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2026-27 Parent Newsletter #1

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,



Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

Be it returning families or new families becoming part of the JKO Family, I am delighted to have you join us for what is set to be an inspirational, engaging and successful year.

For the 2026-2027 school year, our focus will revolve around one instructional vision that encompasses solid academic preparation paired with real-world application. Our partnership with the district, and our magnet program has allowed us to focus on the following four domains to prepare our students to be ready for college, careers and citizenship:

Literacy Across Content Areas (NYC Reads): Each day, our students will engage with rich text in all subject areas to foster comprehension, analytical writing and communication.

Mathematical Sensemaking & Inquiry (NYC Solves): Through problem solving and inquiry through discussions, students will build their sense-making skills to create fluency in mathematics.

Hands-On Science & Inquiry: Through phenomenon based instruction in Biology, Earth & Space Science, Chemistry and Physics; students will solve authentic scientific inquiries to build their thinking skills.

Project-Based Learning (PBL) & STEAM: PBL is at the core of our magnet program. Students will be addressing business and city-wide problems from a S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) approach using up-to-date technology and research skills to find solutions.

Expanding College and Career Pathways

In order to ensure our students are fully prepared for the next stage in life, we are expanding our advanced academic options:

Advanced Placement (AP) & Advanced Coursework: Growing our advanced options with AP for All, which includes AP Seminar, AP Research, AP Precalculus, AP English Language and AP English Literature.

Civic & Language Recognition: Possibility of students earning a New York State Seal of Civic Readiness and Seal of Biliteracy.

College Partnerships: Early college experiences through CUNY College Now, BMCC and Berkeley College; coupled with our great business industry partnerships.

First Day of School Information:

First Day of School: Thursday, September 10, 2026

Start Time: 8:20 a.m.

Dismissal Time: 2:40 p.m.

For further details in regards to schedules, school policy and events, please refer to our inaugural parent newsletter that can be found on our school website at www.JKOhighschool.org under the "Parents" section. You may also wish to view the following attached documents from our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Reaves and school counseling team.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment, trust and support towards our students and school community. Together, we are going to make this an amazing school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manuel A. Ureña', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Manuel A. Ureña

Principal

JKO SCHOOL COUNSELOR CONNECT



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. Reaves, Parent Coordinator, at ext. 2092 or email at BReaves@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:**
 - **Thursday, September 10th:** First Day of School
 - **Monday, September 21st:** School Closed – Yom Kippur
 - **Monday, October 12th:** School Closed – Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples'
 - **Tuesday, November 3rd:** Remote School for All Students– Election Day
 - **Wednesday, November 11th:** School Closed – Veterans Day
 - **Thursday, November 19th:** Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - **Friday, November 20th:** Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - **Thursday–Friday, November 26–November 27th:** School Closed – Thanksgiving Recess
 - **Thursday–Friday, December 24–January 1, 2027:** School Closed – Winter Recess
 - **Monday, January 18, 2027:** School Closed – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - **Monday, January 25, 2027:** Last Day of Classes for 1st/ Fall Semester
 - **Tuesday–Friday, January 26–January 29, 2027:** NYS Regents Administration
 - **Monday, February 1, 2027:** School Closed – Professional Development Day
 - **Tuesday, February 2, 2027:** 1st Day of 2nd/Spring Semester
- ❖ **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. Please see important dates below:
 - **Thursday, October 1st:** Financial Aid Application is Open:
<https://studentaid.gov/>
 - **Monday-Friday, October 19-23rd:** College Application Week
 - **Tuesday, October 20th:** Financial Aid Workshop for Students
 - **Wednesday, October 21st:** SUNY College Fair Trip @ Javitis Center
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.

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. Reaves, Coordinadora de Padres, en la ext. 2092 o correo electrónico a BReaves@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:**
 - **Jueves, 10 de septiembre:** Primer día de clases
 - **Lunes, 21 de septiembre:** Escuela cerrada – Yom Kippur
 - **Lunes, 12 de octubre:** Escuela cerrada – Día de la Herencia Italiana/Día de los Pueblos Indígenas
 - **Martes, 3 de noviembre:** Clases a distancia para todos los estudiantes – Día de las Elecciones
 - **Miércoles, 11 de noviembre:** Escuela cerrada – Día de los Veteranos
 - **Jueves, 19 de noviembre:** Conferencias de padres y maestros (horario vespertino)
 - **Viernes, 20 de noviembre:** Conferencias de padres y maestros (horario de tarde)
 - **Jueves y viernes, 26 y 27 de noviembre:** Escuela cerrada – Receso de Acción de Gracias
 - **Jueves a viernes, 24 de diciembre al 1 de enero de 2027:** Escuela cerrada – Receso de invierno
 - **Lunes, 18 de enero de 2027:** Escuela cerrada – Día del Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
 - **Lunes, 25 de enero de 2027:** Último día de clases del primer semestre (otoño)
 - **Martes a viernes, 26 al 29 de enero de 2027:** Administración de exámenes Regents del Estado de Nueva York



