



**2023-
2024**
CALENDAR



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Dear Students and Families,

Welcome back to another exciting year at Cooke School! We are looking forward to the start of a new chapter filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences, or as we call it, The Magic in the Mix!

As we embark on a new school year, we extend a warm welcome to returning students and new faces joining Cooke. We are thrilled to have each of you as part of our community. The primary goal of a Cooke education is to build independence from kindergarten through life. Our teachers incorporate multifaceted programming focused on strengths, interests, and the individual needs of students.

In the coming year, we are excited to introduce new programs and initiatives to enhance the learning experience. Our dedicated and passionate team of educators have been working diligently to develop a curriculum that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. We aim to prepare our students not only for academic success but also for success in life.

Parent involvement is essential to our school's success, and we encourage you to actively participate in your child's education. There will be numerous opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, school events, and volunteer activities, all of which contribute to a strong school community.

We look forward to an amazing year of growth, learning, and achievements. Let's embrace the challenges and celebrate the victories, together. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We are excited to see them thrive at Cooke School.

Here's to a successful and rewarding year ahead!

Warm regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Francis Tabone
Cooke Head of School



OUR *Mission:*

Cooke envisions a world in which all people with disabilities are included as valued members of their communities, leading independent and purposeful lives.


Cooke
School and Institute

**COOKE'S INGREDIENTS
FOR SUCCESS:**

Magic **IN THE MIX**

For nearly 40 years, **Cooke School** has been a thought leader in the world of special education. Our **recipe for success** and longevity is rooted in our commitment to our students' unique strengths and potential. We build on these strengths through innovative teaching based on best practice.



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Learn more about
Cooke School



 
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SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4 Labor Day SCHOOL CLOSED	5	6	7	8 Orientation/ Classroom Visits: All Sites 9:30am–11:00am (Optional)	9
10	11 First Day of School	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Yom Kippur SCHOOL CLOSED	26	27 Transitions Back-to-School Night In Person	28 K-12 (Madison Ave.) Back-to-School Night In Person	29	30

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SO, WHAT'S IN THE MIX?

THE BENEFITS OF A COOKE *Education*

The primary goal of a Cooke education is independence building—our commitment to our students, from kindergarten through life, is focused on students' strengths, interests and individual needs. Cooke programming incorporates a multifaceted combination of:

academics,

vocational training through internships and off-site education,

adaptive skills, and

therapeutic interventions.



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Learn more about a
Cooke education



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OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 Staff Professional Development NOON DISMISSAL	7
8	9 Indigenous People's Day SCHOOL CLOSED	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Upper School Halloween Dance	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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STRENGTHS-BASED *Academics*

We focus on teaching the literacy, math, and social studies skills necessary for functioning independently in academic and community environments.



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NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day Staff Professional Development NO STUDENTS	8 <i>Transitions</i> Post-Election Day Party	9 Family Conferences: In Person NOON DISMISSAL	10 Family Conferences: Virtual NO STUDENTS	11
12	13	14	15	16 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>Transitions</i> Potluck <i>Lower/Middle School</i> Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Break NOON DISMISSAL	23 Thanksgiving Break SCHOOL CLOSED	24 Thanksgiving Break SCHOOL CLOSED	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



VOCATIONAL TRAINING & *Internships*

At age 14, students begin to participate in paid **internships**. These experiences encourage students to develop essential **social skills** and appropriate **professional relationships** using what they learned in vocational readiness and technology classes.



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more about internships
at Cooke School




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DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1 Senior Ring Ceremony Staff Professional Development NOON DISMISSAL	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Upper School Winter Spectacular Transitions Holiday Party Winter Recess NOON DISMISSAL	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	WINTER RECESS—SCHOOL CLOSED					
	 #SupportCooke A year-end donation by December 31 qualifies as a tax-deductible contribution on your 2023 taxes.					

31

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ADAPTIVE *Skills*

Developmentally-appropriate lessons to strengthen skills for **daily living** are essential for our students to effectively navigate their homes, workplaces, and communities. As independence increases from early childhood through adulthood, these skills may include **basic self-care**, **travel training** (using mass transportation), **grocery shopping** (following a grocery list), **preparing meals** (using measuring tools) and **managing money** (opening a bank account).



