



# WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL for ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN



## 2023-24 Open House Schedule

Please attend an In-Person or Virtual Open House to learn more about our school and our unique four-year course sequence with a focus in architectural drafting, design principles, and historic preservation.

### In-Person

Saturday – September 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Thursday – October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM  
Saturday – October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Tuesday – October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM  
Saturday – October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Saturday – November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Wednesday – November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM  
Saturday – November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Tuesday – November 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

### Virtual

Saturday – October 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Wednesday – October 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM  
Saturday – October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Saturday – November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM  
Tuesday – November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM



To register for one of our Open House dates:  
<https://forms.gle/58nnoZ6eoVgQo2cN9>

Please contact one of our Parent Coordinators if you have any questions. You can reach Ms. Chu at (718) 388-1260, ext. 2273 or [lchu4@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:lchu4@schools.nyc.gov), and you can reach Ms. Martinez at (718) 388-1260, ext. 2064 or [hmartinez13@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:hmartinez13@schools.nyc.gov).



## FAQ's

### **\* Who should apply to WHSAD?**

At WHSAD, we believe that ALL students who work hard can achieve their dreams! Whether you are good at math, writing, history, art, science, technology, and/or enjoy doing hands-on work, our program has something to offer you. Therefore, we welcome ALL STUDENTS to apply that have a strong desire to succeed and a particular interest in architecture, engineering, creative design and related fields.

### **\* If I attend WHSAD, do I have to become an architect?**

Even though our students are exposed to architecture and design techniques and learn valuable skills through required coursework and internship opportunities, our students pursue a variety of careers and college programs post-graduation.

### **\* When do students start taking architecture classes?**

Students begin taking architecture classes in their freshman year.

### **\* What AP or college level courses do you offer?**

We currently offer 7 AP courses: Calculus AB, Chemistry, English Literature, Human Geography, Pre-Calculus, Spanish Language & Culture, and US History. Our students can also participate in the College Now Program at City Tech and earn up to 12 college credits.

### **\* What after school activities are offered at WHSAD?**

Each year we plan after school activities around our students' interests. In the past, our students have participated in our campus wide PSAL sports teams, architecture club (Makerspace), game club, art club, and student newspaper.

### **\* How many students attend WHSAD?**

We are a community of approximately 600, 9-12 graders. Our student to teacher ratio is 18:1.

### **\* What is your graduation rate?**

Our 2022-2023 graduation rate was 96%.

### **\* What is the percentage of students who attend college after graduating WHSAD?**

78% of the Class of 2023 planned to attend college this fall (4 Year – 52%; 2 Year – 26%)

### **\* What are the school hours?**

Our regular school day consists of 8 periods from 8:20 A.M. to 2:40 P.M. We also offer night school classes twice a week.

### **\* Will WHSAD be having an Open House?**

Yes. We will be having several Open Houses this fall. Please RSVP on our website [www.whsad.org](http://www.whsad.org).

### **\* What if I cannot attend an Open House?**

That's okay. You can attend one of our virtual Open Houses or schedule a private tour at a time that is more convenient to you. Please contact one of our Parent coordinators, Ms. Chu at (718) 388-1260, Ext. 2273 or Ms. Martinez at (718) 388-1260, Ext. 2064 to schedule a visit.

### **\* Where is the school located and accessibility to public transportation?**

WHSAD is located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn on Roebling Street, between N 6<sup>th</sup> and N 7<sup>th</sup> streets. We are most accessible by the L train (Bedford or Lorimer stop) or the G train (Metropolitan stop) or the B39, B44, B59, and B62 buses.

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## Our Program

In addition to the state required Regents courses in Math, Science, English, History and Foreign Language, we offer a unique, four-year architecture sequence aimed at providing students with specialized skills in the fields of architecture and engineering that will allow them to pursue careers in a continuously changing technological environment.

Year 1: Foundations of Architecture and Design I & II

Year 2: Architectural Drafting and Design I & II

Year 3: Architectural Building and Design I & II

Year 4: The Business of Architecture & Advanced Computer Aided Design

Students who successfully complete the CTE sequence of coursework, and pass the AutoCad exam, will earn a CTE endorsement on their high school diploma and professional certification in Autodesk.



