



Queens High School Of Teaching

Personalized Learning Environments

Case Study

Different by Design

The Queens High School of Teaching develops diverse learners who are prepared to become leaders and teachers in their communities and productive members of a global society.

In 2003, The New York Department of Education partnered with The Institute of Student Achievement (ISA) to design and develop a new, achievement focused, college-preparatory high school in the neighborhood of Queens. Utilizing ISA's systematic approach to new school development, Queens High School of Teaching (QHST) opened its doors and today proudly serves a total of 1,200 students, divided into three small learning communities of 400 students each.

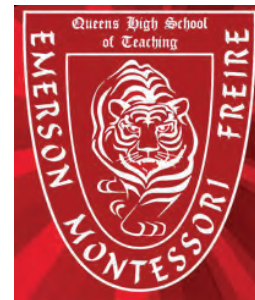
Each small learning community is named after an educator with a transformative approach to education — Emerson, Friere, and Montessori and has a dedicated base of students and teachers as well as their own assistant principal and counselor.

Emerson

The Emerson Community, named after the American philosopher, essayist, and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, is committed to helping their students develop the academic skills, habits of mind, and habits of work needed to navigate the complex society in which they live. The teachers and staff of Emerson are pioneers, always looking for unique ways to present enrichment opportunities to their students. Examples include the creation of an individualized program for seniors, theme-based advisories, and collaborations with outside organizations including Young Audiences New York.

Friere

The Freire Community, named after the Brazilian educator, philosopher, and activist Paulo Freire, seeks to effect positive change. The teachers are deeply committed to academic excellence, with a strong emphasis on College Readiness that can be witnessed across all subject areas and curriculum. Grade Level Teams host academic competitions to get the students prepared for their PSAT's and SAT's. The teachers and staff provide a number of opportunities for families to engage in the community including Freire Family Fun Night, Freire Family Curriculum Day, and Career Day. faculty, the surrounding community, community-based organizations and local junior high schools, are key to continuously achieving its mission.



"We pride ourselves in our ability to provide a high level education for all students as evidenced by the top high school graduation rate in District 26. The Queens High School of Teaching has developed a reputation as a high-achieving, high-performing and inclusive school."

— Jae Cho, Principal

By The Numbers

91%

4-Year Graduation Rate

93%

Attendance Rate

90%

College Attendance Rate

Montessori

The Montessori Community, named after the Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori, is committed to developing diverse learners who are prepared to become leaders and teachers in their communities, and productive, effective members of a global society. Montessori provides a framework where students are encouraged to perform to their highest potential through differentiated instruction, student-centered and cooperative classrooms, and instilling a school-wide value system that creates an inclusive environment and promotes the ethical and moral development of the students. Through distributive leadership, students, staff, parents and other stakeholders fully participate in the teaching and learning process, while continuously reflecting, assessing and modifying practices.

Promoting College Readiness

QHST organizes the student population into heterogeneous small learning communities (SLCs) to create an inclusive environment where students are encouraged to become lifelong learners. Building relationships within a rigorous college preparatory instructional community is the foundation of their approach. Students and teachers remain in the same small learning community throughout their matriculation, fostering strong relationships and bonds that result in high levels of student performance and achievement.

Collaboration between ISA coaches, teachers, counselors, and parents plays a vital role in ensuring that all students have learning experiences that prepare them for success in college and career. Recognizing that effective teaching and learning are at the core of student achievement, ISA coaches work hand-in-hand with teachers and counselors to develop a project-based inquiry curriculum which engages students and arms them with the skills needed for college. Teachers meet regularly to discuss the strengths and needs of individual students, share best practices, and develop SLC plans. Parents are regularly involved in one-on-one discussions with their child's teachers and counselors as well as the college-readiness activities provided by the school.

Involvement and Connectedness

QHST provides extensive opportunities for student involvement through a wide-variety of extracurricular programs. Participation in such programs has been shown to improve student connectedness to school – a contributing factor to student success in the classroom. QHST provides over 27 sports teams, 25 social clubs, a Summer Program and extensive weekend programs. In addition to extra-curricular activities, QHST provides three programs focused on preparing students for college. The College Now program acquaints students with the demands of college life, offers ways to improve high school performance, and provides a head start on college through free academic courses. The Bridge to College program assists students in navigating a successful transition to college by pairing the student with an alumni coach to help them through the transition process, including registering for classes and getting set up in housing.

Sharing Success

QHST has received 2 consecutive A's for student performance on the New York Department of Education Progress Report, a grade based on how many students are graduating, and the types of diplomas they earn. Alumni have been accepted into top colleges and universities such as Georgetown, Brown University, Columbia, University of Virginia and WestPoint.

"I talk to my English teacher almost every day. QHST teachers take time to get to know students as individuals. They care about students and their well-being. Everybody matters"

— Brandon Baiden, 2008

Special Education

QHST is a local and nation model for full special education inclusion. Every grade in each of the three SLCs has special education teachers who co-teach in the core content areas.

20%

Of Students Have
Special Needs

80%

Graduation Rate

Contact ISA

(516) 812-6700

info@isa-ed.ets.org

www.studentachievement.org



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