



THE URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR LAW JUSTICE

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Suzette Dyer, Principal

Featured in “New York City’s Best Public High Schools”

Our School

The Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice (SLJ) is a college preparatory high school in Brooklyn, New York, committed to high standards and personal attention for all students. SLJ stands on the belief that the success of each student is a community responsibility. Staff, families and partners work together to challenge and support students with a curriculum that respects their right to learn at high levels, and with enrichment services that every student deserves. SLJ delivers individualized education in an empowering environment that fosters intellectual independence and civic engagement. Equipped with an understanding of law and social justice, SLJ's students graduate ready to succeed in college and effect change in society.

Three Pillars

SLJ provides an education that rests on three foundational pillars: intensive academic instruction, robust enrichment offerings woven into the curriculum, and individualized college and career preparation.

Instruction. Based on the idea that law is a captivating lens for learning, and that the skills necessary for a legal professional are universal, we offer a rigorous academic program to engage students through issues of law and social justice. Courses include Forensics, Constitutional Law, and Participation in Government, as well as English, Math, Social Studies, and Science; electives in Visual Arts and Theater; and AP courses in Environmental Science, Microeconomics, English Language & Composition, US History, and Psychology. Teachers plan collaboratively so that what students learn in one class is strongly reinforced by instruction in other classes. Work is project-based, challenging, and heavily infused with reading and writing.

College & Career. All SLJ students experience a series of regular college readiness lessons and activities in Advisory as well as opportunities to meet one-on-one and in small groups with our team of College & Career advisors. These advisors get to know students personally and help them identify and enact the most rigorous post-high school plan possible.

Enrichment. In all grades, students choose from an extensive array of extracurricular opportunities – both on-site and off, during the school year and over the summer – including arts, athletics, leadership opportunities, pre-college programs, study abroad, internships, and service opportunities. Participation contributes to students’ independence, maturity, interpersonal skills, professional and organizational skills, and commitment to higher education.

Theme

At SLJ, law and justice are the lenses through which subject matter is viewed and academic skills are developed. Inquiry, debate, collaborative learning, and project-based instruction are the primary instructional strategies employed by our teachers, who prepare students of widely differing abilities for college and career options. Our theme reflects our conviction that educating is in itself an act of social justice, and that learning can be amplified when done through the lens of the law, with a focus on analysis, critical thinking, and persistent, reasoned questioning. It is further embedded thanks to long-term partnerships with Brooklyn Law School, Red Hook Community Justice Center, the US Attorney’s Office, and our lead law partner, the Manhattan-based law firm, Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

Our 18-month college retention rate is 87%

THE STUDENTS WE SERVE

SLJ serves approximately 460 culturally diverse students from all five New York City boroughs, with a large majority drawn from Brooklyn. Our student population is primarily Black American, Caribbean, and Hispanic. A large percentage lives in single parent, female-headed homes, and many are the children of immigrants or are immigrants themselves. SLJ does not screen applicants to select high achievers. Upon entering, many students perform below grade level in both math and reading, yet SLJ is among the leading non-screened schools in NYC for the number of students passing English and Math Regents. SLJ students also accumulate credits for coursework in excess of basic requirements. SLJ offers intense supports to prepare students for the Regents exams that are required to receive their Regents Diploma: US History, Global History, English, Algebra, and Living Environment.

TITLE I STATUS

SLJ qualifies for Title I Funding, which means that most of our students are economically disadvantaged and qualify for free or reduced lunch. More than 75 percent will be the first in their family to attend college, and many will be the first in their family to complete high school.

| SCHOOL DESCRIPTION | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Community | Urban |
| Accreditation | New York State Board of Regents |
| School Year | Annualized |
| Faculty | 31 |
| Administration | 3 |
| Student Services | 13 |
| Faculty with Advanced Degrees | 96% |

| STUDENT POPULATION | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Total Enrollment | 461 | Hispanic | 24.1% |
| Class of 2016 Graduation Rate | 96% | Black | 68.1% |
| Average Daily Attendance | 92.9% | White & Other | 5.0% |
| Free or Reduced Lunch | 72.9% | Males | 48.2% |
| First Generation College | 75% | Females | 51.8% |
| English as Second Language | 1.7% | Special Education | 17.1% |

| Graduation Requirements | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| SUBJECT | CREDITS REQUIRED BY NYC | CREDITS REQUIRED BY SLJ |
| English | 8 | 10 |
| Social Studies | 8 | 12 |
| Math | 6 | 8 |
| Science | 6 | 8 |
| Foreign Language | 2 | 2 |
| Art/Music | 2 | 2 |
| Health | 1 | 1 |
| Phys Ed | 4 | 4 |
| Elective | 7 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 44 | 51 |

