

2025-26 Parent Newsletter #7

Celebrate National Poetry Month

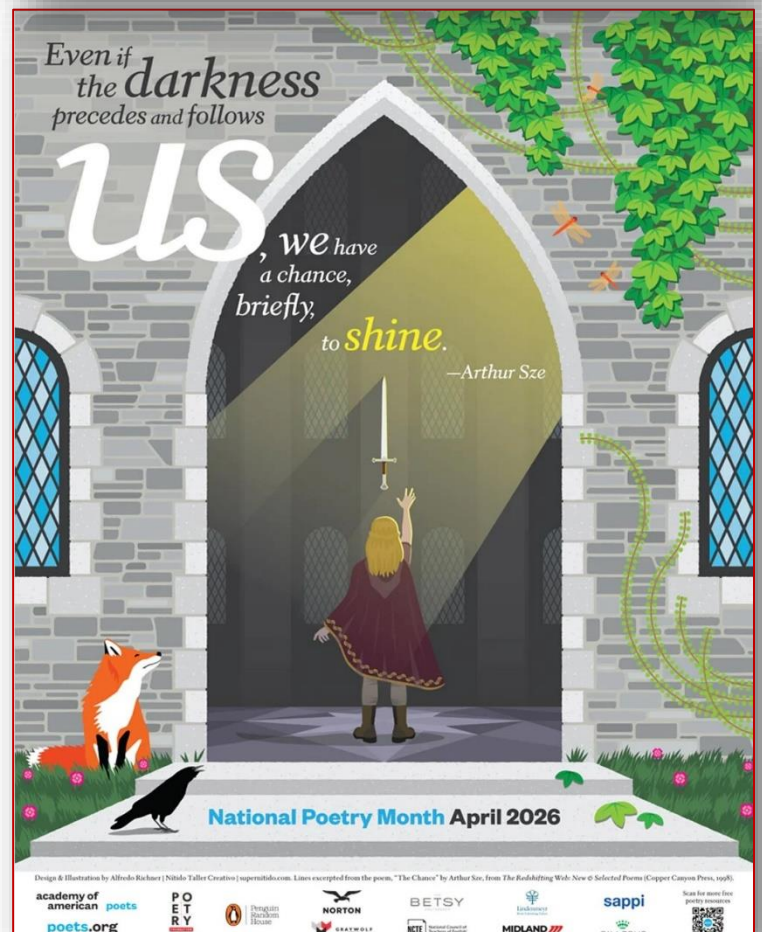
Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month is a special occasion that celebrates poets' integral role in our culture and that poetry matters. Over the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, families, and—of course—poets, marking poetry's important place in our lives.

How to Get Involved

Thanks in part to our [National Poetry Month partners and sponsors](#), each April the Academy is able to offer activities, initiatives, and resources so that anyone can join the celebration:

- Display the official [National Poetry Month poster](#)
- Peruse thirty years of National Poetry Month posters on our [new archive page](#).
- [Get inspiration](#) for celebrating at home, online, and in the classroom
- Attend the [Poetry & the Creative Mind free virtual gala](#) on April 28, 2026
- Find and share National Poetry Month events on the [Poetry Near You calendar](#)
- Encourage students in grades five through twelve to participate in the [Dear Poet Project](#)
- [Sign up for Poem-a-Day](#), curated in April by [Dorianne Laux](#), and enjoy a free daily poem in your inbox
- Participate in thousands of celebrations taking place on social media with the official hashtag **#NationalPoetryMonth**.
- Follow the Academy of American Poets (@POETSorg) on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#), and [X](#) for free poetry resources and poems to reshare throughout April
- Share a **#PocketPoem** on [Poem in Your Pocket Day](#), April 30, 2026
- [Support poets and poetry with a donation today](#)
- Add the official [National Poetry Month logo](#) to your events.

April is
Poetry
National Poetry
Month



Announcements

From the counseling department:



- ❖ **1st period Class begins at 8:20 A.M.** Students need to arrive to school prior to 8:20 AM and on time regularly so they are able to effectively engage in their first period lesson. Lateness adversely impacts a student's academic performance. **The school day ends at 2:40 P.M.**
- ❖ **If your child is or will be absent**, please contact Ms. Garcia (9-10th Grade Students) at ext. 5052 or email at NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov ; Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12th Grade Students) at ext. 5091 or via email at NVega11@schools.nyc.gov ; or Ms. Bernabel, Parent Coordinator, at ext. 1012 or email at ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov . **Please be sure to send an excuse note for your child's absence and/or a doctor's note if your child has a medical appointment.**
 - Please ensure that your child's medical documents or any other important documents are updated and we have updated copies.
- ❖ **Please keep track of your child's academic progress, grades, and attendance in their classes through the SyncGrades website.** Please be sure that your child's NYC Student Email account is updated. If you would like to schedule meetings with teachers on Tuesdays, please contact your child's School Counselor.
- ❖ **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**
 - Wednesday, April 2 – Friday, April 10th : School Closed, Spring Break
 - Tuesday, April 21st: CUNY Hunter College Tour Trip
 - Monday, May 4 – Friday, May 8th: NYSESLAT Exam for ENL Students
 - Thursday, May 7th: Marking Period 2 Ends
 - Friday, May 22nd – College Tour Trip to Adelphi University
 - Advanced Placement Exams:

Week 1	Morning 8 a.m. Local Time	Afternoon 12 p.m. Local Time
Monday, May 4, 2026		Microeconomics
Tuesday, May 5, 2026		
Wednesday, May 6, 2026	English Literature and Composition	
Thursday, May 7, 2026	World History: Modern	African American Studies Statistics
Friday, May 8, 2026	United States History	Macroeconomics

Week 2	Morning 8 a.m. Local Time	Afternoon 12 p.m. Local Time
Monday, May 11, 2026		
Tuesday, May 12, 2026		Japanese Language and Culture Psychology
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	English Language and Composition	Spanish Literature and Culture
Thursday, May 14, 2026		Computer Science Principles
Friday, May 15, 2026	Environmental Science	

- ❖ **COLLEGE NOW** – If you are interested in having your 11th or 12th grader take FREE College courses while in high school through the City University of New York Colleges/Universities, please contact Mrs. Vega-Beltran. This is a great opportunity for your child to have those course credits apply to their College Degree for FREE!
- ❖ In order to maintain a positive learning environment, it is **expected that students dress in a professional manner.** **We expect students to be dressed appropriately** to ensure safety and to keep the focus on teaching and learning. **We would like all parents and guardians to remind students of proper dress protocols on campus.**
Prohibited forms of dress at school include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Clothing that contains references to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, racism, or gang-affiliation.
 - 2) Revealing clothing that does not provide coverage of torso, undergarments, and private body parts, including see-through garments of any kind.
 - a. Cut off shorts or short shorts are also not permitted.
 - 3) Sunglasses while indoors.**If you need assistance providing your child clothing, please contact your child's counselor.**
- ❖ **Students are NOT ALLOWED TO USE CELL PHONES DURING SCHOOL HOURS. This includes iPads, Apple MacBook, Smart watches or any non-DOE issued electronic device.** They must keep their phones locked in their yonder pouch. **In case of an emergency, please call the school to contact your child and students can use a school office phone to contact their parent/guardian.**
- ❖ **12th GRADE SENIOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Please work closely with your senior child this school year to discuss their post-secondary options (plans after high school). They will need your support and encouragement when applying to college/university, trade school, military, and/or financial aid/scholarships. Please look out for future

communication regarding college trips, workshops, financial aid, and important deadlines.

- ❖ **CATCH and ELEVATE** – community based organizations, will be providing in class workshops to students of various grade levels regarding making positive choices for healthier lifestyles. This health education program will provide various workshops throughout the semester.
 - Health Service Fridays in Room 108
- ❖ **Please have your child meet for one on one academic/personal progress meetings with their counselor immediately:** Ms. Garcia (9-10th Graders) and Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12th Graders). This meeting is important to ensure they are on track academically with their progress towards graduation and to check in on their personal well-being.
- ❖ **Please reach out to Ms. Garcia (9-10th Grades) or Mrs. Vega-Beltran (11-12th Grade) if you feel that your child needs social/emotional support.** We have an abundance of services for students at the school and can refer your family to outside resources/assistance.
- ❖ **Please have your child attend tutoring and join extra-curricular activities** to be an active member of the school community. This a great way for students to make new friends, network, and be exposed to various activities/hobbies. We will send information for tutoring and extra-curricular activities in the coming weeks.

