

2020-21 Parent Newsletter #6

Tuesday, February 2nd was Groundhog Day and the prediction was six more weeks of winter. Have you ever wondered how this event originated? If so, read the article below to find out.

First Groundhog Day: 1887 on February 2nd

On February 2, 1887, [Groundhog Day](#), featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, [Pennsylvania](#). According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.



Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather. Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State.

Groundhogs, also called woodchucks and whose scientific name is *Marmota monax*, typically weigh 12 to 15 pounds and live six to eight years. They eat vegetables and fruits, whistle when they're frightened or looking for a mate (they're sometimes called whistle pigs) and can climb trees and swim.

They go into hibernation in the late fall; during this time, their body temperatures drop significantly, their heartbeats slow from 80 to five beats per minute and they can lose 30 percent of their body fat. In February, male groundhogs emerge from their burrows to look for a mate (not to predict the weather) before going underground again. They come out of hibernation for good in March.

In 1887, a newspaper editor belonging to a group of groundhog hunters from Punxsutawney called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog. The line of groundhogs that have since been known as Phil might be America's most famous groundhogs, but other towns across North America now have their own weather-predicting rodents, from Birmingham Bill to Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada.

In 1993, the movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray popularized the usage of "groundhog day" to mean something that is repeated over and over. Today, tens of thousands of people converge on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney each February 2 to witness Phil's prediction. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club hosts a three-day celebration featuring entertainment and activities.



Announcements

- Our next PTA meeting will take place at 5 pm on Monday, March 1st. We will email a Zoom invite to parents.
- We have decided to reschedule the National Honor Society induction ceremony to March (Date TBD) in order to give candidates more time for the application process. Many students were focusing on successfully completing their fall semester, which ended on Monday (1/25). We wanted to ensure that the ceremony did not detract from that focus. When we originally chose the date we were holding on to hope that we would be back in the building by this time of the year; unfortunately we are still in remote learning. We will send out more information on the new date as we get closer to March.
- As of the beginning of the spring semester (2/2/21) we will all use our school issued JKO Google accounts for purposes of instruction; G-Suite, Google Classroom, Google Meets, Google Drive, etc. This will provide consistency in all classes, easier transfer of grades from one system to another, as well as give students access to a comprehensive compilation of G-Suite software for free. Students must log onto Google with their school issued accounts everyday for instructional purposes.

Reminder: Daily attendance is a requirement in all classes.

Student accounts are as follows:

User Account: *First Name Last Name @JKOhighschool.org* (If you use a hyphen in your name, please use it in your user account)

Password: *Student OSIS #*. You will be asked to change your password when logging on for the first time.

Email me any questions, concerns, and/or technical issues. Thanks.

- Did you know that you can track your child's education on any computer, phone, or tablet? You can also sign the COVID consent form, right in the [NYC Schools Account \(NYCSA\)](#). You can sign up for an account by entering a few basic details. This will allow you to begin receiving notifications from the DOE. It only takes five minutes. We are asking all parents to sign up. Click on the following link to sign up:
<https://mystudent.nyc/saa/signup?lc=en>

- A message from our Parent Association President, Ms. Conte:

Parents!

Want to be a voice for change in your school district?
Be a leader in your school community?

Find out about Community & Citywide Education Councils and how to get involved! Join one of our daily virtual information sessions in February

If you are a parent of a student in a NYC public school you are eligible to run for a seat and vote in the upcoming elections:
Apply Feb 1-28 Vote May 1-11

CLICK ON THE DAY TO REGISTER

Monday 2/1	6 PM	SPANISH
Tuesday 2/2	11 AM	ENGLISH
Wednesday 2/3	6 PM	ENGLISH
Thursday 2/4	12 PM	URDU
Friday 2/5	11 AM	SPANISH

Run. Serve. Lead.

2021 Education Council Elections



schools.nyc.gov/elections2021

¡Padres!

¿Quiere ser la voz del cambio en el distrito de su escuela?
¿Quiere ser un líder en su comunidad escolar?

¡Infórmese a cerca de los Consejos de Educación Comunitaria y de la Ciudad y cómo involucrarse! ¡Participe de uno de nuestros talleres informativos diarios del mes de Febrero!

