

# BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE



A capital  
campaign  
to fund the next  
chapter of  
The IDEAL School  
of Manhattan  
at  
5 Hanover  
Square



 The IDEAL School *of Manhattan*





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.

### **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.

### **Our Story**

In 2005, three families 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, would



IDEAL's founding families created a school that welcomes children of all backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, ethnicities, genders, cultures, sexual orientations, and religions.

celebrate each child's unique identity, and 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, ethnicities, 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 the 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.

Research shows that all students benefit from an inclusive classroom. At IDEAL, students with and without disabilities have access to integrated services and show improvement in executive functioning skills, social-emotional learning, and organization. In a 2019 study by Theobald et al., the authors found that students with disabilities in inclusive settings showed higher academic performance, fewer absences, and better graduation, college attendance, and employment rates.



## The IDEAL of Today

IDEAL's founders had a vision for a school as diverse and dynamic as New York City itself, and their shared vision has become a reality. The IDEAL School of Manhattan opened its doors in 2006 with 20 students in kindergarten to second grade. In the years since, IDEAL has grown from an elementary school to a K-12+ program that educates close to 200 students, including IDEAL's postsecondary Next Steps Transition Program. IDEAL's K-12 program is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools, and our High School is registered with the Board of Regents of the State of New York.

Today, IDEAL continues to live its mission in new ways, expanding on our vision of inclusion and work in social justice. IDEAL's annual Civil Rights Museum features research projects that students present at our Civil Rights Community Day, where noted speakers in the field of social justice visit with students, staff, and families to share their work. The first Community Day featured renowned disability rights activist Judith Heumann and civil rights activists Charles Imohiosen and Robert Masters of the Andrew Goodman Foundation, and the second featured two of the producers of the inclusive Broadway musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

Along with building a strong academic foundation at all levels, IDEAL's Middle School program fosters positive relationships and social-emotional learning through its advisory program and leadership opportunities. Middle School students plan and facilitate their own clubs, help to lead Friday assemblies, and build confidence composing and delivering IDEAL Talks. End-of-day advisory periods have a different focus each day of the week, from Mindful Mondays and Tolerance Tuesdays to Free Expression Fridays.

IDEAL High School students traveled to the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY, in the spring of 2022, and the senior Civil Rights Journey has included trips to Atlanta, GA, and Washington, DC. High School students engage



World-renowned disability rights activist Judith Heumann opened IDEAL's inaugural Civil Rights Community Day. Joined by an IDEAL student, she set the tone for a full day of presentations and the birth of a new IDEAL tradition.

in a weekly Life Skills block, where they explore topics such as Boundaries, Self Advocacy, and Physical and Mental Health in a collaborative and hands-on way. Senior electives focus on career exploration in fields where students have an interest and engage them in multiple career shadow days over the course of the year. Every Friday, the seniors participate in a differentiated financial literacy course.

IDEAL's American Sign Language class for Lower School students is held weekly, and in Upper School, students chose ASL as one of their weekly clubs. Lower School Extended Day programming includes a partnership with Special Olympics, a developmental dance class, and a coding class among others.

IDEAL's college and postsecondary counseling

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## College and Postsecondary Program Matriculation

*An asterisk identifies students who were in the Zenith or Dylan Program.*

Borough of Manhattan Community College  
Colgate University  
College of Mount Saint Vincent Bridge Program\*  
College of Saint Rose\*  
Cooke School\*  
Emerson College  
Goucher College  
Guttman Community College\*  
Howard University  
Hunter College\*  
IDEAL's Next Steps Transition Program\*  
LaGuardia Community College  
Lehman College  
Long Island University Brooklyn  
Manhattan College

Manhattanville College\*  
Marymount Manhattan College\*  
Medgar Evers College\*  
Morgan State University\*  
New York University  
New York School of Interior Design  
Riverview School\*  
SUNY New Paltz  
SUNY Purchase  
Syracuse University: Inclusive U\*  
University of South Carolina Aiken\*  
Westchester Community College\*  
Winston Transitions\*  
Xavier University of LA

program is led by a faculty member who works closely with students and their families to develop an individualized plan for life after High School. The program includes regular communication and conferencing with students and parents, college and career exploration and research, a personal statement writing workshop, discussion of goals, and interview-process preparation. IDEAL also offers free SAT/ACT test prep with Empire Edge and the opportunity to take the SAT, PSAT, and PSAT 10 on our campus, as well as college visits and information nights with college representatives, current college students, and financial aid officers.

