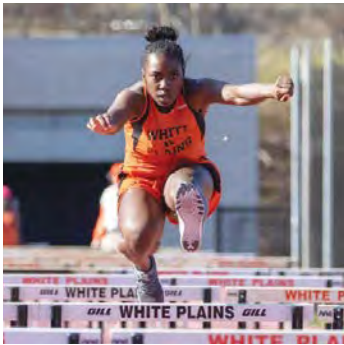
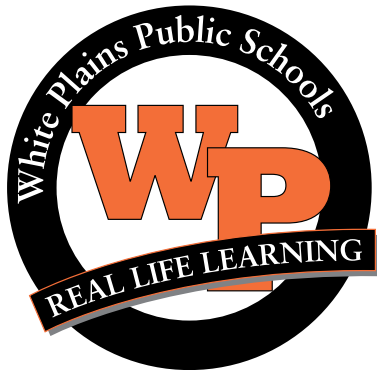


White Plains City School District



*an exceptional,
vibrant and
welcoming,
learning
community*

whiteplainspublicschools.org



We moved to White Plains when my kids were 7 & 9 years old. The public school system provided everything I hoped for (and more), including a diversity of peers, a wide range of activities, teachers that inspired and challenged them and a passion for what seems to be lifelong learning! They are now several years out of college and the foundation that they received in the school system has helped carry them into successful careers in fields that they truly love."

JS, WPCSD parent

Among the most future-focused districts in the nation, the White Plains City School District (WPCSD) is the center of a vibrant, diverse, dynamic community that strongly supports public education.





Located 25 miles from New York City, White Plains is the **cultural, economic, and political center of Westchester**, a county renowned for its exceptional community, recreational and commercial resources.

Our primary emphasis is on **embracing the whole child** and nurturing a child's overall well-being, with equal emphasis on academic achievement, healthy social emotional development, and civic responsibility. Our vision is to "unlock the infinite and unique potential of each student, every day." **Exceptional student/staff ratios** and a robust complement of support services, enrichment activities, advanced/college course offerings, honors options, and mandated services (including Special Education and English as a New Language) enable us to meet the individual needs and interests of each of our 7,000 students.

We uphold the highest standards of practice in all fields of study, monitoring growth and achievement through local and State assessments, with a strong **focus on each child's individual growth and academic trajectory**. Technology is deployed strategically throughout the district, to enhance teaching and learning experiences, and to link students to resources outside the classroom and peers from across the nation and globe. Partnerships with parents, guardians and community organizations help make White Plains a truly special place for our teachers and students to learn and grow.



Elementary Schools

**Controlled
Parents' Choice,
Full-Day
Kindergarten**



Five K-5 elementary schools are located throughout the district, with school bus transportation provided free of charge to students who live more than a half mile from their school.

With a successful Controlled Parents' Choice Program, **all our elementary schools reflect the overall diversity of the community, as we use a sophisticated algorithm, which considers parent choice, to ensure socioeconomic balance.** Placement is not based on where students live. Families have the opportunity to visit the schools and select their top three choices. Approximately 90% of students are placed in their family's first or second choice school.

All schools provide full-day kindergarten, employ language arts and mathematics specialists to support students and teachers, prioritize literacy and English Language Arts through daily supplemental instruction, and offer a variety of co-curricular and enrichment activities including civic service projects. Three schools offer a dual language program in English and Spanish, which affords students the opportunity to become bilingual, biliterate and to develop socio-cultural competency, along with high academic achievement. Recent additions to our elementary programming include Project Lead the Way Launch, part of an impactful and exciting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative we employ districtwide.



Middle School

A unique model for moving up



The WPCSD has one middle school on two distinct campuses, with about 500 students attending the 6th Grade Academy housed in the Eastview building and 1,000 in 7th and 8th grades at Highlands Middle School. **Having all 6th graders come together for a single year creates a strong sense of community among students merging from five elementary schools and allows us to provide heightened academic and social-emotional support.** Focused on this developmental stage, during a key transitional point in their educational journey, each grade level is divided into teams to create a more student-centered, personalized, and supportive environment.

Starting in 6th grade, students may choose from four foreign languages, including Mandarin Chinese. Sixth graders also benefit from an exciting Visual Reasoning Enrichment course that teaches visual literacy and allows students to explore enrichment opportunities of their choosing. We employ innovative instructional software programs for targeted English language arts (ELA) and mathematics intervention and offer writers' workshop, critical literacy and mathematics classes to challenge our students to expand their intellectual horizons. Eighth graders can take high school Regents level science and mathematics courses while still in middle school. Recently, Regents Earth Sciences became available to all 8th graders.

More than 25 activities are offered, including intramural and modified sports, a variety of clubs, and musical performing groups.



High School

Ready for college and career



More than 2,000 9th - 12th graders attend White Plains High School (WPHS), a dynamic and comprehensive learning environment, focused on preparing students for college, careers and service. They receive an exceptional education on a magnificent 75-acre campus which includes a state-of-the-art media center, innovation and learning labs, a musical recording lab, a swimming pool, and much more. **The course catalog presents an array of relevant, challenging academic programs with over 300 unique course offerings** - more than 40 at the Honors and Advanced Placement levels - and five-year foreign language sequences in four languages, including Mandarin Chinese. Other outstanding programs include Project Lead the Way; a Science Research Program which has had 18 participants named Intel Semifinalists and one National Finalist; and many courses for college credit at Syracuse University, Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY Albany, Marist College and Westchester Community College. There are 60 athletic teams and 40 co-curricular activities focused on culture, language, civics, arts and music, politics, recreation and community service. The WPHS Arts Program is second to none with orchestral, vocal, jazz, visual and graphic arts opportunities abounding.

