

# Applicant Letter #1



October 2018

Dear IPS Applicant Families,

Welcome to The International Preschools, more commonly known as IPS! I am so happy that you have applied to our school. This is an exciting time in your lives as you explore many options for your child's preschool experience. It is wonderful that you have included IPS on your list.

IPS is proud to be an independent preschool with a distinct philosophy and approach to early childhood education. We have been providing high quality early childhood education to New York City families dating back to 1965. We believe that the earlier a child starts a preschool program the more successful they will be in elementary school and beyond. We employ and retain Master's level, qualified and experienced teachers and provide on-going professional development to them.

**We are licensed and regulated by The New York City Department of Health and belong to these professional organizations:**

- Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York (ISAAGNY)
- New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS)
- The Parents League of New York
- Early Steps

As you know, we are one school with three locations. This allows us to address the needs of Manhattan families in different neighborhoods. Each location has a Location Director and an administrative leadership team.

As Director, I oversee the entire school, providing support to the leadership teams as well as ensuring consistency in our curriculum and mission. I also work very closely with our families who are looking into Kindergarten programs. I provide these families with advice and guidance throughout this process.

There are so many wonderful things that I want you to know about IPS, therefore, I will be communicating to you throughout this process. For now I just wanted to offer you my sincere welcome and extend an invitation to you to the parent workshops below. Parent education is very important to us. Each year we offer a series of interesting topics for our parent community. You are welcome to join us for these parent workshops:

**Raising Your Bilingual Child**

Thursday, October 11th

5:30 PM

330 East 45th Street

**Healthy Sleep: Establishing and Maintaining Good Habits**

Tuesday, November 13th

5:30 PM

120 West 76th Street

You will soon be emailed invitations to other events: In November I hope to meet many of you at our evening **Open Houses**. There you will also meet an IPS teacher and parents. In January we will host a **Parent to Parent Q&A** to give you an opportunity to ask questions of current IPS parents. Although you will get a lot of information through our admissions process, we feel talking to current parents will give you even greater insights to our school.

Wishing you the very best,

Donna Cohen

Director, The International Preschools

## Applicant Letter #2



October 2018

Dear Applicant Families,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the crisp fall weather. I know you are processing lots of information as you visit preschools. It's not possible to experience everything our school has to offer in just one visit. Many wonderful activities have been going on at IPS since school started and there will be many more to come.

The newness of the school year is starting to wear off as routines begin to take hold and the teachers delve deeper into the curriculum. Here are some of the events happening at IPS this Fall:

- Curriculum Night takes place this month, a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet their child's teachers and hear about what their child will be doing and learning at school this year. This is an important meeting for all classes!
- United Nations Day celebrations take place in October. Families come to school to share activities, food and music from around the world! UNICEF

boxes will go home with our students as we all participate this wonderful community service activity.

- Looking forward to early November, we will celebrate Diwali with stories and dancing. Parents come to school to share their traditions with classmates.
- Volunteers from the IPS Parents' Association are planning community events that include book fairs, bake sales, charity drives, and our annual benefit.

As you can see IPS is a busy school for our students, parents and faculty. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with questions. We are always happy to share information about our school.

Best wishes,

Donna Cohen

Director, The International Preschools

[Visit our Blog to learn more about our United Nations Day Curriculum](#)

## Applicant Letter #3



November 2018

Dear IPS Applicant Families,

I hope this finds you well. I know you are very busy visiting preschools, tending to your little ones, working and getting ready for the holidays. We have been busy at IPS too!

In addition to the everyday activities at our school, we recently had parent/teacher conferences. We are preparing for a food drive for Thanksgiving and a toy drive for the December holidays. ([Visit our blog to learn more about all the great activities at IPS!](#))

Parents of our Pre-K and Jr.-K families have been busy with their applications for private schools as well as scheduling testing for Hunter and G&T programs. Public school kindergarten registration will begin in December.

At IPS we work very closely with our families as they navigate the kindergarten process. Knowing the children as students, we feel we are the best resource to advise our

families. In March we hold a large group meeting for parents of our three-year-olds to explain the process for both private and public schools. About half of IPS students continue on to public schools and half to private schools. Many families consider both options!

After the group meeting, we observe the threes in their classes. We are looking to see how their skills are developing and how they would fare in testing or a play session. Then we have a private meeting with each interested family. At this meeting we discuss how their child learns, what their strengths and interests are and which schools would be best for them.

Families have the information they need to begin their research and decide where to apply based on what would be best for their child and family. We suggest simple, fun activities parents can incorporate into their family routines to ready a child for the application process.

We send out lots of reminders so that no one gets behind in the process. We have a second individual meeting with parents after they have completed their school visits. That's when we listen as families tell us which schools they prefer. Together, we brainstorm ways they can strengthen their applications at these schools. We advocate for our families at their top choice schools and hold their hand every step of the way. [Here is a list of schools our most recent graduates are attending.](#)

I have enjoyed meeting some of you as you have toured IPS and I look forward to meeting you at other IPS admissions activities.

Best wishes,

Donna Cohen  
Director, The International Preschools