

Resources for elementary students

Academic prep

The Center for Leadership and College Preparation, affiliated with **Bank Street College of Education**, offers educational opportunities both to high-achieving students and to struggling students. The program serves kids in 5th-12th grades, giving them access to a wide range of academic resources, college prep classes, counseling, mentoring and activities, as well as individual attention and support. Students are admitted in the 5th, 7th and 9th grades.

REACH Prep recruits academically talented black and Latino 4th-grade students from the Bronx (and Westchester and Fairfield Counties) and prepares them for 5th- and 6th-grade admissions to competitive college preparatory independent schools in New York and Connecticut. Their goal is to comprehensively support students who want to be the first in their family to graduate from college. Only 20 students are admitted each year.

Summer on the Hill at Horace Mann is an enrichment program for academically talented public school students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Students start in the 2nd grade and continue until placed in high school, participating in Saturday morning classes during the school year and a six-week summer session. They study language arts, math and science, and learn study skills. Summer programs include fine arts, recreation and an overnight trip to the **John Dorr Nature Laboratory** in Connecticut. Summer on the Hill continues to offer support through 12th grade.

The Write Girls program is a literacy program for girls in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade living in the Brownsville and Bedford-Stuyvesant sections of Brooklyn. Utilizing elements of the Girl Scouts' Journeys Curriculum, the Write Girls program will provide literacy support through reading and writing activities concentrating on women in literature. The Write Girls program will hold monthly family literacy nights and activities that include scrapbooking and group discussions, and an end of year Publishers Party of the girls' accomplishments. The Write Girls will also participate in theme-based trips to places and environments that shape the world through literacy including the United Nations, Washington, D.C., and local media outlets.

EHTP's after-school Elementary Program provides students with an intensive curriculum that emphasizes literacy and math complemented by a variety of enrichment activities. EHTP also provides a range of counseling services and support groups, helps students gain admission to quality middle schools, and ensures that students have the social-emotional wherewithal to meet any opportunities and challenges they may face. EHTP offers programs and services year-round at no cost to students and families.

Arts

Cool Culture provides families who fall under federal poverty guidelines with a **Family Pass**, which provides free entry to more than 71 museums, botanical gardens and zoos, and a subscription to **Family Time**, a quarterly borough-by-borough listing of cultural attractions, as well as a calendar of events geared toward families and young children.

Free Arts NYC uses painting, dance, drama, writing, music, sculpture, photography and other creative outlets to help children express themselves and gain confidence and self-esteem through **Free Arts Days, Weekly Mentor Program, Parents and Children Together with Art (PACT)** and **Cultural Enrichment Opportunities**.

New York Pops gives free Saturday music lessons to talented students through its **Salute to Music** program. In addition, the orchestra invites students to its rehearsals at Carnegie Hall and offers an opportunity for students to speak with the conductor and musicians.

NYKidsARTS, sponsored by the **Alliance for the Arts**, lists arts and cultural activities available to kids and families, including many neighborhood institutions, after-school activities and more.

Math and science

ExploraVision encourages kids to create and explore a vision of future technology. Students work in small groups simulating research and development teams, along with a team coach and an optional mentor. Students compete in regional competitions, and the top 24 teams go to a national competition. Prizes include up to \$10,000 in savings bonds.

New York Hall of Science in Queens offers free admission September through June on Fridays from 2 to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m.

The **Top Honors** program offers free math tutoring to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who struggle with basic math. Participating students work in small groups with tutors to boost their abilities and confidence in math.

Build, Research, Invent, Design, Grow and Explore through Science (BRIDGES): The Salvadori Center, a non-profit educational organization operating out of City College of New York, is working in partnership with the National Science Foundation and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to operate the B.R.I.D.G.E.S. (Build, Research, Invent, Design, Grow and Explore through Science) Program. This after school program is designed to help 8-12 year olds improve their understanding of science, engineering, mathematics, design and technology through the use of real-world projects. Once a week, an architect-educator from the Salvadori Center works with youth at the community center on special projects to help the students expand their math and science learning. Because children in the program work mainly

in small groups, they also learn to cooperate with one another, analyze problems to find solutions, and share what they have learned through writing and oral presentations. Some of the project based educational activities include: building scale models of New York City bridges (mathematics); create drawings of their communities (art); figure out why buildings stand up (physical science); construct models of skyscrapers (engineering); learn patience and precision in their work (life skills).

History, politics and journalism

The Collectors Club of New York sponsors a free Youth Stamp Club with monthly meetings for kids in grades 4 and up. The program welcomes experienced stamp collectors and introduces beginners to a hobby that also teaches about history, geography, famous people and events. Sessions are held beginning in September on Saturdays from 10-11/30 a.m.

Homework help

The Boys' Club of New York welcomes 6- to 20-year-old boys and charges less than a dollar a year to participate in computer classes, attend summer camp, get homework help and receive dental services. The club has a location in Flushing (Queens) and two in Manhattan.

HomeworkNYC.org is a website run by the public libraries. The site is designed specifically to help students in grades K to 12 in every area of the New York City schools curriculum and offers live, online assistance. Students and parents can also search for information on a variety of topics. The library site is also affiliated with the teacher's union **Dial-A-Teacher**, a helpline that allows students and parents to talk directly with a city teacher Monday through Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m./ 212-777-3380.

Environmental studies

MillionTreesNYC: Students and families can participate in citywide volunteer tree-planting and tree-care workshops. The program is a public-private initiative launched by the City of New York Parks Department and New York Restoration Project with the goal of planting a million new trees across all five boroughs over the next decade.

YWCA: The mission of the YWCA of the City of New York's Elementary After School Programs is to empower the community by giving children the necessary tools to succeed in all facets of life. These free programs offer a mix of academic support, sports, recreational activities and cultural experiences for students in kindergarten through fifth grade at six New York City public schools in Coney Island, Sheepshead Bay and Brownsville. In order to meet the needs of working parents, the programs are open every day after school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and during summer vacations and school holidays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.