

Welcome, Third and Fourth Grade Families!

We're looking forward to getting to know you and your scholar. Transitions to a new school are not always easy, but your scholar will receive focused, individualized support.

From elementary school through high school, we commit ourselves to the long-term, whole-child development of our scholars, supporting their ultimate success in college and in life.



Third and Fourth Grade Academics

Our whole-child approach puts a premium on student engagement and active participation. We believe it is our job as educators to make school interesting and compelling — we view boredom as a sin! Our teachers use an inquiry-based approach to challenge students to think critically and creatively.

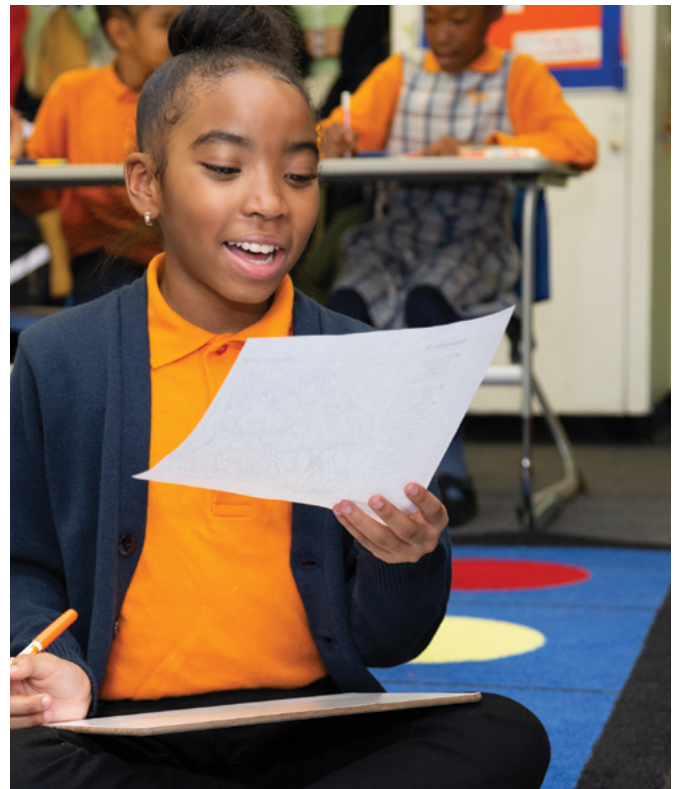
Solving Real-World Problems with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

At SA, we ensure that scholars understand math conceptually, but we also believe it's essential that they know math facts. Third graders will learn early multiplication and division and measuring length, weight, and mass. Fourth graders will learn multiplication and division of large numbers, decimals, and data analysis. Instead of directing scholars to copy a particular approach, we challenge them to develop their own problem-solving strategies so that they become increasingly flexible mathematical thinkers.

Five days a week, Success Academy scholars receive hands-on, inquiry-based science with a dedicated science teacher. Your scholar will do 150 experiments a year in a range of disciplines: Life, Physical, Earth, Engineering, and Computer Science. Scholars might dissect a squid, build a simple machine, or conduct scratch tests to identify minerals. We encourage our scholars to work collaboratively, record their observations, participate in discussions, and write their conclusions.

Literacy: Developing Great Readers, Writers, and Thinkers

The SA literacy curriculum introduces scholars to great literature and emphasizes critical thinking, writing, knowledge building, and the thoughtful discussion of ideas. Kids read and analyze poetry, biography, history, fiction, myths, and fables, and write in a range of genres. For example, third graders will read about Sojourner Truth and great fiction like *The Whipping Boy* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Fourth graders will read *The Phantom Tollbooth* and *The Rescuers*, as well as historical fiction that tells the story of the first black baseball league. In addition, our scholars write every day, with regular opportunities to receive feedback, revise, and publish their work.



