



# PPS-SF Enrollment Tips:

## Top Ten Tips for applying to a San Francisco Public Middle School.

School Year 2012-2013

San Francisco is a choice district – you can apply for any school or program within San Francisco. For students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in 2012, an application for middle school must be submitted to receive a school assignment.

Make the most of your choices by following our Top Enrollment Tips:



### 1 Tour your designated feeder middle school

- Every student attending an SFUSD K-5 school has a feeder middle school based on the student's current elementary school. Although it is not a guaranteed assignment, you are given a preference for your feeder school if you list it on the application. Go to [www.sfusd.edu/enroll](http://www.sfusd.edu/enroll) for a list of elementary and feeder schools.
- New students to SFUSD have a designated feeder school based on their home address and their attendance area elementary school.

### 2 Consider and list as many schools as you can.

- Despite each elementary school having a feeder middle school, there is still no limit to the number of middle schools you can rank on your application. Listing many schools will increase your odds.

### 3 Be flexible and expand your options

- Learn more about the schools by reviewing the **SFUSD Enrollment Guide** or go to [www.sfusd.edu](http://www.sfusd.edu).
- Focus on what matters most to you when you are considering schools. Middle schools vary in terms of size, uniform policy, honors programs, electives, clubs, sports, and afterschool options. Be flexible - sometimes your original idea of what was important to you changes after you've learned more.
- Don't assume that popular schools are "better." Old reputations may not be accurate. Middle schools may change quickly based on the school leadership, new programming and parent involvement. By looking into schools which are lower in demand but have great school assets you may increase your chances.
- **Charter Schools** are public schools that are outside of the SFUSD system. Do not list them on your SFUSD application. Contact them directly for information and their application procedures.

### 4 Involve your child in the process.

- Consider having your child tour the top schools on your list.
- Ask your child what is important to him or her in a middle school.

## 5 Get to know the schools

- **PPS-SF website, [www.ppsf.org](http://www.ppsf.org)**, has a dedicated Enrollment Page with parent testimonials, tips and other enrollment resources.
- **Use other online resources** such as GreatSchools.net and individual school websites to get started. For a list of online resources go to [www.ppsf.org](http://www.ppsf.org).
- **Tour schools or attend open houses and school events.** School tours usually start in October. See the SFUSD Enrollment Guide or contact the school for school tour information. For a calendar of public school events, go to [www.ppsf.org](http://www.ppsf.org).
- **Keep notes** about what you learn on tours, events and other research so you can compare schools.
- **Contact PPS-SF to speak with a PPS-SF School Ambassador.** Get to know the school from the perspective of a current parent. Send an email to [info@ppsf.org](mailto:info@ppsf.org) or call 861-7077.
- **Attend the SFUSD Enrollment Fair on November 5** to see ALL San Francisco Public Schools in one location and to speak directly with the school principals, teachers and parents. The fair will be from 10am-3pm at the Concourse Exhibition Center: East Hall 635 8<sup>th</sup> St.

## 6 Rank your choices in order of preference.

- Ranking your choices in your order of preference will give you the best odds of getting the school you most want. Whenever possible, the student assignment system will offer you the highest ranked school on your list.

## 7 Meet all deadlines!

- Submit your application **anytime before the deadline**. (Note: submitting early does not increase your chances). Applications will be available on November 5, 2011.
- See PPS-SF Resources and Timeline guide on the enrollment page for current SFUSD deadlines.
- Applications are accepted at your current elementary school, district headquarters at 555 Franklin, at satellite locations, and via a mobile bus. Check [www.sfusd.edu](http://www.sfusd.edu) for dates and more information.

## 8 Register at your offered school

- Register your child at your offered school by the published deadline to reserve your spot. You will lose your space if you do not register. Registering at your offered school will not increase or decrease your chances of getting a school you prefer more in subsequent rounds.

## 9 Stick with the process

- The enrollment process goes through September of the following year. If you do not receive a school of choice in the first placement period, there are subsequent placement periods.
- Getting a school on your list in the first placement round will **NOT** hurt your chances of getting another school higher on your list in future placement rounds

## 10 Let the PPS-SF Parent Network help you!

- Join our parent network and share information and advice with other parents through our newsletter, events, website, and email discussion groups. Go to [www.ppsf.org](http://www.ppsf.org) for more information.