

## **SCHOOL WITHIN A SCHOOL**

Brookline High School  
115 Greenough Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
swsbrookline.org

Dan Bresman, Coordinator  
dan\_bresman@brookline.k12.ma.us  
(617) 713-5400; (617) 713-5401

January, 2012

Dear SWS Applicant,

We are glad that you have shown an interest in School Within A School. SWS is a program for students who want a greater involvement in their own education. We want to be sure that you are making a decision that is right for you. The SWS community feels that visiting classes and a Town Meeting is the best way to help you with your decision. In addition, you may want to meet with Dan Bresman, the SWS Coordinator, or with an SWS student. Here is what you should know and do:

We choose new students by lottery. To be in the lottery, you must: (1) sign up; (2) visit one English class, one other class (not English) and Town Meeting; (3) write a reflection; and (4) attend the mandatory meeting on **Thursday, March 15, 2012 X Block 10:30 a.m. in Room 403**, with your reflection ready to be shared.

### **Here are more details:**

1. Sign up in the **SWS office (on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor) by Friday, March 9, 2012**. This is our firm deadline for being in the lottery. If you don't sign up by then, you can't be in the SWS Lottery.
2. Please read the admissions packet carefully and show it to your parents/guardians. Remember that a parent or guardian must sign the permission to apply and to join if you are admitted. If parents have any questions, please ask them call Dan or email dan\_bresman@brookline.k12.ma.us
3. Visit one SWS English class, another SWS class (not English), and an SWS Town Meeting during F Block on Wednesday. This is required by SWS so that you will see first-hand what the classes are like. Be sure you have an SWS teacher sign the check-off sheet when you attend.
  - a. Please visit classes during your free blocks rather than miss one of your current classes. If you must miss a class, please use the Field Trip forms attached. You must visit both classes and Town Meeting before the **mandatory meeting on March 15 during X-block**.
  - b. If you have an F Block class from which you cannot be excused, **please attend the special Town Meeting on Thursday, March 1 during X-block at 10:30 a.m. in Room 403**. If you are able to attend a normal F Block Town Meeting, you do not need to come to this meeting.

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4. Attend the mandatory meeting on **Thursday, March 15, at 10:30 a.m.** in Room 403 with your completed reflection, which should be at least a page long. This reflection is a requirement to get into SWS, and you must have it with you at the meeting. You must have written it before you come to the meeting and be prepared to read it aloud in a small group, which is a common practice in SWS English classes. What you write will not influence your standing in the admissions process. If you cannot attend this meeting, you must call or find Dan **before** the meeting and explain why or your name will be removed from the Lottery.

### **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

SWS has a policy to ensure that our gender, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic demographics match those of the mainstream as closely as possible. This Affirmative Action policy leads us to add students from underrepresented groups if the lottery does not naturally produce the desired results. You can be a member of one of these groups and choose not to be considered for Affirmative Action. If you believe you are a part of a racial, ethnic, or socio-economic (free/reduced lunch, public housing) group, or foreign born/raised, and want to be considered for Affirmative Action, please explain on the Lottery Info sheet that will be distributed at the mandatory admissions meeting on March 15. If you are unsure, please speak with Dan or another member of SWS. You must declare this before the lottery results are posted, not after the lottery.

**ONLY STUDENTS WHO SIGN UP, VISIT TWO CLASSES,  
VISIT TOWN MEETING, WRITE THE REFLECTION PAPER AND ATTEND  
THE MANDATORY MEETING WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE LOTTERY!**

The Lottery results will be posted outside the SWS lounge on Wednesday, **March 30, 2012**. We will also let you know if you got into SWS by letter to your homeroom. To be in SWS, you must have permission from your parent, Dean, and Guidance Counselor. **Students with education plans (IEP's) or 504's may also need team permission also.**

You may begin the scheduling process for next year as though you will be in the main school. When you are admitted, we will help you redo your schedule for the SWS classes in English, math, social studies, and chemistry. Students must take two SWS courses and Town Meeting each year unless waived by the Coordinator.

If you have any questions, problems or comments, please come to the SWS office, Room 400 and find Dan Bresman, the SWS Coordinator. Good luck!

SWS Admissions Committee  
and Dan Bresman

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**SWS ADMISSIONS: SWS COURSES 2011-2012**

Use this information to plan which classes you will visit:

Teacher		English Semester 1	English Semester 2	Full Year Courses
Abby	A	<b>Creative Non-Fiction</b> <i>Room 406</i>	<b>Individuals &amp; Institutions</b> <i>Room 406</i>	
Chrysolite				<b>SWS Pre-Calc H</b> <i>Room 404</i>
Rich				<b>SWS World History S/H</b> <i>Room 403</i>
Abby	B	<b>Family in Lit</b> <i>Room 406</i>	<b>Race and Identity in Lit</b> <i>Room 406</i>	
Rich				<b>SWS US History S/H</b> <i>Room 403</i>
Karen	C	<b>Spirituality in Lit</b> <i>Room 407</i>	<b>Short Story</b> <i>Room 407</i>	
Keira		<b>Constructions of Self</b> <i>(aka Contemporary Lit)</i> <i>Room 406</i>	<b>Feminism in Lit</b> <i>Room 406</i>	
Chrysolite				<b>SWS Alg 2 &amp; Trig H</b> <i>Room 404</i>
Keira	D	<b>Dark Literature</b> <i>Room 406</i>	<b>Creative Writing</b> <i>Room 406</i>	
Karen		<b>Humanities in Lit</b> <i>Room 407</i>	<b>Humanities in Lit 2</b> <i>Room 407</i>	
Rich	E	<b>SWS Philosophy H</b> <i>(Social Studies)</i> <i>Room 403</i>	<b>SWS Contemp US H</b> <i>(Social Studies)</i> <i>Room 403</i>	
	F			<b>SWS Town Meeting</b> <i>Room 403</i>
Steve	G			<b>SWS Chem 1 H</b> <i>Room 358</i>

**SWS CLASSES TAKE 2<sup>ND</sup> LUNCH**

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### **SWS ADMISSIONS: WRITTEN REFLECTION**

**In order to qualify for the lottery, you must bring this reflection already completed to the mandatory meeting on March 17, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in SWS, Room 403. This reflection will not be graded or affect your chances in the Lottery. You will read your paper aloud in a small group.**

In a short essay (part story, part reflection), please describe the most positive learning experience you have ever had. This could be in school or in another setting.

What was it like? Who was involved? Where was it? What were you learning? Bring all of this to life in your description.

Now reflect! What were the key factors that made it work for you? How does it show how you learn best?

If you feel that you have never had a very positive learning experience, please imagine what a good learning experience would look like to you, and write a description of that.

If you have not commented on the process of applying to SWS in your reflection, please comment on how the process itself has worked for you. Did it help you to decide if SWS is right for you? Do you have any suggestions for us? Write your thoughts in an additional paragraph.

Don't worry; what you write will not influence your standing in the SWS admissions process.

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**SWS ADMISSIONS: LOTTERY TIMELINE**

**During School Year 2011-2012  
For Admission Next Year 2012-2013**

SWS Admission Committee  
at Freshman Assembly  
T Block  
Tuesday February 7, 2012

Special Town Meeting  
(if you can't make an F Block Town Meeting)  
in Room 403  
X Block  
Thursday March 1, 2012

Last Day To Sign Up For The SWS Lottery  
(Sign up sheet is located at the SWS Office on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor)  
Friday March 9, 2012

Mandatory Meeting For All Applicants  
in Room 403  
X Block  
Thursday March 15, 2012

SWS Lottery Results Posted  
Friday March 30, 2012

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### **SWS ADMISSIONS:** **INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS**

Students join SWS for a variety of reasons. Students from all groups in the school, with different academic abilities and backgrounds, enter SWS.

SWS will be a good place for you if you want:

To be in a democracy:

- To help make the rules for the program
- To help decide what happens in class
- To be part of a community
- To serve on important committees

To have ownership of your classes:

- To speak in class (if you are shy we will help you)
- To learn from and about other students
- To be present every day
- To not expect the teacher to chase you
- To comment on other students' papers and ideas
- To express ideas in an accepting community
- To challenge yourself to learn for the sake of learning

When you come to SWS, you have more freedom and lots of benefits:

- A relaxed, fun atmosphere for learning
- Close relationships with teachers
- A close community of learners
- Responsibility for your own attendance and behavior
- Treatment as an equal individual
- English courses with sophomores, juniors, and seniors

You also have many responsibilities:

- Being an active engaged learner
- Taking the consequences of your choices
- Getting to school and classes on time
- Explaining your behavior (missed classes, failing grades) to your classmates and teachers
- Attending and voting in Town Meeting
- Working on committees to run the program
- Helping fellow students to succeed in school and life
- Keeping your parents informed of your progress

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**SWS ADMISSIONS: FIELD TRIP PERMISSION**

INSTRUCTIONS: Each student going on a field trip must have all teachers' signatures prior to going on field trip. RETURN THIS FORM TO SWS OFFICE ON DAY OF VISIT.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF FIELD TRIP:

Visit two SWS classes and Town Meeting for entry requirements for SWS.

*Dan Bresman*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Bresman  
Teacher Conducting Field Trip

Teachers releasing student please sign and check below.

Approve

Disapprove

A BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

B BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

C BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

D BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

E BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

F BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

G BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher comments:

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**SWS ADMISSIONS: SIGNATURE SHEET**

Students must visit one English class, another SWS class (not English) and the F-block Wednesday Town Meeting. There will be a special Town Meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2012 (X Block) for students without a free F2. We encourage students to visit our classes during their free blocks or study hall. Visits must be completed by X block on March 15, 2012, when there is a mandatory meeting for all applicants.

**BRING TO MANDATORY MEETING  
X Block MARCH 15, 2012 in Room 403**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
ID#

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year of Graduation

Parent Permission to Apply to SWS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent Name

To be in the Lottery, I have signed up and have attended:

\_\_\_\_\_ An SWS English Class (A – D Blocks)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Another SWS class (not English)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ A Town Meeting (F2 Wednesday)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ or Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup> (X Block)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature