

FAQ for PS147 Open House

- **What time does school start and end?**

School begins at 8:00 am and ends at 2:20 pm.

- **How many classes do you have for each grade?**

For the 2019-20 school year, we have 4 Pre-K, 3 Kindergarten, 2 to 3 classes in 1st-5th grades.

- **How many students do you have for each class?**

18 for Pre-K, 25 for Kindergarten, 32 for 1st-5th grade is the maximum number of students you can have. Typically we have fewer students.

- **Do students wear uniforms?**

The uniforms are encouraged but not required. The students wear specific colors as uniforms--an evergreen or hunter green top and khaki bottoms. Uniforms can be purchased at any children's clothing stores and style variations are fine if they fit the color code.

- **What meals are served during school hours?**

Pre-K eats breakfast at 8:00 am and lunch 11:05 am in the classroom family style. For K-5, breakfast is optional, served from 7:15 to 7:50 in the cafeteria. For lunch, Kindergarten eats lunch in its own small cafeteria from 11:05 am. Grades 1-2 eat lunch together in the bigger cafeteria from 11:05 am. Grades 3-5 eat lunch together in the bigger cafeteria from 11:55 am.

- **Which food menu is served in the cafeteria?**

PS147 uses the regular High School Breakfast menu and High School Lunch menu, which you can view here: <http://www.schoolfoodnyc.org/schoolfood/menusdailydisplay.aspx>
You are welcome to pack your child's lunch as an alternative.

- **How much recess/outdoor time do the students have?**

Pre-K students have outdoor time every day for 40 minutes, weather permitting, at Gilbert Ramirez Park. Kindergarten students also go outside for the first period every day weather permitting. Other than that, K-5 students have recess every day after lunch for 20 minutes, weather and staffing permitting. Kindergarten typically plays in the courtyard outside the front door. The 1-5th grade students play at our schoolyard down the street on Bushwick Ave. In bad weather, they will have recess in the gym.

- **How much homework do the students have?**

Pre-K does not have homework. Kindergarten will be introduced to homework packets that are intended to help parents ensure their kids are progressing, but they are optional. In the 1st grade and beyond homework increases.

- **Are there elective courses offered?**

Yes, every week the students are offered classes in technology, gym, science. There are residencies that provide enrichment in music, art, and dance throughout the year. We also have a parent led arts committee that volunteer to provide in-class art projects for students.

- **Are there field trips?**

Pre-K students can not ride the school bus, so only walking distance trips can happen. A lot of activities come to the school for Pre-K students to participate. For K-5th grade, typically 2-3 field trips are scheduled per semester. The school organizes buses and parents can volunteer to chaperone. They are free.

- **What kind of afterschool programs does the school offer? What is the cost?**

There are two afterschool programs that happen on-site. St. Nicks Alliance is for K-5th grade. It is free but requires 80% attendance. Kinderdance is for Pre-K to 5th grade, and \$75/week. There are other afterschool programs that pick up from this school too.

- **Are there any opportunities for parents to visit classrooms? How often?**

On the last Wednesday of each month there will be a "Parents in the Classroom" period from 8:15am-9am, and you can visit your child's classroom. Parents in the Classroom is usually followed by the monthly PTA Meeting.

- **Is it possible to enter the school out of zone/district/borough?**

It is a zoned school, so zoned students have the top priority, but students attend from out of the zone, district, and borough.

- **Is the school bus available?**

There are no yellow bus routes for the school at the moment.

JDLP Related Questions:

- **What is JDLP?**

JDLP stands for the Japanese Dual Language Program. PS147 is home to the only Japanese dual-language program offered in New York City public school system. Find more about JDLP here. <http://ps147jdlp.org>

- **How does the Dual language model work?**

Dual language model is a bilingual education model that consistently uses two languages for instruction and communication, with a balanced number of students from two language groups who are targeted for instruction. The classes are comprised of approximately one-half native English speakers and one-half Japanese speakers. Dual language promotes cross-cultural understanding and acceptance.

- **How many JDLP classes do you have per grade?**

We currently have one JDLP class per grade from Pre-K, 1st to 4th grade, and two JDLP classes for Kindergarten as of 2019-2020 school year.

- **How do I enroll my child in JDLP?**

In order to enroll in JDLP in PreK or K, you must apply through the DOE during the application period. Choose PS147 JDLP as one of your 12 choices of schools. This will be separate from the general PS147, so you can choose both if you want.

- **If my child is a native Japanese speaker, would that increase the chance of entering the program?**

Because the program requires to fill half of the seats with native Japanese speakers, and because we do not have so many Japanese families living in our zone, usually yes, your child will have more chance of entering if they are a native Japanese speaker. Please indicate your home language as Japanese when you apply for JDLP.

- **What is the structure of a typical JDLP School week?**

For K-4th grade, there is an English speaking teacher and Japanese speaking teacher for each class. JDLP uses full immersion method meaning that every other day, the class will be taught only in English or only in Japanese (for example, Mondays and Wednesdays are in English, Tuesdays and Thursdays are in Japanese, Fridays are split half the day in English and half the day in Japanese).

- **As a parent, I don't know Japanese. Will this be a problem with homework?**

Homework encourages students to share with parents what they are learning in class. The teachers keep a blog that explain what is being taught that week so you can use that as a resource for helping your child.

- **Is the Japanese language education equivalent to school level in Japan?**

No. This is a dual language program that aims to teach the foundations of Japanese language and culture along with English following the NYC DOE standards.

- **My child does not speak any Japanese, will he/she be lost in class?**

Teachers have various methods to teach Japanese to non-native speakers. The classes are also very participatory and both non-native and native speaking students are encouraged to help each other in both English and Japanese.

- **My child already speaks Japanese, will he/she be bored in class?**

Both Japanese and English teachers will challenge each student to improve their language and academic skills. In order to do that to students with different levels of Japanese and/or English language skills, teachers use differentiated instructional strategy to meet everyone's needs in the classroom, and to make it challenging for every student.

- **My child speaks Japanese but not English. What kind of support does the school offer?**

As with all NYC Schools, English as a new language (ENL) assistance is available.

- **Will my child's English education be equivalent to his/her peers in non-dual language programs?**

Yes, the JDLP follows the NYC DOE standards.



ps147.org



ps147jdlp.org



ps147pta.org