Si usted es un padre de un estudiante de una escuela pública de la Ciudad de Nueva York, usted es elegible para postularse para un cargo y/o votar en las próximas elecciones:

Aplique Febrero 1-28 Vote Mayo 1-11

HAGA CLICK EN EL DÍA PARA REGISTRARSE

LUNES	FEB 1	6 PM ESPAÑOL
MARTES	FEB 2	11 AM INGLÉS
MIÉRCOLES	FEB 3	6 PM INGLÉS
JUEVES	FEB 4	12 PM URDU
VIERNES	FEB 5	11 AM ESPAÑOL

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- **A message from the Principal:**

At the end of the 2019-20 school year, some students received one or more final grades of “course in progress,” which appear on their transcript as “NX.” Those students received these grades because they had not yet passed those courses. Given the impact of COVID-19 on our community, those students received additional time, through January 31, 2021, to continue working toward passing these courses. You can review the grading policy for blended and remote learning for more information about these expectations at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/chancellor-s-message-for-families#grading>.

As of January 31, some of those students have not successfully completed one or more “NX” grades from June or August 2020. If your child is one of them you have the option of requesting an appeal. If approved by the superintendent, your child will receive more time to complete the necessary course work, otherwise your child would have to repeat the entire course.

Can my student get more time to complete the course(s)?

Your student may be eligible for additional time to complete their assignments for these courses if they meet one or more of these criteria:

- Your student experienced sustained device and/or internet connectivity issues;
- Your student experienced a traumatic illness or death in their family; or
- Your student has experienced another hardship that impacted their academic progress.

If one or more of the criteria above apply to your student, we will appeal for more time for them to complete their NX courses from our Superintendent. If you believe your student meets any of these criteria, please respond to this email providing more details about your student’s situation by Monday, February 22. We will review your response, and our Superintendent will make a final determination by the beginning of March. At that time, we will inform you of the new deadline for completing these courses. Until then, your student will be programmed for all courses necessary to remain on track to graduate.

What happens if my student gets additional time to complete the course(s)?

If your student is approved for additional time, their teacher(s) will provide targeted instruction in the areas your student needs, and they will identify the activities and assignments that your student must complete in order to pass the course. As for any course, your student will be expected to participate in all course activities and submit their work by the deadlines communicated by your teacher. The teacher(s) will evaluate your student’s progress based on all the work they have completed, and they will make a final determination of whether they have earned a passing grade.

What happens if my student doesn’t get additional time to complete the course(s)?

If your student is not eligible for additional time, we will update the “NX” grades to “no credit” (“NC”) on your student’s transcript. “NC” indicates that your student has not received credit for the course, but this grade does not affect your student’s cumulative average. If your student receives a grade of “NC” in course(s) required for graduation, we will program them to repeat this course in the future to stay on track.

How can I see my student’s grades and their progress towards graduation?

You may review your student’s grades and progress to graduation in your New York City Schools Account at mystudent.nyc. If you do not yet have a New York City Schools Account, reply to this email, and we will help you create your account.

Thank you for your partnership in support of your student’s learning. If you have any questions or concerns about your student’s academic progress, we are here to support you. Please email me and we will arrange a meeting to discuss your concerns further.

JK SCHOOL COUNSELOR



- ❖ The **FIRST Day of the Spring Term began February 2nd!** Please make sure your child attends his/her Virtual Courses Daily and Completes All Assignments given by Teachers! **Attendance is Mandatory in ALL Courses!**
- ❖ Please **have your child schedule a one on one academic meeting with me for the Spring term.** This meeting is important to ensure they are on track academically with their progress towards graduation. The meeting may take place over the phone or via zoom.
- ❖ Make sure to **keep track of your child's progress in their classes throughout the semester** by logging on to <https://pupilpath.skedula.com/> .
- ❖ ***Freshman and Sophomores** should begin to scout and research colleges/universities they would like to attend after high school.
***Juniors** should continue their college search and create their lists for next school year to apply.
***Seniors** should **COMPLETE their FAFSA and NYS TAP for College.**

***Complete FAFSA as soon as possible!**

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

***You need your parents to complete the application!**

***After FAFSA, Please remember to complete your NYS Financial Aid (TAP)!**

[NYS Tuition Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#)

- ❖ Please check PupilPath daily for important announcements and emails pertaining to your child!

