

FAQ's The Salk School of Science Fall 2026

Please visit these sites to learn more about Salk:

- <https://salkschool.org/>
- <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/schools/M255>

How is Salk organized?

Our school is organized into grade teams (6th, 7th and 8th grade teams) made up of teachers of every subject area that your child studies. Each team has a team leader.

What kind of learning environment exists at Salk?

Please visit our school website (www.salkschool.org) and go to "About Us."

What are our core values?

We have six core values: To be open-hearted, To be open-minded, To have a passion for learning, To be true to yourself, To be responsible to your community and To take action to improve the world around you.

What classes are offered?

We offer humanities (ELA and Social Studies), Math, Science, Art, Spanish (7th and 8th grades), Drama, Advisory, and PE. All students take advanced classes in math and science in 8th grade and are eligible to take the Algebra Regents and the Biology Regents.

Students are also able to take the World Language Check Point A exam, which gives a year of language credit in high school and allows students to continue on in the language at a more advanced level in high school.

How long are classes?

Classes are 30 to 90 minutes long.

What is Advisory?

Your child will have a class called "Advisory." Advisory is a class that has a strong social emotional learning component and places a strong emphasis on community building around our 6 core values. Advisory meets regularly each week to help students connect with each other and get support so that they have one adult to share any issues and concerns that may arise.

Does Salk have an after school program?

We have a wonderful after school program run by the Imogen Foundation. Current classes include: debate, coding, robotics, theater, science olympiad, art portfolio, math counts, cooking, fashion design, chess, and DIY art.

We also offer a wide-array of after school sports including soccer, basketball, volleyball, track and field, and baseball.

The director of our after school program is Khadija Henry. She can be reached at khadijha@imogenfoundation.org

Does Salk have a guidance department?

We have a full time guidance counselor, Alex Ferrantelli, aferrantelli@schools.nyc.gov, and social worker, Lorin Schneider, lschneider2@schools.nyc.gov. Please reach out to them if your child needs any counseling support or if you are in need of resources.

Who is the parent coordinator?

Our parent coordinator, Clare Huston can be reached at KHuston@schools.nyc.gov. Clare sends an email every Friday, keeping you abreast of events at the school. Please be sure to read these communications thoroughly.

Does Salk have an ICT program?

Yes we do. In general, ICT classes are taught by two teachers--a learning specialist and a content specialist.

For the 2026-2027 school year our 6th grade will have six classes (three of which will be ICT classes), while three of the four 7th grade classes will be ICT.

Does Salk provide other special education services?

Yes, we have Speech and Language, OT, SETSS, and any other service on a student's IEP. Erica Easow (eesow@schools.nyc.gov) is the head of our special education department. Please feel free to reach out to her with any questions about services.

Does Salk accept and support students who are English Language Learners?

Yes, we do. We have an ELL teacher, Melinda Reid. She can be reached at mreid14@schools.nyc.gov.

What communications can I expect from the principal?

Marsha (the principal) communicates with parents regularly via email, so be sure to check your email daily for communications from the chancellor and/or the principal.

How do I find information about the PA?

<https://www.salkschool.org/pa>

Our PA collaborates with us to offer many informational workshops about adolescent development, wellness, and the curriculum, so please know that you will have many opportunities to ask questions and raise concerns. Our Parent Coordinator, Clare Huston, sends out a Friday email with information and updates.

Please make sure that your address, emails and phone numbers in NYCSA are up to date. We will be using these emails for messaging families.

Class Size

How large are classes?

In 6th grade, there are 3 ICT and 3 Gen Ed classes. Each class has about 23 students.

In 7th grade, there are 3 ICT and 1 Gen Ed classes

In 8th grade, there are 2 ICT and 2 Gen Ed classes

7th and 8th grade classes have 30-33 students each.

Trips

Does the school do trips?

Yes we do. We take advantage of the various cultural institutions in the city to enhance classroom learning. We are also an Urban Advantage School, which means we work closely with many cultural institutions with a science focus (i.e., The Bronx Zoo, The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, The NY Hall of Science, AMNH) as well as the Weill Cornell Medicine's Belfer Research lab and NYU Chemistry Lab.

Attendance

How do I report my child's absence?

Please contact our office by either calling 212 614 8785 or email Thomasina Forbes tforbes4@schools.nyc.gov or Benny Vasquez bvasquez9@schools.nyc.gov.

What are the hours of the School day?

The school day goes from 9:00am -3:20pm. (Children self-dismiss at 3:20pm.)

How do I pick my child up early?

Children cannot self-dismiss before 3:20pm. Only people 18+ on the emergency blue card can pick up your child early. You or your emergency contact(s) will need to come to the main office to sign your child out of school. You must bring photo identification.