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## Extracurricular Activities

Architecture & Design Studio

Student Government

Yearbook Committee

Electrical Club

Music Club

Photography Club

Community Service Club

Cheerleading/Dance Club

Boys' Baseball

Girls' Softball

Girls' Flag Football

Indoor/Outdoor Track

Boys'/Girls' Basketball

Boys'/Girls' Volleyball



**Principal**  
Gill Cornell

**Assistant Principals**  
Maria Basilio  
Kimberley Bruno  
Giovanni D'Amato

For more information or to arrange a school visit, please contact our **Parent Coordinators**,  
**Ms. Chu** at (718) 388-1260 x 2273 or **Ms. Martinez** at (718) 388-1260 x 2064

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# Williamsburg High School for Architecture & Design

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**257 N. 6th Street**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11211**  
**(718)–388-1260**  
**[www.whsad.org](http://www.whsad.org)**

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## What We Offer

Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design (WHSAD) is a small, public high school located in the heart of one of New York City's most culturally invigorating neighborhoods. Our focus is on architectural drafting, computer-aided design (AutoCad), and design principles. Our hands-on approach to architecture, design, and the visual arts integrates college prep, internship experiences, and skills training throughout core academic disciplines, providing students with the education to succeed in the 21st century workplace. Partnerships with local businesses and apprenticeships provide students with job opportunities and internships with industry professionals. Students can earn a CTE-endorsed diploma in Architectural Drafting and CAD, and up to six college credits, upon graduation.

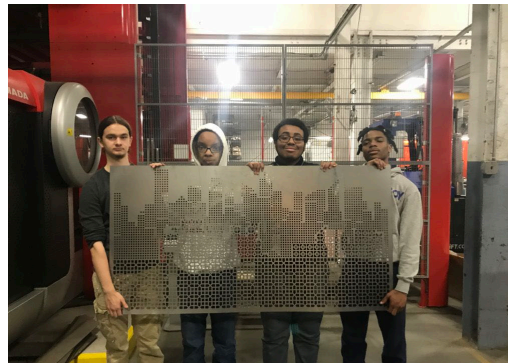


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## Our Partnerships

Our students are offered valuable experience in the fields of architecture and engineering through our **work-based learning program**. We have developed partnerships with several local institutions and companies. Our architecture and engineering students have the opportunity to work and gain practical experience in the operation and current trends of their chosen fields.



### Some of Our Partners

ACE Mentorship  
Gensler  
Heritage Equity Partners  
H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths  
HWKN  
Lake Como Environmental Commission  
New York Cares  
NYC Department of Buildings  
Park Avenue Armory  
Project Witness  
RAMSA  
St. Nick's Alliance/SYEP  
School of Cooperative Technology (Co-op Tech)  
Silman  
Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy

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## Who Should Apply to WHSAD?

At WHSAD, we believe that **ALL** students that work hard can achieve their dreams. Whether you are good at math, writing, history, art, science, technology and/or enjoy doing hands-on work, our program has something to offer you. Therefore, we welcome **ALL STUDENTS** to apply that have a strong desire to succeed and a particular interest in architecture, engineering, creative design and related fields.

### Our Graduates

WHSAD's 2021-2022 graduation rate was 99%. Past graduates have been accepted to many colleges and universities and have pursued a variety of programs within those schools. These universities include (but are not limited to):

*Alfred State College, Bowdoin College, Carnegie Mellon University, The City College of NY: The Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, The City College of NY: Grove School of Engineering, Howard University, Hunter College, New York Institute of Technology, New York City College of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, St. Michael's College, Stony Brook University, SUNY Buffalo State, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oswego, Temple University, University at Buffalo, Wellesley College, Vanderbilt University and many more...*





# Our School Quality Snapshot 2021-2022

## Overall Rating for Student Achievement

### Excellent



The **Student Achievement** rating looks at students' progress towards graduation, graduation rates, college and career readiness, and postsecondary enrollment.

The overall section rating is a combination of many Student Achievement measures, including those presented here.