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance: NVega11@schools.nyc.gov



A message from Ms. D,

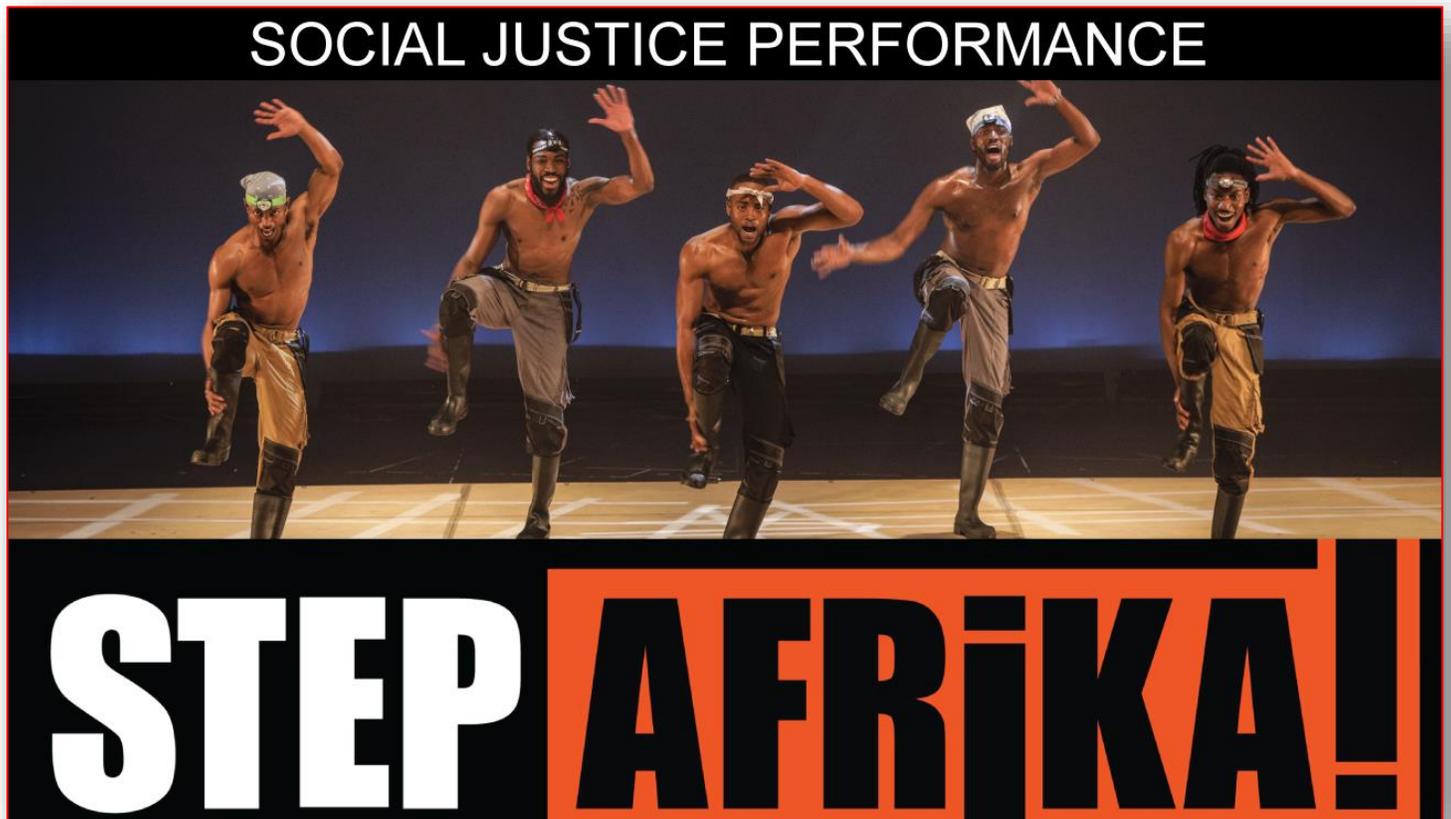
We are confirmed for the Apollo School Day Live: 5 Days with Step Africa series! They will be sending me info on how to access the materials February 5th.

We will have access to the materials only for the week of Feb 8-12. There are 5 videos in the series including an intro, tutorials, a study guide, 2 performances and a Q&A with the artists.

Please look at the info below and think about how we want to share this with our community. We will only have access to it for 1 week.

1 video a day series during a specific period? Periods? After school sessions? A combo of tutorial, history, performance videos, Q & A as a whole school assembly before the mid-winter break? Any ideas/suggestions? What do you think?