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adaptive skills at Cooke



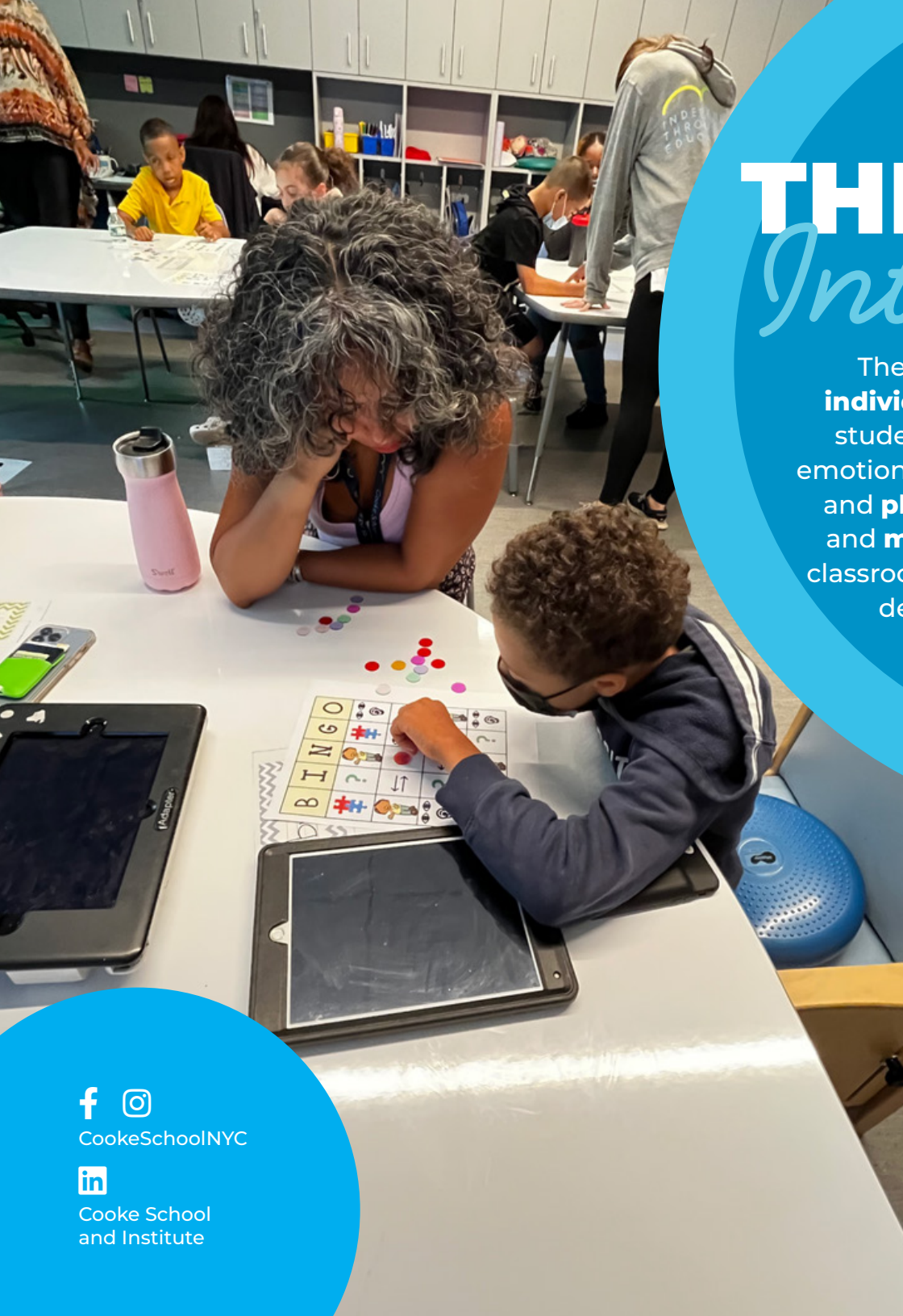
 
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JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 New Year's Day SCHOOL CLOSED	2 SCHOOL RESUMES	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day SCHOOL CLOSED	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	26	27
28	29 Staff Professional Development NO STUDENTS	30	31	1	2	3

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Therapeutic Interventions

Therapeutic interventions aim to provide **individualized support** and strategies to help students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. **Speech and language, occupational and physical therapies** along with **art, drama and music therapies** are integrated into daily classroom curricula that meet the academic and developmental goals of each student.



