



Alexine Fenty School

# Mission

P.S. 139 is a nurturing environment: a community where all children strive for high standards and develop a love for learning and teamwork.

# Who We Are

**Mary McDonald** - Principal

**Megan Demarkis** - Parent Coordinator

**Maggie Moon** - AP Pre-K to Grade 1

**Alison Becker** - AP Grades 2 & 3

**JoAnna Spanos** - AP Grades 4 & 5

**Toanna Barker** - School Guidance Counselor

**John Dufour** - School Guidance Counselor

**Megan Jonynas** - Enrichment Coordinator etc!

# Race and Equity Vision

We are educators and staff of PS 139 who seek to interrupt, disrupt, and dismantle racism, bigotry, and prejudice. We place racial equity at the forefront of our work, but also strive to uphold diversity throughout the school, including recognizing the intersectional nature of our diverse identities. The definition of diversity includes: Socio-economic, Region, Ability, Gender, Race, Sexual Orientation, Language, Age, and Religion. We define racial equity as the systematic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities, processes, and outcomes for all of our students and families, and we work to advance racial equity through education, self-reflection, discussion, curriculum analysis, and leadership development.

# Core Values

BE YOUR BEST SELF.  
DO YOUR BEST WORK.  
BE A TEAM PLAYER.

# PS 139:

A virtual peek inside some of our  
classrooms and to meet some of  
our staff! We hope you will see  
how special our school is :)

THANK YOU TO SOREN BAILEY for donating his expert editing skills to make this short film possible! [soren.bailey@gmail.com](mailto:soren.bailey@gmail.com)

# PS 139 "Snapshot"

- Last year 986 students attended PS 139 in Grades Pre-K to Grade 5
- We have four Pre-K classes - one is Dual Language
- We offer General Education, Integrated Collaborative Teaching (ICT), Self Contained and Dual Language (Spanish/English) classes.
- 30% of our students have special needs and 30% of our students are learning English as a new language
- 75% of our families are at the poverty line which designates us as a Title I School eligible for federal funding for special programs and supports
- In a typical year, we have over 700 children enrolled in enrichment programs before and after school.
- During the regular school day, students receive instruction in Gardening, Music, Chess, Phys-Ed, Science and Visual Arts from certified specialists
- Pre-K is 18 students per class. (Kinder is 25 students; 32 students per class in Grades 1-5)

# Instructional Programs

- ICT: A Special Education certified teacher collaborates with a General Education teacher to facilitate a classroom where 40% of the children have special IEPs (Individualized Education Program)
- General Education: One certified teacher facilitates a class of heterogeneous learners
- Dual Language: 50% spanish dominant students and 50% english dominant students are taught by a teacher certified in bilingual instruction. All subjects are taught in both languages using an immersive “rollercoaster” model
- Self-Contained: 12 students with IEPs are taught by a Special Education teacher and a dedicated paraprofessional.



# Staff

- There are three Assistant Principals, an enrichment coordinator, a parent coordinator and two School Counselors who partner closely to support each of our three grade level teams (PreK-1, 2-3, 4-5).
- All Classroom Teachers are certified. Most have more than five years experience. All teachers are devoted professionals.
- A full team of Paraprofessionals and School Aides support students and are well trained. Many staff are bilingual or trilingual.
- Specialists in Math, Reading Rescue, OT, PT, Speech, Counseling and ENL provide additional support to students.

# School Culture

- Equity and inclusion in all aspects of our school
- We are a Responsive Classroom school. Teachers build a learning environment that encourages social/emotional growth for all children. Every day begins with a “Morning Meeting” where classmates build relationships and resolve problems with creative activities and discussions
- In a typical year, we have monthly events and celebrations that bring families together and celebrate student learning.
- Families are always welcome at our school. Family volunteers are a critical part of our identity and a key reason why our school works!