- **Lunes, 1 de febrero de 2027: Escuela cerrada** – Día de desarrollo profesional
- **Martes, 2 de febrero de 2027:** Primer día del segundo semestre (primavera)

❖ **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 vistan de manera profesional. Esperamos que los estudiantes vistan 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.**

❖ **12º 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.

Consulte las fechas importantes a continuación:

- Jueves, 1 de octubre: Apertura de la solicitud de ayuda financiera:
<https://studentaid.gov/>
- Lunes a viernes, del 19 al 23 de octubre: Semana de solicitudes universitarias
- Martes, 20 de octubre: Taller de ayuda financiera para estudiantes
- Miércoles, 21 de octubre: Visita a la feria universitaria SUNY en el Javits Center

❖ **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.

❖ **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.

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

PARENT COORDINATOR CONNECTIONS

From the Desk of the
Parent Coordinator
Ms. Reaves
Tel #929-617-0122
BReaves@schools.nyc.gov

bkeaves@schools.nyc.gov
(929) 617-0122

Announcements

- The first day of school for students to report to school is Thursday, September 10th.
- The following is the bell schedule for the 2026-27 school year:

PERIOD	BEGINS	Breakfast is available from 7:30 AM to 8:15 AM	ENDS
1	8:20		9:05
2	9:08		9:53
3	9:56		10:41
4(LUNCH)	10:44		11:29
5 (LUNCH)	11:32		12:17
6 (LUNCH)	12:20		1:05
7 (LUNCH)	1:08		1:53
8	1:55		2:40



- Student lockers will be assigned on the last week of September.
- Student OMNY (Transportation Passes) cards will be distributed on the first day of school. Students can use OMNY passes beginning September 1–August 31, 2026, as long as they remain eligible (grade and distance) throughout the school year.
- Your child will receive his/her schedule upon entering the building on September 10th.
- Reach out to Ms. Bernabel if you have not registered for your NYC Myschools account. This is very important for parents to receive information regularly from the DOE and to be able to access certain services available online as well as our online grading system. You can register for an account at: <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/account/log-in/>
- Please complete the NYC financial forms, formerly known as Lunch Forms. While lunch is currently given to all students regardless of income, schools still need parents to complete in order to qualify for federal Title I funding. All information submitted by parents is completely confidential. The following is the link for this: <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>
- PTA/SLT Meetings: PTA/SLT meetings are held on the first Monday of every month. Stay tuned for the time and day of the September meeting which sometimes takes place later in the month. SLT commences at 4:30 pm and ends at 5:30 pm. PTA meetings commence at 6 pm to 7 pm. Additionally, meetings will be held virtually and in person (hybrid). An email with the Zoom links will be sent to parents ten days in advance.
- The following are documents students will be given on the first day of school which must be completed by parents and handed to Ms. Bernabel:
 - Emergency Contact Card
 - Military Parent Letter: This form requests information regarding the military active-duty status of parents and guardians. Parents who are not on active duty can disregard this form. Parents who completed this form in prior years must complete it again. For every family who submits a survey response indicating that the student's parent or guardian is on military active duty, you or your designees must use the BINU screen in ATS to enter 'M' in the District C field.
 - Housing Questionnaire
 - CH-205 Child & Adolescent Health Examination Form
 - Parent Ethnicity Survey
 - Home Language Identification Survey
 - Financial Forms (AKA Lunch Forms)
- We are currently looking to recruit 10 sophomores for **Big Brothers Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program**. Students can see Ms. Milan for an application.
- The following is the Student Phone Policy:



JKO Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

At JKO, we believe a focused learning environment is key to our students' success. This letter serves as a reminder of our policy on cell phones and other electronic devices, which aligns with New York State law and the NYC Public Schools' Chancellor's Regulation A-413.