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

Tutoring	Date	Time	Subject Area	ROOM #
MATH				
Hassan	Wednes/Thurs	2:45-3:45 pm	Alegbra 1	406
Falah	Tuesday	3:21-4:00 pm	Alegbra 2/ Trig	402
Falah	Wednesday	2:41-4:00 om	Alegbra 2/ Trig	402
Faruque	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	Geometry	405
Chen	Tuesday	3:21-4:21 pm	All Math	402
Cumberbatch	Wednesday	2:45-3:45 pm	Alegbra 1	303
Science				
Okwabi	Wednesday	2:41-3:45 pm	Chem. CSM. Env	308
Beauchine	Friday	2:41-3:41 pm	Biology	307
Fares	Friday	2:41 -3:41 pm	Biology	304
Cumberbatch	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	Chem.	303
History				
Marshall	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	AP World/Marco	309
Gordon	Wednesday	2:45-3:45pm	US History	304
Gordon	Thursday	2:45-3:45	Global History	304
Colon	Wednesday	2:45-3:45pm	US History	102
Colon	Thursday	Upon Request (Please discuss with teacher for meeting times)		
English				
Pelletier	Upon Request (Please discuss with teacher for meeting times)			
Vannieuwenhuys	Wednesday	2:45- 3:45 pm	English	306
El Mardi	Wednesday	2:41-3:41	English	301
Business				
Milan	Upon Request (Please discuss with teacher for meeting times)			
Newell	Friday	2:41-3:41	V/E/ Comp. App	411
Nson/Steve	Friday	2:41-3:41	Comp. App, Enpi	409
Spanish				
Alcorn	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	Spanish All Level	302
ART				
Degregrio	Upon Request (Please discuss with teacher for meeting times)			
Physical Education				
Padgett	Wednesday	2:45-3:45 pm	P.E	Weight Room



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



National Honor Society (NHS)			Degregrio
Wednesday	2:41 PM	Room 201	
Smash Art Productions			Degregrio
Friday	2:41 PM	Room 201	
Glamour Gals and Pals			Cumberbatch
Tuesday	3:21 PM	Room 303	
Volleyball Club			Rushforth
Tuesday	3:21 PM	GYM	
Chess			Chen
Wednesday	2:41 PM	Room 404	
Music Club			Chen
Thursday	2:41 PM	Room 405B	
Fitness Club			Chen
Friday	2:41 PM	Weight Room	
Student Government			Okwabi
Thursday	3:30	Room 308	
Senior Council			Okwabi
Thursday	2:41	Auditorium	
Crochet Club			Alcorn
Thursday	3:45 PM	Room 302	
Help Hands Society			Kadison
Alternating Thu	3:00 PM	301 B	
YearBook			Kadison
Wednesday	3:00 PM	301B	

Please feel free to contact your child's School Counselor directly with any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance:

Ms. Niurkary Garcia, 9 & 10th Grade Counselor (212)391-0041 Ext. 5052

Email: NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov

Mrs. Nicole Vega-Beltran, 11 & 12th Grade Counselor 212-391-0041 Ext. 5091 Email:

NVega11@schools.nyc.gov

DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE ASESORAMIENTO:

- ❖ **1 periodo La clase comienza a las 8:20 A.M.** Los estudiantes **deben llegar a la escuela antes de las 8:20 A.M.** y puntualmente regularmente para que puedan participar de manera efectiva en su lección del primer período. La tardanza afecta negativamente el rendimiento académico de un estudiante. La jornada escolar finaliza a las 14:40 horas.



- ❖ **Si su hijo está o estará ausente**, comuníquese con la Sra. García (estudiantes de 9.º a 10.º grado) en la ext. 5052 o correo electrónico a NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov; Sra. Vega-Beltran (Estudiantes de 11º y 12º grado) en la ext. 5091 o por correo electrónico a NVega11@schools.nyc.gov; o la Sra. Bernabel, Coordinadora de Padres, en la ext. 1012 o correo electrónico a ABernabel@schools.nyc.gov.

Asegúrese de enviar una nota de excusa por la ausencia de su hijo y/o una nota del médico si su hijo tiene una cita médica.

- **Asegúrese de que los documentos médicos de su hijo o cualquier otro documento importante estén actualizados y que tengamos copias actualizadas.**

- ❖ **Realice un seguimiento del progreso académico, las calificaciones y la asistencia a clases de su hijo a través del sitio web SyncGrades.** Asegúrese de que la cuenta de correo electrónico estudiantil de NYC de su hijo esté actualizada. Si desea programar reuniones con los maestros los martes, comuníquese con el consejero escolar de su hijo.

❖ **FECHAS IMPORTANTES PARA RECORDAR:**

- o Miércoles, 2 de abril – Viernes, 10 de abril: Escuela cerrada, vacaciones de primavera
- o Martes, 21 de abril: Visita guiada a CUNY Hunter College
- o Lunes, 4 de mayo – Viernes, 8 de mayo: Examen NYSESLAT para estudiantes de ENL
- o Jueves, 7 de mayo: Finaliza el 2.º periodo de evaluación
- o Exámenes de Advanced Placement:
 - Lunes, 4 de mayo: AP Microeconomía
 - Miércoles, 6 de mayo: AP Inglés
 - Jueves, 7 de mayo: AP Estudios Afroamericanos
 - Viernes, 8 de mayo: AP Historia de los EE. UU. y AP Macroeconomía
- o Viernes, 22 de mayo: Visita guiada a Adelphi University

- ❖ **UNIVERSIDAD AHORA** – Si está interesado en que su hijo de 11.º o 12.º grado tome cursos universitarios GRATUITOS mientras está en la escuela secundaria a través de las universidades de la City University of New York, comuníquese con la Sra. Vega-Beltrán. ¡Esta es una gran oportunidad para que su hijo obtenga los créditos de esos cursos para su título universitario GRATIS!

- ❖ Para mantener un ambiente de aprendizaje positivo, **se espera que los estudiantes se vestan de manera profesional. Esperamos que los estudiantes vestan apropiadamente** para garantizar la seguridad y mantener el enfoque en la enseñanza y el aprendizaje. **Nos gustaría que todos los padres y tutores recuerden a los estudiantes los protocolos de vestimenta adecuados en el campus.**

Las formas de vestimenta prohibidas en la escuela incluyen, entre otras:

- 1) Ropa que contenga referencias a drogas, alcohol, sexo, violencia, racismo o afiliación a pandillas.
- 2) Ropa reveladora que no cubra el torso, la ropa interior y las partes privadas del cuerpo, incluidas prendas transparentes de cualquier tipo.
 - a. Tampoco se permiten los pantalones cortos recortados ni los pantalones muy cortos.
- 3) Gafas de sol mientras esté en el interior.

Si necesita ayuda para proporcionarle ropa a su hijo, comuníquese con el consejero de su hijo.

- ❖ **NO SE PERMITE A LOS ESTUDIANTES UTILIZAR TELÉFONOS CELULARES DURANTE EL HORARIO ESCOLAR.** Esto incluye iPads y relojes inteligentes

que están conectados a sus teléfonos. Deben mantener sus teléfonos bajo llave en su bolsa. **En caso de una emergencia, llame a la escuela para comunicarse con su hijo y los estudiantes pueden usar el teléfono de la oficina de la escuela para comunicarse con sus padres/tutores.**

- ❖ **12° GRADO PADRES/TUTORES MAYORES:** Trabaje estrechamente con su hijo mayor este año escolar para discutir sus opciones postsecundarias (planes después de la escuela secundaria). Necesitarán su apoyo y aliento cuando soliciten ingreso a la universidad, escuela de oficios, ejército y/o ayuda/becas financieras. Esté atento a comunicaciones futuras sobre viajes universitarios, talleres, ayuda financiera y fechas límite importantes.
- ❖ **CATCH y ELEVATE** – organizaciones comunitarias, impartirán talleres en el aula a estudiantes de diferentes niveles educativos sobre cómo tomar decisiones positivas para llevar un estilo de vida más saludable. Este programa de educación para la salud ofrecerá varios talleres a lo largo del semestre.
o Viernes de Servicios de Salud en el Salón 108
- ❖ **Haga que su hijo se reúna inmediatamente para reuniones individuales de progreso académico/personal con su consejero:** Sra. García (estudiantes de 9.º a 10.º grado) y Sra. Vega-Beltrán (estudiantes de 11.º a 12.º grado). Esta reunión es importante para garantizar que estén encaminados académicamente con su progreso hacia la graduación y para controlar su bienestar personal.
- ❖ **Haga que su hijo asista a tutorías y se una a actividades extracurriculares para ser un miembro activo de la comunidad escolar.** Esta es una excelente manera para que los estudiantes hagan nuevos amigos, establezcan contactos y estén expuestos a diversas actividades/pasatiempos. Enviaremos información para tutorías y actividades extracurriculares en las próximas semanas.
- ❖ **Comuníquese con la Sra. García (grados 9-10) o la Sra. Vega-Beltrán (grados 11-12) si cree que su hijo necesita apoyo social/emocional.** Tenemos una gran cantidad de servicios para los estudiantes en la escuela y podemos derivar a su familia a recursos/asistencia externos.

ACTIVIDADES EXTRAESCOLARES



National Honor Society (NHS)			
Wednesday	2:41 PM	Room 201	Degregrio
Smash Art Productions			
Friday	2:41 PM	Room 201	Degregrio
Glamour Gals and Pals			
Tuesday	3:21 PM	Room 303	Cumberbatch
Volleyball Club			
Tuesday	3:21 PM	GYM	Rushforth
Chess			
Wednesday	2:41 PM	Room 404	Chen
Music Club			
Thursday	2:41 PM	Room 405B	Chen
Fitness Club			
Friday	2:41 PM	Weight Room	Chen
Student Government			
Thursday	3:30	Room 308	Okwabi
Senior Council			
Thursday	2:41	Auditorium	Okwabi
Crochet Club			
Thursday	3:45 PM	Room 302	Alcorn
Help Hands Society			
Alternating Thu	3:00 PM	301 B	Kadison
YearBook			
Wednesday	3:00 PM	301B	Kadison



After School Clubs



AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

Tutoring	Date	Time	Subject Area	Room #
MATH				
Hassan	Wednes/Thurs	2:45-3:45 pm	Alegbra 1	406
Falah	Tuesday	3:21-4:00 pm	Alegbra 2/ Trig	402
Falah	Wednesday	2:41-4:00 om	Alegbra 2/ Trig	402
Faruque	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	Geometry	405
Chen	Tuesday	3:21-4:21 pm	All Math	402
Cumberbatch	Wednesday	2:45-3:45 pm	Alegbra 1	303
Science				
Okwabi	Wednesday	2:41-3:45 pm	Chem. CSM. Env	308
Beauchine	Friday	2:41-3:41 pm	Biology	307
Fares	Friday	2:41 -3:41 pm	Biology	304
Cumberbatch	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	Chem.	303
History				
Marshall	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	AP World/Marco	309
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English				
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El Mardi	Wednesday	2:41-3:41	English	301
Business				
Milan	Upon Request (Please discuss with teacher for meeting times)			
Newell	Friday	2:41-3:41	V.E/ Comp. App	411
Nson/Steve	Friday	2:41-3:41	Comp. App, Enpr	409
Spanish				
Alcorn	Thursday	2:45-3:45 pm	Spanish All Leve	302
ART				
Degregrio	Upon Request (Please discuss with teacher for meeting times)			
Physical Education				
Padgett	Wednesday	2:45-3:45 pm	P.E	Weight Room



No dude en comunicarse directamente con el consejero escolar de su hijo si tiene alguna pregunta, inquietud o si necesita ayuda:

Sra. Niurkary García, Consejera de 9y10 grado(212)391-0041 Ext.5052 Correo electrónico: NGarcia33@schools.nyc.gov

Sra. Nicole Vega-Beltran, Consejera de 11º y 12º grado 212-391-0041 Ext. 5091 Correo electrónico: NVega11@schools.nyc.gov

🌟 PROM: A NIGHT AT THE SANCTUARY

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: MAY 15, 2026

Date: June 3, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 10:30 PM

COST: JKO STUDENT \$150

GUEST: \$75

Location: The Sanctuary Roosevelt Island

(851 Main St, New York, NY 10044)

Guest Policy: Outside guests are welcome if they are **under 21** or a **former JKO student**.

