

March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Boston Public Schools would like you to consider the opportunity for your child to attend one of the district's three exam schools for the 2024-2025 school year: Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, and the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science. The BPS exam schools are among the top performing free public schools in the country and offer students a college prep curriculum, opportunities for sports, student club activities, and partnerships with area colleges and businesses.

Admission to these schools is based on a student's performance on the exam school admissions test and course grades in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Interviews and recommendation letters are not required nor accepted. All three schools accept students entering grades 7 and 9. The John D. O'Bryant School also accepts a small number of new students for grade 10.

In July 2021, BPS selected the NWEA MAP Growth Reading and Mathematics assessment as the admissions test for the exam schools. **BPS students already take the NWEA MAP Growth assessment** up to three times at their current school as part of district required testing to help schools and teachers inform academic instruction, as well as assess student growth. However, only the test scores from specific test administrations are eligible for consideration in exam school admissions.

The MAP Growth assessment is a computer adaptive test in Reading and Mathematics. Computer adaptive tests adjust to each student's learning level. If a student gets a question wrong, the next question will be easier. If a student gets a question right, the next question will be harder. Additional information about the MAP Growth assessment is available on the NWEA website at: www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/common-questions-families.

The next administration of MAP Growth will take place during the normal school day between Tuesday, May 30, 2023, and Friday, June 2, 2023 **for students in grades 5 and 7**. Specific testing dates within this period will be determined by your child's school. Pre-registration for the test is not required. The test scores from this test administration will be used for the exam school admissions AND provide schools with important information regarding your child's progress since the start of school. Makeup testing will be available if the student is unable to be assessed during the first week.

Please review the backside of this letter to view the profiles of each exam school and visit their websites to learn more about the schools' programs and opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Despoina Lioliou, Exam School Project Manager, Welcome Services, at 617-635-9505 or email exam@bostonpublicschools.org.

Boston Latin Academy

Boston Latin Academy is a coeducational public exam school founded in 1878 as Girls' Latin School. We are the most diverse school in the city drawing from all neighborhoods in Boston. Boston Latin Academy prepares students for higher academic study by challenging them with a rigorous curriculum for students in grades 7-12. Our Classical and Liberal Arts education allows students to become successful participants in a diverse and challenging society. Our goal is to foster a setting where students learn to listen, to question, to read, to empathize, and to make choices based on sound, ethical principles. We believe that this can be best accomplished within a disciplined, caring, and supportive school environment. We encourage you to visit our website at www.latinacademy.org to learn more.

Boston Latin School

Boston Latin School (BLS) is the first and oldest public school in America. BLS grounds our students in a contemporary classical education as preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship, and a rewarding life. We have many services to support all students as they acclimate to our coursework across six major subjects (including a four year Latin language requirement), nightly homework expectations, and the abundant extracurriculars that enhance scholars' experiences in the classroom. Our 60+ sports teams range from basketball and soccer to track and ice hockey. Over 1,800 of our students are involved in the arts, including theater, instruments, chorus, and visual art. Students further develop their leadership, self advocacy, and civic engagement through summer internships, domestic and global travel, and community partnerships. Our student-led clubs celebrating diverse cultures contribute to an appreciation for what makes us unique as well as what brings us all together. The friends made at BLS last a lifetime, and teachers and staff support our young people along the path to a BLS diploma. Please visit our website at www.bls.org for more information.

John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science

The John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science has a distinguished history and an exciting future. Formerly known as Boston Technical High School, we are one of the state's premier high schools. Our school now proudly bears the name of John D. O'Bryant, a BPS educator and the first African-American elected to the Boston School Committee. All members of the O'Bryant community diligently work together to ensure that all of our students receive a rigorous and comprehensive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education integrated with Humanities that prepares them for higher education and promising careers. We offer 19 Advanced Placement courses, an award winning Navy Junior ROTC program, music classes through the Roland Hayes School of Music and programs with the Berklee School of Music, an on-site 826 Boston Writer's Room, as well as a wide range of athletics and student clubs. Visit our website at www.obryant.us to learn what our school can offer your student.

Additional information about exam schools is located on the Boston Public Schools website at: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/exam>. Should you have further questions, please email exam@bostonpublicschools.org or contact your child's school.