



The IDEAL School of Manhattan

Grades K-5
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New York, NY 10024
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www.theidealschool.org

Grades 6-12 and Next Steps Transition Program
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Mission Statement

The IDEAL School of Manhattan is an inclusion school dedicated to creating a diverse community that affirms and accepts the full identities of all people, while inspiring academic excellence, creative leadership, and a desire to build a more just and equitable world.

History

IDEAL was founded in 2005 by three families who were looking for an elementary school in New York City for their young children. Like many parents, they sought a school that provided a strong academic foundation in a nurturing, supportive environment, that recognized their children's many strengths while helping them to overcome any challenges, that developed their sense of character, community, and social responsibility, and that fostered empathy and emotional intelligence. These families believed that their children would flourish with the small class sizes, individualized attention, and commitment to the arts that are the hallmarks of independent schools.

Although their sons and daughters were quite different from one another, they shared one characteristic in common--each child had Down syndrome. These families were thus looking for an independent school that offered differentiated instruction, that would celebrate each child's unique identity, and that would welcome their children into the community. Unable to find such a school, they were inspired to start one.

Thus, the idea for a truly diverse and inclusive independent school with differentiated and individualized instruction to meet the needs and support the identities of all types of learners emerged. The founding families partnered with educators committed to creating a school that teaches and reaches children of all backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, races, genders, cultures, sexual orientations, and religions, as well as a broad range of learning styles, readiness levels, and



abilities. The IDEAL School of Manhattan is built on this philosophy of inclusion and is committed to extending the definition of diversity in education to include all learners. The school's core principles and the foundation of its mission are built into its name and acronym: *Inclusion, Diversity, Excellence, Acceptance, and Leadership*.

The founders' vision of a school that is as diverse and dynamic as New York City itself has become a reality. The IDEAL School opened its doors in 2006 with 20 students in kindergarten to second grade. In the years since, IDEAL has grown from elementary school to Middle School, and now K-12 with more than 210 students. IDEAL's first seniors finished High School in June 2018 and each one continued their educational journeys on diverse paths as unique as they are, equipped with the skills and motivation to be leaders in their communities, dedicated to building a more just and equitable world.

Accreditations, Memberships, and Associations

- High School Certificate of Registration from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York
- K-12 Accreditation from the New York State Association of Independent Schools

IDEAL holds an Absolute Charter, Grades K-12, from New York State and is accredited, Grades K-12, by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS). The Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York also granted IDEAL its certificate of High School Registration in June 2018. The school is also a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York, the Guild of Independent Schools of New York City, and The Heads Network. IDEAL registered with the College Board in September 2017 as a Level II School to receive students' scores for AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and ACT and to administer AP, PSAT/NMSQT. Additionally, the Level II code allows us to participate in AP Course Audit, to request College Board accommodations for students with disabilities, and to receive SAT and ACT publications. Our membership in One Schoolhouse's online independent school program increases student access to electives and AP classes (www.oneschoolhouse.org).

Community

IDEAL is housed in two buildings in Manhattan's Upper West Side. The Lower School (Grades K-5) consists of 89 students housed in our building at 314 W. 91st Street. The Upper School, consisting of a Middle School (Grades 6-8), a High School (Grades 9-12) and an 18-21 Program, Next Steps, includes 131 students and occupies three floors of the B'nai Jeshurun Synagogue on 89th Street. Business and administrative offices are split between the two campuses. The student body is culturally, economically, and academically diverse, reflecting the founders' vision of a school that is as dynamic and diverse as New York City itself. Learning within a diverse community cultivates a positive sense of self, empathy, and collaborative leadership skills within IDEAL students. IDEAL's High School provides a rigorous academic program, a variety of leadership opportunities, and an emphasis on social justice and the arts that together inspire students to strive for personal and academic excellence.



School

IDEAL is an independent K-12 inclusion school. The school currently enrolls 216 students and employs 110 faculty and staff members. Currently, there are 89 students in the Lower School (Grades K-5), 72 students in the Middle School (Grades 6-8), and 54 students in the High School (Grades 9-12). IDEAL offers an 18-21 Program, Next Steps, for students who have completed 12 years of school but have not yet earned a diploma. There are 5 students in that program. The average class size is 17 in the Lower School, 14 in the Middle School, and 10 in the High School. The student to faculty ratio is 3:1 in the Lower School and 4:1 in the Upper School. The school was opened in 2006 and graduated its first senior class in 2018.

Academic Program and Support for Diverse Learners

IDEAL offers one inclusive academic program with three levels of support based on students' academic needs.