Important: Guests must be approved after payment is made and a guest form is submitted.

Class of 2026 Prom Theme Options

Prom theme will be chosen on or by April 16, 2026 via Google Classroom.



Class of 2026 SENIOR TRIP OPTIONS

20-25 students must select to go on the trip. If not, the 3rd option becomes the automatic option. **VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON or by April 16, 2026 via Google Classroom.**

Option 1: Overnight (2 Days, 1 Night)

Feature	Pocono Valley	Club Getaway
Price (per person)	\$225.00	\$254.00
Arrival/Departure	10:00 AM / 10:00 AM	10:00 AM / 10:00 AM
Meals Included	Lunch, Dinner, Pizza Party, Breakfast	3 Meals (2 Breakfast/Lunch options available)
Activities	Lake, Zipline, Ropes, Dance, Game Show	Aerial Zipline, Bungee Trampoline, Archery

Option 2: Multi-Night (3 Days, 2 Nights)

Feature	Pocono Valley	Club Getaway
Price (per person)	\$359.00	\$364.00
Accommodations	Cabins with single beds	Chic country cabins (Bunk beds/AC)

Meals Included	6 Meals + 2 Ice Cream Bars	6 Meals
Special Events	Campfire, Karaoke, Movie/Dance	D.J. Dance Party (by request)

Option 3: Day-cation (Single Day Trip)

For a shorter, budget-friendly alternative on one of the selected dates (May 21-24), these locations offer high-capacity student fun without the overnight stay. Transportation not included at the moment.

- **Hersheypark (PA)**
 - **Ticket Price:** Starting at **\$64.95** per person
 - **Highlights:** Roller coasters, Hershey's Chocolate World, and catered picnic options.
- **Six Flags Great Adventure (NJ)**
 - **Ticket Price:** Approximately **\$68.00** per person.
 - **Highlights:** World-class thrill rides and optional meal/drink vouchers.
- **Pocono Valley Day Trip (PA)**
 - **Ticket Price:** Custom rates typically range from **\$98.00 to \$125.00** per student.
 - **Highlights:** Access to the 40-acre private lake, ropes courses, and sports facilities for a single full day.

CLASS of 2026 GRADUATION



GRADUATION DAY

Date: June 26, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Graphic High School
(439 W 49th St, New York, NY 10019)

Ticket Policy:

- **Initial Allocation:** 4 tickets per graduate.
- **Need More?** Additional tickets must be requested by **PARENTS ONLY** or sourced from a fellow student. Use QR code to request tickets.



- **Strict Entry:** No ticket, no entry (exception: current JKO students **ONLY**).



MANDATORY REHEARSALS

Attendance is non-negotiable for a smooth ceremony!

- **Dates:** June 18 & June 22
- **Time:** 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- **Note:** Absence or lateness will result in the **delayed distribution** of your Graduation SWAG gear. Don't risk it!



SENIOR LUNCH

- **Date:** June 24, 2026
- **Time:** 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- **Location:** JKO Campus

CLASS OF 2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

**HELLO SUN/ ICE CREAM DAY ON APRIL 15TH, 2026
GIVEN OUT AFTER SCHOOL VIA SG**

SENIOR TAG-A-SHIRT

APRIL 23, 2026TH

TIME: 2:40 PM- 4:00 PM

***White t-shirt will be given on that day only ***

SENIOR GROUP PICTURE

APRIL 24, 2026 TH

TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED

LAST SPIRIT WEEK

APRIL 27-MAY 1ST

DAYS WILL BE ANNOUNCED

SENIOR PICNIC AT DUMBO

MAY 1ST, 2026

COST TO STUDENTS: \$25

***INCLUDES: ROLLER SKATING AT DUMBO PARK AND
CATERED LUNCH***



A message from Ms. De Gregorio:

Dear JKO Community,
We hope you can join us
for this year's ceremony!

If you are pinning a student, please arrive by 5:45PM and sit in the first row. It's customary to offer a small gift for the student you are pinning. It's a formal occasion and we will take photos, so dress up- however you feel comfortable.

The ceremony is under an hour.

Without all of you, our students would not have the opportunity to bloom.

Thank you!
Ms. D





On Tuesday, March 31st, Mr. Fallah's microeconomics class participated in an exclusive financial literacy event sponsored by EverFi and The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

Students engaged in hands-on financial tasks alongside industry professionals and had the unique opportunity to interact directly with both CEOs: Andrew McMahon (Guardian) and Ray Martinez (EverFi).

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the teams from both companies—with a special shout-out to Faye Loghman-Adham and Francine Chew—for organizing such an impactful experience. Our students truly had a blast! **Thank you to Mr. Fallah for facilitating his students' preparation for this event, to the student ambassadors, Mr. Vincent, Ms. Vega, and Ms. Kaddison for supporting the event!**

Thank you to team members below:

Everfi:

1. Leah Pletcher (Event Lead) 734-233-1810
2. Ray Martinez (Founder / CEO)
3. Faye Loghman-Adham
4. Cassie Riley
5. Rob Tannenbaum

Guardian:

1. Andrew McMahon (Chairman / CEO)
2. Francine Chew
3. Charles Dunne
4. Brooke Rosenbauer
5. Letty Perez
6. Jen Andrews
7. Emma Harris
8. Adelaide Kimberly
9. Tony Elder
10. George Papanicolaou
11. Robert Schlesinger
12. Brendan Beaver or Katelyn Lichorat (only one will attend)
13. Noah Fox

Email from Everfi:

Hi Mr. U,

I wanted to extend our sincere appreciation for hosting us at your school on Tuesday. We are grateful for the warm welcome and the thoughtful coordination that made the day run so smoothly. The Guardian team has been singing the praises of your students, JKO, and the event experience all week. It was certainly one for the books!

Please also share our thanks with Mr. Vincent, Mr. Falah, and the teachers who generously opened their classrooms to us. Their support made a meaningful difference.

We were especially impressed by your student ambassadors. Their maturity, professionalism, and genuine willingness to help stood out throughout the visit. They are truly exceptional students, and we wish them nothing but success in their future endeavors after graduation.

Thank you again for your partnership and hospitality. We would love to continue working with you all for more events in the future. JKO is a special school, we are lucky have you as partners!

Warm regards,
Faye + Guardian + The Everfi Team







ROUNDABOUT THEATRE COMPANY

A message from Ms. De Gregorio:

On Thursday, April 16th, art students attended Roundabout Theatre's Hidden Career Path Day. We had an amazing day! Students learned about various careers in theater wardrobe: Wardrobe Supervisor, Dresser, Swing Dresser and Day Workers- who do repairs, laundry and prep costumes for the evening show. A highlight was when our students did a "quick-change" with Josh! We then went and toured the wardrobe department for "Ragtime" at Lincoln Center.

Thank you to Ms. Cumberbatch for joining us as a chaperone!

A BIG thank you to Ms. D for spearheading!!!





YOU Make a Difference

A message from Ms. Alcorn:

I want to share an email I received today from one of my former students at John Jay High School. I was pleasantly surprised to hear from him about his recent visit to Guatemala. It brings me great joy to be a teacher and to support young people as they embark on their careers.

Hi Sra. Alcorn,

I hope you're doing well. This is Rasheed, one of your former students from John Jay. Espero que me recuerde usted.

I wanted to reach out and say hello. I became a teacher in 2016, the same year you left. Remember I did my demo lesson in your class. I've often thought about the impact you had on me. Recently, I visited Guatemala, and I thought about you every single day while I was there. (Muchas personas me dijeron que hablo bien español, y siempre les dije que su apoyo y que me animaba a aprender.)

I kept sharing that it was because of my teacher, who was from Guatemala, encouraged me, and gave me so much support and materials to help me learn.

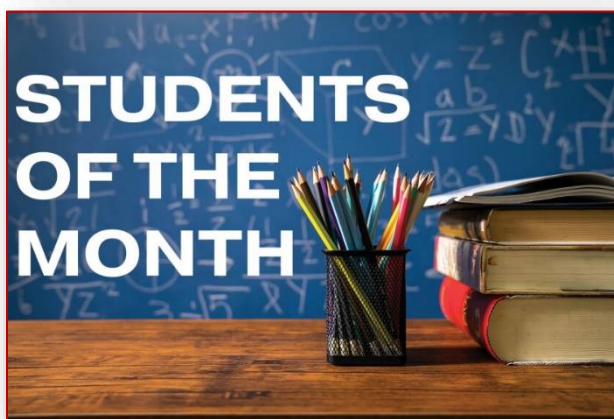
I still have the Spanish Regents exam prep book you gave me, along with a handout from 2006. It really shows how much your teaching has stayed with me over the years.

