

Hazel School Review

Current shortlist and previously considered schools

Hazel, use this guide to picture an ordinary day at each school: the classes, the people, the activities, and the trip home. Start with Columbia Prep if you want to fill the biggest information gap, or jump straight to any school that interests you.

The decision ahead: You already like five schools. Columbia Prep is still being explored, and Hewitt and LREI are conditional backup options. The goal is roughly six or seven applications to schools you would be willing to attend.

The current list

School	Current position	Profile
Friends Seminary	Interested	3
Grace Church	Interested	4
Nightingale-Bamford	Interested	5
Dalton	Interested	6
Chapin	Interested	7
Columbia Prep	Exploring	2
Hewitt	Conditional backup	8
LREI	Conditional backup	9

The five interested schools are not ranked. If Columbia becomes the sixth application, choosing one of the two backup candidates would make seven. A backup still needs to feel acceptable to you and make sense for your admissions chances.

How to use the guide

Read a profile, open a few of its links, and jot down what draws you in or puts you off. The school pages leave room for reactions. Bring those reactions to a conversation with your parents and Dana; you do not need a final answer after one reading.

[Map and travel considerations](#) | [Comparing school size](#) | [Discussion notes](#) | [Earlier choices](#) | [Application progress](#)

About the information: Prepared October 22 from research and family notes dated October 21, 2026. Program facts come from the linked school publications. Possible strengths and drawbacks are questions to test, not verified descriptions of every student's experience. Published size figures have different dates, noted in each profile.

Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

Exploring | Coed | Upper West Side

You want to learn more before deciding how you feel.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

Campus: Around West 93rd and 94th Streets near Central Park. The map uses 5 West 93rd Street; use the entrance in your visit confirmation.

The basic shape: A coed Upper West Side school with a broad range of academic and creative choices. Its mission emphasizes both challenge and balance; that is the school's stated aim, so ask students how it feels in practice. [Mission](#)

Size that matters to you: Its published ninth-grade description grows from about 90 to about 130 students - a substantial incoming group, rather than just a few newcomers. This is a description of the program, not confirmed fall-2027 places. The nearly 1,300 figure for the whole school includes Pre-K through grade 12. A current high-school classroom average was not confirmed. [Ninth grade](#)

What could appeal: The range of clubs and courses leaves room to try different things. Options include writing, film, technology, arts, and advanced science research. The school also lists girls' JV and varsity volleyball. [Prep program](#) · [Athletics](#)

What to test: The widest choice comes later; check what a ninth grader can actually take. Ask a recent newcomer how friendships formed, and ask about homework on an ordinary weekday. A large menu only helps if the activities you want fit together. Consider whether you prefer the coed setting to an all-girls environment.

Ask on a visit: "Could I see your real schedule?" "What was joining in ninth grade like?" "What would you change?"

See student work: Browse [Columbia Prep TV](#), including its [September 2025 first-day newscast](#). The archive was located in the research; videos were not reviewed for this guide. Ask a ninth grader how the grade dean and senior peer leaders help new students settle in.

[Dates and application progress](#)

Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

Friends Seminary

Interested | Coed | Stuyvesant Square

One of your five current interests. You would be happy to attend.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

The basic shape: Coed, Quaker, and based around Stuyvesant Square at **222 East 16th Street**. Its published count is **295 students in grades 9-12**, out of 776 K-12, with an average upper-school classroom of **15**. Those enrollment figures are undated; the same page includes 2025-26 service statistics. [School facts](#)

What stands out: There is a recognizable weekly rhythm: announcements, a midweek Quaker Meeting for Worship, advisory, classes, and activities. Reflection, service, and discussing community issues are built into the school's account of everyday life. If you value parts of Brooklyn Friends' Quaker approach, this gives you something concrete to compare. It does not mean the two schools will feel the same.

[Upper school](#)

Room to explore: The school lists more than 45 student-led organizations and options across music, drama, dance, computing, engineering, and languages. Its athletics total includes middle-school teams; the upper-school portion is **15 varsity and five JV teams**, including a program that offers volleyball. These numbers describe opportunities, not guaranteed places. [Activities and team breakdown](#)

What to test: A roughly 300-person high school may feel personal and easy to navigate, or more socially contained than you want. Required reflection and community engagement should interest you on their own, beyond the school's reputation.

Ask a student: "What feels different here from other Quaker schools?" "When you disagree in class, what happens?" "How many of your friends were new in ninth grade?" "Can you do volleyball and the other activity you care most about?"

[Dates and application progress](#)

Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

Grace Church School

Interested | Coed | Astor Place

One of your five current interests.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

The basic shape: Coed, with its high school at **46 Cooper Square**, near Astor Place. The school reports **more than 850 students across junior kindergarten-12**; a current high-school-only count and classroom average were not confirmed. Don't read 850 as the size of the high school. [High-school overview](#)

What stands out: Ninth and tenth grades provide a broad foundation, then the later years offer more specialization. Grace uses its own advanced courses rather than AP courses. The arts are substantial parts of the published program, alongside science, humanities, and technology; the school lists three mainstage productions annually and 22 JV/varsity teams. [Academic curriculum](#) · [High-school life](#)

The distinctive part: Wednesday Lab Studies connects schoolwork with projects and experiences outside ordinary classes. Sophomores undertake an extended independent project, IP10, and present it publicly. Examples of later electives include environmental fieldwork and work with community organizations. This could appeal if you enjoy making or investigating something substantial, rather than only preparing for the next test. [Lab Studies and IP10](#)

What to test: Those projects bring planning and presentations as well as freedom. Ask how teachers help when an idea stalls. "Balanced" can mean different things to different students: check a real week's workload, not just the program list. Its Episcopal identity includes high-school chapel every other week, with students of all faiths and none welcomed. Ask how that feels in practice. [Chapel](#)

Ask a student: "Show me an IP10 project you thought was interesting." "What do you actually do on Wednesdays?" "What is chapel like for someone who isn't religious?" "What was your busiest week this term?"