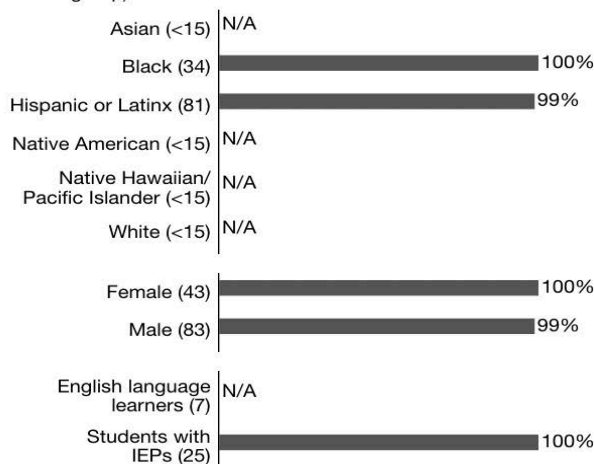
## Graduation

### 4-Year Graduation Rate

**99%** of the class of 2022 graduated within four years

### 4-Year Graduation Rate by Subgroup

(Number in parentheses shows all class-of-2022 students who are in the subgroup)



### 6-Year Graduation Rate

**97%** of the class of 2020 graduated within six years

*The citywide graduation rates are projected numbers, subject to correction by the New York State Education Department.*

### Graduation Rates for Students of Different Achievement Levels

Over the past two years, what was the graduation rate for seniors who entered the school with different eighth-grade test scores?

8th-grade test score	Graduated in four years
Level 3 or 4	98%
Level 2	98%
Level 1	99%

## College and Career Readiness

**99%** successfully completed approved college or career preparatory courses and exams

**65%** graduated from high school and enrolled in college or other post-secondary program within six months

### College or Career Preparatory Courses and Exams

(Number of students successfully completing out of 126 seniors):

Technical Assessment (123)  
CTE Diploma (113)  
College Credit Course (33)  
Algebra II Regents (15)  
A.P. English Literature (10)  
Other A.P. Exams (25)

### Where Did Students Go After Graduating?

29% CUNY (City University of New York) - 4 year  
24% CUNY (City University of New York) - 2 year  
2% New York State Public  
7% New York State Private  
2% Out of State  
1% Other

## Progress Towards Graduation

### Credits

**96%** earned enough credits in ninth grade to be on track for graduation

**90%** earned enough credits in tenth grade to be on track for graduation

For Full Snapshot:  
<https://tools.nycenet.edu/snapshot/2022/14K558/HS/#SA>

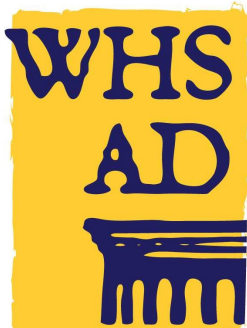


## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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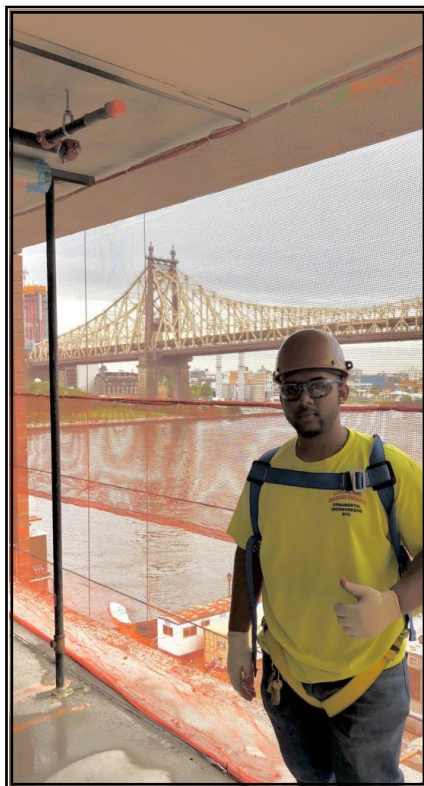
# Where Are They Now? WHSAD Alumni In College and Careers

<https://www.whsad.org/the-column/the-keys-to-success-at-whsad>



Jalen Vasquez, Class of 2017, completed his both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Architecture at Howard University. Since the summer of 2022, Jalen has been a Job Captain at Gensler, the largest architecture firm in the world (and a longtime WBL partner of WHSAD). Working out of the NYC office, Jalen is overseeing a massive project of more than 1,000,000 square feet, while he continues to develop his own architectural practice and work towards his professional architecture license. He credits his time at WHSAD with helping him understand the role architects play in creating the built environment and what he could contribute to the field.

