



New York School for the Deaf
People, Passion, Progress!

Summer 2023 Community Newsletter

New York School for the Deaf, Then and Today

New York School for the Deaf (Fanwood) is the oldest school for the Deaf in New York State and the second oldest in the country. Our School, is unique in so many ways and so steeped in history and the hearts of our community.



In 1817, our School opened in a small building near City Hall in downtown Manhattan. We later moved to a more spacious location near 49th Street and Fifth Avenue, current site of Saks Fifth Avenue. Once again, we needed more space and relocated to Washington Heights, the current home of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. It was then that NYSD also adopted the nickname of Fanwood. We moved to White Plains in 1937 where we continue to provide excellence in education to our Deaf students.



We are proud that our graduates over the past 200+ years have gone on to make names for themselves in many fields - science, education, business, the arts and more. We continue to stand by our original vision of NYSD fostering a bilingual environment in both English and American Sign Language, which ensures a safety net for students to achieve the success they deserve.



From the Desk of the Superintendent

I joined the Fanwood campus in 2022 as its newest Superintendent. I did so with joy and a strong sense of responsibility. We have a beautiful campus and incredible students. This is a community I am proud and humbled to be responsible for.

I grew up in New York as a child from a Puerto Rican and Lebanese family and attended mainstream programs. While I was successful academically, I always felt there was more. I discovered ASL and the Deaf community. I found support and people who understood my experiences. I found people who had answers to my questions about life - and who helped my family adjust to my needs.



Dr. Joseph Santini

Our philosophy at the New York School for the Deaf mirrors the programs which brought me success. Our program works to include parents at a high rate, provide opportunities for learning, and helps families leverage the knowledge of the Deaf community to ensure the best future for their children. In these pages, we share some of our successes - and some of our joy in our students, their learning and their transformation.

We're Open For Enrollment.



Q : Who can attend NYSD?

A : In order to be eligible to attend NYSD, a student must have a documented hearing loss, and be between the ages of 0 to 21 years.

Q : Do parents pay tuition?

A : New York School for the Deaf serves students at no cost to their families.

Q: How are students referred to NYSD?

A: Parents/Guardians may either apply directly to the school for admissions consideration for their child OR the respective school district may submit a referral on behalf of a child.

For children aged birth to three, please request an application to our Family Infant Program by contacting our school.

For more information about the admissions process, visit www.nysd.net/admissions

NYSD Admissions Office
(914) 949-7310 (914) 505-6075 (VP)
admissions@nysd.net

Our Board Members: 2022-2024



Alexis Kashar
Lawyer, Entrepreneur



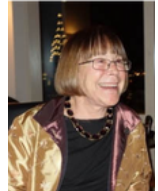
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New York School for the Deaf has a dynamic Board with leaders from academia, arts, education, finance, government, law, science and more. The wealth of expertise and talent among our Trustees provides NYSD with our strength. Our trustees lend their support to ensure that NYSD remains the best possible environment for our students. They work consistently to support our mission, and ensure that NYSD achieves its goals.

Board President: Alexis Kashar



Alexis Kashar is a Civil Rights attorney. She is a business leader, entrepreneur and technologist. She grew up in a multi-generational Deaf family that encouraged her interest in civil rights and accessibility from an early age. For over two decades, Alexis practiced civil rights and special education law in the private sector with a focus on accessibility. As a civil rights advocate, Alexis Kashar dedicated her career as a force for creating access and implementing monumental change. In the course of her work she has been appointed to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board by President Biden.

In her role as Board President, Alexis Kashar has overseen many changes and improvements to the School, We are so fortunate to have her because in addition to her advocacy in the community, she is an outstanding role model for young Deaf people who dream of pushing back barriers and fully actualizing their dreams. Thank you, Alexis!

Being Bilingual: The Fanwood Model

In the 1830's, when the New York School for the Deaf was still in its infancy, its teachers gathered to discuss the best means of educating Deaf people. After much deliberation, they concluded that the best means to provide a well rounded education would be through direct instruction using American Sign Language (ASL), English, Mathematics, and in fact, any subject area. Direct instruction in ASL then became the cornerstone and continues to be the Fanwood model. Our Board member, Tom Humphries, has researched extensively in this area and concludes: "**[Researchers] found that ASL proficiency, on the other hand, correlated most highly with reading achievement. Specifically, they found two factors correlated with reading achievement: ASL fluency and exposure to print... Deaf students who have developed ASL proficiency have a significantly better chance of attaining English literacy.**" From 1830 to today, our model is tested and true.



Tom Humphries
NYSD Board Member

Over the years, technology has changed and developed to help Deaf people access sound, i.e., ear horns, hearing aids, and cochlear implants. **It has been proven that the addition of American Sign Language to complement those technologies is beneficial. This visual, fully accessible language of ASL provides a comprehensive safety net, enabling students to engage with the content they are provided.**

Dr. Humphries notes this is especially true for students from multilingual families. "The diversity of deaf students suggests the appropriateness of dual and multi-language strategies rather than monolingual ones."

Equally as important is access to a pool of peers with similar experiences. A Deaf child alone, regardless of speaking or hearing ability, often experiences bullying or differential treatment by teachers and classmates. The support of Deaf peers, their advice, and the benefit of their shared experiences is invaluable. Humphries explains: "Historically, deaf children were kept separate from each other and taught in differing ways, denying the critical mass of deaf children rich social interaction and social learning." **Ensuring peer groups and access to Deaf community members and leaders are additional cornerstones of our model.**

Children need role models to thrive. Having access to successful Deaf adults who function as high level bilinguals and role models makes an unbelievable difference for all students who come to our school. Humphries points out that in programs like ours, "the emphasis is on the teacher as a model of language, speech, and learning." **At the New York School for the Deaf, our students experience Deaf role models leading our schools, teaching our classes, and more.** Thanks to the work of Dr. Humphries and others, we know we need to continue to provide access to Deaf leaders in all fields as well as enable them to develop networks for their future success.

Setting Our Students Up For Success



Rashida won first place in Gallaudet's ASL Storytelling competition this year.



NYSD Middle School students competed in RIT's Mathematics Competition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students. Students worked hard solving complex math problems. NYSD was honored to receive the Ben Hall Award!

Project Fast Forward

NYSD joined Rochester Institute of Technology's Project Fast Forward to offer college-level and college-credit courses to our students.



NYSD students Joshua, Ebrahim, Moises, and Khalib participated in the Rocky Mountain Deaf Film Festival and earned the award for "Best Experimental Film."

SOARING INTO YEAR 200



Fanwood's Academic Bowl team competes with other schools annually around the nation.

Specializing in STEAM and Language Arts

NYSD adopted a bilingual mission in 2018, aiming for excellence in English and ASL, our languages of instruction; we have also since acquired a focus on STEAM-Science, Technology, Engineering, ASL/Arts and Mathematics.

Our School's Mission and Vision

The mission of NYSD is to maximize the whole person potential of each student through comprehensive, rigorous educational programs and services within a communication and language-rich environment. NYSD is also committed to serve as an exemplary resource in the education of deaf and hard of hearing students. To achieve its goals, NYSD collaborates with families, school districts, agencies, the deaf community, the educational research community, philanthropic sources and other key stakeholders.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the winners of the third annual Virtual Science Fair – Rube Goldberg Machine competition for 2022.