[Dates and application progress](#)

Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

Nightingale Bamford School

Interested | Girls | Upper East Side

You prefer it to Hewitt; the order among your five favorites is still open.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

The basic shape: A girls' K-12 school at **20 East 92nd Street**. Its **Class of 2026 profile** reports **248 upper-school students, 56 seniors**, and an average class size of **12**. The current undated dashboard gives 250 upper-school students. Either way, this is a high school of roughly 250 - not the approximately 730 students in the whole school. [2025 school profile](#) · [Current dashboard](#)

What stands out: The early high-school years share a broad core, including programming in ninth grade. Later possibilities include STEM and Global Pathways, independent research, and a senior capstone. Leadership, public speaking, and financial literacy have explicit places in the four-year program. Advanced classes are designed by the school rather than organized around AP courses. [Upper-school program](#) · [School profile](#)

Room to explore: The ninth-grade London experience connects travel with academic study. Arts and athletics sit alongside the classroom program. A new athletics facility is advertised for **fall 2027**; that is a planned opening, not something to treat as already available. [School program](#) · [Facility timing](#)

What to test: This may suit you if an all-girls environment and a clear progression toward greater independence appeal. The small grade size still matters, even though you currently prefer it to Hewitt. Look for whether you can imagine several different friendship groups and interests, rather than only one type of student.

Ask a student: "What helps a ninth-grade newcomer find her people?" "How much choice did you really have in ninth grade?" "What do you wish adults understood about the workload?" "Where do teams practice now, and what will change?"

[Dates and application progress](#)

Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

Dalton School

Interested | Coed | Upper East Side

One of your five current interests.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

The basic shape: Coed, with middle and high school at **108 East 89th Street**. An **October 2025 school leadership-search document** reports **460 high-school students** out of 1,330 K-12. The current admissions page lists an average high-school classroom of **11**. These figures come from different publications; the 460 is a dated reference, not a newly confirmed enrollment. [2025 school statement](#) · [Current school facts](#)

What stands out: The Dalton Plan has three practical parts. **House** gives you an advisory group across grades. An **Assignment** outlines several weeks of work and expectations. **Lab** is time with teachers, individually or in small groups, for help or deeper exploration. It is structured independence: you get support, but you also need to make use of it. [How high school works](#)

Room to explore: The school advertises more than 75 high-school clubs, 50 arts electives, and extensive engineering and computer-science choices. The published 51 sports teams span **grades 7-12**, so that number is not a high-school-only total. [School facts](#)

What to test: The school's own 2025 leadership-search statement acknowledges that striving and college pressure can be both motivating and exhausting. That is a useful reason to ask about daily pressure; it is not proof of how you personally would feel. Think about whether choosing when to seek help sounds freeing or stressful. [School statement](#)

Ask a student: "Show me an actual Assignment." "What happens if someone keeps putting off Lab?" "Is it normal to say you are struggling?" "What do you do here just because you enjoy it?"

[Dates and application progress](#)

Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

Chapin School

Interested | Girls | Upper East Side

You prefer it to Hewitt. No sign-ups were recorded when you added it.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

The basic shape: A girls' school at **100 East End Avenue**, with K-12 under one roof. Its admissions FAQ gives **834 students for 2026-27**. A current grades-9-12 count and classroom average were not confirmed. Chapin's Upper School also includes **grade 8**, so even an upper-school figure needs checking before comparing it with other schools. [Admissions FAQ](#) · [Upper-school curriculum](#)

What stands out: Ninth graders have a shared foundation including public speaking, computing, and an InterArts sequence. Later FOCUS electives make room for interests such as engineering, data science, debate, drama, and studio art. The curriculum connects subjects: the eleventh-grade American Experience includes literature, history, and arts. Chapin replaced AP courses with its own advanced courses. [Curriculum](#) · [Advanced-course approach](#)

Room to explore: The published 2025-26 club list ranges from architecture and coding to sustainable fashion, psychology, and music. There are performances, student leadership roles, and affinity groups as well as academics. The particular club list may change by the time you arrive. [Beyond the classroom](#)

What to test: A large K-12 building does not guarantee a large social world in your grade. Because the upper-school sequence starts in eighth grade, ask what support ninth-grade newcomers get for both friendships and course placement. Its East End Avenue location also deserves a real commute trial after an activity, not just on a quiet weekend.

Ask a student: “What surprised you after joining?” “How do new girls become part of established groups?” “Which FOCUS classes can you fit beside a sport or performance?” “Where do you spend a free period?”

[Dates and application progress](#)

Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

Hewitt School

Conditional backup | Girls | Upper East Side

Your concern is that it feels too small. Josh has agreed it is worth considering as a backup.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

The basic shape: A girls' K-12 school at **45 East 75th Street**. A school-hosted April 2026 recruitment document reports **389 students across K-12 in 2025-26**. Its college profile lists **52 students in the Class of 2026**. A current high-school-only count was not confirmed. [2026 school document](#) · [2025-26 profile](#)

What stands out: Extended Inquiry lets students pursue research with a faculty mentor, beginning with an optional project in ninth grade. Ninth-grade English combines writing and literature with speaking or performance; the program includes arts, technology, and research skills. The catalog explicitly says not every course runs every year. [Upper-school catalog](#)

The real tradeoff for you: A smaller community may make it easier to know teachers and get involved, but it can also feel too socially contained. Your reaction matters. Hewitt's 52 seniors and Nightingale's 56 in the same graduating class are a reminder that total-school size and grade size can tell different stories - not a reason to dismiss your impression.