- The Standard Program encompasses all elements of our differentiated curriculum and extracurricular program. All IDEAL students participate in advisory, receive additional help from their teachers and can access our school counselor as needed.
- The Zenith Program encompasses all elements of our differentiated curriculum and extracurricular program, as well as up to 180 minutes of related services, which include counseling, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. No student is pulled from core academic classes to receive therapy.
- The Dylan Program encompasses all elements of our differentiated curriculum and extracurricular program, as well as up to 270 minutes of related services, which include counseling, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. No student is pulled from core academic classes to receive therapy. Students in our Dylan Program also have an associate teacher, a one-to-one specialist charged with ensuring that their assigned student is fully included in our program and community.

Curriculum

IDEAL's unique High School model is based on a rotating curriculum. Grades 9-12 are blended and structured based on intentional groupings designed to challenge and support each student. In our blended model, all students in High School study the same essential subject in English, history, and science at the same time; for example, all High School students are studying chemistry and world history in the 2020-21 school year, and they are all reading literature related to the themes of leadership and world leaders. Each course is offered at a variety of levels based on student readiness and learning profile, ranging from foundational to honors. Honors courses are offered in history, science, and calculus. Students may take the AP English Literature and Composition and AP Language and Composition Exams in alternate years. IDEAL also offers Advanced Spanish: Literature and Culture. In 2020-21, students will be sitting for the AP English Literature and Composition, AP Calculus, and AP Spanish Language and Culture exams. IDEAL's curriculum also emphasizes the arts, with all students required to take four years of arts electives. Students also have the opportunity to



take elective academic courses provided by the One Schoolhouse program. In 2020-21, students took One Schoolhouse classes such as French I, Engineering, Global Health, and American Sign Language, aptly representing the individual interests of our students. Throughout the year, students from across sections come together to work on projects, participate in group discussions, take trips, and share presentations. Additionally, students come together for Community Time, advisory, clubs, assemblies, and service projects.

Graduation requirements are as follows: Four credits each of English, history, and math, plus three credits of science, physical education, and Spanish. Graduates are also required to have completed four credits of arts classes, which include music, theatre, and visual arts choices. The High School further expands its course offerings to include a variety of AP and elective offerings in partnership with One Schoolhouse.

IDEAL Four-Year Course Map

Graduation Requirements

English 4 Credits	History 4 Credits	Math 4 Credits	Science 3 Credits	Spanish 3 Credits
Arts 4 Credits	Physical Education 3 Credits	Health 1 Credit	Graduation Required Credits: 26 Credits Per Year: 7, including Physical Education/Health	

English

Year 1: Identity and Power

Year 2: Coming of Age and Journeys

Year 3: Conflict and Resolution

Year 4: Leadership and World Leaders

AP English Literature and Composition and AP English Language and Composition are offered in alternate years.

History

Year 1: American History

Year 2: Semester 1--Government, Semester 2--Economics

Year 3: World History

Year 4: World History: Global Civil Rights Movements

Math

All students are placed in the appropriate course in the math sequence below, as determined by the math department and Upper School Head.

- Real-World Math Program, Levels 1-4

- Introduction to Algebra, Algebra 1, or Algebra 1 Honors
- Geometry or Geometry Honors
- Algebra 2/Trigonometry or Algebra 2/Trigonometry Honors
- Precalculus or Precalculus Honors
- Calculus or AP Calculus AB or BC

Science

Year 1: Chemistry

Year 2: Physics

Year 3: Biology

Year 4: Electives and online options, including AP, will be available and suited to student and teacher interest and expertise

Spanish

All students take the appropriate course in the Spanish sequence below, as determined by the Spanish department and Upper School Heads. Language exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the Upper School Head and Assistant Head.

Spanish Exposure	Spanish 3
Spanish 1	Spanish 4
Spanish 2	Spanish 5/AP Spanish

Arts Electives

- IDEAL offers a variety of arts electives each year, based on student and teacher interest
- Students select a new elective--Drama, Music, or Visual Art--each semester in High School
- STEAM units such as coding and video-editing are integrated through the curriculum and engage students in self-expression, communication, and problem-solving

Physical Education and Health

- Physical education classes meet three days per week for all students in Grades 9-12
- Health classes meet one day per week during the PE block for all students in Grades 9-12

One Schoolhouse

- IDEAL students who meet the prerequisites for a One Schoolhouse class and demonstrate interest and independence in this area of curriculum may apply to take one One Schoolhouse class per year at no additional charge
- Prerequisites are listed in the One Schoolhouse online curriculum guide
- Applications to take a One Schoolhouse class are attached at the end of this guide

Next Steps 18-21 Program

- Students continue to develop core skills in math, reading, and writing
- Community outings/volunteering
- Public transportation
- Life skills (cooking, cleaning, daily routines)
- Organizational skills (planning, time management, etc)
- Extended internship opportunities

Grade Point Average

IDEAL does not weight grade point averages. GPAs are calculated on the following scale.