1st Place - Zoha Ahmed

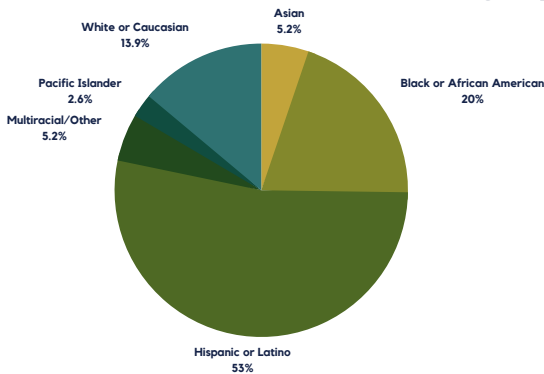
2nd Place - Skyler Blake

3rd Place - Terrezza Haskell

In 2022, our students swept the board, winning first, second and third place in RIT's Virtual Science Fair.

The Students We Serve

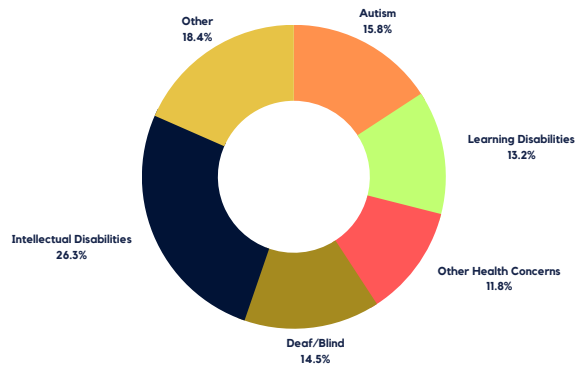
Student Demographics



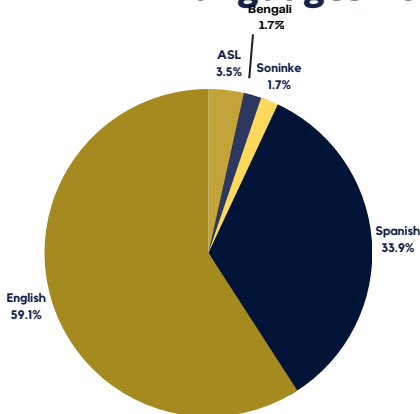
NYSD has always been a proudly diverse school. We accepted our first Black Deaf student in 1817, Horace Crawford.

Celebrating Multiple Differences

Many of our students have disabilities in addition to being Deaf. New York School for the Deaf celebrates all children and emphasizes their ability to succeed by giving students authentic opportunities.



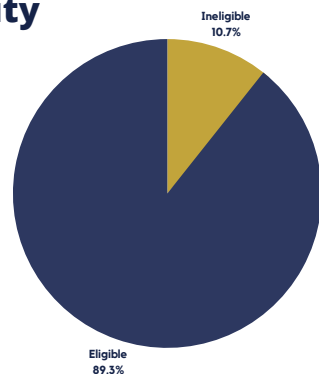
Languages At Home



Our diverse families speak diverse languages at home. Every year at NYSD, we see a new language profile for our community.

Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility

Since over 75% of our students are from families whose income is below poverty level, ALL NYSD students receive free meals.



Building Community: Our Fall Festival

When students arrive at New York School for the Deaf, they immediately begin learning about our many school traditions. One such tradition is our eagerly looked-for school Fall Festival.

In 2023, we made our Fall Festival a celebration of Fanwood history and heritage by inviting staff to dress up as figures from our 200+ year history. They met and interacted with these figures while taking a hay ride around campus. Parents and visitors also enjoyed the tour, the laughs - and learned a lot about the history of our amazing school!

Our Fall Festival isn't our only tradition. Field Day, Holiday Luncheons, Arbor Day, and more make up a community and culture that cannot be equalled.

Our Fanwood History Museum, curated by Linda Mosca-Ginis ('77), is a center where our precious traditions are stored and shared.





ESDAA
Est. 1927

Fanwood has a long history of proud athletes. In 2023 we hosted the Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletics Association (ESDAA) Basketball and Cheerleading Tournament, with eight schools joining our campus. Fanwood is not only a member of ESDAA; we also participate in a number of state and regional associations. Our school has a history of leadership in athletics, and often hosts the annual ESDAA meeting on campus.

