

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 Spanish Proficiency 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 an hour or more in length.

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 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 Manhattan Youth (MY). Classes include: debate, coding, theater, science olympiad, art portfolio, math counts, cooking, playwriting, fashion design, chess, DIY art.

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

The director of our after school program is Khadijha Henry. She can be reached at khenry@manhattanyouth.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, Patti Burr can be reached at pburr2@schools.nyc.gov. Patti 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 we have four classes in each grade, two are ICT classes taught by

two teachers--a learning specialist and a content specialist. For the 2025-2026 school year our 6th grade will have six classes (three of which will be ICT classes).

Does Salk provide other special education services?

Yes, we have speech and language, OT, SETSS, and any other service on a student's IEP. Krista Hanson (khanson3@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?

Rhonda (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.

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, Patti Burr, 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.

How do I find information about the PA?

<https://www.salkpa.org/>

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 and 8th grade, there are 2 ICT and 2 Gen Ed classes and each class has

about 30-33 students.

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 Pfizer School of Science to supplement our science program.

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 the YONDR program 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 Thom 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. Patti Burr, 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 see below the 6th grade staff directory.

The Salk School of Science - Organization Sheet 2025-2026

Administrative Personnel		
Principal	Rhonda Perry	rperry3@schools.nyc.gov
Assistant Principal	Marsha Wallace	mwallac@schools.nyc.gov
Dean	Michael DeCicco	mdecicco@schools.nyc.gov
6th Grade Team (*Learning Specialist)		
Humanities	Clare Emily Watkins	Cwatkins5@schools.nyc.gov
Humanities	Jessica Eng	jeng6@schools.nyc.gov
Humanities *	Kaitlyn Egan	kegan4@schools.nyc.gov
Math	Justine Pucia	jpucia@schools.nyc.gov5
Learning Specialist	Joyce Wu	jwu38@schools.nyc.gov
Science	Jacquelyn Rivas	jrivas2@schools.nyc.gov
Physical Education	Michael Lewis	mlewis54@schools.nyc.gov
Art	Heather Sporing Drayzen	hsporingdrayzen@schools.nyc.gov
Drama	Leah Artenian	lartenian@schools.nyc.gov
Support Service Staff		
Guidance	Alexandra Ferrantelli	aferrantelli@schools.nyc.gov
Social Worker	Lorin Schneider	lschneider2@schools.nyc.
Parent Coordinator	Patti Burr	pburr2@schools.nyc.gov
SETSS/ IEP	Krista Hanson	khanson3@schools.nyc.gov
ESL teacher	Melinda Reid	mreid14@schools.nyc.gov

Technology	Ahmed Shah	ashah103@schools.nyc.gov
School Secretary	Thomasina Forbes	tforbes4@schools.nyc.gov
Security	Agent Magidenko	
School Psychologist	Claudia Alvarez	calvarez13@schools.nyc.gov
School Psychologist	Laura Naim	lkaplan2@schools.nyc.gov
Raymond Wong - Family Associate	Raymond Wong	rwong3@schools.nyc.gov