Breakfast and Lunch

Is food available for students in the cafeteria and what does it cost?

Breakfast and lunch are served in the cafeteria. Both are free for students. Breakfast will start at 8:30 am.

Do 6th Graders go out to lunch?

Currently the 6th graders are not going out to lunch.

Lockers**Do 6th Graders have lockers?**

Yes, they do. They will share with a classmate. We will provide locks for all lockers.

Cellphones and other valuables**Can 6th graders have cell phones?**

Cell phones and smart devices are not permitted in school-we lock them up. We use cell phone pouches so students can lock up all personal communication devices (cell phone, earbuds, smart wearable tech) upon entering the school building. We encourage students to leave valuable items at home. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the main office.

What about skateboards and scooters?

All skateboards and scooters should be locked up outside or in lockers (if in use). They cannot be used during the school day including at lunch time.

Transportation**Will my student be able to get an OMNY Card?**

OMNY cards are distributed to all eligible students at the beginning of the year. The Department of Education and the MTA determine the formula for full and half fare based on the distance traveled. If cards are lost/not working properly, please see Benny in the main office.

Is there a school bus that my child can take?

No, we do not have busing for our students unless it is on a student's IEP.

Homework

How much homework can I expect?

Students are expected to read each night for 30-45 minutes. In addition, homework ranges from 1-2 hours. We do not assign homework on holidays.

Contacts**How do we contact the school?**

You can call the school at 212-614-8785 and ask for the person you need to talk with. Clare Huston, our parent coordinator, is a good person to reach out to, especially if you are not sure who the appropriate person to talk to is (212-614-8785) ext. 4230 or 347-563-5144).

Please make sure your DOE profile is updated as we communicate via DOE messenger. You can monitor your child's academic progress and attendance via NYCSA account along with google classroom and DOE gradebook.

School Forms

All school forms will be sent via School Status (formerly Operoo) electronically. Please look out for an email from School status where school forms will be sent over the summer.

The Salk School of Science

Organization Sheet - September 2026- June 2027

Administrative Personnel

Marsha Wallace- Principal

Maybell Breton - Assistant Principal

Michael DeCicco - Dean

Office Personnel

Clare Huston- Parent Coordinator

Thomasina Forbes - School Secretary

Benny Vasquez - School Aide

Ahmed Shah - Tech Support

Faculty (alphabetical)

Leah Artenian - Drama 6th-8th Grade

Allegra Berman - Humanities 8th Grade

Joe Cimaglia -Science 8th Grade

Erica Easow - Science 6th Grade*

Kaitlyn Egan - SETSS, Humanities 6th Grade *

Jessica Eng - Humanities 8th Grade

Brian Freehill - Math 8th Grade

Holly Gerry - Humanities 7th Grade*

Parker Jacque - Spanish 7th & 8th Grade

Debbie Lennon - 6th Grade Math & 8th Grade Science*

Jacob Leibold - Math 7th & 8th Grade*

Michael Lewis - Physical Education 6th-8th Grade

Nija McDaniel - Humanities 6th Grade*

David McDonough - 6th Science & SETSS

Kathleen McGuire - Science 6th Grade & 8th grade Science Lab

Sarah Nahabedian - Humanities 7th Grade*

Frank Nowak - Physical Education 6th-8th Grade

Amanda Spain-Perales - Science 7th Grade

Marcel Pezet - Humanities 7th Grade

Justine Pucia - Math 6th Grade

Jacquelyn Rivas - Science 6th Grade

Charley Ruperto - 7th Grade Science*

Justin Schulsohn - Humanities 6th Grade

Taylor Smith - Humanities 6th Grade

Heather Sporing Drayzen - Art 6th - 8th Grade

Ling Teo - Humanities 7th Grade

Clare Watkins - Humanities 6th Grade

Elizabeth Wittrock - Humanities 8th Grade*

Joyce Wu - 6th Grade Math & SETSS

Cathy Zhu - Math 7th Grade

Support Service Staff

Alexandria Ferrantelli - Guidance

Lorin Schneider- Social Worker

Jamie Coridon - Speech

Melinda Reid - ENL teacher

Brandon Moy - Paraprofessional

Beata Kochanek - Paraprofessional

Ken De Jesus - Paraprofessional

Suzanne Federico - Paraprofessional

Tasha Rodriguez - Paraprofessional

Hanna Sawka - School Nurse

Laura Naim - Psychologist

Yanibell Pena - Social Worker

Raymond Wong - Family Associate

Custodial

Patrick Brady - Custodial Engineer (Room 126)

Joseph Ortiz - Fireman

Ein Robinson

Joseph Ortiz Jr.

Security

Security Agent - Agent Magik