Policy Details

Leave Non-Phone Electronics at Home: To minimize distractions and ensure a productive learning atmosphere, students should leave all personal electronic devices, other than cell phones, at home. This includes smartwatches, earbuds, earphones, and personal tablet computers. School-issued devices are the only electronics permitted for academic use.

Collection of Non-Phone Electronics: If students bring any electronics other than a cell phone, those items will be collected at the school's entrance and returned at the end of the school day.

Securing Cell Phones: Students are required to secure their cell phones in the provided pouch upon entering the school building. Each student has a designated pouch for this purpose. The pouch will be unlocked by staff when the student leaves the building at the end of the school day.

Pouch Responsibility: Students are responsible for the care of their pouch. A 20.00 replacement fee will be charged for any pouch that is intentionally damaged or destroyed.

Parental Contact of Student: If a parent wishes to contact their child during the school day, they should call the school and we will make their child available.

Disciplinary Actions

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action consistent with the NYC Department of Education's Behavioral Expectations for Students. Actions are progressive and based on the nature and frequency of the violation. These may include:

- A verbal warning.
- Confiscation of the electronic device, to be returned at the end of the school day.
- Confiscation of the electronic device, to be returned only after a mandatory parent conference.
- Seizure of the electronic device, to be returned once the student signs a behavioral contract.
- Suspension for repeated offenses.

We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain a productive and respectful learning environment for all students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.



New Staff Member

Welcome to the JKO family!!!



Bethany Walio (Biology)





Class of
2026

Congratulations to the class of 2026 who graduated last June. We are very proud of you all!!!

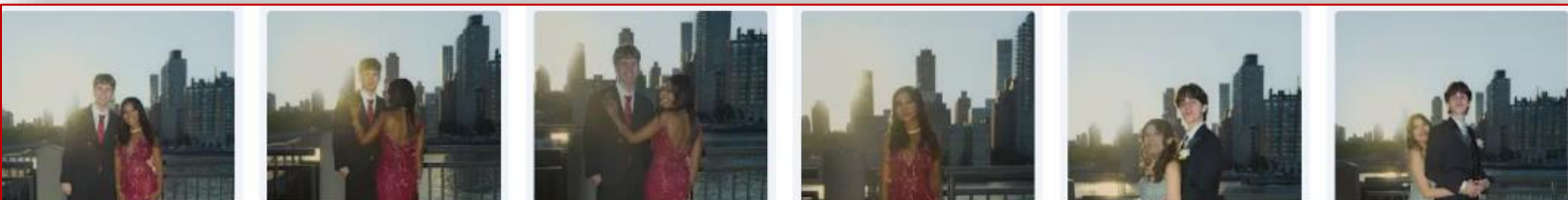
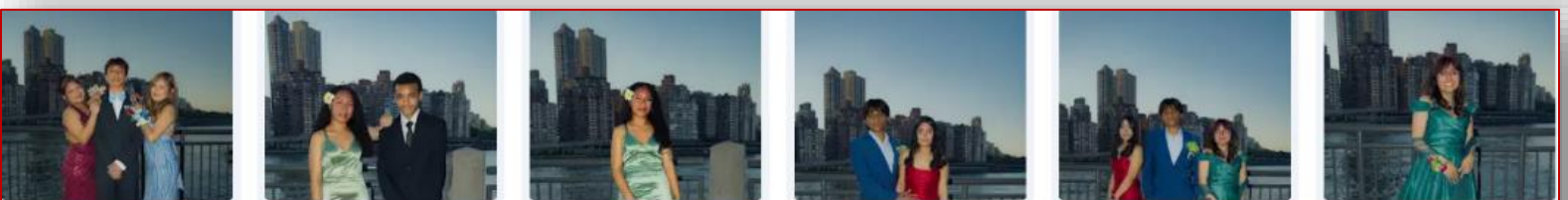


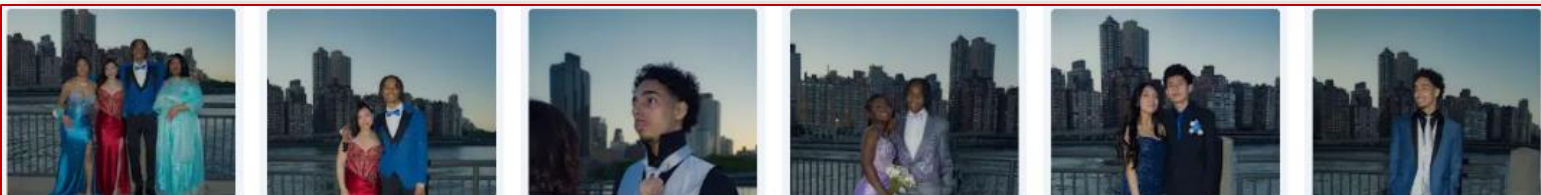


Here they are at prom!!!!

