



Remote Learning Newsletter

District 3

"PROMISING PRACTICES"



Dear D3 Community,

I hope you are all well and taking good care of yourselves during this time. Spring has surely sprung, and the beautiful weather, greenery, and flowers are reminders that better days lie ahead for us all. We must forge a path onward and upward with wisdom and vigilance, staying true to our collective commitment to one another and our community. I am thrilled to share Volume 2 of our Remote Learning Newsletter, and the amazing practices happening across District 3 Schools. Our principals, AP's, teachers, and staff members remain steadfast with their commitment to our students and families. I am thrilled to report that over 90% of our D3 students have been logging on each day to learn over the past two weeks. Our educators are leading this charge through collaborating on various modes of technology and instructional practices that are truly innovative and engaging for our scholars. I am so proud of our compassionate leaders and educators who are finding ways to obliterate the digital divide and focus on equity during these difficult times. Thank you to all the stakeholders for coming together to educate our children during these times. We could not do this work without our parents, teachers, AP's, principals, staff members, and of course, our amazing students.

All my best.

Christine Loughlin,
Superintendent

"Distance learning requires us to be humans in an inhuman situation. We can't simply provide lessons and assessments; we have to bridge this digital gap and carry some sense of humor, and goodwill and community through the cold wiring. If we've succeeded in even a modicum of that task, we owe that to the success in the months prior when we created something special. A school family. A community that could rely on itself, that could flourish even in isolation."

~Daniel Parsons

"I See Education and Humanity in 'Full Bloom' in My Covid-19 Classroom," Education Gadfly, April 24, 2020



TEACHER APPRECIATION 2020

In District 3, we love our Teachers! While we can't physically be in their classrooms to witness their hard work and dedication, we see it through our new remote learning platforms everyday. To recognize the amazing educators in our schools, who are going above and beyond to ensure all students are actively engaged and learning, the District 3 and Manhattan BCO team came together (remotely) to show that "District 3 teachers innovate, create and care. We appreciate you! Thank you!"

You can find this post and more on District 3's *Twitter* by following us: **@NycDistrict3**



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

03M199

P.S. 199 Jessie Isador Straus School

The ritual of Community Circle Time has not been forgone due to the Remote Learning transition. Ms. Sheer's meeting provides an opportunity for learners to meet and build as a class community virtually. Meetings are thoroughly planned prior and each student has an opportunity to participate; either verbally, using sign language to show agreement with each other, or by including student comments gathered and posted by Ms. Sheer on a chart. By displaying her slides, Ms. Sheer's students excitedly share their contribution to the themed meetings, proclaiming what their favorite sports team is. Students also share and discuss their feelings. Additionally, a class photo was taken and shared with the class. This impacts students by providing a safe space to continue the practice of class community circles.



