

CACAGNY to Chinese Parents: Consider Vertex, a New Charter High School

June 30, 2022

Following our very well-received [webinar with Success Academy Charter Schools](#) for elementary school parents, CACAGNY would like to bring to the attention of our families a new, innovative charter *high school*: [Vertex Partnership Academies](#). *This school should be interesting to families still looking for a spot after the high school admissions fiasco this year.*

- Procedures: this is for entering 9th grade this fall only. *Application is open now*, with spots filled on a first-come first-serve basis; application closes once all spots are filled. To apply, click the [Apply](#) button on the top right corner of Vertex's [website](#). The application form is quite simple. (Like all public charter schools, Vertex is free to families.)
- Vertex will be located in an attractive, just-renovated building at 1160 Beach Avenue, next to the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, on a quiet residential block in the Soundview section of the Bronx. The school is just minutes' walk away from the St. Lawrence station of the 6 train.
- As a new school, Vertex doesn't have standardized test scores to show. Many students will come from Brilla College Prep, Boys Prep (New York), Girl's Prep (New York), and Girl's Prep (Bronx). These charter middle schools have similar test scores as the Sun Yat Sen MS 131 in Chinatown and MS 819 in Tompkins Square, to name some neighborhood middle schools that might be familiar to our Manhattan parents.
- What makes Vertex quite distinctive, and attractive, for a non-Specialized High School, is that *all Vertex students participate in the [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) program*. IB curricula are rigorous, offered and recognized in many countries, standardized, and supervised by the IB Organization in Switzerland.
- Vertex students take the core IB curricula in grades 9 and 10. After that, two pathways are available. The college preparatory pathway follows the IB Diploma curriculum, which culminates in college-level courses while in high school. Like the Advanced Placement (AP) program, against which it is often [compared](#), IB Diploma is highly regarded by colleges, and many colleges reward high IB examination scores with college course credit. (Incidentally, Vertex plans to offer Mandarin as a foreign language option.)
- The other pathway, another distinctive and exciting Vertex feature, offers the IB Careers Related curriculum, which weaves coursework with industry internships and applicable certifications. Vertex plans to develop four areas of concentration: (1) computer and information technology, (2) media, music and video production, (3) healthcare and medical services, and (4) construction and engineering. The goal is to be ready for the job market after Vertex.

Vertex is offering two open houses, for families to visit the school location, ask questions, and get help filling the application. The open houses are from 10AM to noon on Saturday July 2, and Saturday July 9, at the school's address given above. The flyer is attached. It is recommended, but not required, to attend an open house before *or* after you apply.

CACAGNY has also arranged with Vertex to hold a Zoom webinar on Wednesday July 6 at 6:30PM, with questions-and-answers following. The presentation will be in English, while the question-and-answer will have a Mandarin-speaking interpreter. Instructions for registration to the webinar will come later.

We hope that adding Vertex, with its unique features, to the options available to our families will help them navigate our fast deteriorating and increasingly absurd public school system.

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