

# DO'S AND DON'TS:

## A FEW THOUGHTS FROM YOUR FELLOW STUYVESANT PARENTS

Welcome to the Stuyvesant community! Some of our alumni parents put together a list of Do's and Don'ts to help new parents. We've marked the ones they stress most strongly with \*\*\*.

### DO's:

**DO** support the school.

**DO** stay informed. Check e-mails regularly for updates/notices from Stuyvesant and the PA.

**DO** familiarize yourself with course options so you can discuss choices with your child. Many students rely on word of mouth and other informal information channels when they pick their courses ... and may miss a course they should *really* take to pursue their long-term interests.

**DO** pay attention to the social component. Encourage your student to connect socially with peers.

**DO** encourage your child to join one meaningful activity. (More than one may be too demanding for some kids.) It is a great way to make friends and to find support among other students.

**DO** act early. If something needs to be fixed – a wrong class assignment, an inappropriate class level, etc. – take action quickly to help your child will get the best out of the school.

**DO** ask questions when in doubt.

**DO** help your child get organized early on (if they let you).

\*\*\* **DO** listen to your child and keep the lines of communication open – this is the BEST thing you can do for him/her. If your child believes he/she can come to you with a concern and that you will listen with an open mind and try to help, many potential problems can be avoided. Knowing you are squarely in his/her corner relieves a child's stress whether things are going well or poorly.

\*\*\* **DO** get involved.

- Attend school events.
- Get involved in any / all kinds of activities in the school.
- Volunteer for at least one event.
- Get involved in the Parents' Association to understand more about what's going on.
- Go to Parent-Teacher conferences – it shows your kids and their teachers that you care about their education.

\*\*\* **DO** respect your child's growing independence. **DO** encourage your child to deal with his/her issues with teachers or the guidance counselor directly; if this fails or he/she needs additional help, however, you should reach out to the school yourself. Advocate for your child around class placements where necessary. Reach out to the Department chairs if your son or daughter has an issue with a class placement or an instructional problem in a class. The Department chairs can be very helpful in solving problems if they are armed with the right information.



## **DON'Ts**

**DON'T** discourage your child from staying after-school to join activities, sports and publications. The connections he or she makes in these settings can be the most enriching and satisfying parts of your child's experience at Stuy.

**DON'T** hesitate to reach out to a teacher or Parent Coordinator Andrew Wong. Your child's teachers have his/her interests at heart and genuinely try to be helpful if they understand that there is a problem. Teachers are required by contract to communicate with parents each week and have time set aside in their schedule to do that. If a teacher is unresponsive, Andrew can help nudge him/her.

\*\*\* **DON'T** assume your child is organized around time management, homework, or study habits. Don't even assume your child has a good system in place for organizing his/her binder – go through it together at first to help him/her develop a system that works. You may be helping him/her to develop habits that will have a life-long impact.

\*\*\* **DON'T** push too hard or put stress on your child. Stuy can be an extremely stressful environment; home should be a haven.

\*\*\* **DON'T** be left out. Volunteer and learn what goes on at Stuy!

\*\*\* **DON'T** panic. The hard part is behind your family – getting into the school. Take a deep breath, congratulate your student. Everything else can be worked out.

