1. Inspecting the data

Photo by Jannis Lucas (https://unsplash.com/@jannis_lucas) on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com).

Every year, American high school students take SATs, which are standardized tests intended to measure literacy, numeracy, and writing skills. There are three sections - reading, math, and writing, each with a maximum score of 800 points. These tests are extremely important for students and colleges, as they play a pivotal role in the admissions process.

Analyzing the performance of schools is important for a variety of stakeholders, including policy and education professionals, researchers, government, and even parents considering which school their children should attend.

In this notebook, we will take a look at data on SATs across public schools in New York City. Our database contains a single table:

`schools`

column	type	description
`school_name`	`varchar`	Name of school
`borough`	`varchar`	Borough that the school is located in
`building_code`	`varchar`	Code for the building
`average_math`	`int`	Average math score for SATs
`average_reading`	`int`	Average reading score for SATs
`average_writing`	`int`	Average writing score for SATs
`percent_tested`	`numeric`	Percentage of students completing SATs

Let's familiarize ourselves with the data by taking a looking at the first few schools!

In [169]:

```
%%sql
postgresql:///schools

SELECT *
FROM schools
LIMIT 10;
```

```
10 rows affected.
```

Out[169]:

school_name	borough	building_code	average_math	average_reading	average_writing	per
New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math High School	Manhattan	M022	657	601	601	
Essex Street Academy	Manhattan	M445	395	411	387	
Lower Manhattan Arts Academy	Manhattan	M445	418	428	415	
High School for Dual Language and Asian Studies	Manhattan	M445	613	453	463	
Henry Street School for International Studies	Manhattan	M056	410	406	381	
Bard High School Early College	Manhattan	M097	634	641	639	
Urban Assembly Academy of Government and Law	Manhattan	M445	389	395	381	
Marta Valle High School	Manhattan	M025	438	413	394	
University Neighborhood High School	Manhattan	M446	437	355	352	
New Design High School	Manhattan	M445	381	396	372	

2. Finding missing values

It looks like the first school in our database had no data in the `percent_tested` column!

Let's identify how many schools have missing data for this column, indicating schools that did not report the percentage of students tested.

To understand whether this missing data problem is widespread in New York, we will also calculate the total number of schools in the database.

In [171]:

```
%%sql

-- Count rows with percent_tested missing and total number of schools

SELECT
    COUNT(school_name) - COUNT(percent_tested) AS num_tested_missing,
    COUNT(school_name) AS num_schools
FROM schools;
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
1 rows affected.
```

Out[171]:

num_tested_missing	num_schools
20	375

3. Schools by building code

There are 20 schools with missing data for `percent_tested`, which only makes up 5% of all rows in the database.

Now let's turn our attention to how many schools there are. When we displayed the first ten rows of the database, several had the same value in the `building_code` column, suggesting there are multiple schools based in the same location. Let's find out how many unique school locations exist in our database.

In [173]:

```
%%sql

-- Count the number of unique building_code values
SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT building_code) AS num_school_buildings
FROM schools
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
1 rows affected.
```

Out[173]:

num_school_buildings
233

4. Best schools for math

Out of 375 schools, only 233 (62%) have a unique `building_code`!

Now let's start our analysis of school performance. As each school reports individually, we will treat them this way rather than grouping them by `building_code`.

First, let's find all schools with an average math score of at least 80% (out of 800).

In [175]:

```
%%sql

-- Select school and average_math
-- Filter for average_math 640 or higher
-- Display from largest to smallest average_math

SELECT
    school_name,
    average_math
FROM schools
WHERE average_math >= 640
ORDER BY average_math DESC;
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
10 rows affected.
```

Out[175]:

school_name	average_math
Stuyvesant High School	754
Bronx High School of Science	714
Staten Island Technical High School	711
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	701
High School for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering at City College	683
Brooklyn Technical High School	682
Townsend Harris High School	680
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	669
New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math High School	657
Eleanor Roosevelt High School	641

5. Lowest reading score

Wow, there are only ten public schools in New York City with an average math score of at least 640!

