



THE HIGH SCHOOL OF AMERICAN STUDIES AT LEHMAN COLLEGE

www.hsas-lehman.org



SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Our school emphasizes the study of American history and offers students an academic program that is both well-rounded and challenging. Our goal is to prepare students for admission to highly competitive colleges and for a wide range of careers in politics, law, journalism, business, science, mathematics, and the arts.

All students engage in a three-year chronological study of American History. Our aim is to make history come alive through the use of primary source documents, films, biographies, literature, and creative teaching techniques. Supported by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, students gain first-hand knowledge of the key events in American history through trips to sites and cities of historic importance and through participation in special seminars with guest speakers. We also offer honors-level, Advanced Placement, and elective courses in mathematics, science, constitutional and criminal law, literature, film, foreign languages, history, and the arts. A special component of our program focuses on the development of college-level research skills and methodologies, and students are therefore supported by school and college faculty in the process of pursuing individualized research projects. Through our collaboration with Lehman College, students have access to its campus library and athletic facilities, and take credit-bearing college classes and seminars in their junior and senior years. After school, students may participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular and athletic activities.

In all of our endeavors, we seek to encourage in our students a love for learning and an inquisitive spirit.

KEY FACTS AND STATISTICS

- Approximately 375 pupils are enrolled at HSAS. 25% are eligible for free lunch.
- 100% of graduates have been admitted to college in every year of the school's existence. The eighteen-month college retention rate is 99%.
- In 2015, HSAS was one of only 14 US schools at which 100% of graduates had passed at least one AP Exam.
- In 2015, US News and World Report ranked HSAS as the top-performing school in New York City and New York State. Overall, the school was ranked eleventh in the nation.

BEST PRACTICES: Excellence Gap

HSAS has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at supporting low-income, high-achieving students.

- All students take a two-year AP World History course and a three-year AP US History course. The pass-rate on each AP exam is close to 100%. Most students elect to take additional AP and post-AP classes, such as European History Between the Wars, the Roaring Twenties, Intellectual History, Contemporary US History, and other stimulating electives.
- All students have the opportunity to take credit-bearing advanced and graduate-level courses at Lehman College as a part of the regular school day.
- The school actively recruits students from underserved schools and neighborhoods.
- The school has a comprehensive college counseling program to ensure acceptance to competitive undergraduate programs and provide financial support to students in need.
- The school provides strong mental health support to ensure academic and personal success.
- Teachers and counselors conduct extensive workshops for parents on how to provide academic and emotional support to students.
- The school fosters student leadership skills by encouraging students to take part in community decisions related to hiring, curriculum development, academic policies, and school tone.

BEST PRACTICES: School-to-Workforce Pipeline

HSAS is committed to ensuring that students graduate with marketable skills that lead to high-level careers in the social sciences and related fields.

- The school has formed a partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, which provides primary source materials for use in history classes, funding for trips to historical archives and other sites, and professional development for teachers. GLI also funds a Saturday History Academy for students, along with guest lectures from eminent historians and curators.
- All students may take advanced-level coursework at Lehman College, including graduate-level seminars in history and the social sciences. Students work with college professors on original research, serve as interns in science laboratories, and have access to the college's extensive library collection and on-line databases.
- All freshmen take a course on college-level research methodology, which is co-taught by a college librarian. Students also hone public speaking and writing skills that are critical to success in college and in the workforce.
- Extracurricular activities introduce students to practical application of the skills and concepts learned through coursework. The school has an award-winning moot court and mock trial team, which prepares for competitions by working with lawyers from a prominent legal firm. Pupils also participate in debate and Model UN. Students have also formed political advocacy groups, such as our Environmental Club, Key Club, Young Women's Discussion Group, GLBTQ Alliance, World Cultures Club, etc.
- Many students take advantage of internship opportunities by working on the political campaigns of local, state, and national politicians, as assistants in law firms, at neighborhood charitable organizations. Pupils also organize and participate in extensive community service opportunities.