

Steinway Intermediate School 141

Magnet for Advanced Mathematics, Technology and Environmental Engineering

NASA Explorer School

An ESSA Recognition School



PARENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

Excellence - Innovation - Collaboration

District 30 Superintendent (I.A.)

Ms. Lisa Hildago

Principal

Vanessa Williams

Assistant Principals

Kristen Mucciacciaro

Andriana Rizos

Stephanie Pereira

Steven Tenaglia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Academics	7
After-School Clubs and Activities	10
After-School Program (HANAC Beacon)	10
Arrival and Dismissal	6
Attendance Policy	6
Breakfast and Lunch Program	15
Community School District 30	3
Discipline Code	14
Dress Code	14
Emergency (Blue) Card	6
Helpful Resources	17
High School Admissions	9
Homework	13
Homework Tips for Parents	17
Honor Roll	8
Inclement Weather	16
Language Access	11
Lost & Found	15
Marking Periods	7
Message from the Principal	2
Mission Statement	3
NYS Regents	7
NYS Schools Account (NYCSA)	8
Organization of the School	4
Parent Meetings	11
Parent Teacher Association (PTA)	12
Parent-Teacher Conferences	11
Permission Slips and Notices	10
Personal Electronic Devices	9
Principal's Vision	3
Respect for All	14
School Grading Policy	7
School Calendar	12
School Hours	5
School Leadership Team (SLT)	12
School-Parent Connection	11
School Supplies/Devices/Backpacks	15
Social Media	9
Transportation	16
Visiting the School	5



A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Pride, achievement and commitment to excellence are the traits that make Steinway Intermediate School 141 a beloved middle school in Astoria. This year, our school was proud to be named one of the top 20% of all schools in New York City for the thirteenth year in a row. Our school boasts a commitment to providing every single student who walks through our doors with a world-class education in a safe environment that is conducive to learning.

Our four small learning communities offer parents a partnership with the school where everyone is welcome and valued. Within each small academy, teachers work closely in teams to provide programs that regularly celebrate diversity and respect among the students in order to put an end to bullying and intolerance, which has resulted in our school being named a “Respect for All” school every year since 2013.

We are strongly committed to academic rigor, firsthand knowledge gained from practical hands-on experience, and a growing awareness of the world around us. This awareness has promoted our contributions to the needs of others both at home and abroad; each year we participate in various fundraisers and other philanthropic endeavors, such as Pennies for Patients and Operation Santa, in order to teach our students about the importance of giving to those in need. We participate in writing and art contests every year, often with great success, such as the ABENY contest and the New York City Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition. It is not only the dedication of educators and students that have enabled us to achieve so much, but also the allegiance of parents who are mutually committed to the achievement of our students.

We ensure our parents are always included in their children’s education and remain valued partners, who are informed of our goals and practices, and who always feel welcome in our school. We recognize that we are all vital contributors to our school’s success, and maintain the philosophy that if we continue to work together, we can ensure that all of our graduates are equipped with the skills necessary to be successful in today’s world.

Regards,

Vanessa Williams
Principal



Mission Statement

At I.S. 141 The Steinway, we believe that students learn best in a highly engaging environment where they are empowered to learn through collaborative, inquiry-based exploration. Using the series of books, *Lead like a Pirate*, *Teach Like a Pirate*, and *Learn like a Pirate* as inspiration, we envision a school where leaders motivate every staff member to strive for excellence, where teachers advance equity and increase student engagement with captivating, creative tasks in an environment where students' social-emotional needs are recognized and met, and where students take ownership of their learning in collaborative, culturally responsive classrooms. Working together with the administrative team, the instructional cabinet, and an enthusiastic team of teachers, our mission is to ensure that every stakeholder in the building feels like a "pirate" on a "daring and adventurous" educational journey.

Principal's Vision

IS.141 will grow into a place where all stakeholders feel empowered to transform teaching and learning with innovative ideas. Using David Burgess' **Pirate** philosophy, I envision a school where leaders motivate every staff member to strive for excellence, teachers increase student engagement with captivating ideas, and students take ownership of their learning in collaborative classrooms.

Core Values

Lead like a Pirate
Teach Like a Pirate
Learn like a Pirate

Community School District 30 Ms. Lisa Hildago, Superintendent (I.A.)

