General

Who is eligible to apply for the Pathfinder Program?

- Students who attend New Haven Public Schools and parochial schools are eligible to apply for admission to the program regardless of the city or town that they live in.

When should I apply to the Pathfinder Program?

- Students apply to the program in the fall of their 5th grade year. The application materials are usually online by the third week in October and are due in January. Consult the admissions page for more detailed information.

What kind of commitment is the Pathfinder Program?

- Upon admission, Pathfinder families commit to attending the program for four years, from the summer after their fifth grade year to the summer after their 8th grade year. Those years include attendance during both the summer and afterschool programs.

Does the Pathfinder Program make it easier for my child to get into Hopkins School? ● The Pathfinder Program is hosted by Hopkins School but is NOT a direct pipeline into admissions at Hopkins. However, given the quality instruction that students receive at the Pathfinder Program and the relationships that they develop with their Pathfinder teachers, the program staff are often able to give important insights to the Hopkins Admissions Committee when appropriate.

Can my child participate in only one part of the program: after school only or summer only?

- Pathfinder families make a commitment to both the after school program AND the summer program.

When should we take our family's summer vacation?

- You can always safely plan your family's vacation to take place after the first weekend in August. The Pathfinder summer program is five weeks long. It usually begins the week containing the Independence Day holiday and goes five weeks. Given how the calendar works, most years the program ends the last week of July or the first week of August.

How will the program communicate with me?

- The program does most of its communication with families by email to the family's email account(s). Occasionally, the program staff will reach out to individual families by phone. Students that matriculate into the program receive a path.hopkins.edu email account. Program staff only email students at their path.hopkins.edu email address and expects students to use that address when emailing with Pathfinder teachers and staff.

What is expected of my child if they are accepted and attend the program?

- Students who are admitted to the program are expected to attend all of the after school

program and summer sessions. Students should expect to do half an hour of homework for each class during the after school program and summer program.

- Students who miss more than two unexcused days will be missed from the program. Furthermore, the program considers three unexcused tardies are considered equivalent to one day of absence.

Admissions

When is my child eligible to apply to Pathfinder?

- Children are eligible to apply to Pathfinder in the fall of their 5th grade year. Applications are generally due in January. For more information, please consult the Admissions section of this website.

What is the admissions process?

- To apply, students and their families must fill out the online application, obtain two teacher recommendations, and have their transcript and test scores sent to the Pathfinder office. Once materials are received and evaluated, some students will be invited to an interview with a Pathfinder staff member. Final application evaluations are made after all invited applicants have been interviewed.

How does my child apply to the Pathfinder program?

- Please consult the Admissions section of this website for detailed information on applying to the program.

When will I be notified about the admissions decision?

- Students and families are generally notified about their Pathfinder admissions decision in early March.

My child was placed on the waitlist. Now what?

- You must confirm that you would like your child to stay on the waitlist. Then, the program will contact you if a spot should open up.

After School Program

When does the After School Program begin?

- The after school program generally begins mid-January, after both Hopkins School and New Haven Public Schools have resumed instruction after the winter break.

Does the After School Program Provide transportation?

- The after school program provides transportation to Hopkins School from students' schools within the City of New Haven. Families are responsible for providing transportation for students to get home after the program ends.

What are my child's responsibilities during the After School Program?

- Students are responsible for attending the after school program each week that it is scheduled, completing all assignments for their courses, and actively participating in classes.

Summer Program

Is Pathfinder a summer camp?

- Part of the Pathfinder program takes place over the summer, but it is NOT summer camp. In fact, Pathfinder students commit to taking classes over the school year and during the summer.

Does the program provide transportation during the summer?

- During the summer, the program provides bus transportation to Hopkins School for students who live within the City of New Haven. Pathfinder students who do not live in New Haven but who do live nearby can coordinate with the program staff to see if there is a convenient bus stop for them within the city.

Does Pathfinder provide meals for my child?

- Pathfinder does not provide breakfast or lunch. We ask students to come to Pathfinder having already eaten something for breakfast and with a bag lunch that does not include anything that needs to be warmed. We do have refrigerators.

What school supplies does my child need to buy for the summer program? ● None. Pathfinder provides students with all supplies and resources needed for success.

Will my child be assigned homework?

- Yes, your child will generally be assigned homework in each class each day. Homework provides independent practice that is crucial to skill development. To help students manage their workload and get critical questions answered, there is a 45 minute study hall every afternoon. Students use this time to work on assignments and receive one-on-one assistance if they need it.

Is there any outside time during the Pathfinder day?

- Yes. There are two twenty-minute recess periods: one in the morning and one either before or after lunch, depending on your student's grade.