Questions for the next look: "How many students would be in my grade?" "Which courses actually ran this year?" "Where would I meet people beyond my immediate friendship group?" Then decide whether anything you learn changes how it feels.

[Dates and application progress](#)

Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

LREI

Conditional backup | Coed | Hudson Square

Josh has agreed it is worth considering as a backup. What is behind your earlier low interest is still unclear.

[School website](#) | [Open location in Maps](#)

The basic shape: Coed and explicitly progressive, with the high school at **40 Charlton Street** in Hudson Square. Current high-school enrollment and classroom averages were not verified from the public pages reviewed; do not assume it solves a size concern. [High-school overview](#)

What stands out: Ninth and tenth grade have a common academic foundation; later years open into more electives. Discussion, collaboration, and connecting subjects are emphasized. Its clearest distinctive feature is sustained fieldwork: juniors develop research questions and visit U.S. communities; seniors undertake an independent project that can include an internship. [Program](#) · [Capstone projects](#)

Why it might appeal: If you want to investigate real questions, interview people, make something, or connect work with social issues, there is a specific program to explore. Arts and athletics are also part of school life. [Arts](#) · [Athletics](#)

What to test: Open-ended projects still mean deadlines, revision, and managing group work. The school's social-justice mission is prominent; ask how differing views are discussed in practice. Your earlier lack of enthusiasm has no recorded explanation. Josh has agreed it is worth considering as a backup, but there is no reason to assume the teaching style explains your reservations.

Ask a student: "What did you investigate on the junior trip?" "What happens when you disagree with your research group?" "How do teachers help when you can't choose a project?" "How big is my likely grade?"

[Dates and application progress](#)

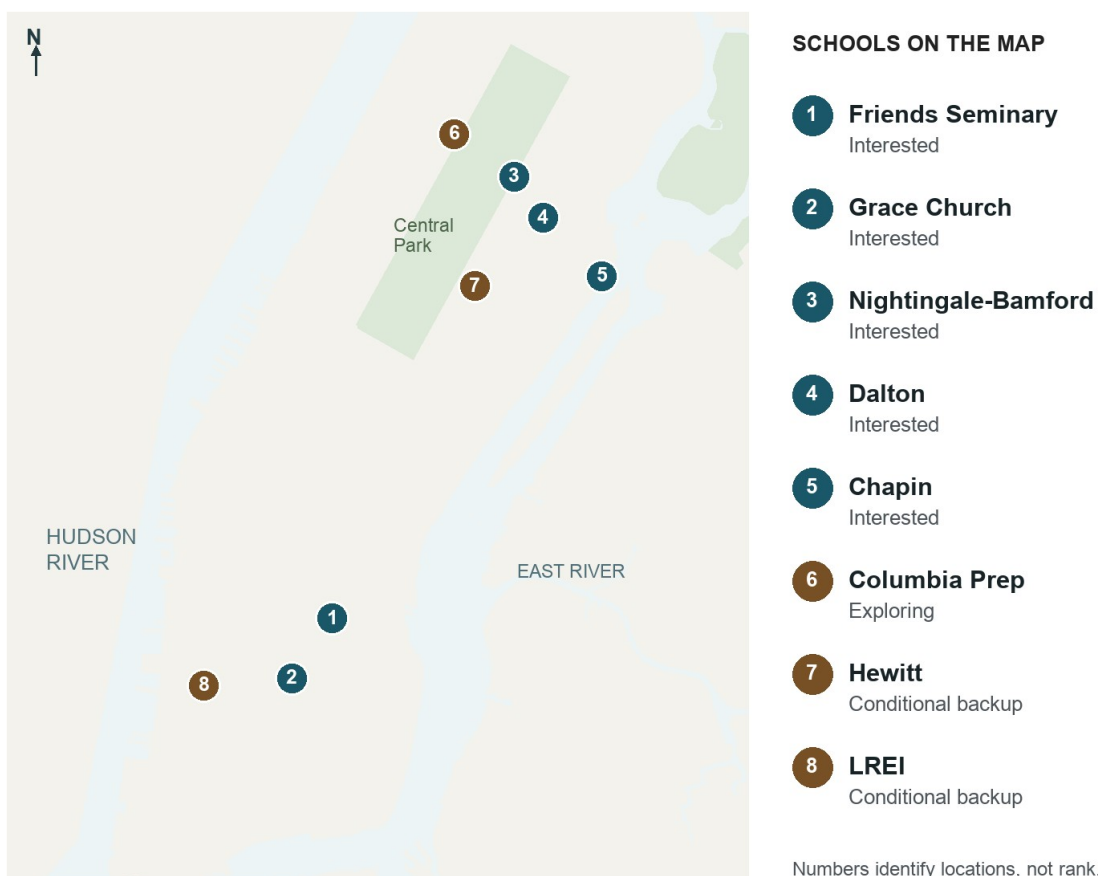
Your reaction

Something I would be excited about: _____

Something I still want to understand: _____

School locations

The eight schools currently under consideration are in Manhattan. The map shows the school locations. Compare a morning trip and a trip home after an activity from each household.



Map geometry: [NYC 2020 neighborhood areas](#), with school address coordinates from [NYC GeoSearch](#). Locations support orientation, not turn-by-turn travel. Columbia is a multi-building campus.

What matters from each home

From Tribeca: Franklin Street on the 1, Canal Street on the A/C, and nearby 2/3 are the starting options. LREI is closest to that home area. Columbia has a straightforward west-side route toward 96th Street; the Upper East Side schools need an east-side connection or additional walking.