I.S. 141 is a zone school in District 30. Each district has a superintendent, a family support coordinator, family leadership coordinator, and an advisory panel to represent parents known as the Community Educational Council (CEC30). The Interim Acting Superintendent for District 30 is Ms. Lisa Hildago, whose office is located at the NYC Department of Education, 28-11 Queens Plaza North, Long Island City, NY 11101. Telephone # (718)391-8323. The CEC's website is www.cec30.org.



Organization of the School

I.S. 141 is a middle school whose mission is to provide strong academics in a respectful environment where learning is supported and children thrive socially, emotionally, and intellectually. In this effort, the school utilizes an academy system to instill a sense of community for students in a large school.

Sixth and seventh graders are divided equally between two academies, **The Albert Einstein Academy (AEA)** and **The William Shakespeare Academy (WSA)**. Eighth graders are also divided equally between two academies, **The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Academy (RBG)** and **The Maya Angelou Academy (MAA)**. There is no difference in the curriculum between the academies at the grade level. Each academy is named after noteworthy figures.

Each of the academies has an **assistant principal**, **dean**, and a **guidance counselor**. The **assistant principals** are Ms. Mucciacciaro, RBG, Ms. Pereira, WSA, Ms. Rizos, MAA, and Mr. Tenaglia, AEA. Assistant principals are responsible for all matters relating to their academies.

The **deans** ensure orderly student behavior in the classroom and the rest of the building. Deans enforce the NYC DOE disciplinary code at IS 141. The deans are Ms. Iocco, WSA, Mr. Klinsrisuk, AEA, Mr. Siklas, MAA, and Ms. Trotta, RBG.

Guidance counselors provide students and their parents' knowledge to make informed decisions about high school choices and counseling students on issues or concerns they are facing at home and/or school. The guidance counselors are Ms. Alejandro, WSA, Ms. Mullahy, AEA, Ms. Nikolopoulos, RBG, and Ms. Zervos, MAA.

We also have two **licensed social workers** on staff, Ms. McFarland, LMSW (full-time) and Ms. Rodriguez (part-time), and Ms. Kornegay, **Substance Abuse Prevention/Intervention Specialist**, to provide support to our students.

The **parent coordinator** serves as a liaison between the school and the parent body and works to strengthen parent engagement in the school. If a parent has a question or concern, he/she should contact the parent coordinator, who will provide guidance or resources to address the concern. The parent coordinator is Ms. Catechis, whose email address is scatechis@schools.nyc.gov



The **school-based support team** provides eligible students with an IEP (Individualized Education Program). If a parent is interested in having his/her child

evaluated for special education services, a letter should be written to Ms. Rodriguez, School Psychologist, requesting an evaluation. Her email address is mrodriguez262@.



Safety agents are located at the main entrance to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. No one is permitted to enter the school building without government-issued photo identification. Upon registering with the safety agent, parents and visitors must report to the main office, room 201.



Our **school nurse**, Ms. Kelly, provides our students with first aid, manages chronic health conditions, and alerts families of any health concerns affecting students. If your child requires medication to be kept at school, please bring the medication and medication forms in English to the nurse on the first day of school.

Please note that a student's updated immunizations record and child-adolescent health examination form should be submitted to the school in September.



Our **main office** plays a vital role in the day-to-day function of our school. Our secretaries and school aides maintain academic and attendance records and administer the MetroCards and devices for students.

School Hours



School hours are 8:00 a.m.–2:20 p.m. (Monday to Friday). There are eight periods during the day.

Visiting the School

The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff is of utmost importance. All visitors must show government-issued photo identification upon entering the school building. Once registered with the safety agent, all visitors must report to the main office located in room 201. Visitors are not permitted to walk through the school unescorted by school personnel, and visitors must exit from the main entrance.



Arrival and Dismissal



Arrival and dismissal points vary according to which academy the student has been assigned. Students are expected to go straight home after school. Idling or “hanging out” around the school is highly discouraged.

For the safety of our students, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of not double or triple parking around the school during arrival and dismissal. It is a matter of safety. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

For students who walk to school, kindly review safety rules with them, such as not texting while walking, using pedestrian crosswalks, obeying traffic lights, and behaving responsibly.