Letter Grade	Percent Grade	4.0 Scale
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	65-66	1.0
F	Below 65	0.0

Rank

IDEAL does not rank students.

Graduating Classes and the Class of 2021

IDEAL graduated its first seniors in 2018. There were three seniors in the class of 2018, four in 2019, and eight in 2020. There are thirteen seniors in the class of 2021. Colleges and postsecondary programs to which IDEAL students have been accepted include:

Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Bronx Community College
Brooklyn College
City College
Concordia College
Cooke School
Emerson College
Florida Atlantic University
Goucher College
Guttman College

Hamilton College
Hostos Community College
Howard University
Hunter College
IDEAL Next Steps Program
Iona College
John Jay College
Le Moyne College
Lehman College
LIU Brooklyn
Loyola New Orleans

Manhattanville College
Marist College
Medgar Evers College
Mercy College
Mitchell College
New York University
Nova Southeastern University
Pace University
Queens College
Riverview School
Roosevelt University



St. John's University
Suffolk County Community
College
Suffolk University
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Buffalo

SUNY Cobleskill
SUNY Delhi
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Purchase
University of Houston

University of Rhode Island
Utica College
Westchester Community College
York College

College Preparation and Standardized Test Results

IDEAL offers the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT in the fall and offers the SAT and PSAT 10 in spring. Supporting the socioeconomic diversity of the school, IDEAL includes a series of test prep classes in its program for interested juniors. Additionally, IDEAL offers a college exploration and research class for juniors and seniors that provides students with a forum for identifying schools that interest them, crafting a college essay, and empowering students in their college journey. IDEAL's College and Postsecondary Counselor offers support for students and their families through conferencing, a personal statement writing workshop, routine communication about college placement events at school and throughout New York City, and through the development of an individualized timeline with students. Additionally, IDEAL's College and Postsecondary Counselor leads two local college trips for High School students each year to inform their application process and to introduce students to a variety of colleges in the region.

Extracurricular Opportunities

IDEAL does not offer a competitive High School sports program. Students have a variety of opportunities, however, to participate in sports such as volleyball, cross country, basketball, golf, and track and field at the club level.

IDEAL's vibrant arts curriculum is integrated throughout all disciplines and permeates school culture. Creative arts courses in the Upper School include visual and digital arts, vocal music (both small groups and larger ensembles), contemporary music production, music theory and composition, drama, and specialized workshops. IDEAL students can also participate in two annual productions, a fall play and a spring musical. High school students have the opportunity to take part in IDEAL's drama troupe competing in the International Thespian Society festival.

Clubs meet during the school day on a rotating schedule. Clubs are proposed by students and faculty at the start of the school year and meet in small groups with a faculty mentor to engage in a shared area of interest. Current clubs include Dungeons and Dragons, Glee, Yearbook, Motor Sports, Pokemon, Tik Tok, and Star Wars.

Signature Programs: Advisory

A robust Advisory Program helps drive the celebration and development of the whole child, which is central to the IDEAL Mission. Every Middle and High School student is a member of an advisory group, and each advisory group is led by two faculty members who support the academic, social,



and emotional growth of the individuals and the group as a whole. Advisory groups gather briefly in scheduled times at the beginning and end of each day to touch base and to strengthen the sense of community and to prepare for the day or homework ahead. Advisory groups also meet once a week in a longer block for guided discussions on topics related to friendship, advocacy, growth mindset, and service projects.

Signature Programs: Social Justice

IDEAL's signature Social Justice Program supports each student's positive identity and character development by directly addressing the impact of stereotyping, bias, and discriminatory behavior, encouraging cooperative learning, and teaching conflict resolution. Our anti-bias and multicultural values are woven into the fabric of our curriculum and community. Annual celebrations, curricular programs, and focused trips highlighting social justice include the Peace and Light Ceremony, all-school Civil Rights Museum, and the Upper School overnight Civil Rights Journey. IDEAL students and faculty members have also attended the People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference, as well as other local conferences focused on diversity and leadership, on an annual basis.