I just wanted to say thank you and let you know how much I appreciated you. I hope you are doing well.

With love,

Con Muchísimo Amor!
Rasheed





A message from Mr. Williams:

I am happy to announce the following students who have been named as student of the month of March:

9th Grade:
Joselyn Bravo Quindigalle

10th Grade:
Mariatou Diawara

11th Grade:
Stacy Puma

12th Grade:
London Potter

Please join me in congratulating them for their contributions to the JKO community



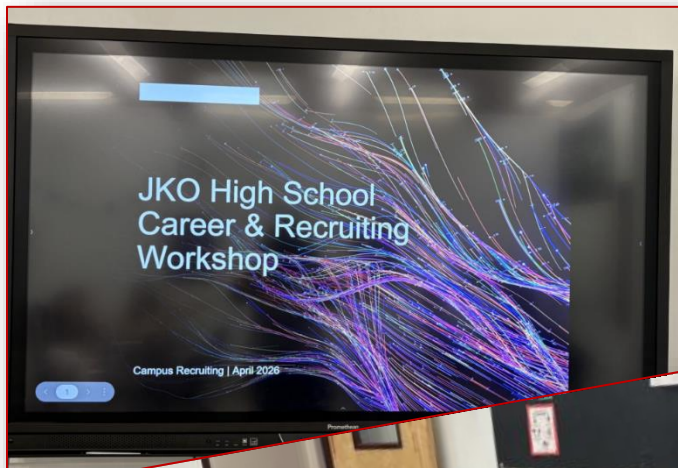


A message from Ms. Milan:

I want to share the latest Morgan Stanley ~JKO Mentoring Program activity.

The mentees and their mentors engaged in an essential career readiness skills workshop. Mentees delved into effective resume writing techniques, learning how to highlight their strengths, experiences, and achievements in a clear and professional format. Mentees shared their own resumes and received personalized feedback to refine their resumes. Also covered were key interviewing strategies, including how to confidently answer common questions, present oneself positively, and make a lasting impression. Overall, the workshop equipped students with valuable tools to prepare for future academic and career opportunities.

Thank you Ms. Milan for spearheading this event!!!





On Friday, March 13th, our juniors visited the University of Connecticut (UConn). They had a scholarly BLAST!!!

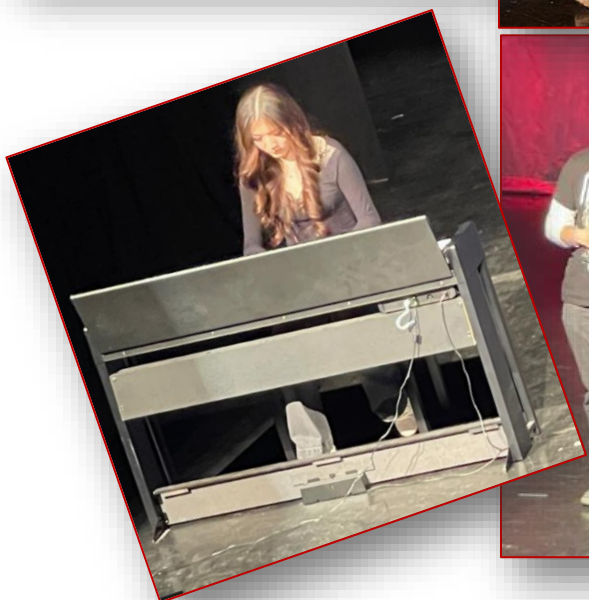
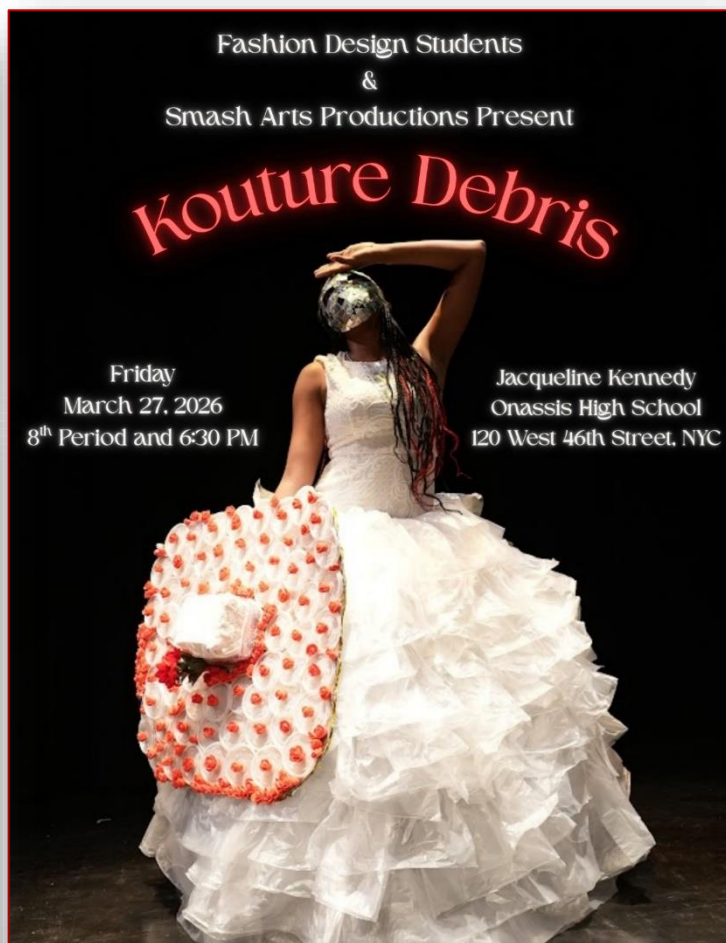
A BIG thank you to Ms. Vega for spearheading this trip.