Thanks!
Ms. D





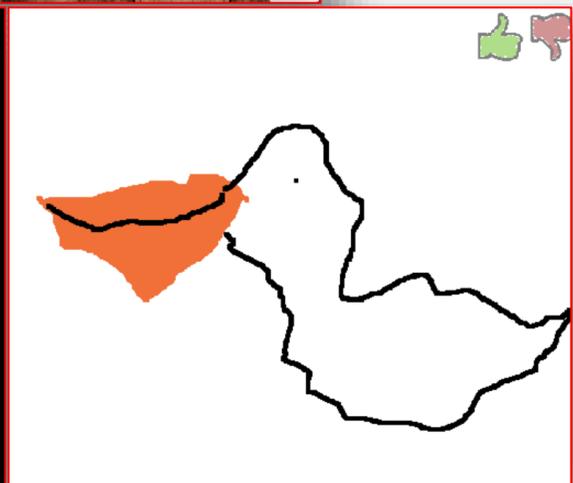
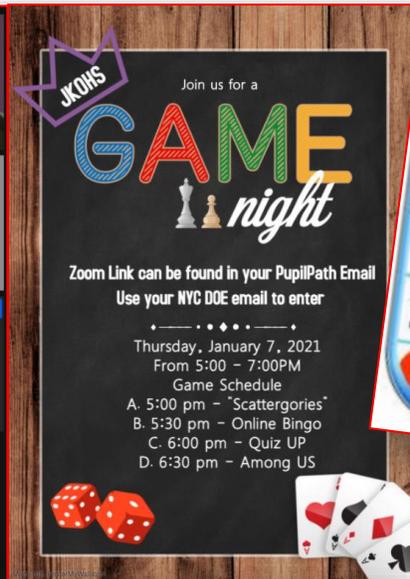
A message from Ms. Kadison:

On Thursday, January 7th 2020, Ms. Okwabi hosted game night from 5-7pm. We played games such as Scattergories, Bingo, Skribbl, and Among Us. Students told me they had a lot of fun playing with the group and some even said it was their first time ever attending an after-school activity and they really enjoyed it! Contrary to popular belief, I did not cheat 😊.

Congrats to some of the winners: Jadelyz Then, Ahava Fred, David Villa, Jason Loyola- Vasquez, and Ms. Nicoletta!! 🎉🐾

Thank you to the 20+ students who joined as well as to those staff members who were able to stop by for a bit (Mrs. Vega- Beltran, Ms. Nicoletta, Ms. Abel).

Thank you Ms. Okwabi and Ms. Kadison for spearheading this and many other events!!!





On Saturday, January 9th, JKO held an Open House for prospective parents/students. This even was well attended and conveyed meaningful information about our school. **A BIG thank you to Mr. Vincent for spearheading this event. Thanks to Mr. Williams, Ms. Beltran, Ms. Bernabel, Ms. Milan, Ms. Okwabi, Ms. Degregorio, parent, Ms. Conte our PTA president, Students Philip, Jeremy for attending and their contributions!!!**