Kenny Singh, Class of 2019, participated in the Construction Skills Pre-Apprenticeship program during his senior year, which prepares students for careers in the unionized building trades. After graduation, he began his four-year apprenticeship with Local 580, the Ornamental Ironworkers union. As part of the union, Kenny works on some of the largest construction projects in NYC. His tasks are as diverse as welding gutters on high-rise buildings, to installing curtain walls on glass skyscrapers. His union training also includes 838 hours of classroom experience, upon completion of which he will become a Journeyman. He will also earn numerous certifications during the course of his apprenticeship, which will only add to his opportunities in the construction field.



Autumn Gonzalez, Class of 2017, (pictured with film director David Petersen, and WHSAD teacher Mr. Codio), graduated from CUNY's City College with a degree in Film Studies. During college, she interned with Shine Global and has worked for them since graduation. Shine is a non-profit media company that produces and distributes films about children and families worldwide, and Autumn helps to bring attention to these otherwise under-recognized films, including at this past fall's Children's Resilience in Film Awards, held at the Bryant Park Hotel.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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# WHSAD 's Industry and Community Partnerships

September 1, 2023 (Brooklyn)

WHSAD is very fortunate to have the support of a variety of partners who provide WBL opportunities, student mentoring, equipment and materials, curriculum feedback, and more to help us provide academic and extra-curricular experiences for our students, both in-person and remotely. (Use the hyperlinks to view articles on [www.whsad.org](http://www.whsad.org) about our partner projects.)

## [ACE Mentorship](#)

### [Architectural Grille](#)

### [Areaware](#)

Assembly Member Emily Gallagher

Aurora Lampworks

Berry Street Garden

Bill Harvey

Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

### [Broadway Stages](#)

### [Bushwick Generator](#)

Community Board 1

### [Construction Skills](#)

### [Co-op Tech](#)

### [CTA Architects](#)

CUNY Creative Arts Team

### [Diana Reyna](#)

El Puente

### [Fidelity Triangle](#)

Freshkills Parks

### [Gensler](#)

Grant Associates/CTE ISP

Greenbelt Nature Center

### [Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths

HWKN

### [Kingsland Printing](#)

### [Lake Como Development Corp.](#)

### [Little Free Libraries](#)

Make STEAM

### [Makeville Studio](#)

### [My Brother's Keeper](#)

### [My Sister's Keeper](#)

Neighborhood Preservation Center

### [Newtown Creek Alliance](#)

North Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

North Brooklyn Neighbors

NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez

NYC Council Member Lincoln Restler

NYC School Construction Authority

### [NYC Together](#)

Office of Topography, Bklyn Borough President

### [Park Avenue Armory](#)

Pei Cobb Freed + Partners

Pilecki Project

Powerhouse Environmental Arts Foundation

### [Powers Street Garden](#)

### [Project Witness](#)

Pushcart 101

### [RAMSA](#)

### [Salvadori Center](#)

Silman

St. Nick's Alliance

Two Trees Management

### [World Monuments Fund](#)

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# CTA Architects Bring Real-World Experience to WHSAD Students

September 15, 2023 (Brooklyn, NY)

CTA Architects, a certified B-corp architecture firm in Manhattan, launched a partnership with WHSAD in the 2022-2023 school year that provided students with the opportunity to work on a real-world redesign of an elementary school in the Bronx. WHSAD students worked in teams to create interior designs, floor plans, color palettes, space diagrams and other components of the redesign project. Teams were composed of students from all grade levels, with senior students acting as mentors to those in the younger grades.