Prom King: Stephan Wiggins
Prom Queen: Cassieann Smith









A message from Ms. De Gregorio:

Dear JKO,

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's Bee Rave & Pride celebration a success!

There was a lot of good food, music, conversation, and fun! Thank you for wearing Pride stickers and letting our students know that all are welcome here at JKO and for making donations for students to attend.

Special Thanks to:

Ms. Marshall, Ms. Acosta, Ms. ElMardi, Ms. Kadison, Ms. Vega, Ms. Okwabi, Ms. Voelker, Ms. Bernabel, Miss Beverly and our very own Mr. Bee- Mr. Padgett!

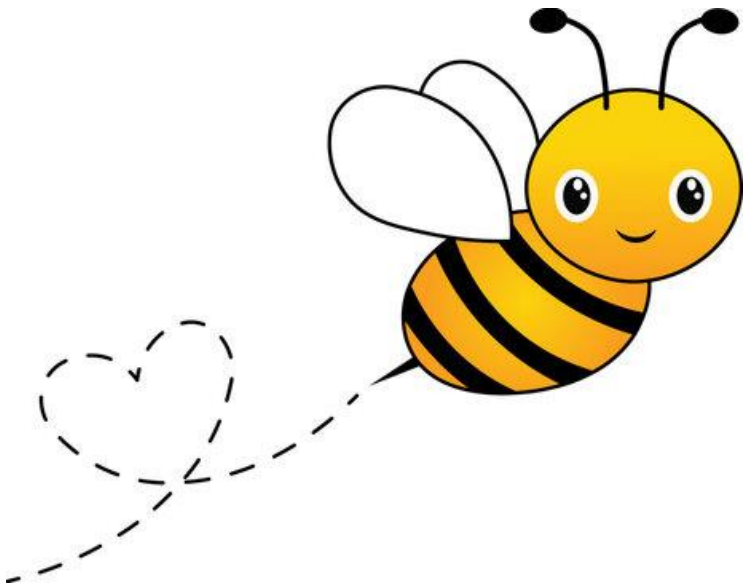
Till next year when the Bee Rave celebrates our 20th Anniversary! Buzzzzzz!