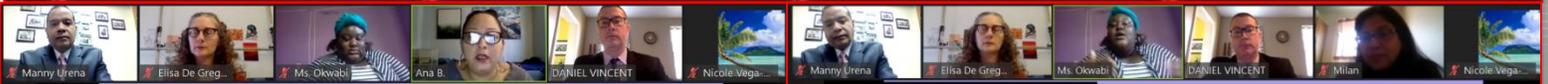
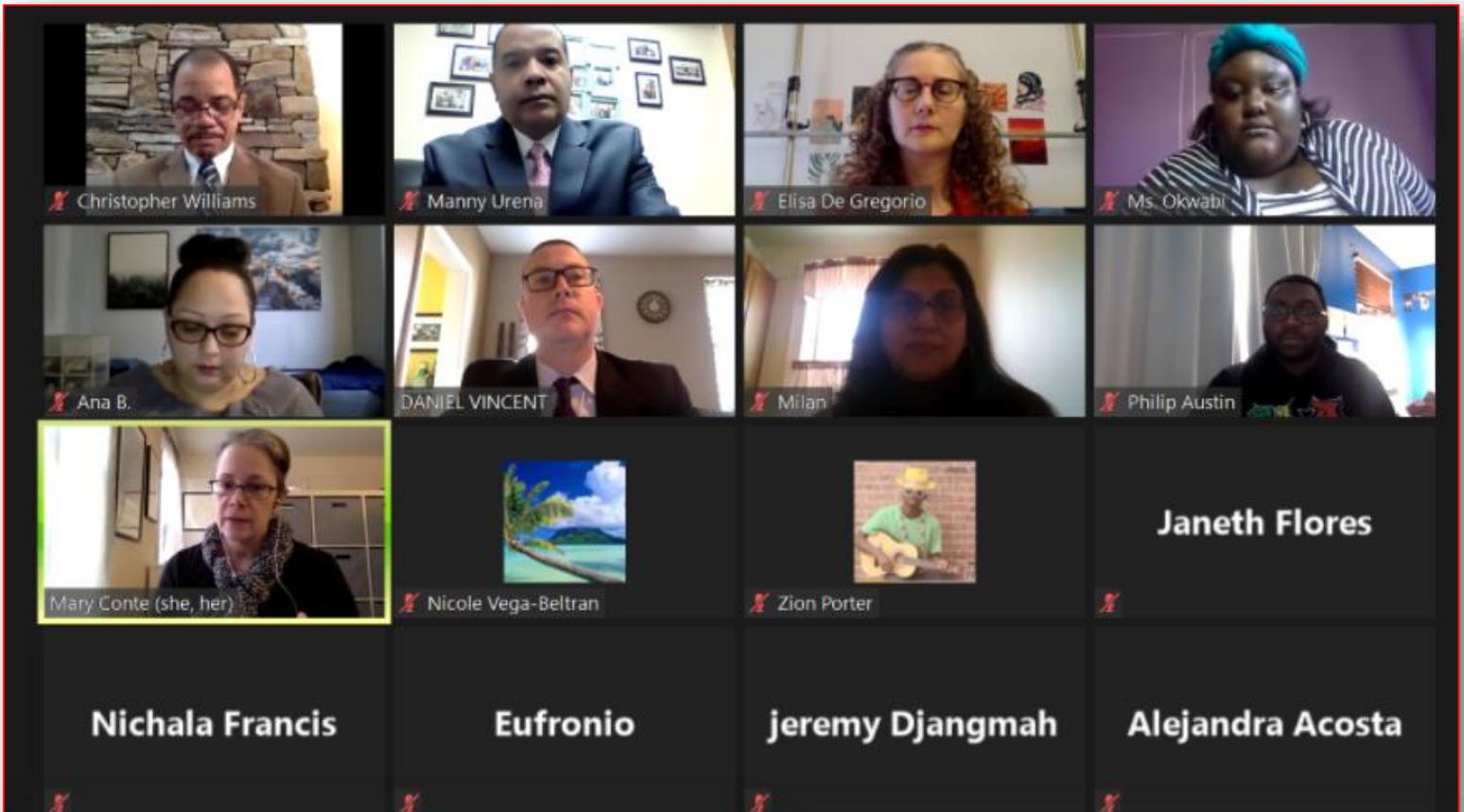
Open House
Principal: Mr. Urena
Assistant Principal: Mr. Vincent
January 2021

Presenters

- Mr. Manuel Urena, Principal
- Mr. Dan Vincent, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Milan, CTE Teacher & WBL Coordinator
- Ms. Vega, School Counselor
- Ms. De Gregorio, Art Teacher
- Ms. Okwabi, Chemistry Teacher & COSA
- Ms. Bernabel, Parent Coordinator
- Ms. Conte, Parent
- Phillip Austin, Graduate 2020

What Makes Us Unique

- We don't share the building with other schools.
- Our small environment allows for individualized attention to each student.
- Our focus on College and Career Readiness starts in Freshman year.
- We offer internship opportunities that most students do not receive until college.
- We focus on preparing your child to be successful in real world settings.
- A school staff dedicated to ensuring all students are provided with excellent instruction.
- School culture



Parent Coordinator

- Constant Communication
- ESL Nights
- PA Meetings
- College Fair
- Financial Aid Workshop
- Cyber-bullying
- IEP
- Reports/Transcripts Info Session

Parental Involvement

During the Pandemic

- We hosted
 - Grade Level Town Hall Meetings
 - One-on-One Talking Sessions
 - Game Nights
 - Movie Nights
 - Club Bonding

Field Trips

STUDENT AND CLUBS ORGANIZATIONS

- JKO Dance Company
- Pickel Ball
- Smash Arts Productions
- LUCHA
- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Helping Hands Society (HHS)
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- Creative Writing Club
- Running/Track Club
- Video Game Club
- Coding Club
- Yearbook
- Senior Council
- Student Government

ALL CLUBS MEET ON FRIDAYS UNLESS INFORMED OTHERWISE BY ADVISOR.



