

## New York City Department of Education

The New York City Department of Education is the largest in the nation, serving 1.1 million students in over 1800 schools across its five boroughs. The school system is as culturally unique as the city itself, with about 40% of students living in a household where a language other than English is spoken.

New York City schools are deeply dedicated to enhancing the futures of their students. Mayor Bill de Blasio recently announced the "school renewal program", which will see the city investing \$150 million to transform 94 struggling schools into community schools. These schools aim to provide one-hour of extra instruction each day, launch after-school programs, strengthen family engagement, and receive extra professional training for teachers.



The New York City Department of Education worked with the College Board and National Math and Science Initiative on the NYC AP Expansion Initiative, to get more students involved in AP courses, which would make them better prepared for college. They use STEM initiatives to accomplish this goal. The New York City student participation in AP courses rose 9.1% in 2012 from 2011, compared to the 6.4% increase nationally.

## NYCDOE and Jupiter Ed

Jupiter Ed has continued to make teaching and learning easier for the teachers, administrators, students, and parents of NYCDOE by advancing solutions that:

- Help students learn more and learn faster with interactive, engaging content, and stay on top of their homework
- Help parents stay informed and involved in their children's education
- Help teachers monitor their students' progress, collaborate on curriculum, flip the classroom, and spend less time on grading and data entry
- Help schools make more informed decisions, and operate more efficiently on limited budgets

Jupiter Ed currently provides the Jupiter iO and Jupiter One solutions to over 84,576 New York state students, at 160 campuses.

## Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at Erasmus District 17- NYC, Brooklyn, NY

### Jupiter iO Users

**Teachers:** 56

**Students:** 322

**Use Use Start Date:** 2009



The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at Erasmus was opened on July 1, 2006 in the New York City Department of Education's District 17, in the borough of Brooklyn. At this unique high school, students are "Learning to Earn" with the academic, social and professional skills necessary for global economic leadership.

The Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (AOHT) has the distinction of being in the top ten schools in the National Academy Foundation, its founding partner. It has received this award for excellence in the implementation of its career and technical education (CTE) curriculum, which includes work site experiences and internships in the areas of Hospitality and Tourism. The National Academy Foundation (NAF) is an acclaimed network of career-themed academies that open doors for underserved high school students to viable careers.

Students at the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism experience an education that connects the classroom with the real world and the high expectations of the workforce. A unique high school experience is developed through the study of business theory, complemented by the observation, practice and application of business skills in the hospitality and tourism professions. The school enhances its business courses by scheduling visits from leading industry executives, as well as hosting job shadowing events. Students are connected with partnering corporations so that they may observe how business is conducted in the real world.

The school partners with CUNY's City Tech and Kings Borough Community College to provide seamless paths for AOHT students to higher education in the Hospitality and Tourism fields. Students benefit from experiences in their core high school courses as well as business, advanced placement and College Now courses at the City University of New York (CUNY)'s City Tech.

The Academy of Hospitality and Tourism provides a variety of support programs that promote student academic achievement. Staff, parents, students and community members are all active partners in the

school's endeavor to serve its students entirely.

AHOT provides school-to-home communication utilizing Jupiter iO. Parents and students can login anytime to check their current grades, homework, announcements, calendar, cafeteria menus, attendance records, and behavior logs utilizing their own password, so grades are always private. Parents may also elect to receive automatic alerts whenever their child is absent, missing assignments, or grades fall below a designated threshold. "Teachers have a tremendous amount on their plate and an increasing portion is that of transparency and communication with students and parents. Jupiter iO is a tool that my school community has had great success with for the past few years in improving those foci," said Elizabeth Geoghegan, the National Honor Society coordinator for the school.

A program titled Kid Talk is where a cadre of teachers meet and share the academic progress of students of concern. The group meets with the targeted student, twice monthly, to discuss his/her academic record. The teachers utilize the gradebook and reporting features within Jupiter iO to review the student's academic progress and missing assignments. The ability to examine the report in real-time helps the development of an action plan that will assist the student satisfactorily complete his/her missing work. Teachers support instructional goals to meet the students' needs by aligning their assignments to the Common Core Learning Standards within the gradebook feature included in Jupiter iO. This best practice has resulted in targeted students successfully rejoining their peers who are on track.

