

# New Public Math, Science, and Engineering Secondary School

Columbia University is committed to helping New York City public schools improve the lives of children and families. Higher education—through teaching, academic research, patient care, and public service—is Columbia's core mission. But University faculty and students are also engaged in educational and after-school programs involving dozens of local public schools and thousands of children in Upper Manhattan. In October 2005, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that the city's Department of Education would help the University expand this commitment by launching a new, University-assisted public magnet school for math, science, and engineering in Manhattanville.

## The Partnership

The Columbia-assisted public secondary school for math, science, and engineering was approved by the New York City Department of Education's Office of New Schools as part of Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Joel Klein's commitment to increasing the number of excellent secondary school options throughout New York City. Because the Columbia-assisted school is a public school, all administrative and admissions decisions are made by Department of Education, not Columbia University.

In addition to offering a rigorous curriculum and personalized attention for students, the city's new schools are required to create partnerships with institutions and local organizations that provide a broad array of resources, support, and services that enhance educational quality.

Columbia's role in the partnership is to lend its academic expertise to the development of curricula, to provide a long-term site for the school in the Manhattanville area as part of the University's expanded academic community there, and to create ongoing connections between the University and the school. The intent is that faculty and graduate students, particularly from the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, Teachers College, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the basic sciences at Columbia University Medical Center in Washington Heights, would participate in the school's academic program.

## School Opening

The Columbia-assisted school is scheduled to begin classes in September 2007 with roughly 80–100 sixth graders from Upper Manhattan. The school will be housed in a temporary

location selected by the Department of Education until a new building is ultimately completed on a University-owned site in Manhattanville. Columbia hopes that the public school will be part of the initial phase of the University's proposed development in the old manufacturing area of Manhattanville in West Harlem, adjacent to the new Jerome L. Greene Science Center.

## For Future Students

The new school will serve approximately 650–700 students from grades 6 through 12. Beginning with a founding sixth grade class, the school will add one grade per year until it reaches full enrollment. Students accepted for admission to the middle school will be chosen from high-performing students who reside above 96th Street. It is expected that about half of the students accepted for the high school will come from the middle school and that students will be accepted citywide for the remaining seats.

Central to the school's mission as a selective, public, college preparatory school, is the goal to provide a challenging academic experience that prepares students for careers in science, math, and engineering, as well as a life of active citizenship and ethical responsibility.

## For More Information

To learn more about public schools, visit [www.nyc.gov/schools](http://www.nyc.gov/schools). For more info on the Columbia-assisted school and the application process, visit [www.columbiasecondary.org](http://www.columbiasecondary.org).

To learn more about Columbia's proposed urban academic environment, visit [www.campusplan.columbia.edu](http://www.campusplan.columbia.edu) or email us at [campusplan@columbia.edu](mailto:campusplan@columbia.edu).