



BUSHWICK LEADERS'

HIGH SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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An Applicant's Brief Introduction To

BUSHWICK LEADERS' HIGH SCHOOL

Mission Statement

Bushwick Leaders' High School for Academic Excellence prepares ninth through twelfth grade students from the Bushwick Community, regardless of prior academic performance, to become active leaders with an emphasis on academics, college preparation and technology. In collaboration with East Brooklyn Congregations, parents, teachers, and the community, students will develop skills to become critical thinkers and problem solvers who will reach their highest potential enabling them to compete in the global economy. The school will take advantage of its small size to develop strong interpersonal relationships based on trust and shared high expectations for students.

Who Are We?

Bushwick Leaders' High School first opened its doors in the fall of 2003. It was the result of collaboration between the New York City Department of Education, East Brooklyn Congregations (a community-based organization that specializes in housing, public works, and educational projects) and Catherine Reilly, our principal. We began with just over a hundred students and a bare, cinderblock building. Since then, we have grown into a successful high school in a historic Brooklyn monument that endeavors to serve the students in the Bushwick community.

Bushwick Leaders' High School was designed to be a community school that addresses the specific needs of our students. Here are our most basic statistics:

- Our student population is currently at 450 students (58% female and 42% male).
- 82% of our students are Hispanic. 16% are African American.
- 90% of our students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.
- Roughly one-fourth of our students are receiving daily ESL pull-out services.
- Roughly one-sixth of our students are receiving special education services.

Academics

While we are a small school, we endeavor to offer many of the same academic opportunities enjoyed by our large school counterparts. Here is a preliminary list of our some of our course offerings for the fall:

Adv. Comp. Tech.	Comp. Math A	ESL (Levels 1-3)	Living Env. (Biology)	Spanish 1 Native
Advanced Visual Art	Comp. Math B	Geometry	Marketing	Spanish 3 Native
AP Spanish Lang.	Computer Tech.	Global History	Music Survey	Spanish 1 Non-Nat.
AVID Electives (9-11)	Dramatic Writing	Government	Pre-Algebra	Spanish 3 Non-Nat.
Chemistry	Earth Science	Honors American Lit.	Self-Cont. English	United States History
Choral Music	Economics	Instrumental Music	Self-Cont. Math	Visual Art
College Geometry	English (9-12)	Integrated Algebra	Self-Cont. Soc. Stud.	

PSAL Sports

Beginning in the Fall of 2007, we teamed up with our sister school, EBC Bushwick, to create a combined Junior Varsity and Varsity sports program. We currently have Girls and Boys Basketball, Baseball, Girls Volleyball, and Girls Tennis.

Advisory

Our school is built upon an advisory program. Each of our students is assigned an advisory class that is specific to grade level and gender. These students meet for a half period every day with an advisor, a teacher of their same gender. (The majority of our teachers *do* teach advisories as one of their five class assignments.) This class time is used to explore topics that are not typically seen inside the high school curriculum. Advisory is also the basic organizational structure of our school. When our school goes on trips, plans events or engages in community service, they do so by advisory. Advisors also serve as academic and personal mentors for their students. They tend to develop deep personal relationships with their advisory students and with their families.

Our Affiliated Organizations

Bushwick Leaders' High School has a deep relationship with several outside organizations. Each provides material support for our school community.

- **East Brooklyn Congregations** – EBC is the Brooklyn affiliate of Industrial Areas Foundation. It is a multi-denominational union of various congregations and community groups from all over Eastern Brooklyn. EBC was instrumental in the creation of our school and continues to be an active force in our school's development. Additionally, EBC trains many members of our school community in community activism. EBC also hosts many of its events at our school.
- **JPMorgan Chase** – Frank Basignano, the Chief Administrator of JPMorgan Chase was our “Principal for a Day” in the fall of 2006. Since then, he has committed a wealth of his corporation's resources to the development of our school community. JPMorgan has been instrumental in modernizing our school's computer technology, educating our parents and students about finance, and helping us to plan for and implement a grander vision for our school's future.
- **Irondale Theatre Ensemble** and **Theatre Development Fund** – The Irondale Project is an experimental theater ensemble with roots in improvisation, movement work, and collaborative writing techniques. Theatre Development Fund (TDF) is a non-profit service organization for the theatre arts. They each provide high quality teacher artists who work in collaboration with our classroom teachers, provide professional development, and fund theatrical field trips.
- **AVID** – Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a college preparatory program for students in the middle who are often economically disadvantaged and underachieving. It enables disadvantaged secondary students to succeed in rigorous curricula, enter mainstream activities in school, and increase their opportunities to enroll in four-year colleges.

Academic Intervention

Unlike some small schools, Bushwick Leaders' High School does not selectively recruit and enroll the brightest and most self-motivated students from around New York City. Rather, we endeavor to serve *all* the students of Bushwick and its surrounding communities, regardless of their prior academic performance. We do so by providing multi-tiered academic intervention. This includes:

- Afternoon and Saturday classes for students to recover missed credit. These are taught on-site by Bushwick Leaders' teachers who volunteer and are paid overtime.
- Regents Preparatory classes taught within the instructional day.
- After school tutorials for Regents and RCT preparation
- Deeply-coordinated ESL and Special Education instruction using push-in, pull-out, collaborative team teacher, and self-contained models.

Join Us!

We're looking for a handful of creative, enthusiastic people to join our staff and help us continue our mission toward building an even better school for the Bushwick community.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bushwickleaders.org or contact Stephanie Innow by email at sihnow@schools.nyc.gov.