

What's Happening in NYC Public Schools

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schools.nyc.gov/MessagesForFamilies

October 2025

This update from New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) includes important dates on the 2025–26 school year calendar, upcoming admissions information, parent-teacher conferences, preparing for remote learning, vaccination requirements, and the new electronic device policy.

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Important Upcoming Dates

- **October 2:** Yom Kippur, schools closed
- **October 13:** Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples' Day, schools closed
- **October 20:** Diwali, schools closed
- **November 4:** Election Day, no classes for NYCPS students
- **November 6:** Afternoon/Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTCs) for elementary schools*
- **November 11:** Veterans Day, schools closed
- **November 13:** Afternoon/Evening PTCs for middle schools and D75 schools*
- **November 20:** Evening PTCs for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools
- **November 21:** Afternoon PTCs for high schools, K–12, and 6–12 schools*

*Students in these schools dismissed three hours early

2026 High School Admissions

Starting **October 7**, current eighth graders and first-time ninth graders can participate in this year's NYCPS **high school application process**.

Fall 2026 High School applications will close on **Wednesday, December 3**. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/HS.

Digital Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT)

This fall, the SHSAT—the entrance exam required for admission to one of NYC’s eight Specialized High Schools—will be administered digitally for the first time. Students who wish to take the SHSAT when it is administered in November must register for the test between **October 7** and **October 31**. Learn more about the transition to computer-based testing and access online practice materials at schools.nyc.gov/SHSAT. For information about specialized high schools, visit schools.nyc.gov/SHS.

2026 Middle School Admissions

Starting **Wednesday, October 15**, students currently in fifth grade (or sixth grade, for students in K–6 elementary schools) can participate in fall 2026 middle school admissions. Fall 2026 Middle School applications will close on **Friday, December 12**. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/MS.

New Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy Reminder

Remember: per New York State law, starting this school year, students may not use their cell phones and other personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the school day. These devices must be stored somewhere like a locker or magnetic pouch. Make sure you are familiar with and following your school’s policy on device storage. Visit schools.nyc.gov/DevicePolicy to learn more and for answers to frequently asked questions.

November 2025 Parent-Teacher Conferences

This year’s second round of parent-teacher conferences (PTCs) begins on **Thursday, November 6**. PTCs will be conducted remotely in 2025-26, however, schools may arrange an in-person conference upon request. Please note that dates and times can vary depending on school and grade level—speak with your child’s school to confirm their PTC schedule and to set up your meeting. Visit schools.nyc.gov/ptc for tips and guidance.

Preparing for Remote Learning

If NYCPS school buildings close due to emergency conditions, all K–12 students will attend classes remotely. Ensure your child has a working, internet-enabled device at home. If you need a NYCPS-loaned device, contact your school directly **now**; do not wait for a building closure. Learn how to start using your loaned device at schools.nyc.gov/NYCPSDevices.

Students will need to use their NYCPS Student Account (schools.nyc.gov/StudentAccounts) for remote learning. For login help, visit selfservice.schools.nyc or ask your school. Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/DigitalLearning.

Stay Up to Date with Your Child’s Vaccinations

All NYCPS students who are 2 months to 18 years old must meet both State and City immunization requirements to attend school. Review vaccine requirements by grade at schools.nyc.gov/immunization and talk to your child’s health provider to learn more. You can find a provider who fits your family’s needs at pndlookup.health.ny.gov.

Keep Up with NYC Public Schools

Bookmark *The Morning Bell* blog at schools.nyc.gov/MorningBell and be sure to follow @NYCSchools on Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube for the latest news and resources for NYC families!