

October 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The school selection process for the 2022-2023 school year began on Wednesday, October 6th and will close at 11:59 P.M. on Sunday, November 21, 2021. The school selection application process is for students seeking to attend kindergarten through 12th grade, in a participating school.

Which high schools require the online writing sample as part of the School Selection Process?

In previous years one high school, Parkway Center City Middle College, has included an online writing sample, in addition to considering student attendance and grades, to determine students who meet the school's criteria. This year the following high schools will also require the online writing sample:

- Central High School,
- George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science,
- Julia R. Masterman High School,
- The Academy at Palumbo High, and
- Parkway Center City Middle College.

The online writing sample is required only for 8th grade students, who are applying to enter the 9th grade in one of the above five high schools, during the 2022-2023 school year.

When will the online writing sample be available?

- The online writing sample is available from **Monday, November 29, 2021** through **Thursday, December 16, 2021**.
- School District of Philadelphia students will take the online writing sample during the school day at their home school during this window, see below for details.
- Non-district students will need to register for the online writing sample, see below for details.

Is there an example writing sample topic?

The online writing sample topics will not be posted or shared in advance. Students will know their writing sample topic when they begin the online writing sample. All students will be given paper and a writing tool should they wish to organize their ideas and thoughts.

These two example writing sample questions will **NOT** be used during this year's school selection process. They are listed here to provide an example of the type of topics students can expect to see when they log in to answer the online writing sample:

(1) Think about an important lesson you have learned about yourself, others, or life in general. State as clearly as possible what the lesson was and why it was important to you, using descriptive details to develop your essay.

(2) Your school is starting some new after-school clubs and your principal has asked you and your classmates for suggestions. Write an essay suggesting one club you would like the school to offer and then explain why you think it would be good for the school. Use specific details and examples to support your reasons.

What can a student expect when they attend an online writing sample session?

- Students will have 90 minutes to complete the writing sample.
- Students applying to more than one of the five schools listed above, need only to provide one writing sample.
- All students will only have one opportunity to submit their online writing sample.
- Once a student has submitted their writing sample or reached the allotted 90 minutes the student will not be able to return to the online writing sample to make edits or changes.
- Accommodations will be made for students with an IEP, 504 Service Agreement, or students who are English Learners.

How is the writing sample scored?

The writing sample will be automatically scored based on writing style, organization, development of idea, word choice, sentence fluency and convention.

When will the writing sample score be available?

The writing sample is scored immediately and students submitting the sample will immediately receive their score upon submission of the online writing sample.

If your child is an 8th-grade student attending a School District of Philadelphia school:

- You will complete the online writing sample during the school day at their current school.
- Your school will be responsible for ensuring all interested 8th grade students complete the online writing sample
- The online writing sample must be provided between Monday, November 29 and Thursday, December 16, 2021.

- School District of Philadelphia students **should NOT register** for the online writing sample at one of the below locations. Please take this opportunity at **your home school**.

If you are a non-School District of Philadelphia students (i.e., Charter, Private, Parochial):

- You will need to register to complete the writing sample at a district site
- Registration will begin on Tuesday, November 23, 2021.
- **Registration for each session will close 48 hours prior to the start time OR when the session is full.**
- The registration link will be sent to the guardians' email addresses associated with the School Selection application.
- Families will be able to register for the online writing session at one of 5 high schools listed above OR at 440 N. Broad Street.
- Families are encouraged to register early so the District can ensure we are tracking how many spots are needed.
- Providing the writing sample at one of the five high schools requiring the writing sample DOES NOT guarantee admittance into that school. Families are encouraged to register at the site that is closest to their home or works best with the time slots offered.
- A student ID or other form of photo identification will be required at the time of the writing sample.

Student masks will be required and social distancing will be in place. For more information go to www.philasd.org/studentplacement/ or call 215-400-4290.

Sincerely,



Karyn Lynch
Chief of Student Support Services
The School District of Philadelphia