Students visited CTA's offices every week, to share their ideas and get feedback and suggestions from their professional architect mentors. In between office visits, the teams worked on their designs after school and on weekends, culminating in a final presentation at the end of the school year.

In addition to refining and enhancing their architectural knowledge, the students also gained experience in presenting, working with a pre-existing space, and meeting a client's demands. In interviews on the WHSAD website, all the students commented on how this experience helped them gain confidence in their presentation skills and collaborating with others.

Senior Richard Hernandez said: "Projects like these allow for everyone to grow. I learned how to be a better leader and mentor, and I am proud to see the kind of people that my teammates are turning into. When I graduate next week, it will be those students I mentored who will turn into the next student leaders, and I can't wait to hear about the other great things that they will continue to do."

Junior Adamaris Cardenas even used her experience in this project to launch her first-ever paid internship in the Spring of 2023 at the CTA Architects' office.



*Adamaris Cardenas, Class of 2024, presents her team's design for the kitchen at P.S. 105X.*



*Mohammad Hassan, Class of 2023, presents his group's plan for the colors of the new space.*

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# WHSAD's Incoming Freshmen Get a Jump Start on Their Architecture Education

September 15, 2023 (Brooklyn)

Since the summer of 2015, WHSAD's incoming 9th grade students have had the opportunity to participate in the school's SummerBridge program, which allows them to begin exploring the world of Architecture and Design prior to the start of school. Read on to learn about some of the experiences students had this past summer, and their reflections on the program.

## Planter Boxes:

As part of a project with Bushwick Inlet Park, SummerBridge students used their new AutoCAD skills to design planter boxes to be built and placed in the park. After initially making sketches by hand, students created AutoCAD plans for their designs. They were also able to use satellite images to identify possible in the park where their boxes could be installed. This project culminated in a visit to the newly opened Bushwick Inlet Park.

## Visits to High Rock Park and Snug Harbor:

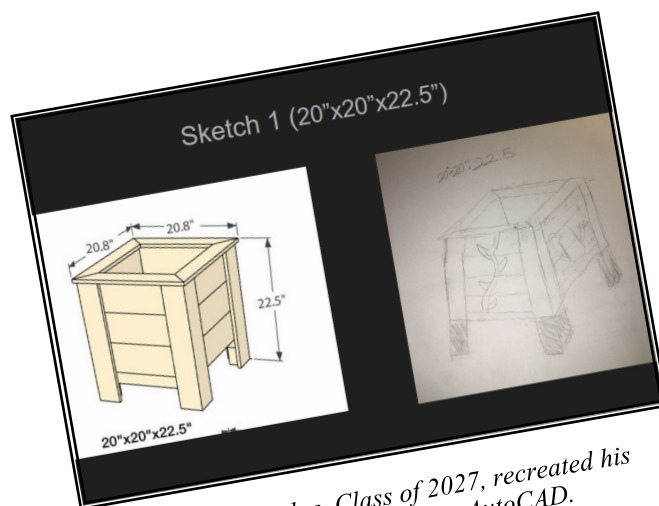
SummerBridge students had the opportunity to visit several locations on Staten Island that have been sites of WHSAD student projects in recent years. For the last two years, students have worked on trail maintenance and other outdoor interventions at High Rock Park, considered "one of the most tranquil places in New York City," and the Summer Bridge students were able to see first-hand how the projects have developed from concept to implementation.

Sung Harbor is a historic and cultural center on Staten Island that students were able to visit with the goal of completing a scavenger hunt about the different architectural styles throughout the site. Students also visited the 9/11 Memorial and the on-site museum.

Turn over to learn more about what students can do in other summer programs after they've completed 9th, 10th, or 11th grade.



*Current WHSAD students and alums at High Rock Park share their experiences in trail maintenance with the incoming 9th graders.*



*Matthew Cambridge, Class of 2027, recreated his hand-drawing of a planter box in AutoCAD.*

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Students have the opportunity to work and study at WHSAD in successive summers through the SYEP program, in addition to having some off-site internship experiences. Some of the students who stay to work in the school are the mentors to the incoming freshmen in the SummerBridge program, while others are given the opportunity to create a design project with the help and guidance of professional mentors.