# What has been different this year?

***We were able to adapt and maintain our school culture by learning new ways to provide support and resources:***

- All staff had intensive PD in remote learning platforms
- Teachers focused explicitly on emotional support and social skill building
- Principal holds bi-monthly virtual Family Engagement Zoom meetings for families with language interpretation
- Volunteer parents and staff distributed prepared food, groceries and coats to families in need monthly
- The PA started a crisis fund for families
- The school ordered back up devices for families and volunteer parents started a corps of multilingual tech volunteers to support families
- Parent coordinator, school counselors and APs led expert workshops in health, housing, mindful parenting, supporting remote learning and securing benefits

# Early Childhood Enrollment

- Enrollment decisions are made by the DOE enrollment office. Application is online at [www.myschools.nyc](http://www.myschools.nyc). Deadline is April 7th.

***Pre-K: One teacher and one paraprofessional per class***

We have four (4) Pre-K classes, with 18 children per class. One class is Dual Language and the other classes are General Education

***Zoning does not apply***

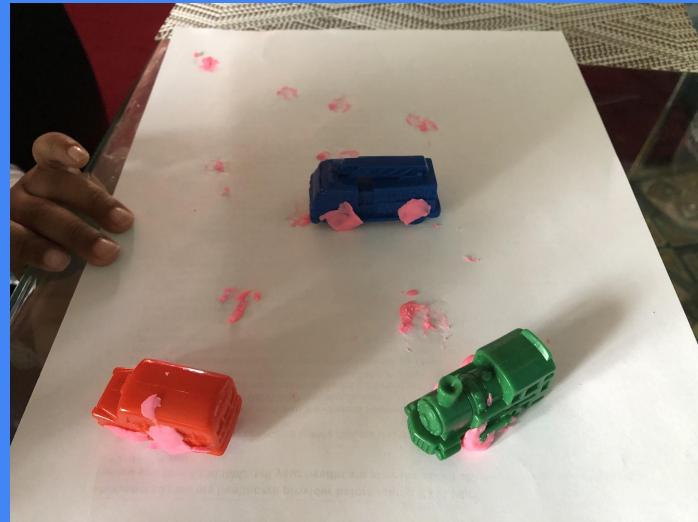
# Early Childhood

- Curricular and pedagogical emphasis is on learning through play.
  - Socialization
  - School readiness
  - Independence and identity building
- After school / weekend activities are suggested to build early literacy skills and a love of learning.

# Pre-K Building Blocks and Integrated Curriculum

- Building Blocks math: New curriculum started in 19-20 SY
  - Math Trajectories
  - Language Development
  - Math in our Everyday Lives
- Pre-K Thematic Units
  - For example: “All About Us” & “Transportation”

***“Wheels on the Bus” art***



# Pre-K (A Day in the Life)

- 8:10 Morning Meeting & Breakfast (SEL skills)
- 9:20 Outdoor Play (free time and collaborative games)
- 10:05 Centers: exploring themes through blocks, dramatic play, art, library and more
- 11:40 Lunch in the classroom
- 12:30 Read Aloud or other whole group activity and more Centers
- 1:00 Nap Time
- 1:45 Outdoor Play and Pack-Up
- 2:30 Dismissal