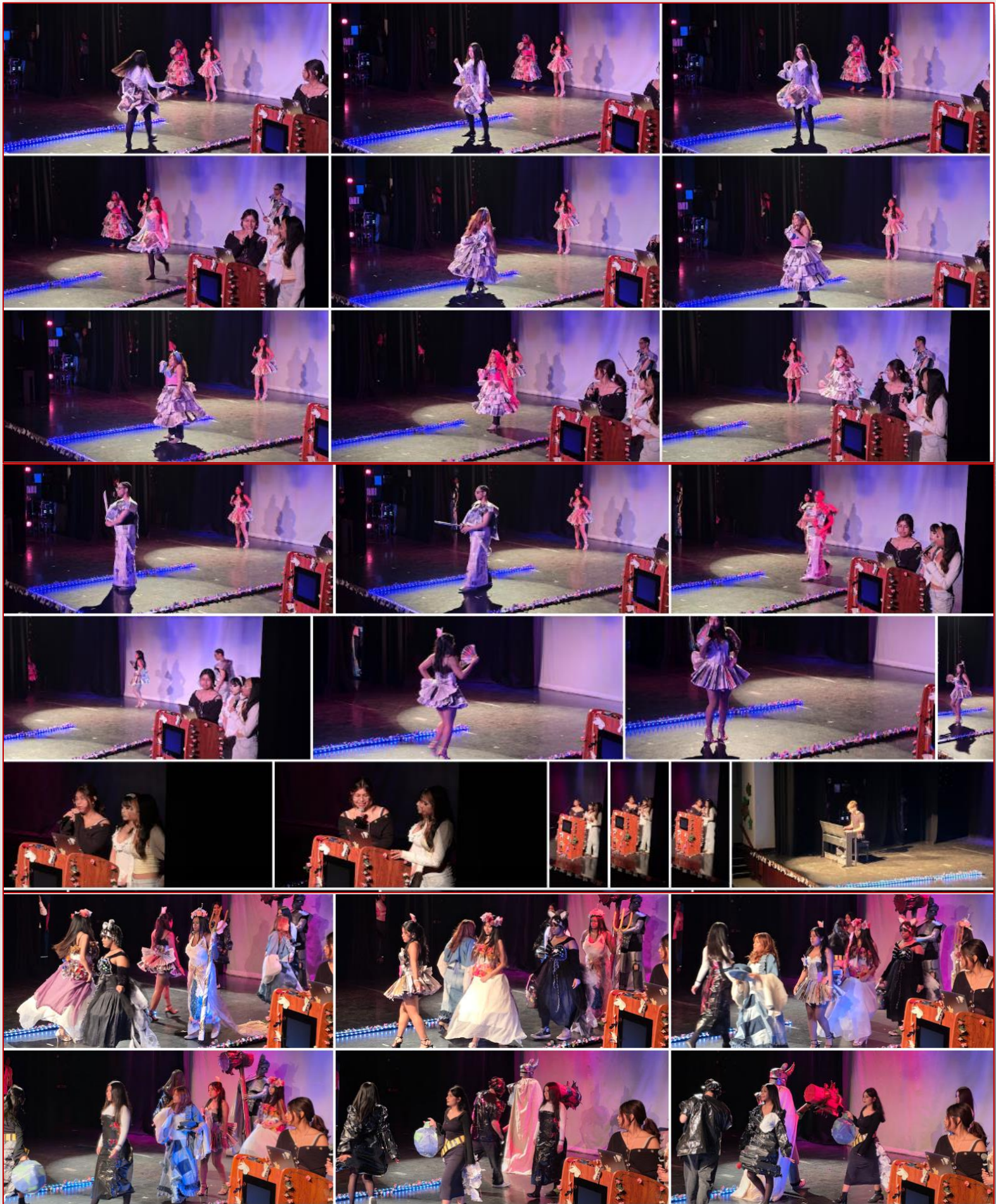
In the Spotlight

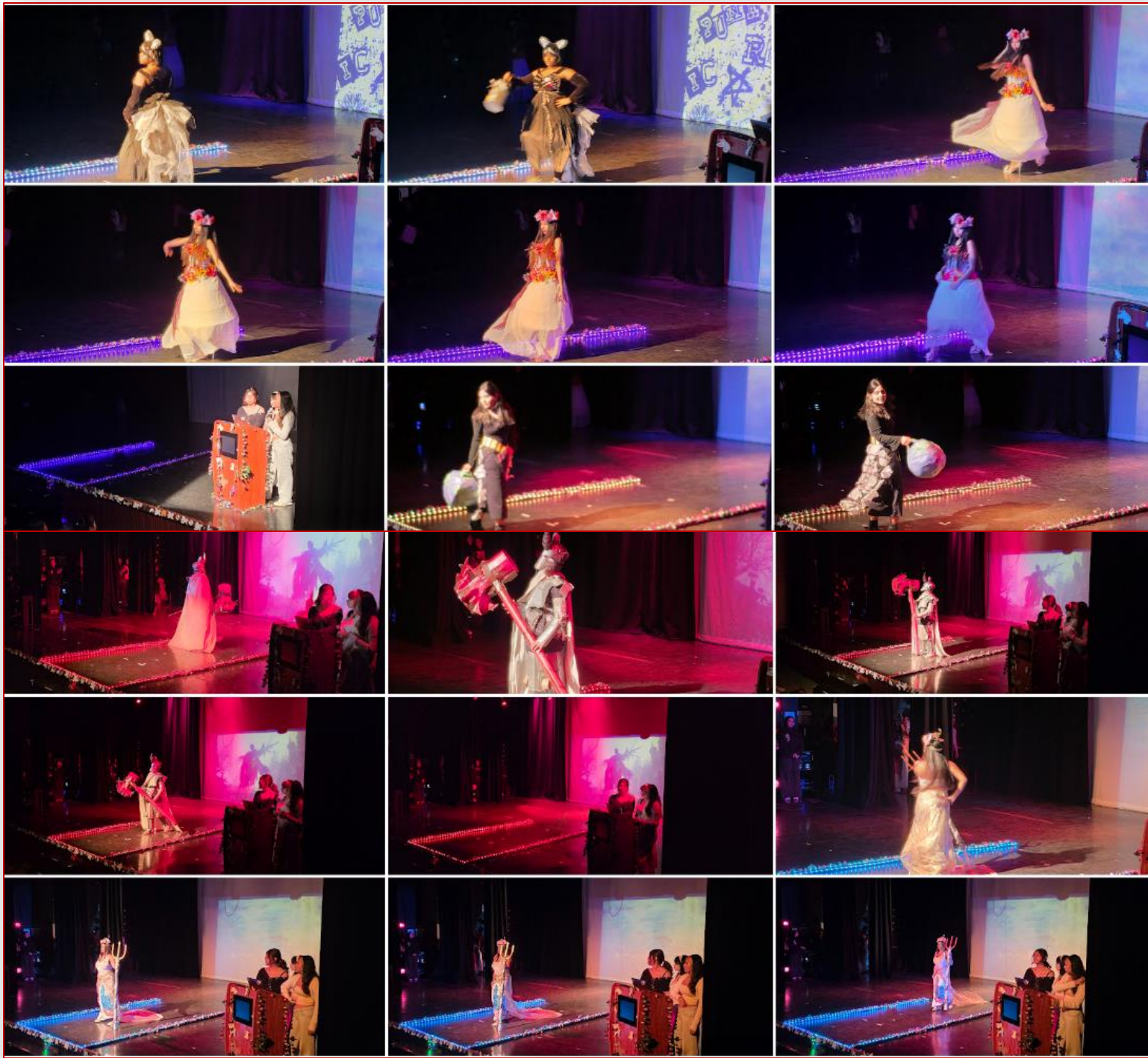


On March 27th, Ms. D's Fashion Design students and Smash Arts Productions presented JKO's annual fashion show. This year the show was branded Kouture Debris; a sustainable fashion show showcasing the talents of our students in design using sustainable materials. The show was a fashionable SUCCESS!!! A BIG thank you to Ms. D and her team of students and those involved in the booth controlling lighting and sound! Also, a big thank you to Mr. Van for singing...what a great voice! We also had a plethora of students performing by playing various instruments and singing. What a show!!!











On March 24th, many of our juniors travelled on a trip to SUNY Albany. They had a college level good time!!! A BIG thank you to Ms. Garcia for spearheading this trip and to the chaperones for making the experience successful!





BE FUTURE
READY

A message from Ms. Milan:

On Tuesday, our Academy of Hospitality students participated in a NAF Alumni Engagement session where in a series of career readiness activities our students worked with alumni to enhance their professional presence by creating then refining elevator pitches. The students then took the lead in conducting informational interviews, gaining insight into diverse career paths.

A BIG thank you to Ms. Milan for spearheading this event!!!

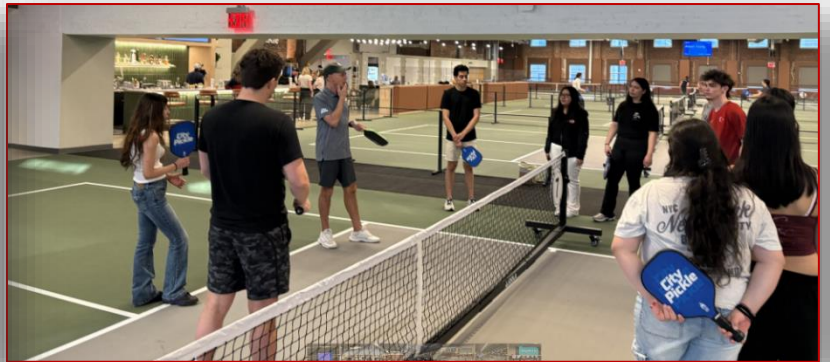




Another message from Ms. Milan:

On March 26th, students and their mentors in our Morgan Stanley—JKO Mentoring Program—“met” on the pickleball court for some friendly competition. While the pairs collaborated on game strategy, the conversations moved to career advice, networking. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to connect and compete.

A BIG thank you to Ms. Milan for spearheading this event!!!





GIRLS

TAKE

Finance

A message from Ms. Marshall,

Hi everyone,

Last Wednesday 3/11, afterschool, Ms. Fares and I chaperoned the 'Girls in Finance' Workshop held at 200 Liberty Street. This was the 10th Annual Workshop hosted by Cadwalader Law Firm where women with careers in Law and Finance volunteered and sat with girls interested in this typically 'female underrepresented' space. Our girls sat with some powerhouses, including a Managing Director at UBS and VP Counsel at Bank of America. They learned about Finance and got to network with these women and it was a really great opportunity!

Looking forward to making this a JKO tradition!

On a side note - I see we have two JKO addresses for 2025-2026, one with 32 recipients and the other with 40 recipients. I'm concerned we may not all be receiving school wide emails if someone chooses the 32 recipient one!?!?

Anyways, enjoy the pics below 😊

Thank you Ms. Marshall for spearheading this!!!





CIVICS FOR ALL

A message from Ms. De Gregorio:

Dear JKO,

Studio Art students participated in Civics for All Week by creating posters for this year's Civics for All Poster Contest. As a school, we can only submit one design to represent JKO in the contest. This year's theme was **America 250; Voices Then, Voices Now.**

It was very interesting to hear what our students think and what issues are on their minds. Some spoke about immigration, war, women's rights, and human rights. We had a very democratic experience-making choices, debating ideas, and voting to express our voices. The first 3 posters in the gallery are the frontrunners the students voted for. Please take a look and let us know which design you think should represent our school.

Posters should:

Understand and amplify why voting and active civic participation are important

Have a clear visual message

Connect to the contest theme

Thank you!

Ms. D

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Y09lpsi3ppseu67HeZv5vhXLpblSq4l5ycgept0wZ8/edit?usp=s_haring

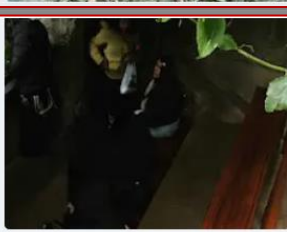
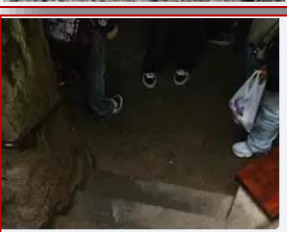
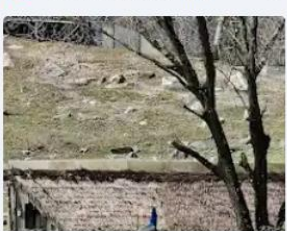
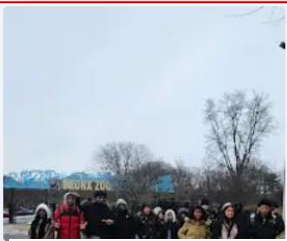
A BIG thank you to Ms. D for spearheading this event!!!





On Wednesday, March 18th, Ms. El Mardi led a team of chaperones with freshmen on a trip to the Bronx Zoo. Students had an animal kingdom adventure!!!

Thank you to Ms. El Mardi and the chaperones for making this happen!!!





Model UN Mock Conference: Emergency Appeal for the Venezuela Immigration Situation

On March 6th, Mr. Van and Ms. Gordon partnered with student leader Elina Sadatbekova to design and facilitate a full Model United Nations mock conference for our Model UN Club. Elina served as Chair, guiding delegates through formal debate, moderated caucuses, and resolution drafting with professionalism and confidence.

The conference centered on "The Emergency Appeal for the Venezuela Immigration Situation," challenging students to analyze a real-world humanitarian crisis through the lens of international diplomacy. Each participant represented a member state, researched their country's position, and collaborated to propose solutions grounded in global responsibility and human rights.