#### RAMSA:

One of the main summer architecture experience for older students is the program sponsored by Robert A.M. Stern Architects (RAMSA). Through this six-week intensive programs, students worked to design new spaces that could be "explored" and were asked not to limit themselves to traditional ideas like "kitchen" or "bedroom". Students also have the opportunity to learn additional design software beyond AutoCAD, like Rhino and Photoshop.

Linda Foster, class of 2025, had this to say about her RAMSA experience:

"(I created) a pavilion that was intended to elicit a sense of awe and wonder in its visitors. Throughout the design process, we were able to freely use our imagination, resulting in a project that exceeded our initial expectations.

One of the most exciting and fulfilling moments during the RAMSA program was the final presentation, where all of our hard work from the past six weeks was finally put on display. Presenting in front of a room full of architects was extremely nerve-wracking, but the sense of pride and satisfaction that I felt upon sharing my project and seeing the wonderful work of my peers was unparalleled. It was truly a win in my book. Above all, being a part of such an enriching experience that will undoubtedly help me in my future architectural endeavors is a testament to how incredible and worthwhile this program is."



*Linda Foster, Class of 2025, presents her final design.*



*Linda's Pavilion Designs*



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# WHSAD Students Design Resilience Projects for High Rock Park in Staten Island

June 27, 2022 (Brooklyn, NY)

WHSAD students are taking their talents to other boroughs! Starting in the Fall of 2021, students began the first year of a multi-year partnership with the Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy, focusing for the year on the High Rock section of the Conservancy's lands.

The year began with a series of virtual presentations from Conservancy staffers about the current status of the park, the proposals to improve the park and its accessibility, and how they envisioned WHSAD's students participating in the problem solving and design process. Throughout the winter, additional virtual sessions included lessons on the role of water in the park, the tools used in maintaining the park's resources, trails and trail maintenance, and the relationship between the Conservancy and other organizations, like NYC Parks.

After five day-long virtual sessions, it was time for the students to step away from Zoom and actually go visit High Rock Park on Staten Island. Over several visits in the spring, students were able to see the places they had been learning about, hike around the different parts of the park, and begin the hands-on work of revitalizing the trails and documenting their work.

The penultimate activity was a set of presentations by three groups of students, each competing to demonstrate why their proposal for improving High Rock Park was the best choice. In teams, the students developed proposals for making stairs safer, improving trails, and even building a small bridge across a stream. At the conclusion, one team was selected and then was given the task of executing their improvement plan.

Matthew Zaczeniuk '23, a member of the winning team, had this to say about his experience: "I think everyone did an outstanding job preparing and presenting the projects and the decision must have been tough. After the winners were revealed, Chris...explained that our group would now be leading the operation. It was weird shifting from just an assistant to now leading the project, but...it was an incredible feeling to know that our plans were going to be implemented into the trail system and that [we] were going to leave a mark on High Rock Park."



Members of the winning team present about their High Rock experience and their design proposal.



Students work on trail maintenance at High Rock Park during a visit in February 2022.

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# WHSAD Students Intern with Battery Park City Authority

June 30, 2022 (Brooklyn, NY)

For the second year in a row, this spring WHSAD partnered with the Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) on an internship opportunity for students to use their AutoCAD design skills to generate plans of the various spaces in Battery Park for use by the BPCA's Permitting Office. BPCA Permit Associate John Sherzai originally approached WHSAD about creating the internship because he was confident the students would be prepared for this kind of work. How did John know? He graduated from WHSAD in 2016!

After WHSAD, John studied at the City College of New York, and during his senior year, he began working with the BPCA in their Permit Office. He quickly discovered that the maps and plans of the various spaces in Battery Park City were lacking in detail and in dire need of improvement and updates. After reaching out to WHSAD in February 2021, BPCA came on board as an internship host, and 10 students worked from late March through June to survey the spaces in Battery Park City and generate updated maps for use by the Permit Office. Eventually, the students' work will be available on the BPCA website to aid those hoping to host events in Battery Park City.

