deal, we have to look at other consequences. For example, if a student doesn't show up for C.O.A.S.T., or doesn't get their form signed by the end of the week, or has multiple problems of the same type in the same week, that's when we speak directly with a parent/guardian so we can find a solution to the problem.

- **What is the cell phone policy?** Phones are not to be used during school. The Yondr Pouch is a tool we're using to make sure students don't use their phones at school. It's a locking pouch that the student puts their phone in as they enter the building. They close the bag and it locks the phone inside. At the end of the day, they use the magnetic unlocking station as they exit to open the pouch again. Students keep the Yondr pouch in their school bag and take it home with them so it's ready again the next day as they enter the building.
- **Is there a dress code?** Please [click here](#) for the Dress Code Policy.



- **What mental health services does the school have available?** We offer many counseling services in our building during the school day. Students who have mandated counseling on their IEP meet with the school guidance counselor, Mrs. Omoigberai. Students who are interested in receiving art therapy who do not have mandated counseling may meet with our school Art Therapist, Ms. Elida. We also have a school social worker, Ms. Juliana, who has a team of graduate social work interns who also offer at-risk counseling. We will also have an additional social worker through our in-house NYU clinic who can provide “outside counseling” during the school day.
- **What Social-Emotional Learning is offered?** All middle school students have small group Advisory classes built into their schedules which provides weekly Social Emotional Learning time. We also use a Guiding Lights system where students develop and agree to monthly community agreements. Elementary students have SEL time through classroom push-ins scheduled into their schedules as well.

### Staying in Touch

- **How can we stay connected with the school?** We have several ways for families to stay connected to us. We use a communication platform called Konstella to share announcements, manage calendar events, and communicate between parents and between parents and teachers. We also post regularly on our school Instagram @harborschoolbk. What makes our school the most unique is that we have a DAILY LIVE student led news



program every morning at 8:20am. Students watch the news in their 1st period class to start the day and hear announcements, learn SEL skills, discuss the theme of the month, and receive reminders. Parents can watch the news at home as well through our Youtube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@Nyharbormiddleschool> to keep up with what your child is up to in school!

### Contact Us

**If you'd like to speak to someone directly, please reach out to those highlighted first for anything that was not addressed during the tour and we will direct you to the appropriate teacher as needed for further information!**

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**HARBOR MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
NYC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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