Guidance counselors and college advisors conduct one-on-one meetings to support the development of appropriate academic and personal behaviors, in which the student's academic progress is reviewed utilizing the reporting features within Jupiter iO. They continuously encourage student involvement in the development of an effective learning environment by assigning students to advisory groups intended to set goals; help students track their academic progress, and provide feedback to school personnel.

"With our high quality instruction, mentoring and job shadowing programs, paid internships, international exchanges, and highly personalized support structure, students will graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, the workplace and the world beyond," said Adam Breier, principal of the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism at Erasmus.

These plans and best practices provided by the staff at AOHT promote college and career readiness, by preparing students for the rigors of completing a college education. This is evident in the "A grade" the school received on its Progress Report for the College and Career Readiness metric.

## Frederick Douglass Academy 1 District 5, Manhattan, NY

Jupiter iO Users:

Teachers: 131

Students: 1695

Use Start Date: 2012



The Frederick Douglass Academy (FDA), has served the Harlem community of New York City since 1991. Since this time, it has had one very special mission: to prepare students from the surrounding community to succeed at the college or university of their choice. Every single structure offered at FDA is intended to assure students and their families that college is not only a feasible reality, it is the end-goal for all students at the school.

The goal of FDA is to provide a rich, vigorous and challenging curriculum that will prepare students to enter the college of their choice. College preparation begins in the 6th grade. Students in the middle school study Japanese or Latin, music, art and dance in addition to academic classes. FDA has a very high level of academic success with their regents scores, above city average by 30 to 40%.

School leaders and staff effectively communicate high expectations for college and career readiness and partner with families, resulting in the home to school partnerships that help students meet those expectations. The school's mantra, "The Frederick Douglass Academy, A College Preparatory School", is prominently displayed throughout the building. One can easily see how it is embedded in the school's culture, serving as a constant reminder to students that the chance to attend college is within their grasp.

Parents are kept abreast of student performance via the online parent portal and notification features within Jupiter iO by Jupiter Ed. Jupiter iO provides parents and students immediate access to homework, attendance and assessment data and allows parents and students to correspond directly with deans, teachers, and the guidance staff on an ongoing basis.

School personnel provide workshops to families so that they can successfully navigate the online system to review data, in order to monitor and support their children's progress. Parents feel that the school has a "village" like atmosphere, wherein parents and teachers work as a team to ensure that no student falls through the cracks. "It is great being able to communicate with parents and families so quickly," shared Carey Ma, a teacher at The Frederick Douglass Academy.

Utilizing Jupiter iO's reporting features, guidance counselors meticulously review transcripts every semester

to note students who are off-track. From here, counselors can schedule meetings with students, or a parent or guardian. Attendance team members are also able to have razor-like precision when tracking attendance. These targeted efforts had the following results:

- an increase in the attendance rates,
- the decrease in the number of behavioral incidents,
- a 28% increase in the number of 9th-grade students on target to achieve 10 or more credits (in a two-year period),
- and an increase in course passing rates.

The school has implemented standards-based curricula and grading using the Jupiter iO all-in-one solutions, ensuring coherence across grades and content, and emphasizes analytical thinking in an effort to promote increased student achievement. Teachers can align test questions to specific standards, allowing scores to be subtotaled by individual standard. With Jupiter iO, grades are calculated automatically, saving the teacher's hours of grading.

To build coherence across all grades, every third Monday of each month, members of both the middle and high school departments meet to review and modify current units and plan for the upcoming units of study. Teachers work collaboratively to reflect regularly on how to continue to refine curricula to incorporate tasks that promote high levels of student engagement in learning. For department meetings, teachers can print out and review students' responses to common performance tasks, and therefore note strengths and instructional implications.

With the LMS solution in Jupiter iO, teachers can create online interactive tutorials, exercises, and workbooks, including images, audio, video, tests, quizzes, and district benchmark assessments. Students learn faster because Jupiter iO gives immediate feedback after each answer, and allows students to repeat the question until they have mastered it. Teachers can post assignments, ensuring that all students have access to curricula designed to be cognitively engaging.

"I want to say just how very happy we are with the Jupiter iO. I used it on a recommendation from a fellow teacher, and I persuaded my school to subscribe. Teachers swear by it!" said Carey Ma, an English teacher at the school. "I absolutely LOVE the new Homework Dropbox with online teacher and peer review."

With the new online essay, peer review, and homework drop box features in Jupiter iO, students can publish much of their work online and receive immediate feedback. The peer review feature allows students to post their work online for classmates to make comments; this includes photos, videos, and audio for art projects and performances. For essays, students can exchange work online to highlight text and insert comments for peer reviews. Teachers can assign random peer reviews; optionally anonymous, or students can initiate their reviews, even from non-students like parents and tutors.