RIGOROUS PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

Adolescent development is approached holistically in our school in order to ensure the academic success of a student population drawn from many of New York's most at risk neighborhoods. Positive school culture, student-run organizations including Youth Court, and enrichment opportunities that rival the offerings of elite private schools motivate, empower, and provide purpose and direction for student learning. Our four-year course of study is designed to prepare students for success in college leading to Bachelor's and beyond. The curriculum demands ten academic credits beyond what New York City requires for graduation. A college retention rate of 87% for our alumni eighteen months after graduation from our school attests to the excellence of SLJ's curriculum and the effectiveness of our faculty.

ACADEMIC HONORS DIPLOMA

SLJ celebrates Seniors with exemplary academic records, awarding ACADEMIC HONORS DIPLOMAS to those students with 85 or higher GPA who score 80 or greater on both Integrated Algebra and Comprehensive English Language Arts plus 75 or greater on the following New York State Regents tests: Global History, US History, and Living Environment.

Class of 2017 enrollment is 104 students

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

- **Demanding Social Studies** – Students complete four Social Studies credits beyond the eight required for NYC graduation, including a year-long Constitutional Law course. Students are challenged throughout high school with demanding non-fiction texts, which include Supreme Court cases and the U.S. Constitution. Writing assignments regularly call upon students to craft arguments based on primary and secondary documents. Performance-based assessments are the norm.
- **Research Writing Required**—Students engage in sustained research projects and access the databases of the Brooklyn Public Library throughout the course. A college level annotated bibliography is required.
- **College Readiness Standards** – College-readiness standards in our high school are aligned with the City University of New York's threshold scores of 75 on the comprehensive English Language Arts and 70 on Common Core Algebra. Students are supported in re-taking state tests when more time is needed to meet threshold scores.
- **Emphasis on Literacy**—9th graders take two English courses, which are targeted literacy building courses that emphasize argument, discussion, writing structures, evidence, and analysis.
- **AP Rigor**—Students enrolled in AP courses attend a summer boot camp designed to teach study skills and habits of mind required to be successful in this advanced coursework.
- **Foreign Language** – a single year of Spanish was the only offering to the Class of 2017.
- **Calculus** – this is the most advanced math course available to the Class of 2017's highest math achievers.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND COLLEGE COURSES

SLJ offers five Advanced Placement courses: English Language Composition and Microeconomics were instituted with the first senior class. In recent years, AP offerings have been added to include Environmental Science, Psychology, and US History. More than 40 SLJ Seniors are registered for Advanced Placement classes each year, an exceptional percentage in light of the non-screened population served by our school. Credit-bearing college courses are available through CUNY's College Now program and summer pre-college programs offered on campuses. Thirty-six percent of the Class of 2017 seniors have completed or are enrolled in a College Now course.

| Advanced Placement (May 2016 Results) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| COURSE | # Registered | % Testing | Score: 5 | Score: 4 | Score: 3 | Score: 2 | Score: 1 |
| Microeconomics | 25 | 92% | 0 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| English Language & Composition | 26 | 100% | 0 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 3 |

GRADING, RANKING, AND TESTING

SLJ gives grades from 55-100 with 65 as the passing grade. Grade Point Average is weighted, excluding physical education, guidance electives, and credit-bearing internships. **SLJ does not compute class rank; however, a composite grade distribution is provided.**

| GRADE DISTRIBUTION (CLASS OF 2017) 2015-2016 School Year | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------|----------------|------|---------|------------------|
| | | English | Social Studies | Math | Science | Foreign Language |
| 90-100 | A | 27 | 42 | 19 | 14 | 31 |
| 80-89 | B | 36 | 43 | 22 | 40 | 19 |
| 70-79 | C | 30 | 59 | 25 | 24 | 26 |
| 65-69 | D | 12 | 33 | 25 | 28 | 14 |