The quality of WPHS's programs is reflected in the many honors and awards achieved by our students each year, including National Merit honorees, Advanced Placement Scholars, Scholar-Athletes, and in Art, Music, Science and Foreign Language activities. Graduates regularly report that their experiences and education at WPHS propelled them to success in their college/ university programs as well as their trajectory into business and service.



Rochambeau Alternative High School

**A smaller setting
for better
outcomes**



Rochambeau is an alternative high school where about 150 students are educated in a smaller, intensely student-centered setting. At Rochambeau, **each student's individual academic and social-emotional needs are supported as they work to achieve their graduation and career goals.** Instruction is augmented by college preparation and career development/exploration activities offered in collaboration with area businesses and agencies. Still part of the WPHS family, students have opportunities to take courses at White Plains High School and participate in extracurricular and athletic activities there as well. There is a GED program for students who meet credit and age eligibility requirements.



CONTROLLED Parents Choice PROGRAM



Through an innovative and nationally

recognized Controlled Parents' Choice registration procedure, the White Plains City School District seeks to provide all elementary school students, regardless of where in the city they reside, with a similar school experience. A landmark decision at the time, the Controlled Parents' Choice program was established by the White Plains Board of Education in 1988 to preserve and celebrate diversity and ensure comparable class size and educational experience districtwide. **More than 90% of parents/guardians receive one of their top two choices of elementary school placement.**

To make an informed decision, parents/guardians of incoming kindergartners are encouraged to visit the elementary schools before completing the formal registration process. Once parent selections are noted, an electronic lottery system is used to assign students to buildings based on various factors, including:

- Space availability in the kindergartens of each elementary school
- Size and capacity of each kindergarten class
- Parent/guardian choices of schools
- Sibling guarantee
- Board of Education's diversity policy, which includes special education needs/services, language needs/proficiency and socioeconomic factors and other variables such as family size, levels of education, and pre-k experience.



FREE FULL DAY Pre-K



Full-day (6-hour) pre-kindergarten for students turning four years old by December 31 of their year of entry, is offered free of charge in partnership with community-based organizations throughout White Plains. In our pre-k classrooms, **children engage in experiential learning through purposeful play, develop their knowledge and vocabulary in our theme-based curriculum units, and build positive relationships** with their peers and teachers. Each center has designated outdoor space for recess and physical education, and meals are provided.



Food SERVICES

Nutritious breakfast and lunch are available to all students districtwide and provided free of charge every day to students. With "home cooked meals" focused on what students wish to eat, monthly menus are published on the district and individual school webpages and include "from scratch" hot and cold entrees, fresh fruits and vegetables, and healthy snack choices. For students with allergies and special dietary needs, the Food & Nutrition Department works with parents, guardians, medical providers and a Registered Dietician to develop delicious and nutritious modified menus. A computerized system is used to record purchases and students use a barcoded ID card to access their accounts. We encourage a cashless cafeteria line to increase speed and efficiency of service.



Transportation



Arriving at school in a safe, predictable, and efficient manner prepares students for optimal learning. The WPCSD has one of the most generous transportation policies in the region, transporting students in grades

K-5 who live more than a half mile from their schools and students in grades 6-12 who live more than one mile. **Safety is our top priority:** District buses are equipped with video cameras and GPS systems. Parents and guardians are encouraged to promote safety practices and procedures, such as use of seat belts and the carrying of student ID cards.

As mandated by State Law, students with disabilities are entitled to transportation within 50 miles from their home as specified in their Individual Educational Plans. Additionally, as per State Law, the district provides transportation to private and parochial school students within the City of White Plains. Applications for the latter must be submitted online no later than April 1st of each year.

Support AND Enrichment



The WPCSD offers **a wide variety of engaging and exciting programming and services to supplement and enrich the curriculum.** These opportunities include Artists-in-Residence, English as a New Language, Learning Strategies, and Dual Language. We offer enrichment options for all students in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Visual Reasoning at the elementary and secondary levels, as well as Project Lead the Way LAUNCH to all elementary students, and Project Lead the Way elective courses in Engineering and Computer Science to secondary students. More than 19 different Advanced Placement courses and 27 Dual Enrollment courses at the high school level allow students to earn college credit while still in high school.

THE Arts



Exceptional fine arts programming provides students with ample **opportunity to explore and develop their creative minds.**

Music instruction begins in 4th grade with a full complement of orchestra, band and choir. Musical and dramatic

productions are offered throughout the middle and high school years. We're proud that our students participate and excel in All-County and All-State musical performances. The WPCSD maintains a chapter of the National Art Honor Society and regularly exhibits student artwork in the schools and community.

Parent AND Community PARTNERSHIPS



Strong, collaborative ties between school and community are a hallmark of the WPCSD.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to take an active role. The Family Information Center is a valuable resource for families within the district and those thinking of moving to the White Plains community. Each of our schools is supported by a PTA that provides family-oriented communication, events, enrichment activities, and parent/guardian education and support programs, among other things. There is also a PTA Council – an umbrella organization with representatives from each school PTA. The Alumni Association and Retired Teachers Association both provide funding for worthy projects. In addition, the district has strong relationships with citywide and community organizations such as the White Plains Youth Bureau, the Recreation & Parks Department, Andrus Mental Health Center, El Centro Hispano, and many others.

The Friends OF WPPS

The Friends of White Plains Public Schools is a not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to fundraising for enrichment programs that are not funded through the district's budget.



Dr. Joseph L. Ricca
Superintendent of Schools

For more information
on the White Plains City
School District, visit
whiteplainspublicschools.org
or call 914-422-2033.