The Whole Child: Experiential Learning, Creative Pursuits, and Subject Mastery

Becoming Experts with Project Based Learning (PBL)

Two times each year, Success Academy scholars explore subjects in depth over several weeks from a cross-disciplinary perspective — science, reading, writing, math, and art. Our scholars become obsessed with these topics, and that’s the idea! Third graders study Ellis Island, the Iroquois people, and go on field studies to the Museum of the City of New York to make connections from classroom to the real world. Fourth graders explore the American Revolution and the Westward Expansion and participate in an educator-led tour of Fraunces Tavern. At the close of each unit, families are invited to classrooms to view PBL “museums” and performances showcasing scholars’ newly gained experiences.

Electives

Success Academy schools offer a robust selection of “specials” and electives that include:

- Art
- Dance
- Chess
- Music
- Sports
- Theater

We view these non-academic subjects as a critical part of learning that adds joy, builds confidence, and fosters a love of school. In grades 3–4, scholars get to select two electives to study all year long and participate in one for 45 minutes per day.



Assessments and Results

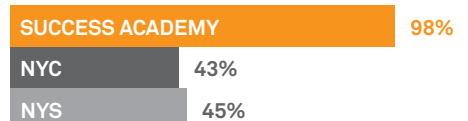
At SA, we recognize scholars have different paths to mastery. For new scholars entering third and fourth grades, we will give assessments prior to the school year to determine if their subject mastery is at grade level. In some cases, children will need to repeat a grade to master important content. It is also not unusual for a scholar to be skipped ahead later on. We consider each child’s needs and make decisions on what’s best for their long-term learning. We look to parents for partnership to ensure their scholars get all the support they need to be successful.

All New York students take State Exams in grades 3 and 4. These assessments provide critical info about scholar learning and help instill important life skills such as preparation, persistence, and grit.

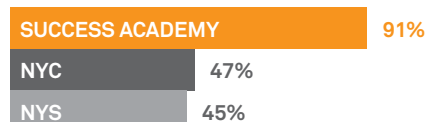
We also have a strong track record for helping scholars who have previously failed state exams at other schools. Among our first-year scholars who didn’t pass state exams at another school, 89% passed the ELA and 97% passed math after only one year with us!

2018 New York State Exams: Percentage of Students Passing

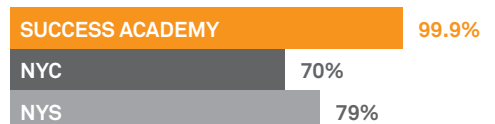
Top 1% Math



Top 1% English



Top 1% Science*



*Rank based on percentage of students scoring at the advanced level (Level 4).

Looking Forward: What Can You Expect?

SA offers a comprehensive K–12 education with a curriculum that is standardized across all our schools, so your child will have the same foundation as all Success scholars. Another bonus: you only have to go through the application process once — you are guaranteed a seat through high school!

SA Middle Schools continue to press scholars to think critically and develop and debate ideas. As part of their morning advisory, scholars learn time management and goal setting and are offered expanded co-curriculars (competitive sports teams, debate, photography, and Wednesday clubs). Our math and history sequence culminates in the New York State Regents exams in Algebra I and U.S. History; mastering these subjects in eighth grade allows scholars to take higher level courses in high school, which is increasingly important for admission to a selective college or university (and they get Regents credits).

SA High Schools provide a rigorous collegiate curriculum that gives scholars access to Advanced Placement courses, honors programs, robust electives, and competitive teams. In upper grades, scholars are eligible for high-quality, affordable summer experiences on college campuses and wilderness and arts programs. Our grads have been accepted to highly selective colleges and universities, such as the University of Pennsylvania, Brown University, Tufts University, MIT, Bard College, Barnard College, Tulane University, Wake Forest University, and Emory University.

We Can't Do It Alone!

As parents, you play an essential role in supporting your scholar's academic progress. From making homework completion and reading a priority to reinforcing our ACTION values — Agency, Curiosity, Try and Try, Integrity, Others, and No Shortcuts — your ongoing effort and oversight are essential to helping your scholar excel.

For more information, explore SuccessAcademies.org.



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Questions?

Reach out to the Enrollment Team at 646-472-1911
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