Emergency (Blue) Card

Please complete the emergency (blue) card as soon as possible and include your email address on the card. The school communicates with parents via email on a regular basis. More importantly, students are not permitted to leave the school building before dismissal unless a parent or an authorized person listed on the emergency blue card signs the student out or has prior written consent by the child’s parent.

All individuals seeking to sign a student out before dismissal must present a government-issued photo identification at the main office. The early excuse form must be presented to the safety agent upon leaving the school building, and the student must be escorted by an adult. Any changes to the emergency (blue) card, including change of address, must be reported to the main office as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy



Attendance and punctuality are very important in the pursuit of education and are a legal part of a student’s record. Studies have proven that a student who attends school regularly has a higher chance to achieve academic success. All students should be prepared to start school at 8:00 a.m. Any student who arrives at school at and after 8:06 a.m. will be marked late.

Absenteeism is discouraged, unless it is due to illness. If your child is not feeling well, please keep your child home to recover and send an email to absent@is141.org informing us of his/her absence. A doctor’s note, if applicable, can be brought to the main office upon a student’s return to school or emailed to absent@is141.org. Regardless of a notice, parents will be notified of their child’s absence or tardiness via an automated system in the morning.

Excused absences are absences where there is an explanation for the absence, such as illness, emergencies, or religious reasons and marked accordingly in the attendance record. If family travel plans affect a student’s attendance, a parent should inform the main office prior to the departure. A travel form must be completed by the parent accompanied with a copy of airline, train, or bus tickets.

Academics

I.S. 141 offers all types of classroom settings, general education, integrated co-teaching (ICT), and special education. It also offers accelerated classes in core subjects and an English as a New Language program.

The school considers a student's academic record, specifically his/her student performance, in placing students in accelerated classes. At the end of the first marking period as well as academic year, students can be transferred to accelerated classes based on school performance and seat availability. As I.S. 141 is a Title I school, there are no more than thirty (30) students in a classroom.

Regardless of the class setting, the school promotes a rigorous coursework that challenges students and prepares them for higher education. Students receive ELA, math, social studies, science, music, foreign language, computer science, art, and physical education instruction, and homework is assigned every day.

I. S. 141 offers students in accelerated classes the opportunity to take NYS Regents courses in Living Environment and Algebra I in 8th grade. The school also has two computer labs with Apple computers, a STEM lab promoting pre-engineering skills, state-of-the art science lab, and a hydroponic lab.



School Grading Policy

Tests/Quizzes: 50%
Homework/Projects: 25%
Classwork 25%

2023-2024 Marking Periods

First Marking Period Ends 11/22/23
Second Marking Period Ends: 2/16/24
Third Marking Period: 6/26/24

JUNE 26: FINAL REPORT CARDS/DIPLOMAS DISTRIBUTED



Academy Subject Honor Roll

A student achieving a grade of 90 or better in any major or minor subject will receive an honor certificate for that subject. Subject honor roll lists will be placed on hallway bulletin boards.

Principal's Honor Roll

Students from the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades who have achieved an overall 90 or above average at the end of each marking period achieve placement on the Principal's honor roll.

National Junior Honor Society

Students will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society after the second marking period. The criteria for induction are, as follows:

- Overall grade point average of core subjects is 90 and above in each of the two marking periods
- No minor subject mark below 85 grade point average
- Satisfactory conduct
- Satisfactory attendance
- Meets promotion or diploma requirements
- Community service hours

NYC Schools Account (NYCSA)

The NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) provides a single place where parents can review their child's academic record and biographical information, such as report card, assignments, attendance, transcripts, and more! If a parent does not have an account, Ms. Catechis, our parent coordinator, will be happy to assist in the creation of the NYC Schools Account. Her email address is scatechis@is141.org. Please note that every parent is entitled to their own NYSCA. For additional information, please visit <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/student-journey/nyc-schools-account>.

High School Admissions



Parents are encouraged to discuss high school choices with their child in order to narrow down schools and to consult with their child's guidance counselor early in the process. The student's guidance counselor plays a vital role in guiding 8th grade students and will provide parents and students support in exploring high school programs and applying for high school on **MySchools**, the online application portal. The guidance counselors are Ms. Zervos, MAA and Ms. Nikolopoulos, RBG.

