2017 - 2018 School Profile

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**School Mission:** To empower and engage all students by connecting rigorous learning through innovation to the increasing demands of the global society.

**School Information:**
Quest To Learn (Q2L) is a New York City, District 02, public school located in Chelsea, Manhattan. The school is a collaboration between the Department of Education, New Visions for Public Schools, and the Institute of Play, bringing together a unique learning community that includes students, educators, game designers, curriculum specialists and parents. Q2L first opened its doors as an envisioned 6-12 school in September 2009 and graduated its first class of students in June 2016. While our current total enrollment is 605, we have 380 students enrolled in our upper school, grades 9-12. Our graduating class of 2018 consists of 65 students.

**School Community**
The Q2L high school student body is racially, ethnically, geographically and economically diverse, which is representative of the heterogeneous nature of New York City.

- American Indian/Alaskan: 1%
- Asian: 8%
- Black: 22%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 1%
- Hispanic: 42%
- White: 24%
- Approximately 58% of Q2L high school students are from families who are eligible for free or reduced lunch
- Gender: 65% Males; 35% Females
- Approximately 3% English Language Learners, predominantly from Spanish- and Chinese-speaking homes
The curriculum is designed to meet the diverse abilities of all students and to provide an engaging and academically rigorous college preparatory program. The Quest curriculum is based on an approach called game-like learning, in which teachers use the principles of game design to create learning experiences that connect educational standards with 21st century skills and habits of mind. Teachers design challenge-based units of curriculum called missions, which are generated around problems that exist in the real world. To solve a mission, students must apply the content and skills they have learned in order to design a solution to the particular problem. They must also consider how their solution functions within a system, and demonstrate an understanding of the interconnections between parts of a system. Throughout the curriculum, students engage in project-based learning and use design thinking and systems thinking tools and processes. As students move from middle school to the high school, missions become increasingly related to real world issues, and students learn how to use content learned in the various core domains of English, Math, Science and Social Studies to analyze and solve complex problems.

Q2L has an 8 period day and grades and credits are awarded on a semester basis. Through our partnership with the College Now Program at Baruch, some students have had an opportunity to take a college credit-bearing course after school. Eligibility for participation in the College Now Program at Baruch is based on an evaluation of both grades and PSAT/Regents scores.

Most courses taught in major subject areas are regents-level and we currently offer 5 Advanced Placement courses:

- AP Calculus;
- AP Language & Composition;
- AP Literature & Composition;
- AP Computer Science Principles (new course); and
- AP US History.

Junior and senior students are able to enroll in an AP course after a rigorous selection process, which requires submission of an application, completion of a related assignment, and subject-specific grade requirements. Our foreign language course offerings include Spanish, levels 1, 2 and 3 only.

**GRADING SYSTEMS**

Grades are awarded using the numerical 100 point scale. The minimum passing course grade is 65. Final grades awarded for each semester are listed on the transcript as unweighted course marks. AP courses are weighted by a factor of 1.1 for calculation of the cumulative GPA. Only grades earned in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language and Health courses are calculated as part of the cumulative GPA; elective courses are not factored into the cumulative GPA.

We do rank students in the senior graduating class and use an exact ranking system based on the student’s cumulative GPA. Students must attend Q2L or another NYC Department of Education school throughout their high school career in order to be included in the senior class ranking.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Our students follow the New York City semester-based model of calculating credits towards graduation and so students are required to earn 44 credits distributed in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Arts, Health, Physical Education and electives to earn a Regents diploma. Students must also pass a minimum of 5 Regents Exams in the areas of English, Math, Science and Social Studies. We encourage our students to strive for an Advanced Regents Diploma, which requires students to pass additional Regents exams beyond the 5 which are minimally required.

**POST-SECONDARY PLANS & EDUCATION:**

Q2L graduates have moved on to pursue work opportunities, apprenticeships, the US Marine Corps and degrees in higher education. Our college bound students have been accepted to a range of different colleges & universities: American University, Bard College, Brown University, College of Saint Rose, Columbia University, Cooper Union, Culinary Institute of America, CUNY (Baruch, BMCC, Brooklyn, City College, College of Staten Island, College of Technology, Guttman, Hunter, John Jay, LaGuardia CC, Lehman, Macaulay Honors College, Queensborough CC, Queens College), Duquesne University, Endicott College, Georgia State Perimeter, Hampshire College, Hofstra University, Iona College, Ithaca College, Long Island University, Manhattan College, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Monroe College, Mount Saint Mary College, NYU, Pace University, Pratt Institute, Quinnipiac University, Rhode Island School of Design, Roger Williams University, School of Visual Arts, St. John’s University, Stony Brook University, The New School, John Jay College, Southern Connecticut State University, The Fashion Institute of Technology, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, University of Bridgeport, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, University of Massachusetts - Amherst, University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, University of Rhode Island, University of Southern Mississippi, University of the Arts, University of the Hartford, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Vassar College, Wesleyan University, Western Connecticut State University, Western New England School of Law, Wesleyan University, Westminster College, Yeshiva University, and others.
Students in the Class of 2017 were awarded money in excess of $100,000 in renewable grants and/or scholarships by their college of choice.

POST-SECONDARY PARTNERSHIPS
We are an official partner with the Baruch College Now program, which enables qualified students to enroll in college courses on the CUNY Baruch College campus. Some students have taken advantage of learning and internship opportunities through Hudson Guild, a local community-based organization.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES & CLUBS
- Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) teams for BOYS: Baseball Varsity; Basketball Jr. Varsity and Varsity; Bowling Varsity; Soccer Varsity; Volleyball Varsity; Wrestling Varsity; GIRLS: Basketball Varsity; Bowling Varsity; Soccer Varsity; Tennis Varsity; Volleyball Jr. Varsity and Varsity;
- Clubs include: Basketball Club, Fitness Club; Flag Football; Girls Club, iPower Theatre Collective, NYC Road Runners Club, Student Government;
- Special Programs/Collaborations: Apple Education, Arthur Miller Foundation, Hudson Community Sailing; Manhattan Youth; Midori & Friends Musical Enrichment Program, National Honor Society; NYU Film Summer Program

QUEST TO LEARN RESEARCH
Quest to Learn was one of a handful of schools involved in the first year pilot of the College and Work Readiness Assessment (CWRA+), a state-of-the-art performance-based assessment developed by the Council for Aid to Education.

According to a preliminary analysis of CWRA+ results by independent researchers at the Connecting Youth: Digital Learning Research Project at New York University, Quest to Learn middle and high school students achieve significant growth in critical thinking, reasoning, problem-solving, and communication skills.

QUEST TO LEARN IN THE NEWS
New Learners of the 21st century (PBS)
The School Where Learning is a Game (CNN)

“Quest is a school that’s steeped in invention, where teachers have the luxury of asking their students not to memorize the Pythagorean Theorem but to discover it.”

“When I visited Quest To Learn, I saw a school that looked very similar to any other school, except every student seemed engaged, empowered, and motivated.”

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH
Watch our video: An Introduction to Quest to Learn
Visit our website: www.q2l.org