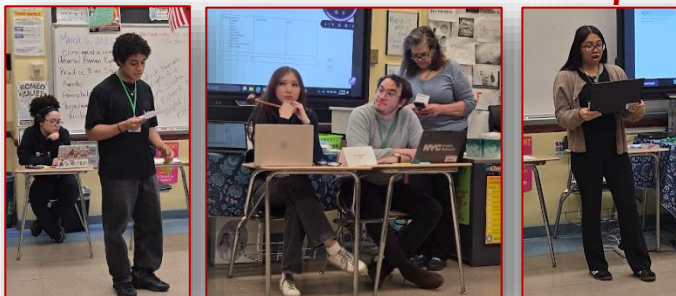
Student Delegates and Country Assignments:

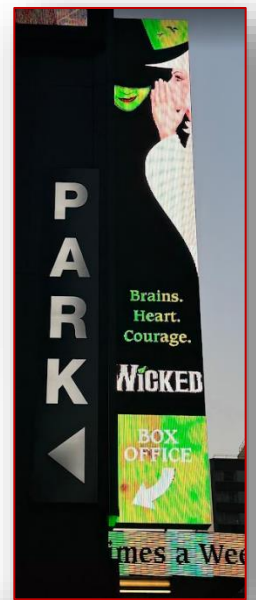
Jade Fernandez – Venezuela
 Roxanne Romoleroux – Colombia
 Nataly Cajchum – Brazil
 Laeyahnie King – Peru
 Pricila Rivera – Ecuador
 Stacy Martinez – Chile
 Joseph Velo – Argentina
 Viannay Palafox – Spain
 Matthew Chavez – Costa Rica
 Arnold Tepale – Mexico
 Allison Vazquez – United States
 Steven Almazo – France
 Joshua Fernandez – Germany
 Luca Silva – Dominican Republic
 Nicole Flores – Trinidad and Tobago
 Bismark Contreras – Uruguay
 Aileen Santos – Bolivia
 Elina Sadatbekova – Chair



Students demonstrated strong public speaking, negotiation, and critical-thinking skills as they debated migration policy, humanitarian aid, and regional cooperation. Their engagement and diplomacy reflected the best of student-centered learning and global citizenship.

A BIG thank you to Mr. Van and Ms. Gordon for spearheading this event!!!





Recently, Ms. Pelletier spearheaded a trip for many of our students to see the Broadway hit, "Wicked." It was a wickedly magical good experience!!! Thank you Ms. Pelletier for making this happen and Ms. Garcia for chaperoning!!!





A message from Ms. Garcia and Ms. Milan:

We were honored to attend the "Today's Girl, Tomorrow's Woman" event this past Saturday. Marking our third year of participation, JKO students once again represented our community with excellence. From exploring "key ingredients" for success to attending workshops on wellness and financial literacy, our young ladies gained invaluable insights into making their dreams a reality. We are so proud of the connections they built!

A BIG thank you to Ms. Garcia and Ms. Milan for making this happen!!!





A message from Mr. Williams:



I am happy to
announce the following students who have
been named as
student of the month of February:

9th Grade
Ji Hae, Ri

10th Grade
David Bruno Merino

11th Grade
Allison Vazquez

12th Grade
Amara Guadalupe

Please join me in applauding them for their
contributions to the JKO community!



In the Spotlight

On Friday, March 13th, our juniors visited the University of Connecticut (UConn). They had a scholarly BLAST!!!

A BIG thank you to Ms. Vega for spearheading this trip.





Recently, our Model UN Club held a mock UN session. In a Mock Model UN (MUN), students take on the roles of diplomats to solve global issues. The experience is a mix of formal debate, legal writing, and social negotiation.

Students had an amazing time! ***A BIG thank you to Ms. Gordon for spearheading this event and Ms. Kadison for supporting the club!!!***





A message from Ms. Garcia:

On Friday 2/27/26 we went on a trip to The United Nations ! Students who are part of our ENL community and students who are part of the Model UN joined us. We had a wonderful time learning about the donated rooms and artwork pieces, history and about what occurs at the UN. Students were able to engage in discussions led by our wonderful guide and ask questions as well as learn about the goals of the UN for our world community.

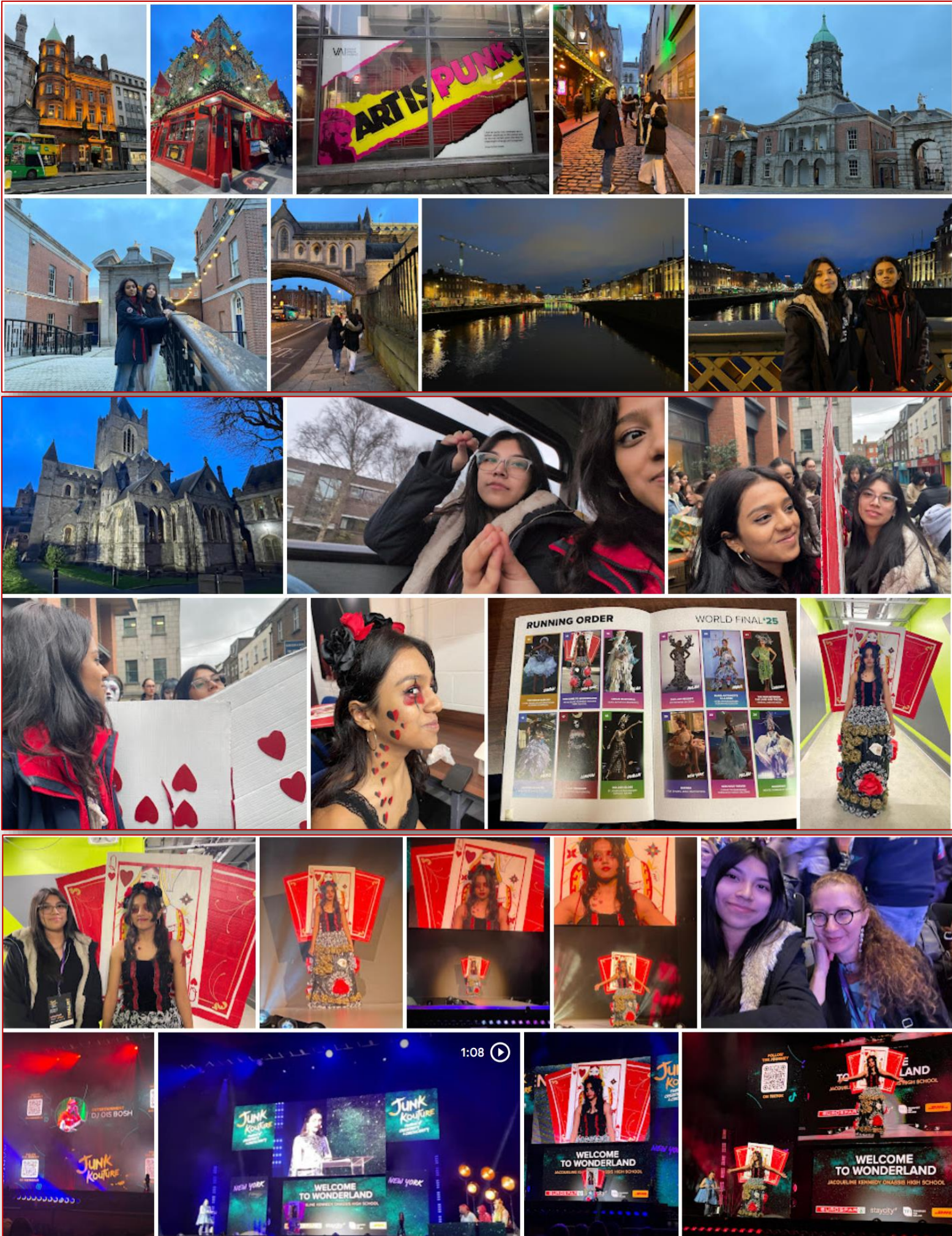
Thank you, Ms. Garcia, for making this trip happen!!!





Welcome Back, Ms. De Gregorio!!! Ms. Degregorio just came back from Dublin, Ireland, where she led our JKO team of graduated seniors from last year (Anuva and Evelin) in the Junk Kouture fashion competition. We are very proud of Anuva and Evelin. A BIG thank you to Ms. D for spearheading this trip to Ireland!

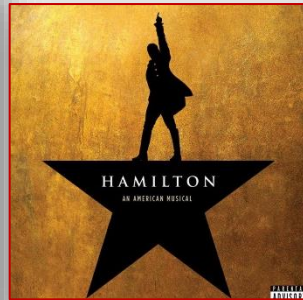






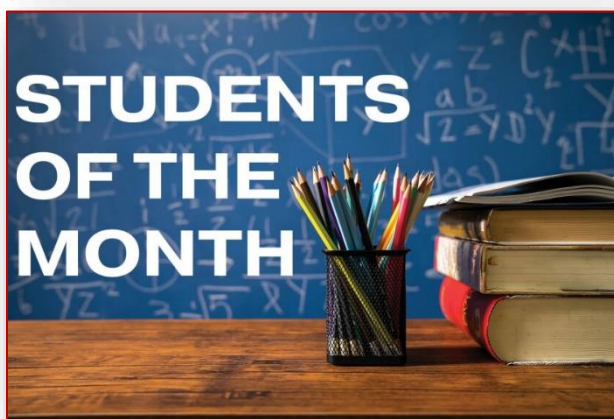
Recently JKO students, from Mr. Colon's US history classes, attended the Broadway hit Hamilton. They had a historical great time!

A BIG thank you to Ms. Kadison for spearheading this event!!!