8th grade students, who are interested in attending a specialized high school, should register for the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) on their MySchools account in the fall. Since I.S. 141 is a SHSAT site, our students can take the SHSAT at I.S. 141. Please visit the school's website, www.is141.org, for additional resources.



Personal Electronic Devices

After consulting with the School Leadership Team, I.S. 141's school policy has been amended to permit students to bring cell phones and other electronic devices to school with certain restrictions. Students must not use their cell phones in the school building, unless a faculty or staff member permits them to do so. This policy was adopted for the safety and security of students and to secure a learning environment that every student deserves.

Social Media

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's usage of electronic devices and what is communicated and posted on various social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat, YouTube, Flickr, Tik Tok, etc. Students must post responsibly and consider the consequences of posting comments and/or photos. Moreover, students must report any cyberbullying to a responsible adult. The NYC DOE recommends that parents visit the following website for social media guidelines: http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/SocialMedia/parents_families/default.htm.



After-School Clubs and Activities

I.S. 141 offers a variety of after-school clubs based on student interest. Information regarding after-school clubs and activities will be available in the fall. Typically, the after-school clubs run from mid-October to the end of May from 2:25 p.m.-3:25 p.m.

HANAC Beacon after-school program also offers club activities, such as chess. For additional information, please contact the HANAC Beacon after-school program directly.

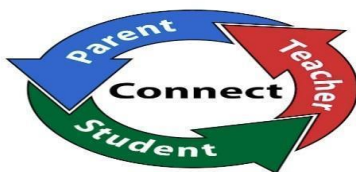
HANAC Beacon After-School Program

The HANAC Beacon program at I.S. 141 is a free after-school program funded by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development. It offers a variety of activities for students, such as homework help, chess, art, sports, and SHSAT prep course. It also offers holiday camp for days and weeks when there is a school holiday or recess. The program runs Monday-Friday from 2:20 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Additional information is posted on the school's website, www.is141.org and on the following link: <https://hanac.org/programs-services/youth-programs/beacon-astoria>.

Registration for academic year 2023-2024 will occur from mid-August to mid-September. The first day of the after-school program is September 11. If interested, please visit <https://discoverydycd.dycdconnect.nyc/home>. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 2:20 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Parents may contact the Beacon office at #(347)572-3517 and #(646)891-6359.

Permission Slips and Notices

Students receive notices on a regular basis. It is very important that notices are given to parents immediately and that any permission slips for school trips and activities are signed by a parent and returned to school in a timely manner.



School - Parent Connection

I.S. 141 strongly believes that communication between the school and parents is vitally important for student success. Parents are encouraged to provide their email address on the emergency (blue) card and other methods of securing email addresses. I.S. 141 emails newsletters, such as the Steinway Times and the Parent Corner, to parents on a regular basis. Parents are encouraged to visit the school's website, www.is141.org, for additional information.

Parent Meetings

I.S. 141 welcomes parents and guardians to contact their child's teacher, dean, guidance counselor, assistant principal or the parent coordinator to discuss any issue or concern they may have with their child.

Parents and guardians may contact their child's teacher(s) preferably via email to set up a meeting to discuss their child's progress. Parents do not need to make an appointment with the parent coordinator.

Faculty and staff email addresses are posted on the school's website, www.is141.org.

Language Access

Over 180 languages are spoken in NYC households. Approximately 95% of the languages spoken by NYC students are English, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Urdu. As such, the NYC Department of Education is committed in providing language access to families. If a parent needs an interpreter for any call or meeting at the school, parents are encouraged to request one. Every effort will be made to secure an interpreter.

Parent - Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on the following dates:

- September 21 - Evening Only
- November 9 - Afternoon & Evening
- March 14 - Afternoon & Evening
- May 16 - Evening Only

Students will be dismissed at 11:20 a.m. on November 9 and March 14 for the afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)



Parents play a vital role in the school; hence, parent involvement in your child's school is very important. Parents are encouraged to join the PTA to learn the latest developments in the school and to voice their ideas and concerns.

Chancellor's Regulation A-660 governs the structure and function of the PTA, and the PTA Bylaws ensures the effective functionality of the PTA. The meeting schedule, the Zoom meeting link, and the PTA By-Laws are posted on the school's website, www.is141.org.

