

John Dewey High School
50 Avenue X
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11223

Dr. Joshua Segal, Principal

Tel: 596-4193

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Dear Principal & Guidance Counselor:

John Dewey High School is an experiment in education, which in concept and organization breaks radically from the traditional mold. The new school offers a realistic and practical route to mastery of knowledge, encourages acceleration and enrichment, stimulates independent creative effort, and eliminates the stigma of failure. Students advance at their own rate; they are graduated when they have mastered the prescribed curriculum. Because primary responsibility for learning will be developed in the student, each graduate will be well equipped to succeed after graduation.

A few of the distinctive features of the new school are:

- Modular and flexible scheduling breaking the five-period per week lockstep.
- Abandonment of the distinction between major and minor subjects.
- Incorporation of extra and co-curricular activities into the daily program.
- Use of modern computer technology and methods to add impact to the instructional process.
- Discontinuance of the Carnegie Unit.
- A complete intra-mural athletic program for all students and the elimination of inter-scholastic sports.

The school will have a student body representing a cross-section of the adolescent population of Brooklyn. There will be no tracking, but instruction will be provided to suit students with a vast range of abilities and backgrounds. Enrichment and reinforcement will be available for all students. There will be six phases instead of two terms during the school year, but the sixth phase will take place during the summer and will be optional. Students may complete their high school program in three, four, or five years. Progress from phase to phase will depend solely on adequate mastery of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes taught, as measured by accomplishment of research projects, by tests, by performance, and by teacher judgments. Marks will not be given. Arrangements have been made with institutions of higher learning so that the college applicants from John Dewey will be judged by the work they have mastered, not grades.

The guidance program will be arranged to implement the experimental nature of the school. Its major aim will be to help each student become an effective learner and to achieve independence in his studies. Educational, vocational, career, and personal counseling will be available.

The non-graded organization will enhance both individual progress and independent study. Advancement by students will take place in each subject area at a rate determined by the student. Students may skip phases, take two concurrently, or complete "mastery" in independent study, rather than under formal instruction.

Between one-fourth and one-third of the student's daily program will be unscheduled. During this independent study time, students may use any of the resource centers, libraries, laboratories, arts facilities, or other study areas.

Faculty will be selected on the basis of their flexible approach to education, love of teaching and of young people, and subject matter excellence.

Any student from a feeding school in District 21 recommended by the principal or guidance counselor will be accepted by John Dewey. If additional places are available, students will be admitted from other districts in Brooklyn. If students must transfer from John Dewey before graduation, we will send a transcript to the receiving school with an evaluation for traditional grade placement.

John Dewey High School is wholly committed to the pursuit of excellence in education. We want every student to see the world with a sense of wonder and with abiding hope.