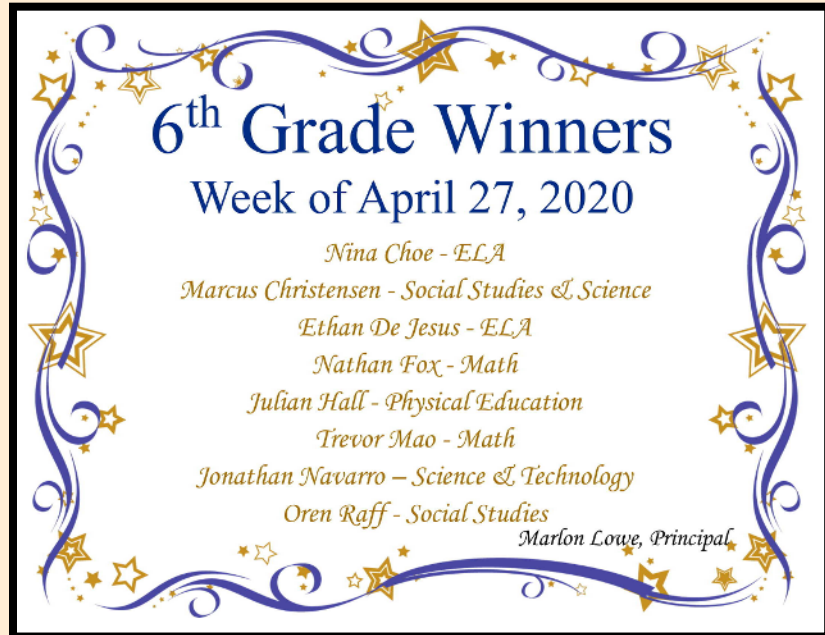


STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

03M862

Mott Hall II

Mott Hall II enjoys the diversity and accomplishments of our scholars. Throughout the year, we celebrate our Scholars of the Week every Monday, highlighting exceptional achievements. These achievements range from acts of kindness, improvement in academic learning, supporting another student, to maximizing their effort overall. We want this practice of celebrating success to continue during remote learning. On Tuesday, May 5, we held our first virtual Scholar of the Week ceremony. Our teachers and administration invited parents and students to celebrate our Scholars of the Week. We hosted over 60 participants in the ceremony, and students were able to hear directly from their teachers why they received the reward. It was also a great way to join in community after so much time apart.





INNOVATIVE USE OF PLATFORM

03M258

M.S. 258 Community Action School

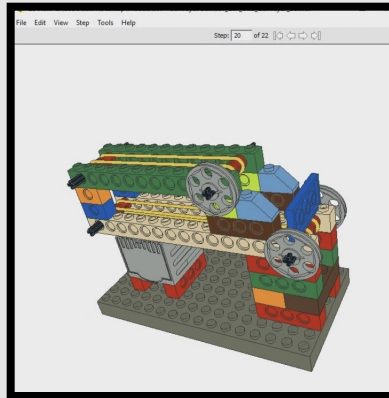
Community Action School is proud to showcase "virtual clubs" via a digital format so scholars can continue engaging in extra-curricular interests in a remote setting. Teachers and school-based organizations lead our virtual clubs:

Martial Arts: This virtual program, led by C.A.R.E. Organization's Karate sensei Cheops Allah, fosters youth development by focusing on confidence building, character reinforcement, physical discipline, and self-esteem in our students.

Robotics: The goal of this virtual club is to spark the interest of students in the STEM fields, by providing them with hands-on, project-based learning in using Lego Robotics and drone operating via learning kits mailed to families.

Chorus: Ms. Manzano teaches students the fundamentals of music and performance practices through singing musical numbers.

Cheer: Taught virtually by experienced College cheerleader Chinique Joseph, the cheer sessions consist of workouts that include jumping jacks, squats, crunches, planks, push ups and more. Dance is also a component of this club.



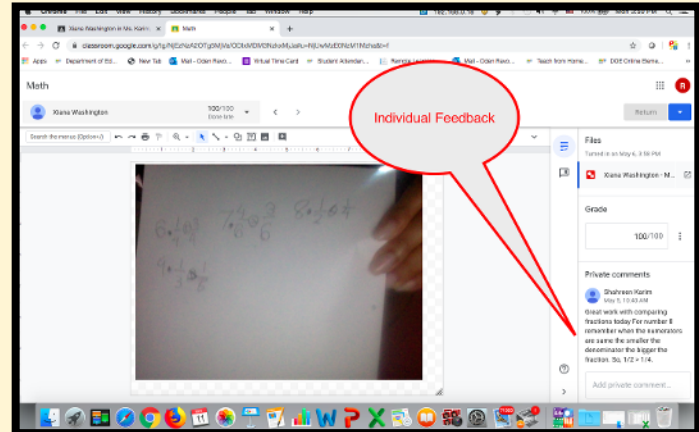
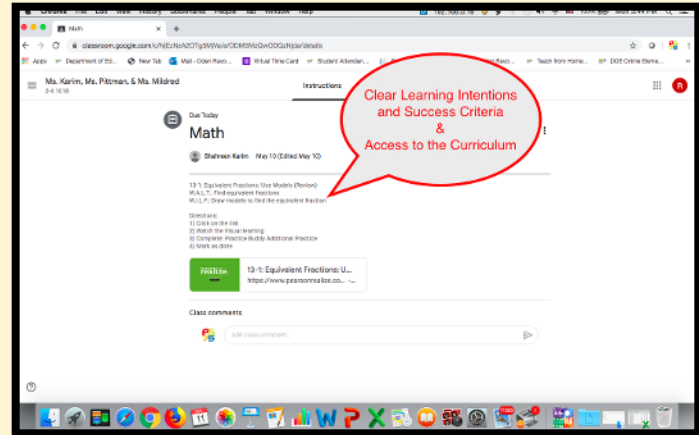


FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK

03M075

P.S. 75 Emily Dickinson

Ms. Karim, Ms. Pittman, Ms. Hernandez and para professionals continue to meet the needs of their students by providing a variety of supports. In Grades 2-4, 12:1:1 bridge class, learning intentions and success criteria are included in their daily lessons and teaching videos are posted to provide access to important skills and concepts. As students submit their assignments, Ms. Karim offers targeted feedback to support the learning process. Additionally, this information is utilized to create small groups and provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of the students.





SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING

03M421

West Prep Academy

Covid 19 has changed how we do many things in our school, but it won't stop a four year tradition at West Prep. When Councilman Mark Levine approached Principal Carland Washington about being a pilot school in the "Project Witness" program created by the Jewish newspaper Hamoida, he accepted the offer, making West Prep Academy one of the first public schools to participate. The goal of this program is to connect schools with survivors of the Holocaust who tell their personal stories to the next generation. As the program grew in popularity, the staff at West Prep adapted their curriculum to include a work of literature read on every grade level that tells the story of the Holocaust. Sixth grade read **Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry, Seventh grade read **Night** by Elie Weisel and Eight grade read **The Boy in the Striped**

reality. For the past 4 years, Project Witness sends us curriculum on one particular survivor who the students learn about over the course of 3-4 days as a part of their World War II/Holocaust unit. That person joins us for an assembly as the culminating event. We were scheduled to have another survivor join us March 17, but of course that was canceled. Project Witness reached out to me after finding Dr. Katz and asked if we could do a virtual meeting." said Principal Washington. Dr. Maurice Katz, a 96 year old survivor of the Holocaust, detailed his story to the Middle School students. They were also able to ask him pre-written questions directly after his presentation. Even through the Zoom platform, Dr. Katz engaged the students with his honesty and left them with the message of love and compassion that we must have for our neighbors. Students must rise up against hate because, as Dr. Katz says, "Hate will destroy you - hate will multiply." The Zoom Meeting was expertly moderated by Mr. C. Kellogg, a 2nd year teacher in our school community.



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING

03M421 West Prep Academy





D3 Graduate Spotlight

JUST SAM

2020 American Idol Winner

It is not everyday that a former D3 Student takes national center stage, but that is *Just* what happened when Samantha Diaz, known as *JUST SAM*, became the winner of American Idol on May 18th. Sam attended 03M075 - The Emily Dickinson Elementary School. When Assistant Principal Ravonda Oden saw the previews for the show, she realized she recognized a familiar face. She confirmed her suspicions with Eileen Shostack, a retired teacher and current P.S. 75 volunteer. Ms. Shostack taught Sam in the fifth grade! Ms. Shostack remembers Sam as a quick learner, with a lot of energy who loved to sing in class. Nurtured by a curriculum that values the arts, P.S. 75 provided an excellent foundation for this burgeoning star. As American Idol voting began, AP Oden got out her Rolodex and rallied the P.S. 75 and District 3 Community to vote!



The 18th winner of "American Idol," Just Sam, Samantha Diaz, 21, from Harlem, New York

Proof that even during a pandemic, the love and support we give our students extends past their graduation. Congratulations to JUST SAM and the entire P.S. 75 Community for being a part of the big win! May the inspiring anthem "Rise Up" by Andra Day she sang in the finale give us all hope for our future.

YouTube Video:

[JUST SAM Performs "Rise Up" by Andra Day American Idol 2020 Finale](#)



Family Resources

Just for Fun / Study Break Resources:

[The Big Apple Circus](#)

[Disney Now](#)

[Great Wolf Lodge](#)

[Play 800+ board games online for free](#)

[Hogwarts Digital Escape Room](#)

[Broadway Show Recordings](#)

[Ride Disney attractions virtually](#)

[Google National Parks Virtual Tours](#)

[Learn In Color](#)

[Storyline Online](#)

For the full list of community and educational resources for students and their families, please click on the link below:

District 3 Remote Learning Family Resources

NYC/Local-based Resources

[NYC Parks@Home](#)

[GetFoodNYC](#)

[United Way NYC](#)

[Access HRA](#)

[New York Public Library Tutoring](#)

[You can now download over 300,000 books from the NYPL for free](#)

Covid -19 Supports & Resources

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[FAQ on Coronavirus – COVID-19](#)

[DOE Remote Learning Guidance](#)

[Supporting Multilingual Learners/English Learners](#)