The PTA Executive Board (2023-2024) is, as follows: Ms. Sandra Anagnostos, President, Ms. Anna Sfiakanos, Vice-President, Ms. Cara Bernstein, Recording Secretary, and Ms. Sonia Quintanar, Treasurer.

School Leadership Team (SLT)



The School Leadership Team (SLT) is a school-based entity comprised of 11 members (equal representation of school personnel and parents). It is responsible for the development of the Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP) for the school and works to ensure that it is aligned with the school-based budget.

The SLT meets to discuss the CEP and any issues and/or concerns regarding the school. Decision-making is based on consensus. The meeting schedule and Zoom meeting link are posted on the school's website, www.is141.org, under the heading, Parent Support.

The five parent members on the SLT (2023-2024) are: Ms. Sandra Anagnostos, PTA President, Ms. Cara Bernstein, Ms. Jaisy May Yan Diep, Ms. Sonia Quintanar, and Ms. Anna Sfiakanos.

NYC Department of Education - School Calendar 2023-2024

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/2023-2024-school-year-calendar>

Homework



Homework is assigned daily, and projects are assigned on a regular basis. Please note that assignments are posted in Google Classroom and grades received for all assignments are available to view on the NYC Schools Account (NYCSA), which is accessed by visiting www.schoolsaccount.nyc.

Good study skills start at home. Parents are encouraged to review assignments nightly to ensure their child has completed his/her assignments. I.S. 141 strongly believes that there is a partnership between the school and the family unit. Together, we will work to ensure that students fulfill their responsibility to complete their assignment but that is also done so in a clear and legible manner. Moreover, parents are encouraged to look for and respond to teacher(s) comments and to share their concerns with teachers and administrators. Teachers' email addresses are posted on the school's website, www.is141.org.

Homework is a three way partnership:

- The teacher will provide a quality assignment each night;
- The student will complete all assignments neatly and submit the homework on a daily basis to each respective teacher;
- The parent will monitor and encourage completions of all homework assignments and projects; and
- Call the school immediately if your child is frequently tells you there is no homework. The fact is that there is homework every night.
- Assignments are posted in Google Classroom.

Student's Responsibility

- To make sure that all assignments are written in your notebook before leaving at the end of the day;
- To write all directions carefully so that assignments are completed correctly;
- To check off each item as it is completed; and
- To add upcoming events, due dates and assignments, test dates, and other important personal dates to your monthly calendar.

Parent's Responsibility

- To make sure that all assignments are clearly written each night;
- To check that all parts of the assignments are completed;
- To look for, and to respond, to teacher comments; and
- To feel free to add comments or questions to the teacher.

Respect for All



I.S. 141 is proud to be recognized by the NYC Department of Education as a Respect for All school for three years in a row. I.S. 141 embraces the values for Respect for All and enforces a safe and supportive learning environment that is free from harassment, intimidation and/or bullying and from discrimination.

Discipline Code

The NYC Department of Education has established **Citywide Standards of Disciplinary and Intervention Measures (The Discipline Code)**. The Discipline Code outlines appropriate behavior by students that renders a respectful environment where teachers can teach and students can learn. All families may access the NYC DOE Discipline Code, Bill of Rights and responsibilities in all NYC DOE official languages at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/know-your-rights/discipline-code>.

Dress Code

In order to maintain a positive learning environment, it is expected that I.S.141 students dress in a professional manner. We expect I.S.141 students to be dressed appropriately to ensure safety and to keep the focus on teaching and learning. We would like all parents and guardians to remind students of proper dress protocols on campus.

Prohibited forms of dress at I.S.141 include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Hats or caps (with the exception of headwear worn for religious observance).
- 2) Clothing that contains references to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, racism, or gang-affiliation.
- 3) Clothing that does not provide coverage of torso, undergarments, and private body parts, including see-through garments of any kind.
- 4) Flip-flops/Slides
- 5) Sunglasses while indoors.

If a student comes to school wearing clothing prohibited by the Dress Code, then the student's parents will be notified, the student may be subject to the interventions and disciplinary responses set forth in the Discipline Code, and the student will be expected to make appropriate adjustments to his/her clothing to conform with the Dress Code (e.g., turning shirt inside out, borrowing temporary clothing until the end of the school day, etc.).