JKO ART

Arts Courses and Programs

Studio Art - an introductory art course exploring the use of multiple media. Students work with drawing, painting, sculpture and digital photography.

Advanced Art- a double period course that expands on the work in Studio Art to include theatre as a visual art form. This course is available in the fall and provides students with the 2 credits in the arts needed for graduation in one semester. Students use the arts as a means to engage their community by creating events and performances.

Business Arts Productions- this course provides students with one credit in art and one in business. Students work as a production company, Smash Arts Productions.





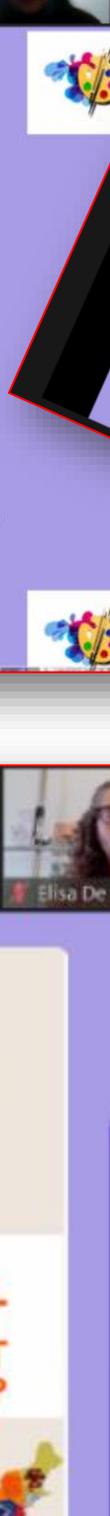
Smash Arts Productions

Smash Arts Productions is a student centered arts production company fusing the creativity of the arts with the implementation of a business model through a social consciousness lens. **Smash Arts Productions** students work with graphic design, creating merchandise for sale, planning flyers and programs, and event fundraisers.

Students produce and create original theatrical productions and a select group function as our technical theater team, working as lighting and sound designers, stage manager, projection technician and backstage technician. Our technical theater team services all our in-house productions



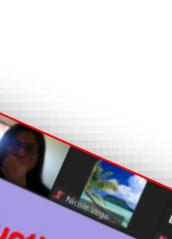

DANIEL VINCENT



JKO COUNSELING COLLEGE/CAREER SERVICES



WHICH
SCHOOL
IS THE
RIGHT FIT
FOR YOU?




- *Individual College/Career Planning Meetings throughout the year
- *Create Post-Secondary Goals/Plans with Students
- *Provide Assistance with College and Financial Aid Applications
- *Classroom Workshops/ Presentations
- *Parent Workshops/Presentations
- *College Trips/Virtual Tours
- *JKO College/Career Fair
- *Consultation and Collaboration with Parents
- *Referrals for Community Services pertaining to College and Career needs



Jacqueline Kennedy Chasse
OF NORTH CAROLINA



ALUMNI

Gina Bravo - JKO Class of 2016

“I'll always be a proud alumni from JKO! Forever grateful for all the support and kindness I received from so many of you there!!” Gina

Thank you Ms. Milan for sharing!!!





Congratulation to Ms. McMahon and her students for earning 2nd place in the recent VE competition and thus qualifying for the Citywide Business Plan Competition on February 9th. See Paul Presti's email below:



Good afternoon Karen

Congratulations on your outstanding achievement this month, with your VE firm placing **2nd in the Manhattan Division** and qualifying for the New York Citywide Business Plan Competition on February 9th.

Good luck next month and **extend my congratulations to your students** for their remarkable achievement.

Paul

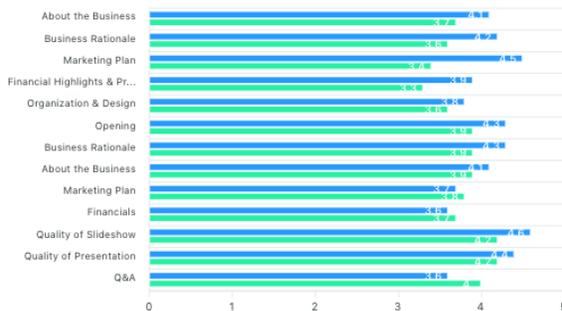
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Paul N. Presti

2020-2021 National Business Plan Competition - NY METRO

Entries 1627		Average Score 3.8/5		Your Score 4.1/5	
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Score Summary



Leave a message