From the Upper East Side: The home area is East 61st Street and Third Avenue. Hewitt is nearby relative to the other options. Lexington/59th trains also create useful downtown journeys: the 6 toward Astor Place for Grace and the 4/5 toward Union Square for Friends. Columbia needs a cross-park or connecting journey.

These are route possibilities, not measured commute times. Check actual school-day directions, entrances, activity locations, and service. [MTA subway maps](#) provide the service reference.

School comparison

A small classroom and a small social world are different things. Compare your likely grade, the whole high school, and the number of students in a lesson separately. Schoolwide enrollment includes younger children and can be misleading for this decision.

School	Useful size reference	Date and scope
Columbia Prep	About 130 in ninth grade	Published grade description; nearly 1,300 schoolwide. Current high-school total not confirmed.
Friends Seminary	295 in grades 9 to 12	Undated school facts; average upper-school class of 15.
Grace Church	High-school total not confirmed	More than 850 schoolwide; do not read that as the high-school population.
Nightingale-Bamford	248 upper-school students	Class of 2026 profile: 56 seniors; average class of 12.
Dalton	460 high-school students	October 2025 publication. Current admissions page lists average class of 11.
Chapin	Grades 9 to 12 total not confirmed	834 schoolwide for 2026-27. Its Upper School includes grade 8.
Hewitt	52 in the Class of 2026	389 schoolwide in 2025-26. Current high-school total not confirmed.
LREI	High-school total not confirmed	Ask for the likely ninth-grade size and a sample timetable with class sizes.

Sources are linked within each school profile. These figures are not a uniform current-year dataset; unknown values have been left unknown.

The question behind Hewitt

Hewitt's 52 seniors and Nightingale's 56 seniors in the same graduating class are fairly close. That does not mean the schools feel the same. What feels too small at Hewitt: the building, the available activities, the number of different friendship groups, or the overall atmosphere? That answer is more useful than a total enrollment number.

Ask the same questions everywhere

"How many students would be in my grade, and how many would be new?" "Which courses and activities could I actually do in ninth grade?" "Where do students meet people outside their usual group?"

Notes for the next conversation

Use this page with Hazel, her parents, and Dana. Record changes as they happen; the current list is a starting point for a conversation.

For Hazel

Which schools can you picture yourself enjoying, and why? Would you still want to go if your closest friend chose somewhere else? For Hewitt and LREI, what would need to be true for either to feel like a good option?

My strongest preferences and why: _____

What I want to learn about Columbia, Hewitt, or LREI: _____

For the family and Dana

Admissions balance: Josh believes Friends Seminary is a good possibility for Hazel, especially with her Brooklyn Friends connection, and says she would be happy there. That is the family's assessment. Ask Dana how much the connection matters, and whether Hewitt or LREI would provide meaningful additional security for Hazel's particular application.

Practical checks: Confirm current entry-year openings, application requirements, remaining visits, and deadlines before committing. Test travel from both homes and account for after-school activities. No school in this guide has been established as a likely admission.

Decision or question

Person to follow up

When

Other schools in the notes

Calhoun is leaning no. UNIS remains low interest because it does not feel like the right fit. Trevor Day, Fieldston, and Dwight are schools Hazel does not want. Birch Wathen Lenox is withdrawn. Brooklyn Friends is her current school, not a prospect in this search.

Keep the conversation in one place

Use comments in the Word copy or annotate the PDF, keeping each person's name with their observations. The PDF is a reading snapshot; the running Markdown notes in the Dropbox folder remain the decision record. New reactions can be folded into that record and this guide refreshed.

School reference

The following profiles and links are retained for reference. The Not Interested group combines earlier noes, withdrawals, and low-interest choices. Individual preference notes remain in each profile. Brooklyn Friends is separate as the current school. None count toward the active application target.

Not Interested

School	Current position
Trevor Day	Not pursuing
Fieldston	Not pursuing
Dwight	Not pursuing
Birch Wathen Lenox	Withdrawn / not interested
Calhoun	Leaning no
UNIS	Low interest / fit concern

Current school for comparison

Brooklyn Friends: Hazel's current school. Its profile remains available for comparison, but it is not a prospect in this search.

[Brooklyn Friends](#)

Research dates and scope remain as recorded in the original profiles. Confirm current details with each school before relying on them.

Trevor Day

Not pursuing | Hazel has said she does not want to attend. No specific reason is recorded.

[School website](#)

Coed, with middle and upper school at **312 East 95th Street**. The current undated homepage reports **740 students schoolwide**, not high-school-only. Teacher desks share common spaces with student study areas, making access outside class a concrete feature of the design. The curriculum offers core academics, later electives, and arts; the school lists 42 upper-school arts electives. [School facts](#) · [Student resources](#)

Fit considerations: Easy access to teachers could be valuable, but shared study areas may not suit everyone. Its claim of balance needs checking against actual student schedules. **If revisited:** ask whether the common spaces are useful, noisy, or both, and what prompted your original no.

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Fieldston

Not pursuing | Hazel has said she does not want to attend. The school is also outside the Manhattan-only search.

[School website](#)

Coed, on the Riverdale campus at **3901 Fieldston Road, Bronx**. Its **2025-26 profile reports 634 upper-school students**; admissions describes a ninth grade of about **160-165**. Ethics is a core subject, and the program includes substantial arts, academic electives, and an optional interdisciplinary City Semester in eleventh grade. [School profile](#) · [Ninth-grade context and location](#)

Fit considerations: The larger peer group and campus setting offer a different experience from Manhattan buildings. Travel could take a meaningful part of each day, depending on home and activities. **If revisited:** test the complete school-day commute and ask a ninth grader how friendships formed in the larger class.

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Dwight

Not pursuing | Hazel has said she does not want to attend. No specific reason is recorded.

