



2014-15 ENROLLMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT KIPP STAR Elementary

1. What is KIPP STAR Elementary Washington Heights?

KIPP STAR Elementary is a free, public charter school that prepares students for success in college and life. We are relentlessly focused on results – academic results, character development, and the outcomes that ultimately matter most: graduating from high school and college, embarking on a career and becoming self-sufficient and happy. KIPP’s success is rooted in a few core principles that guide everything we do:

- **High Expectations.** We believe that all of our students are capable of remarkable learning and growth and that our talented team can and will find a way to achieve those results.
- **More Time.** There are no shortcuts at KIPP. Our day starts earlier and ends later than at other schools. We hold half-day classes on many Saturdays as well as summer school for all students.
- **Character Counts.** We believe that success in school and in life depends on character. During each school day, in every lesson and every interaction, we focus as much on developing character – traits such as zest, grit, self-control, hope, love, gratitude, social intelligence and humor – as we do on academic preparation.
- **Through College – and Beyond.** A dedicated KIPP Through College team supports our students after they graduate KIPP NYC schools – to help them meet the challenges of getting a college degree and becoming successful professionals. We deliver education for life.

2. What sort of results have KIPP schools had?

- 94% of KIPP NYC alumni graduated from high school and 86% have enrolled in college (more than twice the national average for communities similar to ours).
- 41% of KIPP NYC alumni graduate college – more than four times the national average for communities similar to ours!
- By the end of 2012-13, 90% of Kindergarten students, 82% of 1st grade students, 84% of 2nd grade students, and 80% of 3rd grade students met or exceeded their end-of-year reading level goals.
- This past year, KIPP NYC College Prep’s students excelled on their NY State Regents exams, with 93% passing Comprehensive English, 92% passing Living Environment, and 91% passing Integrated Algebra.

3. What grades will KIPP serve in 2014-15?

- KIPP STAR Elementary School – Washington Heights will serve approximately 400 students in K-3, and will grow to serve grades K-4.
- KIPP Washington Heights Middle School will serve approximately 300 students in grades 5 -7, and will grow to serve grades 5-8.
- KIPP NYC College Prep High School serves over 800 students in grades 9-12.

4. What is the school schedule and calendar?

By choosing to enroll at KIPP STAR Elementary School, families and students commit to an extended school day that lasts from 8:10am to 4:00pm on Monday through Thursday and from 8:10am to 2:45pm on Friday. They also commit to attending a Family Saturday program that lasts from 9:00am to 11:00am one Saturday a month, as well as a two-week mandatory summer school session (8:00am to 12:00pm). The first day of school for incoming students has not been set, however the school mostly follows the NYC Department of Education calendar the rest of the year.

5. What happens to KIPP students when they go on to high school?

In the summer of 2009, KIPP NYC opened KIPP NYC College Prep, a high school for students graduating from all five KIPP NYC middle schools.

6. How old do you have to be to attend Kindergarten at KIPP STAR Elementary School?

Children must be 5 years of age by December 31st, 2014 to attend Kindergarten.

7. Do the students wear uniforms to school? Do I have to pay for the uniform shirts?

Yes, all students are required to wear uniforms at KIPP. All students will be provided with one KIPP shirt free of charge. They will have the opportunity to purchase additional shirts over the summer and throughout the school year.

8. How many students are in each classroom?

There are 25-26 students in each classroom. Additionally, every kindergarten and first grade classroom is taught by two full time teachers.

9. Do you take ELL (English Language Learner) or Special Education students?

Yes!

10. Do you have free breakfast and lunch programs?

Yes. All students will receive free breakfast and lunch (and a morning snack).

11. Will KIPP provide transportation for my child to get to and from the school?

As with any public school, KIPP will provide eligible students with a half-fare or full fare Metrocard depending on how far they live from the school. KIPP STAR Elementary does not provide yellow bus service to or from school.

ABOUT THE LOTTERY PROCESS

1. Do you have to apply to get into KIPP?

KIPP STAR Elementary Charter School is a public school open to all New York students that are incoming kindergarteners. The only information needed to enter the KIPP lottery is the student's name and contact information. No test scores, grades, recommendations, or behavioral history will be taken into consideration. All applications must be received by **April 1st at 12:00pm (noon)** via mail, online at www.kippnyc.org/enroll, or in person.

2. How does the lottery work? Do I have to attend the lottery? How will I find out if my child was selected in the lottery?

KIPP STAR Elementary plans to enroll 100 incoming kindergarteners, including siblings and returning students. If the number of families interested in attending the school exceeds the number of students we can serve, then we will conduct a lottery on **April 7th, 2014 at 12:00pm (noon)**. All students entered into the lottery will have their names drawn by an independent auditor. Open slots will be filled in the following order:

1. Brothers/Sisters of Current KIPP NYC Students (must attend the same KIPP NYC school)
2. Applicants Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch and Residing in the Community School District
3. Applicants Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch and Not Residing in the Community School District
4. Applicants Not Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch and Residing in the Community School District
5. Applicants Not Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch and Not Residing in the Community School District

Upon submission of the application, applicants will have the opportunity to document their free and reduced price lunch eligibility. Families do not need to be present at the lottery. Students will be contacted by phone in the order they were drawn until all open slots are filled. Admissions notification letters will be mailed to all applicants beginning on **April 8th, 2014**.

4. Do you accept applications for 1st and 2nd graders?

While there will be a lottery for 1st and 2nd grade students, we anticipate that there will be few, if any, open seats.

5. Can I enter my child's name in more than one KIPP NYC lottery?

Yes. The lottery application allows you to choose multiple schools that you may apply to, based on your preference.

6. Can I enter the lottery more than once?

No. Each child may only enter once. Any duplicate applications will be removed prior to the lottery.

7. If I entered the lottery last year, do I need to enter again?

Yes. There is a new lottery every year. Waitlists do not carry over from year to year.

8. Where is the school, and who can I contact with additional questions?

The school is located in Washington Heights within the P.S. 115/Alexander Humboldt Building Complex at 586 West 177 Street at St. Nicholas, 4th floor. For more information or to receive an application, please contact Christine Moreno, School Operations Administrator at 212-991-2630 or visit <http://www.kippnyc.org/enroll>.