Use QR Code: Learn more about Cooke's approach to education



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FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	16 <i>Transitions</i> Culture Carnival	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		MID-WINTER RECESS—SCHOOL CLOSED				
25	26	27	28	29	1	2

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Cooke's Upper School

COOKE'S EQUATION FOR *Independence*

INCLUDES:

- Community Inclusion
- Problem Solving
- Educational Collaboration
- Family Involvement
- Self Advocacy



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MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	1 Staff Professional Development NOON DISMISSAL	2
3	4	5	6	7 Family Conferences: In Person NOON DISMISSAL	8 Family Conferences: Virtual NO STUDENTS	9
10	11	12	13	14 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday SCHOOL CLOSED	30
31						

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COMMUNITY *Inclusion*

In their years at Cooke, students learn the importance of **community engagement**. From practical skills like learning to cross the street and identifying neighborhood landmarks, to travel training, off-site education and internships, all of which lead to more meaningful engagement in the community.



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Cooke Transitions



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APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Easter Monday SCHOOL CLOSED	2	3	4	5 Upper School Spring Fling Staff Professional Development NOON DISMISSAL	6
7	8	9	10 Eid al Fitr SCHOOL CLOSED	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	SPRING RECESS—SCHOOL CLOSED					
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	SPRING RECESS—SCHOOL CLOSED					

PROBLEM *Solving*

Students are challenged to apply **critical thinking skills** to help determine appropriate steps for problem solving in real-world contexts. This is an essential aspect of their growth, **fostering independence** in the home, at work/internships and in community environments.



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Learn more about
Cooke's Lower School



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MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3 Staff Professional Development NOON DISMISSAL	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Cooke School Gala	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day SCHOOL CLOSED	28	29	30 Transitions Workshop All Families Invited	31	1

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EDUCATIONAL *Collaboration*

Guided by a **collaborative team** of highly **experienced educators** and **related service providers**, Cooke students receive instruction and learning experiences grounded in standards-based academics and best practices in special education.



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JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
 #SupportCooke A fiscal year-end donation by June 30 qualifies as a tax-deductible contribution on your 2024 taxes.						
2	3	4	5	6 11th/12th Grade Prom	7 Staff Professional Development NO STUDENTS	8
9	10 <i>Transitions</i> Graduation	11 8th Grade Ceremony	12 <i>Upper School</i> Graduation	13	14 Last Day of School NOON DISMISSAL	15
16	17 Eid al-Adha	18	19 Juneteenth	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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Use QR Code: Learn more about Cooke's Summer Academy

FAMILY *Involvement*

Parent/family engagement is a vital part of helping students reach their developmental goals. Through regular communication and collaboration with Cooke staff, parents and students receive **individualized and personalized support** which helps create a positive and effective learning environment.



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JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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SELF *Advocacy*

Cooke's **post-21 Alumni Services** includes a partnership with **SDMNY** (Supported Decision Making NY). A less restrictive alternative to guardianship, SDMNY **promotes autonomy** for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, empowering them to take an active role in making choices about their own lives. In this program, Cooke students and alumni develop self-advocacy skills to make their own decisions and enlist the help of others to support their decision making.



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Cooke's young adults



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AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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LOCATIONS

LOWER/MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL

1713 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10029

646.273.5555

schooladmin@cookeschool.org

TRANSITIONS

60 MacDougal Street
New York, NY 10012

646.273.5555 x6000

transitions@cookeschool.org

CENTRAL OFFICE/COOKE INSTITUTE

1713 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10029

646.273.5555

info@cookeschool.org



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