Marc Joseph, Class of 2023, had this to say about the early stages of the project:

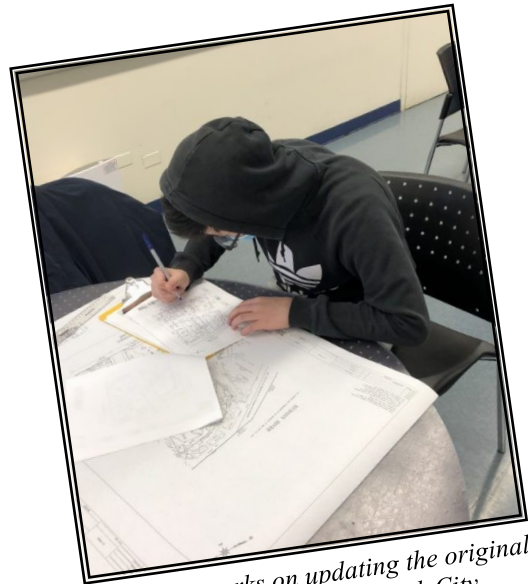
"Working on this project has been really educational and fun, we get real-life experience on this type of work and we get paid for it. At first, we visited the site using Google Maps and Google Earth and looked at the different parts of Battery Park City sort of like a tour. On the second investigation, we began taking measurements to update the blueprint of the park. Everything has been pretty much good, and now we're putting the measurements in CAD and as we measure more parts of the park the more information we can put in CAD."

The initial set of drawings was completed in June 2021, and the work continues in 2022, with updates and revisions, as the Battery Park City Authority implements its "Resilience Action Plan" and redevelops spaces within the park area.

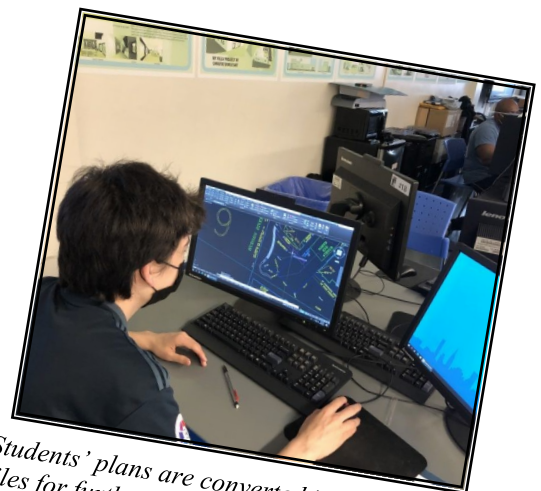
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*A student works on updating the original plans for a site in Battery Park City.*



*Students' plans are converted into AutoCAD files for further revision and finalizing.*



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# Project Witness Continues to Educate and Inspire WHSAD Students

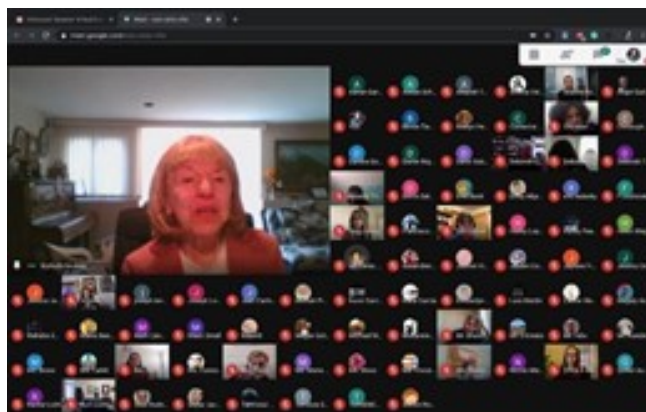
June 26, 2023 (Brooklyn, NY)

For the last four years, the WHSAD community has been privileged to work with Project Witness, "a nonprofit Holocaust resource center" whose mission "merges judicious scholarship with cutting-edge media to provide thought-provoking Holocaust educational resources for schools, community centers, and lay readers."

For the first two years, students listened to the story and insights from Ms. Ruth Gruener, who, despite her experiences during the Holocaust, always brought a message of hope and love.