Our Next Steps Transition Program hosts an annual

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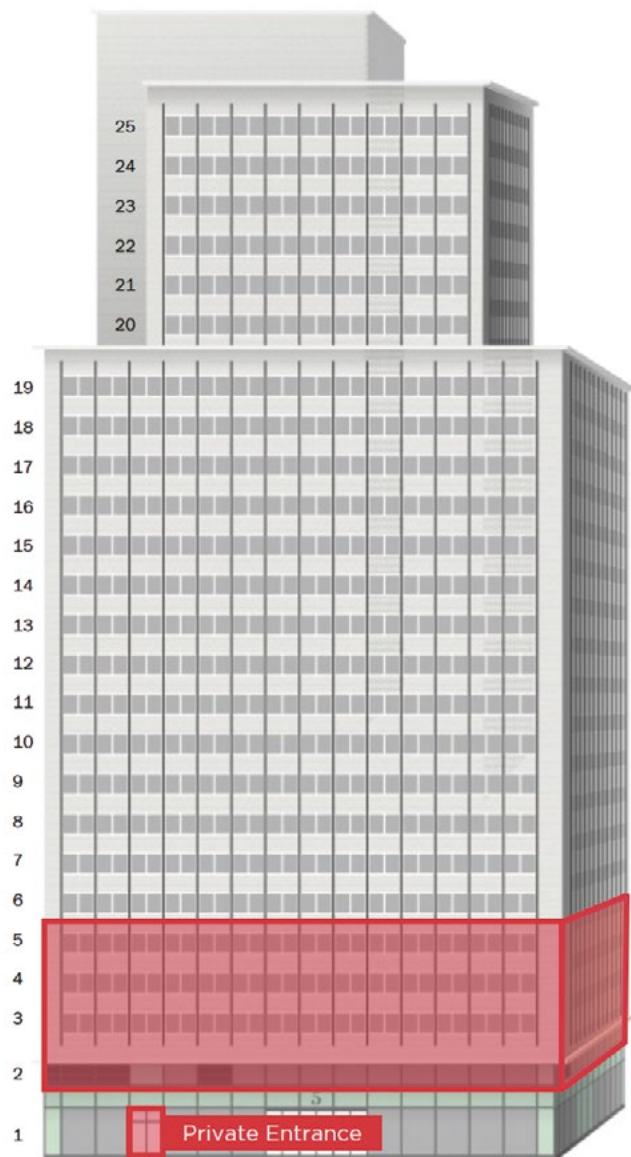
speaker series for families of adults with disabilities, which is free and open to the public. Since 2021, Next Steps has engaged in a partnership with the Bridge Program at the College of Mount Saint Vincent that allows IDEAL students to experience life on a college campus.

## A Building for Our Future

For many years, IDEAL's founders and trustees searched for a space to unify the school's growing community in one building. In 2020, the Board of Trustees officially formed a Real Estate Committee to find a location that could house all divisions and also reflect IDEAL's core values and mission. After an exhaustive search in locations throughout Manhattan, the committee signed a 33-year lease for IDEAL's new home at 5 Hanover Square. **On September 18, 2023, the school officially moved into its new home!**

IDEAL at 5 Hanover Square is a 63,000 square-foot, self-contained building-within-a-building occupying floors one through five. Architects Alexander Gorlin and Quncie Williams of Alexander Gorlin Architects worked with a design committee that included founders, trustees, staff, and families to build out the space as a model of learning, access, and inclusion. IDEAL's five floors are connected by a central staircase with a private entrance and elevator. Each floor above the entrance is designated to a division. A significant addition to the footprint of IDEAL's former spaces, 5 Hanover Square will allow IDEAL to open its doors to 275 students in the coming years, expanding our market and the reach of our mission in New York City.