| REGENTS EXAMS (CLASS OF 2017) Figures as of August 2016 | | | | | |
|--|---------|----------------|------------|---------|--------------------|
| EXAM | English | Global History | US History | Algebra | Living Environment |
| Number Taking | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 |
| Number Passing | 106 | 91 | 103 | 94 | 92 |
| Number at 75 or Higher | 85 | 65 | 74 | 42 | 37 |

| SAT Averages (Class of 2017) March, May, and June 2016 Tests | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Evidence-Based Reading and Writing | Mathematics |
| Average Score | 450 | 433 |

Class of 2016 high school graduation rate was 96%

COLLEGES ATTENDED BY OUR ALUMNI

*Institutions from which our alumni have graduated

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Albany University SUNY* | Dickinson College | New York University* |
| Alfred State College | Fairleigh Dickinson University | Norfolk State College |
| American University | Fashion Institute of Technology SUNY* | Northeastern University* |
| Amherst College* | Franklin and Marshall College* | Oswego State College SUNY* |
| Babson College | Fordham University* | Pace University* |
| Barnard College* | George Washington University* | Pennsylvania State University* |
| Baruch College CUNY* | Georgetown University* | Pitzer College* |
| Bates College* | Guttman Community College CUNY* | Purchase College SUNY* |
| Bennett College* | Hamilton College* | Queens College CUNY |
| Bentley University | Hobart and William Smith Colleges | Queensborough Community College CUNY |
| Binghamton University SUNY* | Hofstra University* | St. John Fisher College |
| Boricua College* | Howard University* | St. Lawrence University* |
| Borough of Manhattan Community College CUNY* | Hunter College CUNY* | Skidmore College * |
| Brooklyn College CUNY, Macaulay Honors* | Ithaca College | Smith College |
| Buffalo State College SUNY* | John Jay College CUNY, Macaulay Honors* | Spelman College |
| Cazenovia College* | Johnson C. Smith University* | Stony Brook University SUNY* |
| City College CUNY | Kingsborough Community College CUNY* | Syracuse University* |
| Clark Atlanta University* | Lafayette College | Tompkins Cortland Community College |
| Colby College* | LaGuardia Community College CUNY* | Trinity University, District of Columbia* |
| College at Cortland SUNY* | Lehman College CUNY | Trinity College, Connecticut* |
| College at New Paltz SUNY* | Long Island University | Union College* |
| College at Old Westbury SUNY* | Manhattanville College* | University of Buffalo SUNY |
| College at Oneonta SUNY* | Marist College | University of Chicago* |
| College at Plattsburgh SUNY* | Medgar Evers College CUNY* | University of Maryland, College Park, Honors Program* |
| College at Potsdam SUNY | Mohawk Valley Community College SUNY* | University of Virginia* |
| College of New Rochelle* | Morehouse College | Vaughn College |
| College of Staten Island CUNY | Morgan State University* | Virginia State University* |
| Connecticut College* | Morrisville State College SUNY* | Wells College |
| Cornell University | Muhlenberg College* | Wheaton College* |
| Daemen College* | Nazareth College | Williams College* |
| Delaware State University | New York City College of Tech CUNY* | York College CUNY |
| DePauw University* | | |

The Urban Assembly

SLJ is part of The Urban Assembly (UA), a network of 21 public schools throughout New York City. UA is dedicated to empowering underserved youth by providing them with the academic and life skills necessary for college and career success. UA works with the NYC Department of Education to create and support public schools where all students graduate and attain success in college and careers. UA works towards this goal by providing UA schools with intensive support around instruction, college readiness and student opportunities.

www.urbanassembly.org

Adams Street Foundation

The Adams Street Foundation (ASF) serves the students of the Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice (SLJ) with high-quality, broad-based enrichment programs and support services. As SLJ's non-profit partner in residence, ASF offers students much-needed experiences and opportunities outside the classroom that provide the framework and motivation for SLJ's college-going culture, our students' college readiness, and our 100% college application rate. Programs and services of ASF include: internships, mentorships, on- and off-site extracurricular activities, pre-college summer programs, guest speaker series, college trips, community service opportunities, an early college awareness curriculum, and individualized college advising.

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