

SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

KAUFMAN

MUSIC

CENTER

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PAGE 24
Hottest stars at the Emmys



The 60+ Best High Schools in NYC
24-page special section inside

NEW YORK CITY'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS 

Hidden Gems

Some lesser-known schools also shine — including these six recommended by Insideschools, the DOE and The Post
By MARY KAY LINGE



Special Music School High School

122 AMSTERDAM AVE., MANHATTAN

With just 50 students in each grade, Kaufman Music Center's Special Music School High School provides a college-level conservatory education and top-flight academics for kids who sleep, eat, and breathe music. The K-12 school, a partnership between the city's Department of Education and the Kaufman music education and performance nonprofit, graduated its first senior class in June with a 100% college acceptance rate and sky-high scores on state history and English Regents exams.

Students major in voice, composition, or any instrument — this year's group includes euphonium and harp majors. Everyone takes a two-year sequence in music technology. Collaboration, improvisation, and music production are all emphasized, part of the school's mission to prepare students for 21st century music careers.

The school shares the Upper West Side's MLK Jr. Educational Campus with five others. Windowless classrooms are put to good use as specialized music facilities, including eight practice rooms, eight soundproof practice pods, a black box theater, and a recording studio. The building's 750-seat auditorium is frequently used for performances, as is the Kaufman Center's 450-seat conference hall one block away.