From the welcoming square and gathering space outside of IDEAL's first floor entrance to the Next Steps Suite modeled as a studio apartment and the double-height gym and multipurpose room on the third floor, IDEAL's new home joins students and faculty in a whole new way. Other features include a test kitchen, art and music studios, therapy suites for both the Lower and Upper Schools, a High School science lab, a dance and drama room, and a Learning Center with an expanded library and storage for additional learning resources.

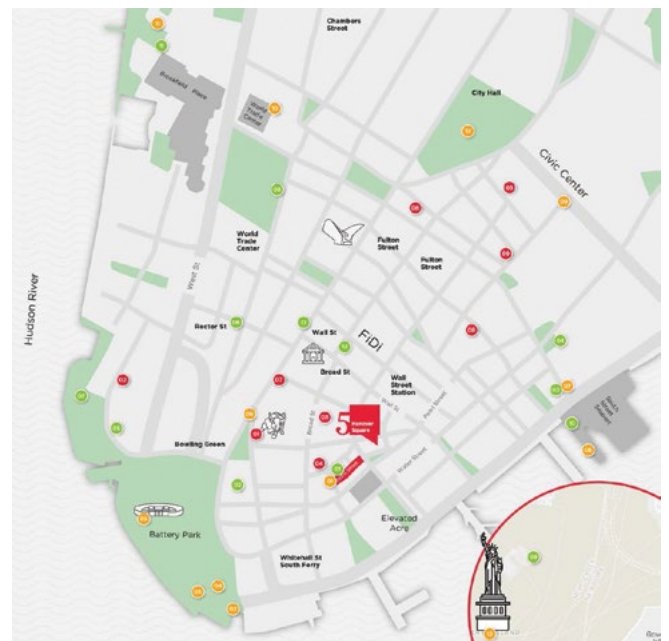
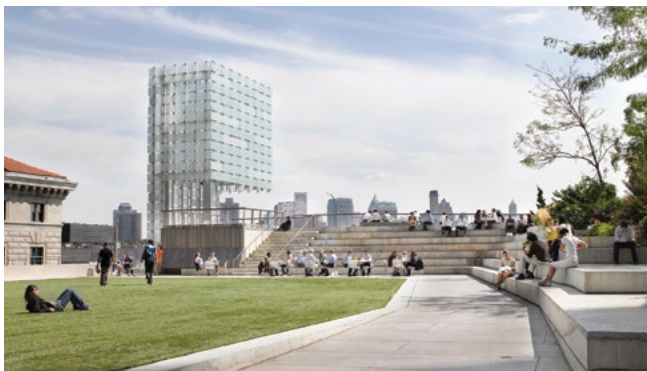


The IDEAL School of Manhattan at 5 Hanover Square is a building within a building, occupying five stories with a private entrance, staircase, and elevator.





A welcoming green space (above) outside IDEAL's front doors will provide an outdoor teaching and learning space, as well as a gathering place for students, teachers, and families. The Elevated Acre (below) is an open space that classes can use that is just a block from the building. The Financial District features numerous schools (right, marked in red) museums (yellow), and cultural attractions (green).



# Capital Campaign Giving Levels

## Naming Opportunities at 5 Hanover Square

### Capital Campaign

IDEAL has moved into its next chapter after moving into 5 Hanover Square. The building is so much more than just a new space. It symbolizes the power of our school's mission and the potential of our future growth. Now that the initial construction is finished, we need your help to bring our vision for IDEAL at 5 Hanover Square to life. With your donations, we will be able to complete the project that will showcase the power of inclusion. By naming a space or program, you will leave your mark on IDEAL and allow us to expand the ways our school fosters in our students a passion for equity and inclusion, creative leadership, and a desire to build a more just and equitable world.

Our goal for the capital campaign is \$2 million. You can make a major gift all at once or plan a gift over the course of five years. Please consider funding a naming opportunity in support of IDEAL's relocation to 5 Hanover Square. Your gift will allow us to shape the future of IDEAL students and the school's mission for generations to come. We look forward to discussing with you the ways that your family can have a long-standing impact on this unique school's home.

Donors who would like to give at one of the specified major giving levels without naming a program will also receive special recognition.