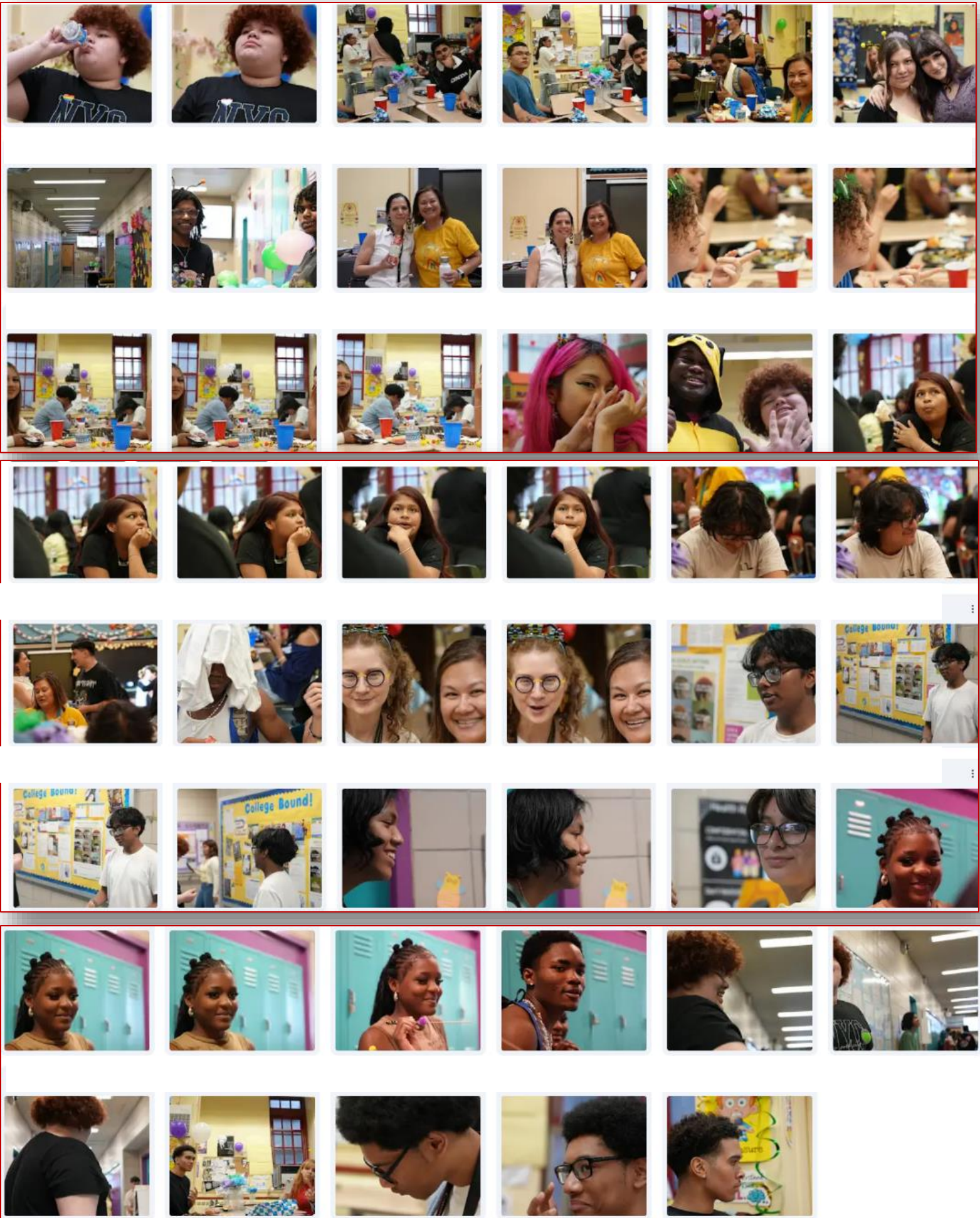
Thanks!
Ms. D



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

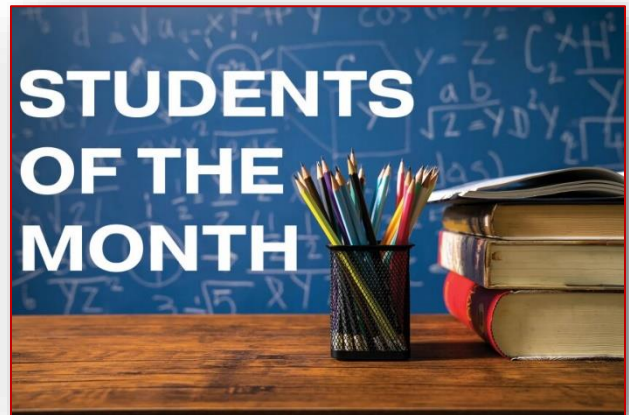








A message from Mr. Williams:



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

9th Grade:

Keily Sanchez/Erick Macato Hernandez

10th Grade:

Mason Ramjattan

11th Grade:

Allison Vazquez

12th Grade:

Gianna Jenkins

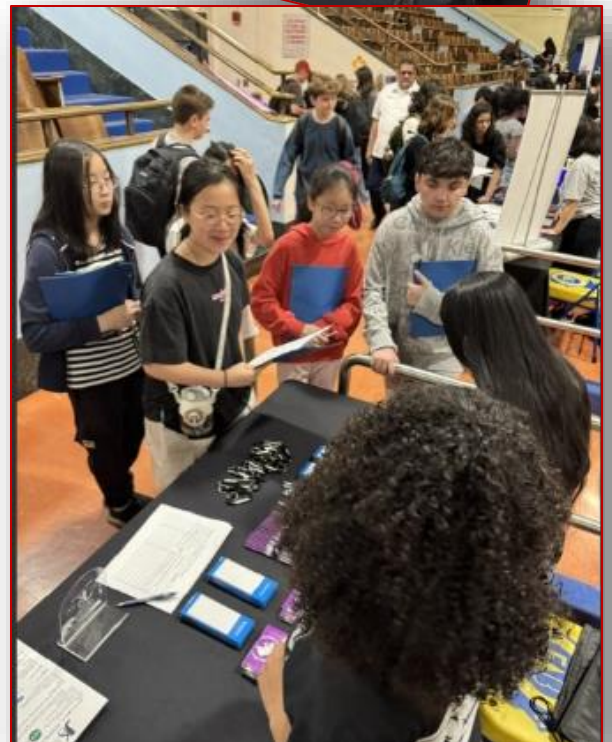
Please join me in congratulating them for their contributions to the JKO community.





