



2005-06 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT SUPPLEMENT

Region 09

H.S. 551

BRONX ACADEMY OF LETTERS

New York City Public Schools

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor

Grade Levels:

Students on Oct. 31, 2005: 229

Students on May 1, 2006:

School Mission Statement

The mission of the Bronx Academy of Letters is to empower young people from the South Bronx with the joys, challenges, and responsibilities of self-expression through writing. We are a public 6-12 secondary school that features writing across the curriculum along with an ambitious series of outside writing programs. In our first years we have already seen our students--68 percent of whom entered ninth grade below grade level in reading--make great strides in their written work. This increased engagement and fluency with writing will help our students to excel in all of their scholastic pursuits and to realize their wide and varied ambitions to be anything from poets, journalists, and rap artists to politicians, doctors, and scientists. We will admit our first class of sixth graders in the fall of 2007, as part of our new middle school expansion.

Principal's Statement

Students who can read and write confidently have a key, of an almost magical character, that will open doors for them throughout their lives. The Bronx Academy of Letters is providing its students with this key within the context of a rigorous, college-preparatory academic program. The written word is the foundation of success in academic study, the realm of the imagination, and in the world of work. Graduates of Bronx Letters will be strong and flexible learners who read and write at or above grade level and have an abiding interest in expressing themselves.

Special Academic Programs

Writing integrated into all subjects; Challenging, exciting writing classes; Acclaimed student-run newspaper and literary magazine; The Writers' Forum assembly, featuring writers of all backgrounds and a student open mic; Writers in residence who teach weekly workshops; Comprehensive 6-12 advisory system.

Extracurricular Activities

Boys' and girls PSAL basketball, boys' and girls' PSAL track, student council, student newspaper, literary magazine, debate team, drama club.

Community Support

Newsweek, Barnes & Noble, Random House, Penguin, Scribner, Farrar Straus, Esquire, Vibe, Teen Vogue, Nuyorican Poets Café, the Bowery Poetry Club, Youth Speaks, Urban Word, the Moth, the Point, Aaron Davis Hall, Fordham University, and the writing departments at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University.

Parent/School Support

The school's PTA is fully functioning and self-sufficient. Annually, we hold three sets of parent-teacher conferences, more than the systemwide average. Students receive incentives when their parents participate in school activities. Advisors place biweekly telephone calls to all advisee parents to report on academic and social progress.

2006-07 School Accountability Status:

In Good Standing

This school received Title I Funding in:

2004-05: YES; 2005-06: YES; 2006-07: YES

The Division of Assessment and Accountability (DAA) compiled this report primarily from central databases and information provided by this school's principal. Throughout the report, N/A indicates that information was not available or did not apply to this school. The 2005-2006 Annual School Report is a supplement to the New York State Education Department's School Report Card for New York City Schools. Consult the Parent Guide for an explanation of the data in this report. Other DAA reports can be obtained online at www.nyc.gov/daa.

STUDENTS

Involved In Police Department Incidents

The total enrollment in this consolidated location is 229 students. Please keep this number in mind as you review the numbers of incidents.

	This school	Consolidated Locations	Similar Size schools
Major Crimes			
Property Crimes		1	0.5
Crimes Against Persons		0	0.2
Other Crimes		11	3.0
Non- Criminal		33	5.0

No separate data is available for this school. Multiple schools are found at a single address, and the incident data have been consolidated so that the same data are reported for all those schools. These schools are included in this consolidated location: MS 203|BRONX ACADEMY OF LETTERS, Similar-Sized Schools include all schools and consolidated locations with enrollments of 751-1000 students

<http://schools.nyc.gov/ourschools/schoolsafety.htm>

Recent Immigrants*

Percent of enrollment	2004	2005	2006
This school	3.8	2.6	0.4
Similar schools	9.5	8.1	5.9
City schools	11.6	9.8	7.6

* Students enrolled as of Oct. 31, 2005 who immigrated to the U.S. within the last three years.

Recent Immigrants' Place of Birth

Percent of students	2006
GAMBIA	0.4

Profile of Entering Ninth and Tenth Graders*

Characteristics	This School	Similar Schools	City Schools
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Gender Male	40.2	49.7	50.5
Gender Female	59.8	50.3	49.5
Part-time Special Education	4.6	6.5	5.8
Full-time Special Education	1.1	5.1	5.2
ELL	3.4	9.5	12.8
Over-age for grade	23	26.5	29.9
Percent eligible for free lunch	23	26.5	29.9
Avg. daily attend. during prior sem.	92.4	90.1	89.8
Percent meeting standard in:			
ELA (tested only)	34.1	30.3	32.7
Mathematics (tested only)	43.8	39.7	40.8

* This information is for the students who were on register as new 9th and 10th graders on October 31, 2005 and came from another school.

* Not applicable to elementary and middle schools

Admission to Other Schools in September 2005

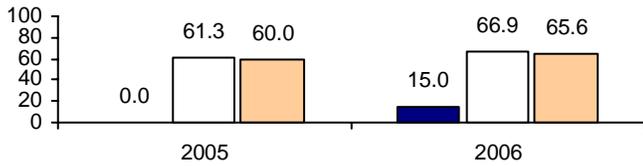
School Name	Boro	District	School	Leavers*	
			Number	Number	Percent

* Leavers are students who left their school for any reason.