[School website](#)

This is **Dwight School New York**, not Dwight Global Online. The middle and upper school are at **18 West 89th Street**; the admissions office is at 291 Central Park West. [Campus directory](#) A current high-school count was not verified. Its published program follows the IB Middle Years Programme through tenth grade, including a Personal Project, then the Diploma Programme in grades 11-12. International campus connections are a feature of its offering. [New York upper school](#)

Fit considerations: It may interest someone who wants the IB and international opportunities, but the framework and actual course choices need to suit the student. **If revisited:** ask to see a tenth-grade Personal Project and a real junior timetable, and clarify what put you off initially.

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Birch Wathen Lenox

Withdrawn / not interested | Withdrawn and not interested, as corrected by Josh on October 21.

[School website](#)

Coed, at **210 East 77th Street** in the existing notes. The current high-school program describes a more explicitly structured college-preparatory curriculum, AP courses for eligible students, and concentrations such as entrepreneurship, arts, and robotics. Current high-school enrollment was not verified. [Upper-school program](#)

Fit considerations: A defined academic structure and opportunities to specialize may suit some students; the scale and day-to-day atmosphere still need to feel right. Its small published student-to-teacher ratio does not tell us grade size. **No new visit is implied:** it stays withdrawn. If you ever reopen it, check the actual courses and size of the incoming grade first.

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Calhoun

Leaning no | Hazel likes it less than the other possibilities. Josh moved it out of the maybe list; no firm rejection was stated.

[School website](#)

Coed, with grades 5-12 at **433 West End Avenue**, at 81st Street. The published upper-school program emphasizes choice, an independent junior research project, a senior internship, and a week of spring exploration. Its open learning areas are a distinctive part of the school's design. Current high-school enrollment was not verified. [Upper school](#) · [School approach](#)

Fit considerations: Freedom to pursue interests may appeal; an open physical and academic environment may feel energizing or distracting. You currently like it less than the other possibilities. **If revisited:** observe an ordinary class and ask where students go for quiet, focused work.

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UNIS

Low interest / fit concern | Hazel has friends there, but it does not strike her as the right fit. No firm withdrawal was stated.

[School website](#)

Overview: Coed, at **24-50 FDR Drive**, by the East River near 25th Street. Its undated student dashboard reports **1,368 students across Pre-K-12**. A current count for grades 9-12 - called Tutorial House - was not confirmed. [Student facts](#)

Program: International perspectives are part of the curriculum and the student community. Older students can pursue the full International Baccalaureate diploma or individual IB courses. The program includes research, languages, creative work, and service. The UN connection creates specific opportunities such as Model UN and the student-run UNIS-UN conference. [Tutorial House](#)

Activities: The school lists more than 50 clubs, with a Tutorial House club fair, alongside arts and athletics. [Clubs](#)

Fit considerations: The IB has a defined academic framework; explore a real junior's schedule and research work before deciding whether that suits you. The waterfront location may affect the last part of your commute. Neither point is assumed to explain your current reaction. Having friends there is useful access to honest answers, not an obligation to apply.

Ask your friends: "What kind of student seems happiest here?" "What would you change?" "What is the difference between taking the whole IB diploma and individual courses?" "What do you think I might like or dislike about an ordinary day?"

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Brooklyn Friends

Current school only | Hazel's current school. Retained for comparison; it is not a prospect or an application in this search.

[School website](#)

Coed and Quaker, with upper school at **116 Lawrence Street** in Downtown Brooklyn. The current website lists **700 students schoolwide**. The high-school program includes the IB for juniors and seniors, required service learning, sports, arts, and clubs. A current upper-school enrollment was not verified in this review. [School facts](#) · [Upper-school program](#)

Comparison context: It is a useful reference for what you want to keep and what you want to change. Familiarity with the middle school does not tell you everything about high school. **Useful question:** "Which parts of the upper-school day differ from middle school?" Staying remains an option in the notes, but BFS is not a prospect and does not count toward the 6-7-school target.

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Dates and application progress

Reviewed October 22, 2026.

All times are New York time. Email confirmations and Personal, Alexa & Hazel Schedule, and JR Bot Cals were reviewed for Oct 1, 2026-Jan 10, 2027; BFS Upper School calendar items were checked separately. A calendar entry is not proof of registration or attendance. Deadlines labeled base notes have not been reverified with the schools. Application portals were not inspected.

Across the applications

- For each school, prepare three questions, identify three classes, and identify three clubs to discuss, as requested in Susie's interview-preparation materials.
- Lyman Casey asked for Ravenna or school-specific recommendation links rather than a separately emailed school/deadline list. Sending those links remains a family follow-up; completion is unverified.
- The Oct 18 interview-preparation notes emphasize community, engaged teachers, interactive discussion, volleyball, writing/journalism, and trying activities.
- Dana's reviewed written materials contain no school-by-school admissions likelihood assessment. Ask her to assess the current list, the Friends/Brooklyn Friends assumption, and the two conditional backups.

School status pages

[Friends Seminary](#)

[Grace Church School](#)

[Nightingale Bamford School](#)

[Dalton School](#)

[Chapin School](#)

[Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School](#)

[Hewitt School](#)

[LREI](#)

[Trevor Day](#)

[Fieldston](#)

[Dwight](#)

[Birch Wathen Lenox](#)

[Calhoun](#)

[UNIS](#)

[Brooklyn Friends](#)

Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School

Application started; scheduling still open

Exploring. The Oct 19 school email confirms the first application steps are complete and the remaining checklist is available. This does not establish completion of the application or a decision to attend.

Deadline: Nov 15, 2026 application deadline in base notes. School email specifically says to schedule the parent conversation and student assessment BEFORE Nov 15.

Oct 15, 2026 · time not recorded - Open house

Past · attendance unconfirmed. Base notes said the in-person session was full and a virtual option was available.