A message from Mr. Williams:



I am happy to
announce the following students who have
been named as
student of the month of January:

9th Grade:

Mattea Bacosa (Faruque)

Mateyo White (Hasan)

10th Grade:

Aileen Santos Garcia (Marshall)

11th Grade:

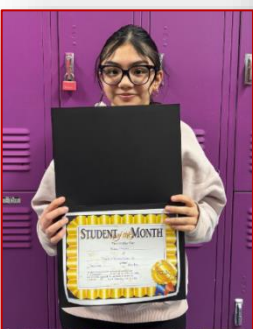
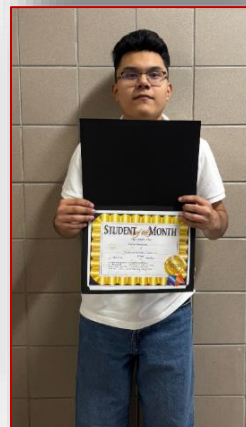
Pricila Rivera (Falah)

Mert Tuncel (Voelker)

12th Grade:

Damian Hernandez (Kadison)

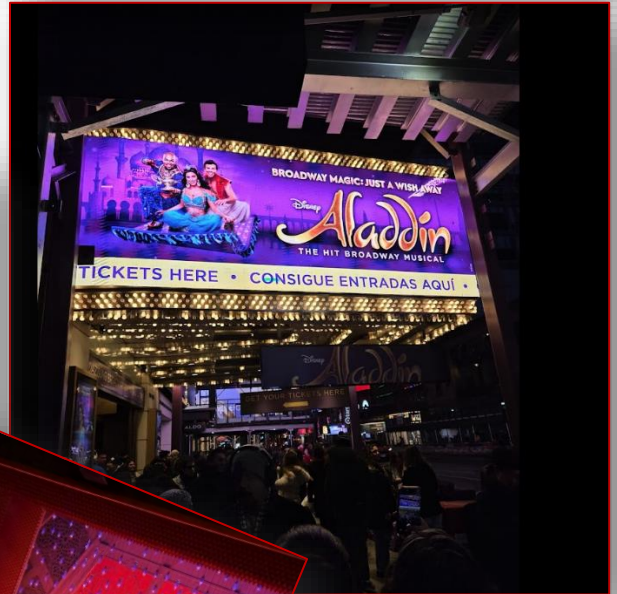
Please join me in applauding them for the
contributions to the JKO community!



In the Spotlight



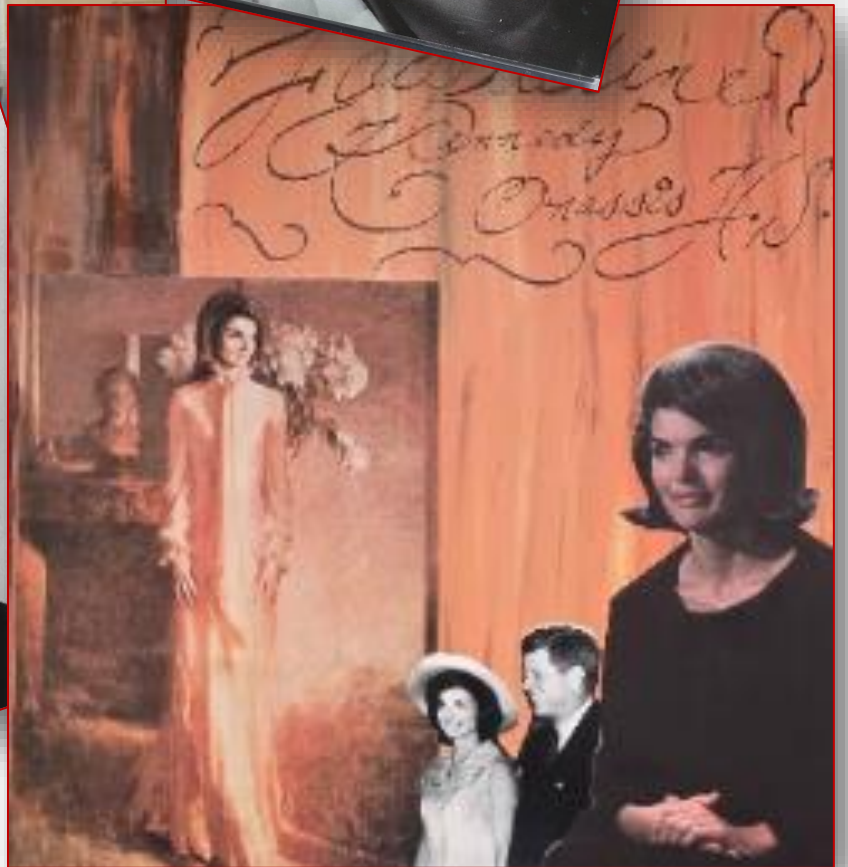
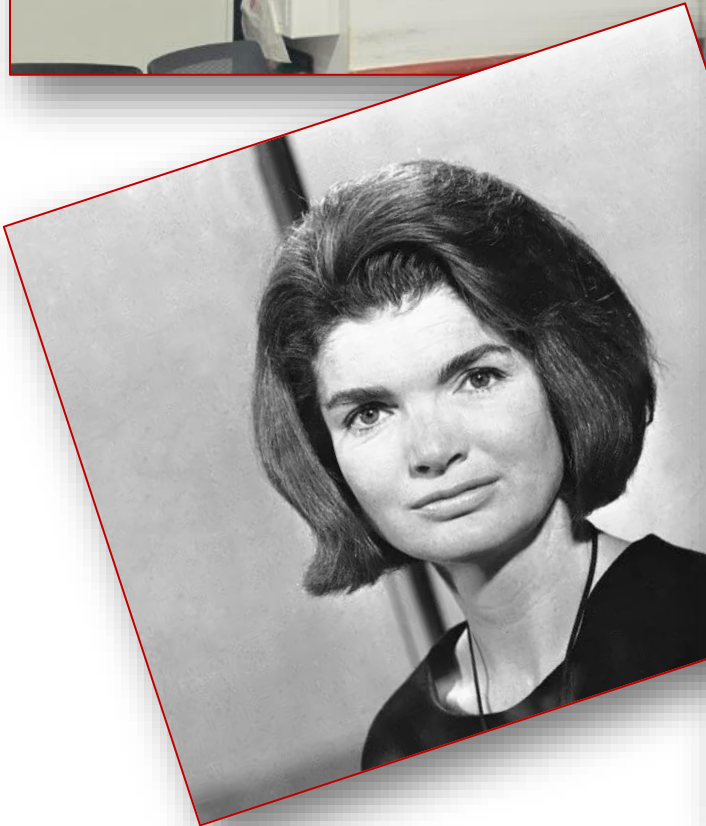
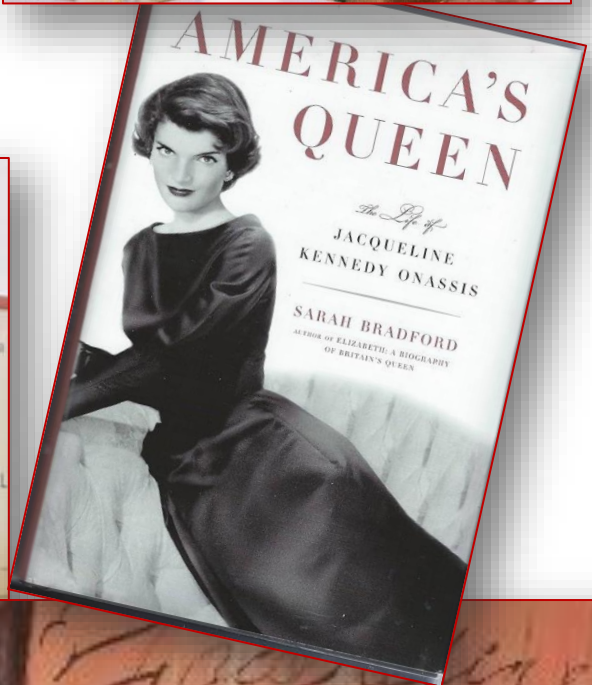
On February 5th many of our students attended a viewing of the Broadway hit show, Aladdin. They had a magical time! A BIG thank you to Ms. Kadison for spearheading this event!



In the Spotlight

JKO

Recently the old, dilapidated picture and frame of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was replaced by a bigger design which was constructed and finished by Ms. D. It looks AMAZING!!! A BIG thank you to Ms. D for completing this artistic rendition of our former First Lady!!!





Our annual Love Lane Dinner took place on Thursday, February 12th. Over 100 students attended. The dinners were simply delicious!!! Students had a love filled time!!! **A BIG thank you to Ms. Okwabi for spearheading this event and to the parents and students who donated time and food to make this happen!**



Hi Everyone,

Yesterday marked our **9th Annual Love Lane Dinner**, and I am still overwhelmed by the success of the evening.

Every year, we are asked why we put so much effort into this program and why we don't simply raise the prices. Our answer remains the same: **It is not about the money.** It is about watching our students step outside their comfort zones to lead as kitchen staff, hosts, and servers. It's about seeing them introduce us to their "home friends," enjoying vibrant dates with significant others, or confidently treating themselves to a solo dinner. It's about witnessing our community show up and out—not just with food, but with their time, heart, and spirit.

A Heartfelt Thank You

This event "takes a village," and we have a few specific people to thank for making last night possible:

- **Ms. Cumberbatch & Ms. Bernabel:** For preparing your famous Mac & Cheese and Baked Ziti, and for your tireless work helping the lobby and kitchen operations run smoothly.
- **Ms. Elmardi, Ms. Marshall, Mr. Vincent, Ms. Caraballo, Ms. Crochran, & Ms. Newell:** For your generous monetary donations that afforded several students the opportunity to attend.
- **Mr. Kloppenburg:** For chaperoning the dining room and capturing the evening so beautifully through your photography.
- **Our Administration:** This event simply would not happen without your unwavering support.

Our Incredible Parents

This year saw the largest outpouring of parent support we have witnessed in years. We want to shout out:

- **Jei-ana's Mom** (Hawaiian Meatballs)
- **Bismark's Parents** (Pernil)
- **Pricilla's Parents** (White Rice)
- **Ana's Parents** (Yellow Rice)
- **Arnold's Parents** (Flan)
- **Kaily's Parents** (Chicken Alfredo)
- **Daniel Ravunakana's Parents** (Cheesecake)
- **Mr. Taylor (PA Parents):** For your time and donations.

