



Corlears School and The Calhoun School

Middle School Partnership

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last update: February 6, 2023

What is the new partnership between Corlears School and The Calhoun School?

Corlears School is excited to announce an exciting, unprecedented new middle school partnership with The Calhoun School, a fellow progressive independent school on New York City's Upper West Side.

The partnership joins our two communities by providing a path for Corlears graduates to transfer their enrollment directly to Calhoun's middle school program for sixth grade. It also ensures that Corlears families will receive priority in Calhoun's financial aid offer timeline.

Why did Corlears School choose to partner with Calhoun for middle school?

Corlears prides itself on being a school made just for young children. We have dedicated our expertise and our focus to educating children in their earliest, most formative years: from toddlers through fifth grade. Building this new partnership with Calhoun will allow Corlears to keep its focus on the early years, while simultaneously offering families the opportunity to consider a great school like Calhoun for their educational journey beyond Corlears, without the need to embark on a separate admissions process for middle school.

Why doesn't Corlears go through middle school or add middle grades?

Since our founding in 1968, Corlears has committed itself to giving young children a strong educational foundation so they may be successful in school and in life beyond our doors. We believe that the most important part of any child's education journey is a strong start, which is why we're proud to have some of the city's most knowledgeable and passionate experts in early and elementary-age childhood development working with our students at this crucial, formative, and magical age. Because of our focus on early years education, students in our upper elementary grades are able to develop confidence through leadership opportunities they might not otherwise experience in a school that extends through middle and high school.

Why did Corlears School choose The Calhoun School as a partner middle school?

Corlears and Calhoun have very similar philosophies regarding progressive education, including open-concept classrooms, an emphasis on inquiry-based learning, and values-driven community. We are confident that families who wish to continue their child's education in a progressive independent school setting will experience Calhoun as a seamless next step. Corlears has had a number of graduates go on to attend Calhoun over the years with a high degree of satisfaction and success with the transition.

Is this a merger?

No. Corlears School and Calhoun remain completely independent of one another and will continue to operate as separate schools. Our new middle school partnership is a positive relationship we're thrilled to forge with a fellow NYSAIS school, thanks to our mutual positions as well-regarded and long-established progressive education institutions.

When does the partnership begin?

The partnership with Calhoun will begin with the class of 2024, meaning current fourth graders entering their graduating year will have the option to transfer their enrollment to Calhoun for middle school for the 2024–25 school year.

How will this impact the outplacement experience?

Corlears will continue to provide outplacement support to its graduating fifth-grade students for middle school. Our outplacement team will support families who wish to opt into the Calhoun enrollment transfer process, as well as those who choose to forego the transfer and apply to a variety of schools

Can my child still apply to attend other middle schools?

Yes. Corlears supports families' choice and ability to decide on middle school options for their child, and Corlears families are not required to participate in the enrollment transfer process. While we are excited to have this relationship with Calhoun, a fellow NYSAIS member school, the dedicated outplacement team at Corlears will continue to provide comprehensive support to any family who chooses to attend any other independent, parochial, or public school for sixth grade.

How will the application and/or enrollment process work?

Families who are not planning to transfer their enrollment to The Calhoun School will apply to independent or public schools and receive the support of Corlears School's existing outplacement process. Application deadlines are typically in December for private schools, and

March for public schools. Families planning to transfer their enrollment to Calhoun will skip the application process and simply complete the enrollment forms for Calhoun during their re-enrollment period in late January/early February. Note that The Calhoun School will provide early notification of financial aid awards to Corlears families by October 31 to allow those families to make an informed choice as to whether they will submit applications for independent or public schools.

How will financial aid work if I choose to send my child to Calhoun for middle school?

Calhoun will prioritize Corlears graduates in the financial aid application process by providing families with early indication of their financial aid and projected net cost by October 31, allowing families to consider the financial commitment. Calhoun's financial aid determination is independent of previous Corlears awards and TEAM assignments, and Corlears graduates are not guaranteed financial aid at Calhoun. Given the fact that both Corlears and Calhoun have existing commitments to high levels of socioeconomic diversity, it is unlikely that Calhoun will be able to provide matching support to all Corlears graduates. Families who wish to pursue other opportunities will be supported by the highly successful Corlears outplacement team.

What are the key terms of the partnership agreement?

- In consultation with Calhoun, Corlears will recommend the promotion of its fifth grade students to Calhoun's sixth grade considering the students' learning profiles and the support that Calhoun's middle school will be able to provide. Students whose learning profile indicates that they will benefit from a specialized or different learning environment will be supported by the Corlears outplacement and student success teams as usual.
- Calhoun will provide Corlears graduate families with early indication of their financial aid and projected net cost by October 31. Calhoun's financial aid determination is independent of previous Corlears awards and TEAM assignments, and Corlears graduates are not guaranteed financial aid at Calhoun.
- Corlears families transferring their enrollment will follow the same late January/early February timeline as Calhoun fifth graders re-enrolling in their sixth grade.
- Corlears families who do not enroll by the Calhoun re-enrollment deadline may apply to Calhoun for regular admission, but will not be guaranteed admission.
- Both schools shall remain fully independent in admissions practice, governance, leadership, tuition and policies.
- The partnership can be terminated by either party with 12 months notice.

Have further questions? Please contact office@corlearsschool.org.