Students should wear sneakers on days when they have physical education.

Breakfast and Lunch Program



All NYC public schools offer free breakfast and lunch to its students. Students may bag their lunch, if they prefer. School menus are available on the NYC DOE website, www.schools.nyc.gov. Parents and students may download the School Food mobile app on the phone to learn what is on the school menu. For more information, please visit <http://www.schoolfoodnyc.org/MediaCenter/mobileapp>.

Students may enter the school building (exit 3) at 7:30 a.m. to have breakfast in the school cafeteria. Exit 3 is located on 21 Avenue close to 37 Street.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost personal items, such as clothing, backpacks, will be held in the Lost & Found section in the cafeteria. Eyeglasses and keys are held in the main office.

School Supplies/Devices/Backpacks



- The school supply list is posted on the school's website, www.is141.org.
- If a student does not have a device for learning, a device will be lent to the student. If there are any issues with the device, most issues can be addressed by the school's tech crew. The assignment of the devices and repairs are handled by Ms. Diaz, who is located in the main office. For more information regarding devices, please visit www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/digital-learning/ipads-and-laptops.
- As there are no lockers at I.S. 141, students travel with their backpacks from class to class.

Transportation

According to Chancellor's Regulation A-801, transportation eligibility for children, who are not mandated for door-to-door transportation on their IEP (Individualized Education Program), is determined on the basis of the student's grade level and the distance between the student's residence and school. Please see the chart below for Metro card eligibility or visit www.optnyc.org.

Grade	Less than .5 mile	.5 mile or more, but less than 1 mile	1 mile or more, but less than 1.5 miles	1.5 miles or more
6	Not eligible	Half-fare	Full-fare	Full-fare
7	Not eligible	Half-fare	Half-fare	Full-fare
8	Not eligible	Half-fare	Half-fare	Full-fare



Student MetroCards are administered by Ms. Frazis in the school's main office and distributed in September and are a courtesy of the MTA. Replacement cards are issued after a replacement card request form has been submitted to the main office for processing.

Please note that half-fare student MetroCards are good for use on buses only. Student's behavior on the school bus must be appropriate and is subject to the NYC Department of Education's Discipline Code.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, i.e. rain, snow, or temperatures below 32 degrees, the school entrance on 38th Street is customarily open before 8:00 a.m. for students to enter to be warm and dry. The entrance leads to the school auditorium.

During the winter months, The NYC Department of Education may decide to close a school or delay an opening of the school. How do you find out? Announcements are heard at the following stations: WINS (1010 AM), WCBS (880 AM), WABC (770 am) as well as the following television stations: WCBS (Channel 2), WABC (Channel 7), WNBC (Channel 4), and NY 1 (Channel 1 on cable television). Another option is to call 311.

Families are also encouraged to enroll with Notify NYC, the "official source to receive information on emergency events and important city services". The website is <https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc>.

Homework Tips for Parents

The U.S. Department of Education provides the following tips for parents regarding homework in Homework Tips for Parents, My Child's Academic Success.

- **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.** Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.** Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
- **Help your child with time management.** Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.
- **Be positive about homework.** Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- **When your child does homework, you do homework.** Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

Helpful Resources – Parents

We all recognize that adolescence is a period that children are undergoing biological, social, and emotional changes related to puberty. It is a time when children are trying to figure out “Who am I?” They are seeking independence and trying to understand their place among their peers and in the world. It is a time when we as members of a school, family, and community must provide children a safe environment where their needs and interests are addressed. After-school activities are a good way to address their interests that can build self-confidence and provide children the skills they need to cope and to meet challenges academically and socially.

Open communication is of paramount importance between children and their parents, especially during this tumultuous time. Our parent coordinator recommends two books for parents. One is How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, and Parenting Without Power Struggles by Susan Stiffelman.

Helpful Resources - Students

There are numerous resources that are helpful to students, such as

- 1) www.khanacademy.org (free account);
- 2) www.gws.ala.org;
- 4) www.buzzmath.com; and
- 5) Dial-a-Teacher, a free call-in service with NYC DOE teachers assisting with homework. Dial-a-Teacher is available Monday-Thursday from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. by calling #(212)777-3880. The service is available in several languages.