Special Student Recognition: Allison Vasquez

Finally, I must highlight **Allison Vasquez**. This event truly would not have occurred without her. Allison exemplifies leadership that is both quiet and powerful. Even though she couldn't be present last night due to Big Brother Big Sisters, her presence was felt in every detail—from organizing the menu to managing her peers and even keeping us advisors on track!

If you see Allison before she leaves for break, please "love on her" for us. Kadison and I would not have been prepared without her.

Please find pictures of our wonderful evening attached below!

With gratitude,

Ms. Okwabi & Ms. Kadison

COSA



In the Spotlight

On Friday, February 6th, Mr. Williams and the Equity Team students attended a District Event: Student Equity Leaders and Adult Allies Conference where the keynote speaker was Dr. Yusef Salaam. A BIG thank you to Chris Lagares, from District, for making this event happen and to Mr. Williams for being our student ally on the Equity Team! Students had an AMAZING time!!!





A message from Ms. Rushforth:

We are excited to share highlights from the recent visit by United States Tennis Association (USTA) to our school! Our Physical Education program recently completed a tennis unit in which students learned the history of tennis, fundamental skills, and rules of the game. Throughout the unit, students actively participated in skill development and friendly competition. The unit culminated in a class tournament, where students competed to earn the title of King and Queen of the Court. Students were grateful for the opportunity to challenge themselves and showcase their growth.

To conclude the unit, we had the incredible opportunity to welcome USTA representatives and professional tennis coaches, Joel Richmond from Advantage Tennis Clubs and Austin Doyle from USTA who generously dedicated their time to work with our students. During this visit, students received specialized instruction and further developed their tennis skills under the guidance of professional coaches.

We truly appreciate the USTA's visit and Advantage tennis Club Ass. support. Moving forward, we are committed to expanding opportunities for students interested in tennis. Future plans may include trips to professional tennis facilities and pairing interested students with tennis coaches. Students may also have the opportunity to participate in the Public Schools Athletic League(PSAL) after-school program, allowing them to continue skill development and compete with students from other schools. **(A BIG thank you to Ms. Rushforth for spearheading this event!!!)**

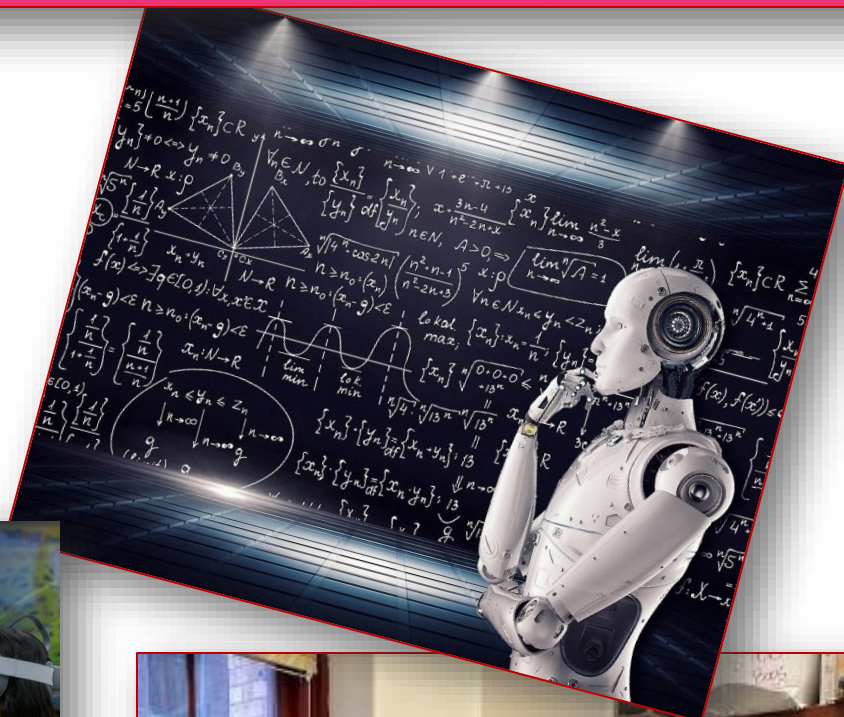
Below are some pictures from the visit.





prisms the classroom reimagined

On Monday, February 9th, the math department attended a PD/demo by Prisms. Prisms VR is an instructional tool that using AI and virtual reality headsets to deliver engaging lessons to students. Mr. Hasan, Mr. Chen, and Mr. Faruque had an incredible experience!!! A BIG thank you to Maddy Solomon, from Prisms, for spearheading this experience!



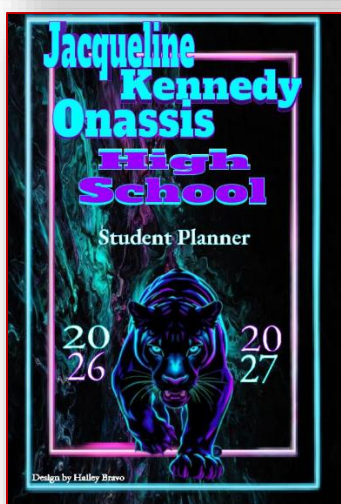
OUR SOLUTION

The first ever spatial learning platform for math & science, where students learn through movement, discovery, and purpose.





Ms. De Gregorio's art students recently worked on designing the cover page of our JKO 2026-27 Student Planner books. The creative genius of students was on display for these. These were the most popular designs based on student votes. The winning design was submitted by Ivanny Melendez! (To the right). **A BIG thank you to Ms. D for spearheading this!!!**





A message from Ms. Milan:

Mentors and Mentees from Morgan Stanley~JKO Mentoring Program celebrated the spirit of Valentine's Day with a chocolate truffle making class led by Chef Jen.

Students and their mentors hand-rolled treats under the guidance of Chef Jen, who shared her professional journey.

Thank you, Ms. Milan, for spearheading this event!!!

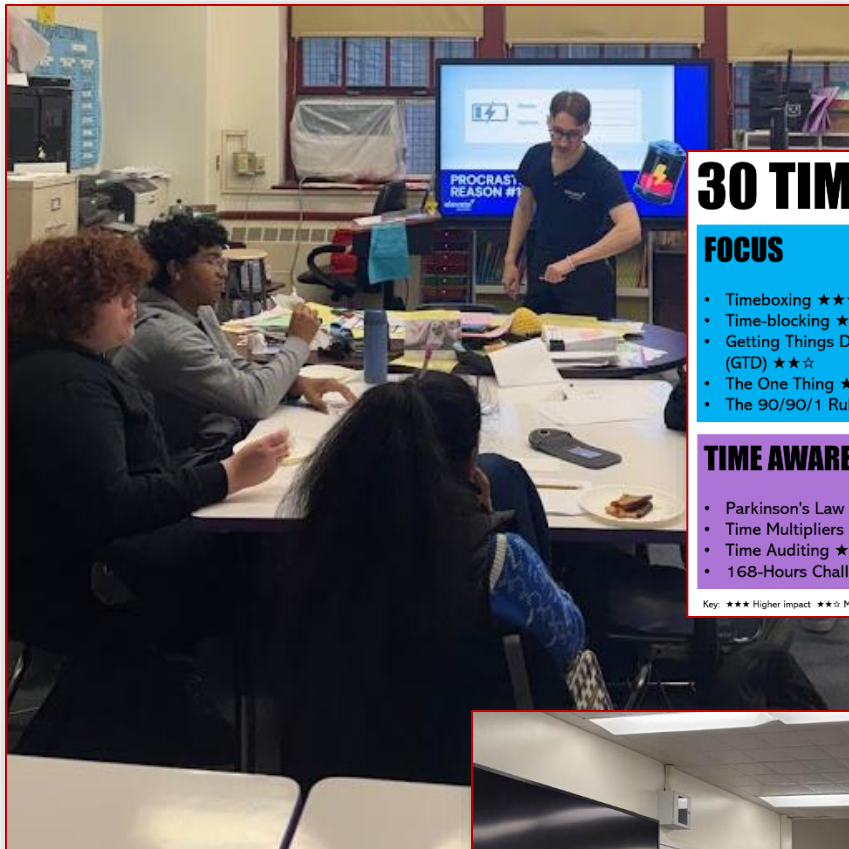




A message from Ms. Garcia:

This week I started my Elevate Education Workshops afterschool. They will run every Wednesday and Thursday until the end of April. We focused on Time Management this week. Students were very well engaged!!!

A BIG thank you to Ms. Garcia for spearheading this event!



30 TIME MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

FOCUS

- Timeboxing ★★★
- Time-blocking ★★★
- Getting Things Done (GTD) ★★★
- The One Thing ★★★
- The 90/90/1 Rule ★★★

PRIORITISATION

- 80/20 Rule ★★★
- Eisenhower Matrix ★★★
- Four Ds ★★★
- The 3-Task Rule ★★★
- ABC System ★★★
- The 10/10/10 Rule ★★★

EXPLICIT TIME

- Pomodoro Technique ★★★
- The 52/17 Rule ★★★
- Zero-Based Calendar ★★★
- Two Vital Hours ★★★
- The 2-Minute Rule ★★★
- 18 Minutes ★★★

TIME AWARENESS

- Parkinson's Law ★★★
- Time Multipliers ★★★
- Time Auditing ★★★
- 168-Hours Challenge ★★★

MOTIVATION

- Eat that Frog! ★★★
- The Seinfeld Streak ★★★
- Energy Management ★★★
- Rapid Planning Method ★★★

TASK MANAGEMENT

- To-do Lists ★★★
- Kanban ★★★
- Batch Processing ★★★
- Closed Lists ★★★

Key: ★★★ Higher impact ★★ Medium impact ★ Lower impact