ESDAA Tournament 2023

We Rise Together

**Where do Fanwood students go?
We are proud to say: everywhere.**



2023 Post-Graduate Plans



Rochester Institute of Technology



Lehman College



Gallaudet University



Postgraduate Employment



Alumni Spotlight: Anjel Piñero (2018)

Anjel spent her high school years at our school. She subsequently matriculated at Gallaudet University (2022), while simultaneously embarking on her film, acting, dancing, and modeling career. Anjel is now a candidate for Miss New York. She has chosen to use her platform to advocate for special schools in New York, hoping to create a better environment for Deaf youth so that all Deaf New Yorkers can have the best of opportunities. Anjel is an active alumni, and visits the Fanwood campus for events.

Supporting Families with Deaf Infants

New York School for the Deaf offers quality Early Childhood Education from birth through Kindergarten. SEEDS is NYSD's comprehensive, family-centered program designed for deaf and hard of hearing children from birth-three years old and helps families learn ASL, connect to services, and support their newly identified deaf or hard of hearing children. Our services include:

- A quality educational program focusing on language and cognitive development.
- Ongoing assessment of student progress using a team based approach.
- A quality Listening/Speaking, or American Sign Language (ASL) program tailored to your child's needs.

We plant the SEEDS, nurture the
SPROUTS, and watch as they
become BLOOMS...



**For more information
about SEEDS, please
contact:**

**Pupil Personnel Services
(914) 949-7310
(914) 505-6075 (VP)
Jennifer Lomas, SEEDS Lead
Teacher
(914) 949-7310 x 8300**

jlomas@nysd.net

- Center and teleconferencing sessions where parents learn how to maximize their interactions in order to help develop language skills for their child.
- Center based playgroup sessions for children 18 months-three years old.
- Parent meetings - a place to connect with other parents, while learning more about child development and how to create an optimal learning environment for your child.
- Team meetings to monitor and discuss each child's progress.

WE ARE THANKFUL



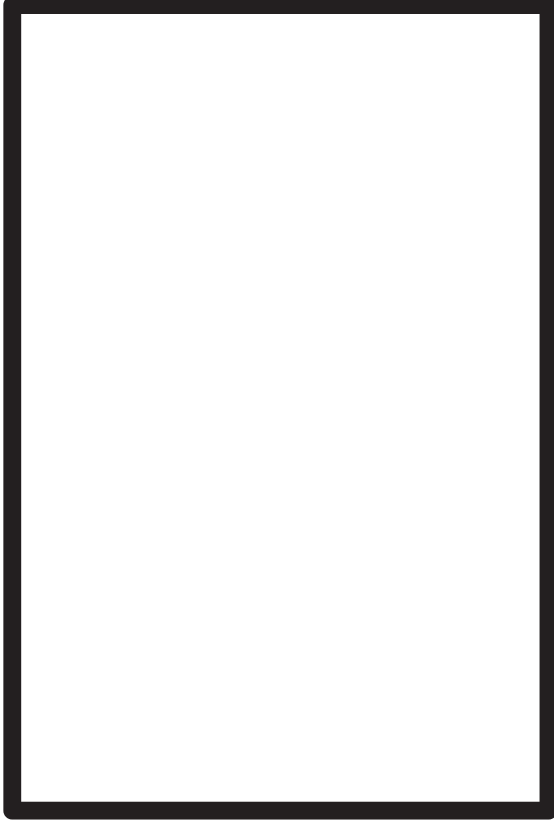
SUPPORT IS EVERYTHING

New York School for the Deaf is funded by the State government. In order to provide the rich, robust program we offer our students and families, we rely on donors to our programs and events. We also work with local partners to develop relationships and bring in people and activities which help our students thrive. In this page, we honor our Friends of Fanwood, and we also especially honor the donors which made this year's ESDAA tournament possible.

ESDAA DONORS

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New York School for the Deaf
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Learn more at
<http://www.nysd.net>