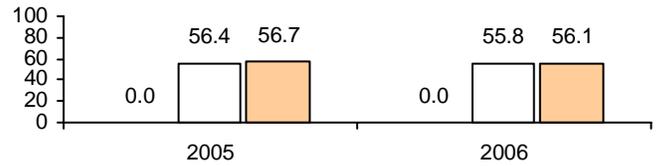
SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

TEACHERS

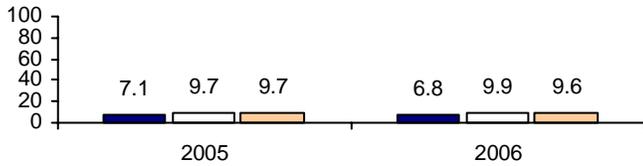
Percent More Than Two Years Teaching in This School



Percent More Than Five Years Teaching Anywhere



Average Days Absent



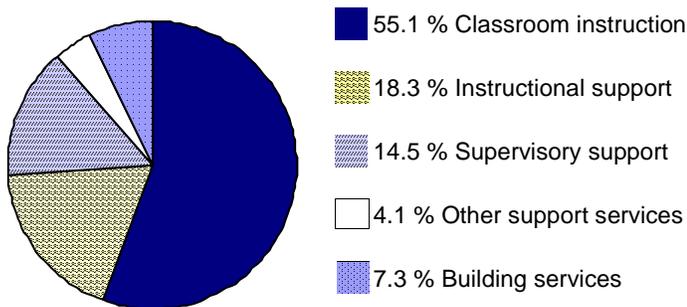
SCHOOL EXPENDITURES

Average Spending Per Student (Direct Services Only)

	2004	2005	2006
This school	\$19,789	\$14,193	N/A
Similar schools	\$10,584	\$10,761	N/A
City schools	\$11,138	\$11,607	N/A

Note: The state calculation of school expenditures per student for direct and indirect services in 2004 was \$12,896 for all New York City schools. An average of \$13,085 was calculated for all New York State schools including those in New York City.

How money was spent in this school in 2005 (Direct Services Only)



0.5 % is used for District Support.

OTHER SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Capacity

Percent of utilization*	2004	2005	2006
This school	50.3	44.8	63.1
Similar schools	116.3	113.2	111.3
City schools	106.0	106.4	103.5

*When over 100%, school has exceeded official capacity.

PERFORMANCE OF ALL STUDENTS ON REGENTS EXAMINATIONS

	2004-2005				2005-2006			
	Number	55 - 100	65 - 100	85 - 100	Number	55 - 100	65 - 100	85 - 100
	Tested	Percent	Percent	Percent	Tested	Percent	Percent	Percent
ENGLISH								
This School					61	96.7	80.3	21.3
Similar Schools	14182	84.5	70.4	16.0	16707	82.2	69.2	15.9
City Schools	63738	78.1	61.6	16.6	70344	77.6	62.9	16.6
MATH A								
This School	67	95.5	83.6	11.9	81	96.3	81.5	8.6
Similar Schools	17486	87.6	70.5	13.5	19092	87.5	70.0	13.2
City Schools	74616	81.2	61.0	13.6	76930	83.1	62.3	13.9
MATH B								
This School					15	46.7	40.0	20.0
Similar Schools	4387	66.0	52.1	9.7	5112	66.2	50.9	9.3
City Schools	18163	70.4	58.5	16.3	21205	68.9	56.4	15.5
CHEMISTRY								
This School					59	44.1	18.6	3.4
Similar Schools	5791	77.5	50.3	4.7	5848	78.0	51.8	6.2
City Schools	23988	77.5	55.9	10.5	24062	79.3	58.0	13.1
LIVING ENVIRONMENT								
This School	62	93.5	79.0	11.3	159	89.3	71.1	6.3
Similar Schools	15327	77.2	59.8	7.1	17800	78.9	59.9	6.6
City Schools	62307	72.7	55.2	10.6	65322	76.0	56.5	9.7
GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY								
This School	61	83.6	73.8	14.8	87	80.5	69.0	24.1
Similar Schools	17557	75.2	58.7	15.2	20047	71.7	55.0	16.1
City Schools	73666	68.8	51.1	15.3	77999	66.6	49.4	16.5
U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT								
This School					61	95.1	88.5	32.8
Similar Schools	14542	81.3	68.8	26.1	16603	83.1	69.5	29.2
City Schools	60352	76.4	61.9	25.6	65271	79.8	64.0	27.7
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH								
This School								
Similar Schools	5678	98.6	96.7	63.3	5412	98.4	96.7	66.7
City Schools	22273	98.1	96.3	66.7	21600	98.2	96.2	67.4

These data are based on all students, including General Education and Special Education students, regardless of services received.

OTHER INDICATORS

SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (SAT) IN 2005-2006

Percent of 11th and 12th graders taking SAT

	This School	Similar Schools	City Schools
11th and 12th grade enrollment		24166	100890
Percent taking SAT		39.4	36.1

* Scores on each segment of this test range from 200 to 800.

Average SAT Scores*			
	This School	Similar Schools	City Schools
SAT Section			
Verbal		426	444
Mathematics		433	467

STUDENT PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

Post-high school plans of the 2006 graduates*

	This ** School Percent	Similar Schools Percent	City Schools Percent
4-Year college		50.7	44.3
2-Year college		14.9	16.2
Employment		3.3	3.3
Military services		1.1	0.9
Other		30	35.2

** Data are not reported if the total number of 2006 graduates are less than 20.

* These are student reports, which do not include IEP diplomas or local certificates.