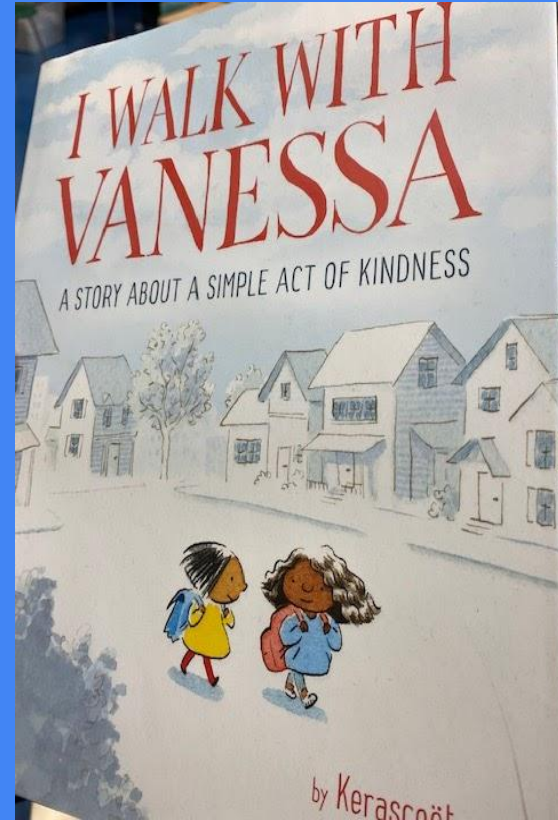


# Literacy Instruction

We are a model school associated with Teachers College Reading & Writing Project from Columbia University. The model focuses on developing strong habits in reading and writing with lots of time exploring reading strategies by reading excellent books, having book discussions, and practicing good habits in early writing opportunities. The model also supports a systematic approach to Phonics instruction for students in Grades K-2, with the building of early literacy skills in Pre-K

# The Power of Literature

We believe in the power of literature. We read aloud to our students in each grade level, and guide them in conversations, where they learn to listen and respond to one another, as well as to hold tight to the text in order to use evidence to support their ideas and arguments. We also believe that our rich classroom libraries must reflect the diverse array of students we have, in order to serve as both ***windows*** and ***mirrors*** and that books can teach us how to be in the world.



# Math Instruction

PS 139 follows ***Building Blocks*** in Pre-K and ***Illustrative Math*** in Grades K-5


Students develop logical thinking and math reasoning through games and problem solving. Math is contextualized in real world situations. We believe that all learners can see themselves as mathematicians using real tools to solve real problems.



# Math Instruction continued...

\*We use [ST Math](#) and give students in Grades K-5 full access to the technology for game playing and puzzle-solving (no language necessary)!

\*We partner with [Reimagined](#) for supplemental and ongoing Professional Development with our staff.



# Arts Instruction

All students have instruction during the school day in visual arts and music from certified specialists. They also have the chance to participate in more arts programming by choice before, during and after school in dance, band, orchestra, theater, visual arts and chorus. All children have the opportunity to perform on stage (or via Zoom!) during the year as an exercise in building community and self-confidence.

# Clubs

Clubs are designed yearly, based on youth interest and are entirely free. They are led by teachers and specialists and run for approximately 6-8 weeks for an hour after school. This year's offerings include Chess, Art, Band, Orchestra, Sports, Technology, Legos and News/Media...

These programs are funded co-jointly with the Parent Association.

# After School Programs\*

**CAMBA** provides **DAILY** and **FREE** homework help, sports, crafts and literacy programming until 5:30pm for 240 income eligible children in Grades K-5.

**Kids Orbit** provides play-based programming until 6pm to children in Grades Pre-K- 5 for a fee.

**Trailblazers** provides environmental education and collaborative play for a sliding scale fee until 5:45pm. Grades PK-5

**Ian West Chess Academies** runs a competitive chess club and a chess for all program until 5pm, two days a week.

**America Scores** runs a soccer and writing program for two 10 week sessions in Grades 1-5.

***\*All of these programs are currently running with COVID related modifications***



# Family Workshops

At least once a month we have a family workshop led by specialists on topics that range from Public Health to Middle School Choice, from Mindful Parenting to Housing Rights.

In a typical year we have classes for adults in ESL High School Equivalency on site.

We post workshop opportunities on neighborhood Facebook groups as well.

# Community Partnerships

We are proud to partner with:

NY/NICE, CAMBA, Brooklyn Center for Families in Crisis, Brooklyn Conservatory, Marquis Studios, Brooklyn Steppers, Arab American Family Support Center, IncludeNYC, Trail Blazers, America Scores, Mixteca, Make the Road and many more!

# Getting Involved

**All families are encouraged to volunteer!**

Families can join the Parent's Association (501c3), Language Liaison Group, School Leadership Team or Title I PAC. Families help raise funds, help in the office, support new capital initiatives, plan field trips, interpret at meetings, translate fliers, enter data, bake/cook/craft, plan and run events, help out at lunchtime and lead small group activities in classrooms (\*some only in a typical year). There really is something for everyone!

# Staying Informed

We use the Remind App, FaceBook, the Weekly Round Up (a weekly digital newsletter) and old fashioned fliers.

We have designated Language Liaisons who serve parents in Urdu, Bengali, Spanish and Kreyol during workshops and events.

# Questions & Answers

# Contact Us!

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