Source: Base notes.

Nov 10, 2026 · 5:00-6:30 PM - Prep School Experience

Invited · RSVP unverified · not found on checked calendars. Program overview, current-student panel, and Q&A. RSVP through the Oct 21 email.

Source: Oct 21 invitation; calendar checked Oct 22.

Requirements and process

- Use the CGPS admissions portal, rather than Ravenna.
- Parent conversation and student assessment must be scheduled before Nov 15; the campus visit itself may occur later. Places are first-come, first-served.
- One parent conversation per family, even when applying for multiple children.

Family and adviser context

- Hazel says she does not know enough about Columbia to have an opinion. It remains exploring even though an application has been started.
- Ilise had suggested Calhoun or UNIS as possible replacements on Oct 21; the family subsequently chose to learn more about Columbia first.

Follow-up

- Review the remaining portal checklist and book the parent conversation and student assessment before Nov 15.
- Decide whether to RSVP to the Nov 10 Prep School Experience.
- Use the profile and visit to help Hazel form an opinion.

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Friends Seminary

Visits arranged; application completion unverified

Interested; Hazel would be happy to attend. A Grade 9 visit is booked. The earlier proposed in-school interview needs reconciliation with that visit.

Deadline: Nov 16, 2026, 12:00 PM - recorded in the base notes; confirm in Ravenna.

Oct 21, 2026 · 6:00 PM - Upper School Information Session

Past · attendance reported. Ilise reported taking Hazel after volleyball. The calendar calls this a tour; the school reminder calls it an information session.

Source: Oct 19 school reminder; Oct 21 family notes; calendar checked Oct 22.

Nov 3, 2026 · 11:15 AM-1:00 PM - Proposed in-school interview

Proposed · not found on checked calendars. Proposed by Ilise on Oct 8. No confirmation was located in this review.

Source: Base notes; calendar checked Oct 22.

Nov 9, 2026 · 12:00-2:00 PM - Grade 9 visit

Booked · on calendar twice. Student-led tour, applicant writing sample, and Admissions meeting. Allow 90 minutes-2 hours. Two Personal calendar entries appear to be duplicates.

Source: Oct 17 invitation; calendar checked Oct 22.

Requirements and process

- Ravenna application; student and parent interview; ISEE or SSAT, per the base notes.

Family and adviser context

- Josh believes the Brooklyn Friends connection may help. This is the family's assessment; no formal admissions advantage has been verified.
- Dana's written materials do not give a school-specific likelihood assessment. The family still wants a separate backup.

Follow-up

- Confirm whether the proposed Nov 3 appointment is still needed alongside the Nov 9 visit.
- Review two Nov 9 calendar entries that appear to describe the same visit.
- Check remaining Ravenna items and testing before the recorded deadline.

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Grace Church School

Application received; interview booked

Interested. Grace acknowledged receiving the application on Oct 16. The Head of School chat and family interview are confirmed; completion of the full checklist is unverified.

Deadline: Dec 1, 2026 - recorded in the base notes; confirm in Finals site.

Oct 30, 2026 · 10:00-10:30 AM - Head of School chat

Confirmed by email · not found on checked calendars. Virtual conversation with Robbie Pennoyer. School sends the Zoom link the day before. Students may join but are not required.

Source: Oct 17 confirmation; calendar checked Oct 22.

Dec 8, 2026 · 10:45 AM - Family interview and tour

Confirmed · on calendar. At 46 Cooper Square; arrive 10 minutes early. Student interview then parent interview, about 30 minutes total, followed by a 30-45-minute student-led tour. Calendar currently ends at 11:15 AM and does not cover the tour.

Source: Oct 17 confirmation; calendar checked Oct 22.

Requirements and process

- Use the Finals site checklist for remaining requirements.
- The interview email asks the family to attend a live Head of School chat; a slot is booked.

Family and adviser context

- Ilise described Grace as a “happy medium” for what the family is looking for and asked whether Josh knows current or former families.
- No adviser-validated admissions category is recorded.

Follow-up

- Add or reconcile the Oct 30 chat on the family calendar.
- Allow time beyond the Dec 8 calendar block for the student-led tour.
- Complete the remaining Finals site checklist; ask about family connections to Grace.

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Nightingale Bamford School

Tour and virtual interview confirmed

Interested. A separate family tour and virtual interview are confirmed. Neither appears on the three checked calendars. Application completion is unverified.

Deadline: Dec 1, 2026 - recorded in the base notes; confirm with the school.

Nov 4, 2026 · 5:45-7:30 PM - Academic Overview

Listed in base notes · registration unverified. Event opportunity; no family booking found in the reviewed records.

Source: Base notes; calendar checked Oct 22.

Nov 11, 2026 · 1:45 PM - In-person family tour

Confirmed by email · not found on checked calendars. Tour of the schoolhouse with Upper School students; approximately 45 minutes.

Source: Oct 17 confirmation; calendar checked Oct 22.

Nov 19, 2026 · 1:15 PM - Virtual family interview

Confirmed by email · not found on checked calendars. Zoom: applicant approximately 20 minutes, then parents/guardians approximately 15 minutes. Link arrives the week before; participants may use separate locations/devices.

Source: Oct 19 confirmation; calendar checked Oct 22.

Dec 8, 2026 · 6:30-7:30 PM - Student Voices

Listed in base notes · registration unverified. Event opportunity; no family booking found in the reviewed records.

Source: Base notes; calendar checked Oct 22.

Requirements and process

- Confirm the current application checklist and testing requirements in the school portal.

Family and adviser context

- Hazel prefers Nightingale and Chapin to Hewitt because Hewitt feels too small. No order between Nightingale and Chapin is recorded.

