



From The Principal's Desk

Greetings from SLJ!

As we prepare to close this calendar year and look forward to the beginning of a new decade, I call upon us to reflect on the mission statement that drives our work:

"The Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice (SLJ) believes 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 personal attention in an empowering environment that fosters intellectual independence and civic engagement. Equipped with an understanding of law and social justice, SLJ's students, most of whom come from the city's historically least served communities, graduate ready to succeed in college and effect change in society."

In 2019, there were many accomplishments by SLJ students and alumni that exemplified our mission statement. In June, 100% of our seniors graduated. During the summer, students traveled domestically and abroad, immersing themselves in experiences that expanded their worldviews and allowed them to take intellectual risks.

This school year, we welcomed a new cohort of scholars to SLJ: the Class of 2023. 9th graders have already begun to engage in their exploration of law and justice. 10th graders have engaged in activism through community service projects, 11th graders have explored career opportunities through our third annual Career Site Visit Day, and 12th graders are in the final stages of applying to college. Across all grades, we currently have 93 students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses. Our alumni are serving in leadership capacities on college campuses, working in service organizations, and pursuing graduate degrees. I am honored to be a part of this amazing work.

What we accomplished in 2019 would not have been possible without you. Thank you for your continued support of the SLJ Mission! – *Merilee Valentino*



Smith College Representative Visit.



Summer Activities (study abroad, college courses, internships, etc.).



2019 Career Site Visit Day Hosts.

SLJ Alumnus David Garcia Barrera '13 Joins the Team

"It's both exciting and strange to be back at SLJ as a member of the staff. During my time as a student, I fondly recall taking full advantage of the Enrichment Office, gaining exposure to programs throughout the city. These experiences shaped my career interests. I was able to participate in programs such as SEO Scholars, and Today's Teens, Tomorrow's Techies (T4). I also traveled abroad to Ghana with the American Field Service and interned for the Chief of Staff for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. Now, I'm helping students gain access to these same opportunities. Moreover, my long-term career goal is to be a change agent for educational public policy. Next fall, I will be applying for Ph.D. programs in sociology." – *David*





Young Women's Soccer.



Lunch with Leaders Guest Speaker Sinisa Babic (E&Y).



2019 Race Judicata.



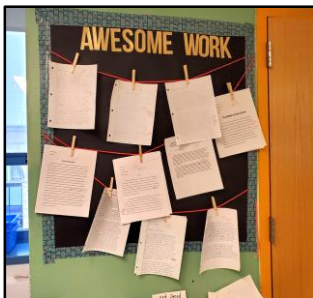
Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration with Melissa Fernandez (CUNY).



Career trip to Greenberg Traurig.



First Day of School.



11th grade Global Research Writing students present arguments on current events.



Incoming 9th graders and families begin their SLJ journey at Meet Your Advisor Night at Cravath.



After School Club Recruitment Fair (Chess Club).



10th Graders Attend and Perform at *Hamilton*

At SLJ, providing equitable opportunities and robust enrichment programming is not limited to English, Math, or legal instruction. We additionally invest resources to ensure that students have access to the arts. These services are often provided in-house through art, music, and dance classes. Moreover, students periodically have opportunities to see Broadway performances.

On October 16th, with assistance from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, over 100 SLJ students attended *Hamilton: An American Musical*. Joined by their Social Studies teacher, Ms. Reyes, many students remarked that the values of transparency and integrity remain as critical today to our Nation's sovereignty as they did 200+ years ago. A few students also performed spoken word after the show.

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