## Health Opportunities High School District 7- NYC, Bronx, NY

**Jupiter iO Users:**

**Teachers: 74**

**Students: 620**

**Use Start Date: 2008**

Health Opportunities High School (HOHS) is dedicated to providing rigorous and stimulating instruction, as well as establishing a nurturing and supportive environment that will enable their students to reach graduation requirements. The school's graduating students are well prepared for higher education and the workforce.



Their standards-driven instruction, internships, and study opportunities enable all students to acquire career-based skills, explore issues of self-awareness, interpersonal relationships, and respond to demands of global citizenry. HOHS strives to create well-rounded, civic-minded students involved in local and global communities, and who are prepared to succeed long after they have graduated.

The school utilizes Jupiter iO to support their student programs for personalizing the students' academic advisement, attendance, and social-emotional growth. Their student support program involves multiple structures for communication and coordination between parents, teachers, counselors, mental health professionals, and administrators.

Utilizing the gradebook of Jupiter iO, teachers ensure additional support is extended to students who need it. Grade-level teacher teams meet monthly to engage in case conferencing to identify students who are struggling academically. The teachers devise "Plans for Success" that include in-class strategies and interventions. As necessary, teachers refer students to guidance counselors who arrange additional interventions, such as behavioral support, in the form of a daily progress report that is signed daily by the counselor, teachers, and parents.

To further ensure no student "slips between the cracks", the parent coordinator, cohort administrators, and guidance counselors, regularly meet. They discuss needs brought to their attention through conversations with parents and students, and can also monitor grades, attendance and anecdotal information within Jupiter iO. "I became an avid user of Jupiter iO. Now there is a way to update student grades in a highly visible way for students and parents to keep track of their progress. No longer is the grading process a seemingly secretive process, but an open forum. Moreover, it is actually really fun to use," said Scott Segal, a teacher at HOHS.

Additionally, the school's attendance team meets to examine school-wide attendance reporting in Jupiter iO to develop the necessary strategies to reduce absenteeism. This team and other faculty refer students who have a high volume of absences due to social or personal distress to the Pupil Personnel Team (PPT). The need for this intervention became evident when an inquiry team comprised of eleventh-grade teachers discovered that chronic absenteeism was hindering students from making learning progress.

Working with guidance staff, they used the reporting feature within Jupiter iO to identify students with high rates of absenteeism. They focused on these students in order to implement a "Success Mentoring" program in order to reverse this pattern. The individual student progress is reported to the team; further strategies, devised as needed, and there is an on-going evaluation of the effectiveness. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the number of students severely at-risk for failure because of attendance and social and emotional issues. This work has also yielded a reduction in suspensions and chronic absenteeism for multiple students.

The school offers learning experiences that foster personal growth for their students. For example, guidance counselors recently offered workshops to staff, parents, and students, on how to effectively utilize the new Anti-Bullying Hotline in Jupiter iO. These workshops were in an effort to increase awareness of the responsible use of social media and how to prevent cyber-bullying. The new Jupiter iO feature provides a unique solution that gives students the ability to send anonymous messages to their counselor, teacher, or any trusted staff member. Because it is anonymous, students avoid the embarrassment and stigma associated with "tattling". As a result, students are adopting personal and academic behaviors that encourage students to feel confidence about their future and ability to meet school-wide aspirations regarding college and careers.

The school leaders and faculty of HOHS meet and plan curricula that is aligned to content-area standards and to build coherence across grades and subjects so they can provide all learners access to rigorous academic tasks. The Teachers meet departmentally by teams to focus on meaningful work such as analyzing interim assessments, creating common rubrics, devising action plans to address student needs, and sharing re-teaching practices. This orchestration and investment of time have furthered the school's goals to improve pedagogy.

Through the use of reporting tools in Jupiter iO, the teachers at HOHS can perform an analysis and action plan for interim assessments. With Jupiter iO students submit their writing assignments online. Using the online essay markup tool in Jupiter iO, teachers can highlight text and insert comments directly in writing assignments. The impact has led to an improvement in the students' work in relation to the priorities of the state and common core standards as measured by analysis of interim assessment tasks. The impact has led to an improvement in the students' work in relation to the priorities of the state and common core standards as measured by analysis of interim assessment tasks.