Now let's look at the other end of the spectrum and find the single lowest score for reading. We will only select the score, not the school, to avoid naming and shaming!

In [177]:

```
%%sql

-- Find lowest average_reading
SELECT
    MIN(average_reading) AS lowest_reading
FROM schools;
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
1 rows affected.
```

Out[177]:

lowest_reading
302

6. Best writing school

The lowest average score for reading across schools in New York City is less than 40% of the total available points!

Now let's find the school with the highest average writing score.

In [179]:

```
%%sql

-- Find the top score for average_writing
-- Group the results by school
-- Sort by max_writing in descending order
-- Reduce output to one school


SELECT
    school_name,
    MAX(average_writing) AS max_writing
FROM schools
GROUP BY school_name
ORDER BY max_writing DESC
LIMIT 1;
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
1 rows affected.
```

Out[179]:

school_name	max_writing
Stuyvesant High School	693

7. Top 10 schools

An average writing score of 693 is pretty impressive!

This top writing score was at the same school that got the top math score, Stuyvesant High School. Stuyvesant is widely known as a perennial top school in New York.

What other schools are also excellent across the board? Let's look at scores across reading, writing, and math to find out.

In [181]:

```
%%sql

-- Calculate average_sat
-- Group by school_name
-- Sort by average_sat in descending order
-- Display the top ten results

SELECT
    school_name,
    SUM(average_math + average_reading + average_writing) AS average_sat
FROM schools
GROUP BY school_name
ORDER BY average_sat DESC
LIMIT 10;
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
10 rows affected.
```

Out[181]:

school_name	average_sat
Stuyvesant High School	2144
Staten Island Technical High School	2041
Bronx High School of Science	2041
High School of American Studies at Lehman College	2013
Townsend Harris High School	1981
Queens High School for the Sciences at York College	1947
Bard High School Early College	1914
Brooklyn Technical High School	1896
Eleanor Roosevelt High School	1889
High School for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering at City College	1889

8. Ranking boroughs

There are four schools with average SAT scores of over 2000! Now let's analyze performance by New York City borough.

We will build a query that calculates the number of schools and the average SAT score per borough!

In [183]:

```
%%sql

-- Select borough and a count of all schools, aliased as num_schools
-- Calculate the sum of average_math, average_reading, and average_writing, divided by a
-- Organize results by borough
-- Display by average_borough_sat in descending order

SELECT
    borough,
    COUNT(school_name) AS num_schools,
    SUM(average_math + average_reading + average_writing)/COUNT(school_name) AS average_b
FROM schools
GROUP BY borough
ORDER BY average_borough_sat DESC;
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
5 rows affected.
```

Out[183]:

borough	num_schools	average_borough_sat
Staten Island	10	1439
Queens	69	1345
Manhattan	89	1340
Brooklyn	109	1230
Bronx	98	1202

9. Brooklyn numbers

It appears that schools in Staten Island, on average, produce higher scores across all three categories. However, there are only 10 schools in Staten Island, compared to an average of 91 schools in the other four boroughs!

For our final query of the database, let's focus on Brooklyn, which has 109 schools. We wish to find the top five schools for math performance.

In [185]:

```
%%sql

-- Select school and average_math
-- Filter for schools in Brooklyn
-- Aggregate on school_name
-- Display results from highest average_math and restrict output to five rows


SELECT
    school_name,
    average_math
FROM schools
WHERE borough = 'Brooklyn'
GROUP BY school_name
ORDER BY average_math DESC
LIMIT 5;
```

```
 * postgresql:///schools
5 rows affected.
```

Out[185]:

school_name	average_math
Brooklyn Technical High School	682
Brooklyn Latin School	625
Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences	563
Millennium Brooklyn High School	553
Midwood High School	550