In 2022 and 2023, Ms. Toby Levy brought her story and, much like Ruth did, emphasized a message of hope and awareness. Before Ms. Levy's talk, WHSAD students and staff read about her life and dug deep into some of her wise words. Through classroom conversations, written analysis, and visual works of art, students gained knowledge about events that at first seemed to be distant but contain similarities to many modern occurrences.

In 2023, WHSAD students were invited to submit works of art and creative writing inspired by Lager Shvesters, or Camp Sisters. 9th grader Alonzo Jones, and 10th grader Cynthia Luna-Marcelino each placed 2nd in the categories of literature and art, respectively.



*Ruth Gruener, largest screen, with WHSAD students, teachers, faculty, and other special guests during a Google Meet session.*



*"Sisterhood", by Cynthia Luna-Marcelino, class of 2025, which won 2nd place in the Project Witness Design Challenge in 2023.*



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Meet Ms. Cumberbatch, WHSAD Alumna and Teacher

October 19, 2021 (Brooklyn, NY)

Ms. Cumberbatch is WHSAD's newest Freshman Architecture & Design teacher, and has the special distinction of being a WHSAD alumna, Class of 2014.

Ms. Cumberbatch credits her experience at WHSAD, particularly learning AutoCAD, for giving her an advantage in her college career.

"Learning AutoCAD at WHSAD gave me the upper hand especially when studying abroad in Italy," says Ms. Cumberbatch. "I was able to utilize the skills I learned here to create my projects a bit faster than the other kids in my class."

Furthermore, the summer internships she completed and her experience at Co-op Tech during her senior year at WHSAD taught her valuable skills such as networking, and exposed her to additional facets of the design world, including construction.

After graduating from WHSAD, Ms. Cumberbatch attended Arcadia University and later spent two years working for an architecture firm in New York.

Her experience in the field helped her realize that "college doesn't prepare you for real world scenarios." Because of this, her goal for her course at WHSAD is "to equip students with the right software and technical skills that are currently used in the field today."

According to Ms. Cumberbatch: "Most times, companies are looking for people who have 10 years of experience from an entry level employee. So why not give them what they want. By teaching our students how to read construction documents, to understand ADA compliance, to create finish boards, and to design development packages, they will be ahead of the curve."



Ms. Jasmyn Cumberbatch, WHSAD alumna and Freshman Architecture and Design Teacher.



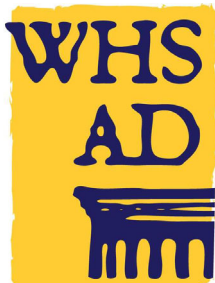
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## WHSAD Senior Wins POSSE Scholarship

January 28, 2020 (Brooklyn, NY)

The Posse Foundation identifies, recruits and trains individuals with extraordinary leadership potential. The Posse model is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development.

Each spring School staff or community organizations nominate students who demonstrate strong leadership and academic potential. Starting in the Fall of their senior year, Posse conducts intensive interview and application process known as Dynamic Assessment Process (DAP). This a unique evaluation method is designed to identify young leaders who might be missed by traditional admissions criteria but who can excel at selective colleges and universities. DAP offers students an opportunity to demonstrate their intrinsic leadership abilities, their skill at working in a team setting, and their motivation and desire to succeed.

Jonah Vazquez, a 2020 graduate of Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design was selected as Posse Scholar at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. During an interview with Jonah, we asked how did it feel to find out you were a finalist for the Posse Scholarship. He responded, *"Excited, very, very, excited. The whole process was a huge ego boost, as I got chosen again and again out of many other candidates through the first and second interviews. Being a finalist was like an extra ego boost because you're one of the special selected 20 out of the 3,000 something that applied. Plus, you have the opportunity of going to an elite school, like Vanderbilt, tuition free for four whole years, so, yes, I was absolutely ecstatic."*

Read more of our interview with Jonah at:  
<https://rb.gy/1qj2za>

Read more about WHSAD's first POSSE scholar, Ramon Williams, Class of 2014, on the "Where Are They Now?" page.



Jonah Vazquez, WHSAD Class of 2020, was awarded the POSSE Scholarship to Vanderbilt University .



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