Follow-up

- Add or reconcile the Nov 11 tour and Nov 19 interview on the family calendar.
- Decide whether to attend the Academic Overview and Student Voices events; registration status is unknown.

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Dalton School

Applicant visit confirmed

Interested. The required applicant visit is booked through Ilise's Ravenna account. Submission and checklist completion are unverified.

Deadline: Not recorded - confirm in Ravenna or with Dalton admissions.

Nov 12, 2026 · 2:45 PM - High School tour and student interview

Confirmed by email · not found on checked calendars. 108 East 89th Street, between Lexington and Park. Arrive a few minutes early. Student-led tour and Hazel's interview with a faculty member or administrator; both parents requested, adult photo ID required. Rescheduling is discouraged except for emergency/illness; call admissions rather than canceling in Ravenna. End time not stated.

Source: Oct 20 confirmation forwarded by Ilise; calendar checked Oct 22.

Requirements and process

- The school says the booked applicant visit is the only required visit in the application process.
- Confirm all other application and testing requirements in Ravenna.

Family and adviser context

- Dalton was not in Dana's September spreadsheet. That absence does not establish whether she supports or has discussed this choice.

Follow-up

- Add or reconcile the Nov 12 visit on the family calendar.
- Confirm the application deadline and remaining checklist items.
- Plan for both parents to attend and bring adult photo IDs.

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Chapin School

No sign-ups recorded

Interested; added Oct 21. The family reported no registrations yet. No Chapin appointment was found on the checked calendars.

Deadline: Not recorded - check Chapin admissions.

Requirements and process

- Application requirements, entry-year deadlines, and visit availability still need to be established.

Family and adviser context

- Hazel prefers Chapin and Nightingale to Hewitt because Hewitt feels too small.
- Chapin is absent from the two written Dana school lists reviewed; no school-specific adviser assessment is recorded.

Follow-up

- Check deadlines and visit/interview availability, then decide what to register for.

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Hewitt School

Conditional backup; application status unknown

The family is considering Hewitt as a backup. No committed application or completed checklist is established by the records.

Deadline: Dec 1, 2026 - recorded in the base notes; confirm in the Hewitt portal.

Oct 15, 2026 · 6:00-7:30 PM - Open house

Past · attendance unconfirmed. Listed in the base notes; no attendance record was established.

Source: Base notes.

Requirements and process

- Tours and interviews are arranged through Hewitt's application portal.

Family and adviser context

- Hazel prefers Chapin and Nightingale because she thinks Hewitt is too small. This is her impression, not a verified enrollment comparison.
- Conditional backup does not mean likely admission.

Follow-up

- Clarify what feels too small to Hazel and whether she would be comfortable attending.
- Check whether an application or appointment exists in the portal.
- Ask Dana whether Hewitt provides meaningful admissions balance for Hazel.

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LREI

Conditional backup; no activity recorded

The family is considering LREI as a backup. The earlier low-interest impression remains unexplained. No appointment was found on the checked calendars.

Deadline: Not recorded - check LREI admissions.

Requirements and process

- Application requirements, deadlines, and visit availability are not recorded.

Family and adviser context

- Its 40 Charlton Street high school is convenient to the Tribeca home area. Geography alone does not establish fit.
- Ilise had mentioned LREI as a possible replacement candidate; Josh later agreed it belongs in the conditional-backup pool.

Follow-up

- Clarify Hazel's reservations and whether she would attend.
- Check the admissions timetable and application status.
- Ask Dana to assess fit and admissions balance.

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Trevor Day

Not pursuing; earlier application submitted

Hazel does not want to attend. The Oct 19 school email nevertheless confirms an application form was submitted; no withdrawal is documented. Existing appointments need review.

Deadline: Dec 1, 2026, 11:59 PM - recorded in the base notes; retained for reference.

Oct 22, 2026 · 6:30 PM - Tour / open-house entry

On calendar · review whether to keep. Calendar end time was assumed at one hour. The Oct 19 school email calls Oct 22 and Oct 29 open houses waitlist-only; a calendar entry alone does not establish a confirmed place.

Source: Oct 19 school email; calendar checked Oct 22.

Oct 27, 2026 · 1:15-3:15 PM - Tour and interview

On calendar · possible duplicate/alternate date. Review against the Oct 28 entry and school confirmation.

Source: Calendar checked Oct 22.

Oct 28, 2026 · 1:15-3:00 PM - Tour and interview

On calendar · rescheduling unresolved. Josh requested a move; no replacement on Oct 26 or Oct 30 was found.

Source: Base notes; calendar checked Oct 22.

Oct 29, 2026 · time not recorded - Optional open house

Waitlist opportunity · not a confirmed booking. School invited the family to ask about its waitlist.

Source: Oct 19 school email.

Requirements and process

- If continuing: submit the Parent Statement and Student Questionnaire by the interview appointment.
- Tour, student interview, and parent conversation take approximately two hours.

Family and adviser context

- Josh previously asked to move the Oct 28 slot to Oct 26 or Oct 30. Both Oct 27 and Oct 28 remain on the checked calendars.
- Ilise suggested other schools could replace Trevor. Appointments do not imply current interest.

Follow-up

- Decide with Ilise what to cancel or retain now that Hazel is not pursuing Trevor.
- Resolve Oct 27 versus Oct 28 appointments; neither a move to Oct 26 nor Oct 30 was found.

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Birch Wathen Lenox

Withdrawn / not interested; stale calendar items

The family has withdrawn interest. Both recorded tour registrations were withdrawn, but calendar entries remain. A parent meeting is still on the calendar.

Deadline: Jan 8, 2027 - recorded in the base notes; retained for reference.