On June 9th and 10th, JKO students and Ms. Garcia represented our school at the High School Fair in Fashion Industries High School.

A BIG thank you to Ms. Garcia and our students for connecting with prospective families and students!!!



In the Spotlight



Greetings JKO,

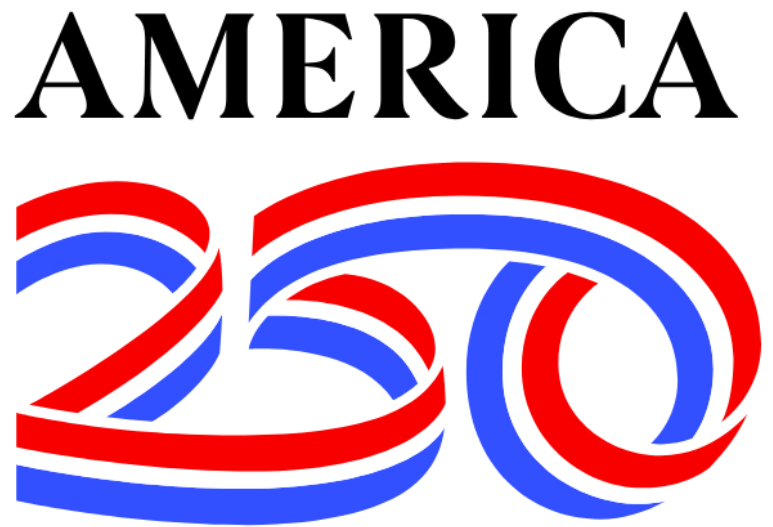
On June 11th, Emilee Basurto & Adrian Morales took part in a fashion show with Junk Kouture on Peace Boat to celebrate World Ocean Day at the Ocean Gala. Peace Boat is affiliated with the United Nations, and tonight it was all about SDG 14- Life Below Water.

It was a beautiful evening aboard their ship with visionaries in art, science, government and business from across the globe who are seeking pathways to protect our blue world.

Emilee and Adrian were magnificent - were honored to have them represent JKO!

Thanks!
Ms. D





Greetings JKO

I just want to share with you all our film project. See the link below.

Thanks!
Ms. D

For our final project, art students revisited themes from their March Civics for All Poster Project, America 250: Voices Then, Voices Now, to create short interview-based documentary films.

As we approach this milestone in our nation's history, where are we as a country and as a people?

Art students took to the streets to find out what people had to say.

Working in media teams as interviewers, cinematographers, photographers, and note-takers, students developed a thesis, line of inquiry, and interview questions to guide their research. Students were mentored by Yaari, a media artist from Magic Box Productions, who supported them in filmmaking, and Karla, a theater artist from Roundabout Theatre Company, who helped them develop their interviewing and communication skills.

It was inspiring to watch our students bravely approach strangers and engage them in meaningful dialogue about the state of our country and its future.

We hope you enjoy the diverse perspectives and thoughtful conversations showcased in these films.

[America 250; Voices Then, Voices Now](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1z7WsyaYclzyeVgdA3bobQb3kNFkjuOqQWxzXRjXaqFw/edit?usp=sharing)

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1z7WsyaYclzyeVgdA3bobQb3kNFkjuOqQWxzXRjXaqFw/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for spearheading this Ms. D...they are AMAZING!!!



Congratulations to Ms. Newell and her VE students! See email below...

Dear Carrol Newell,

Over the course of the 2025-26 school year, thousands of students at hundreds of schools across the country showed up to work at their VE firms. Day in and day out, they ideated, collaborated, and put in the work to get their businesses off the ground and running. With your guidance and encouragement, they emerged from the year as young businesspeople, with trials, errors, and hard-earned successes under their belts.

Among these firms, a select group stood out for consistently demonstrating and exceeding our standard of excellence. This year, Guardian Insurance earned a Silver designation by completing more than 80% of the initiatives outlined in our annual framework. In commemoration of this achievement, we have attached a digital certificate you may print or share with your class and wider community.

Your work as a VE Facilitator is instrumental in making accomplishments like this possible. We send our sincere congratulations and appreciation for your continued dedication to your students, and we look forward to all that the 2026-27 school year will bring!

Sincerely,

The Team at Virtual Enterprises International

Claudia Obzanski

Program Implementation and NYS/NE Regional Intern

Virtual Enterprises International, Inc.