Oct 21, 2026 · 9:00 AM - Upper School tour entry

Registration withdrawn · stale calendar entry. Ravenna withdrawal sent Oct 20 at 11:23 PM. Entry remains on Alexa & Hazel Schedule.

Source: Withdrawal email rechecked Oct 22; calendar checked Oct 22.

Oct 23, 2026 · 2:00-2:30 PM - Virtual parent meeting

Still on calendar · needs review. No cancellation of this meeting was established.

Source: Base notes; calendar checked Oct 22.

Oct 28, 2026 · 9:00 AM - Upper School tour entry

Registration withdrawn · stale calendar entry. Oct 16 Ravenna withdrawal applies to this tour. The Personal calendar still contains it.

Source: Withdrawal email rechecked Oct 22; calendar checked Oct 22.

Nov 12, 2026 · 6:00-8:00 PM - Open house

Listed opportunity only. Retained from base notes; no family registration established.

Source: Base notes.

Family and adviser context

- School reminders and calendar entries do not override the withdrawal emails or Hazel's current preference.

Follow-up

- Review remaining calendar entries and registrations with Ilise, especially the Oct 23 parent meeting.
- No calendar entries or registrations were canceled by this guide update.

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Brooklyn Friends

Current school; not an outside application

Brooklyn Friends is retained for context, not counted among the prospects. Remaining at BFS is available but is not an active consideration in this search.

Deadline: Not applicable to the outside-school shortlist; any internal continuation requirements are unverified.

Oct 22, 2026 · 5:30-6:30 PM - College Counseling spotlight · Zoom

On school calendar · family RSVP unverified. Internal Upper School Spotlight Series.

Source: Oct 20 email in base notes; BFS calendar checked Oct 22.

Oct 26, 2026 · 6:00-8:00 PM - Community / strategic-vision evening

Listed opportunity · RSVP unverified. Pearl Street Meeting House; general school context rather than an admissions appointment. RSVP through the Oct 21 school email.

Source: Base notes.

Oct 29, 2026 · 9:00-10:45 AM - Upper School tour and information session

On school calendar · family RSVP unverified. For current seventh- and eighth-grade parents/guardians; student tour and conversation with Upper School leadership.

Source: BFS calendar checked Oct 22; base notes.

Nov 5, 2026 · 5:30 PM - Academics & the IB Program spotlight

Listed in email notes · calendar match not found. Virtual session; registration via the Oct 20 BFS email.

Source: Base notes; BFS calendar checked Oct 22.

Nov 18, 2026 · 5:00-6:00 PM - The Ninth Grade Experience spotlight

On school calendar · family RSVP unverified. Virtual session; registration via school email.

Source: BFS calendar checked Oct 22; base notes.

Dec 14, 2026 · 5:30-6:30 PM - Arts, athletics, and clubs spotlight

On school calendar · family RSVP unverified. Virtual session; registration via school email.

Source: BFS calendar checked Oct 22; base notes.

Family and adviser context

- Lyman Casey asked Oct 18 whether to include BFS's upper school in his recommendation. That administrative question does not add BFS to the prospect list.
- Student-for-a-Day visits are available through the Oct 20 BFS email; no family booking recorded.

Follow-up

- Resolve whether the math recommendation should also include BFS's own upper school.
- Register for internal events only if useful; their appearance on the school calendar does not establish a family RSVP.

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Fieldston

Not pursuing; no family booking recorded

Hazel does not want to attend. The Bronx location also falls outside her Manhattan-only search.

Deadline: Nov 13, 2026 - recorded in the base notes; retained for reference.

Oct 8 and Oct 15, 2026 - Information sessions

Past · attendance unconfirmed. Oct 8 in person; Oct 15 virtual. Times not recorded.

Source: Base notes.

Oct 18, 2026 · 10:00 AM-4:00 PM - Discovery Day

Past · attendance unconfirmed. Listed opportunity, not evidence of a family registration.

Source: Base notes.

Requirements and process

- Student interview and tour are self-scheduled, per the base notes.

Family and adviser context

- No family visit or interview was found on the checked calendars.

Follow-up

- No new application action unless the family revisits the decision.

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Dwight

Not pursuing; completion unknown

Hazel does not want to attend. Earlier scheduling difficulty is retained as process history.

Deadline: Early Decision Nov 13; Regular Decision Dec 1, 2026 - base notes; retained for reference.

Oct 6, 2026 · time not recorded - Open house

Past · attendance unconfirmed. Listed in the base notes.

Source: Base notes.

Oct 28, 2026 · 4:00-5:00 PM - Open house

Listed opportunity · registration unverified. No family booking established.

Source: Base notes.

Nov 17, 2026 · 5:00 PM - Virtual open house

Listed opportunity · registration unverified. No family booking established.

Source: Base notes.

Requirements and process

- Ilise reported Sep 30 that Ravenna required more of the application to be completed before scheduling.

Family and adviser context

- No family appointment was found on the checked calendars.

Follow-up

- No new application action unless the family revisits the decision.

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Calhoun

Leaning no; no activity recorded

Removed from the maybe list because Hazel likes it less than the other possibilities. No appointment was found on the checked calendars.

Deadline: Not recorded.

Family and adviser context

- Ilise suggested Calhoun and UNIS on Oct 21 as possible replacements for other schools. Hazel's later preference update supersedes that suggestion.

Follow-up

- Revisit only if Hazel's preference changes.

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UNIS

Low interest; no activity recorded

Hazel has friends at UNIS, but it does not feel like the right fit. No firm withdrawal is recorded; no appointment was found on the checked calendars.

Deadline: Not recorded.

Family and adviser context

- Having friends there does not establish interest. No specific reason for the mismatch is recorded.

Follow-up

- Clarify the fit concern only if the family wants to reconsider.

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