### \$200,000 Naming Opportunities

#### The IDEAL Gym and Multipurpose Room

IDEAL's double-height gym is a feature of the school. Our physical education classes and after-school

athletic teams reflect our commitment to inclusion and serve as a model for differentiated physical education programs. A retractable stage in the gym will facilitate play practice and highlight the centrality of the arts to IDEAL's mission. Activities in the third-floor gym are visible to the community through fourth floor windows, making this space the true core of the school and a visual reflection of how we live our mission.

Opening up to the gym is IDEAL's multipurpose room. When we combine the gym and multipurpose room, our school can hold essential events in this space. Imagine IDEAL graduates walking across the stage each year. On a daily basis, the multipurpose room will be used for family-style lunch.

It is the home of our early drop-off breakfast program that assists families with long commutes, and it provides our High School students with the opportunity to learn valuable life skills and become integrated into the lives of our younger students.

#### Lower or Upper School Sensory Gym and OT Suite

Your gift will help outfit a sensory gym and occupational therapy suite for either the Lower or Upper School. Working closely with the IDEAL therapy team and our architects, we are building two exceptional sensory and therapy spaces for both divisions.

### \$100,000 Naming Opportunities

#### Next Steps Life Skills Suite

This cutting-edge space where students in IDEAL's

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The gym at 5 Hanover Square is two stories high and features second story glass walls where the Middle School floor overlooks the activities below. The space also opens into a multipurpose room for assemblies, plays, musical performances, and more.

Next Steps Transition Program work on improving their daily living skills. The suite, which includes a room that can be set up as a studio apartment, has a washer/dryer, a culinary lab with kitchen tools, a bed, and a large dining area for Next Steps students to come together and share the meals they have prepared. The Next Steps Life Skills Suite also has spaces for academics, therapy, and training in job-related skills like technology and communication.

THE IDEAL SCHOOL OF MANHATTAN

### **Learning Center and Library**

The Learning Center and Library is a feature of IDEAL's new building. This double-sized space has enough bookshelves for our growing school library. The modular furniture allows for a variety of configurations encouraging collaborative learning. Learning specialists work with a small groups of students on reading skills or help them to organize research for a presentation. The space features soft seating where



The Learning Center and Library offer multiple opportunities for IDEAL students to work in small groups, one-to-one with a learning or literary specialist, or to curl up with a book on a comfy chair.

students can read, work on project with a friend, or listen to a recorded book.

### **Lower or Upper School Speech and Language Suite**

IDEAL's speech and language therapists support students in and out of the classroom using a wide variety of creative activities. Both the Lower and Upper School suites can provide expanded services thanks to your donation.

### **The IDEAL Scholarship**

The IDEAL Scholarship is a merit-based grant that is awarded to a select number of new applicants to

IDEAL's Standard Program in Grades K-8 who demonstrate a unique connection to, passion for, and/or ability to contribute to the school's core values. The scholarship renews annually until the recipient graduates from Grade 8. If you choose to fund The IDEAL Scholarship, your gift will help more students and families afford an IDEAL education.

### **The Open Door Scholarship**

The Open Door Scholarship Fund covers 100% of the school's tuition for a small number of students in the Standard Program whose families could not otherwise sustain an IDEAL education. It is awarded



annually to students in Grades 3-8 who have been enrolled at IDEAL for at least three years, who have demonstrated a unique commitment to or passion for the school's core values, and whose families have demonstrated financial need. By funding this naming opportunity, you are supporting the socioeconomic diversity of the school.

### Transportation Fund

IDEAL remains deeply committed to its students and families who live in Upper Manhattan, Washington Heights, the Bronx, and Harlem. By becoming a named donor of the transportation fund, you will support subsidies for safe and comfortable bus routes that make continued attendance at IDEAL possible for the students who live the furthest away. Your gift may also be allocated to support faculty transportation by allowing the school to offer subsidized parking.

### Sponsor a Major Space or Program of Your Choice

With your gift of \$100,000, you may also choose to work with the school to sponsor a major space or program of your choice.

## \$50,000 Naming Opportunities

### Lower and Upper School Art Studios

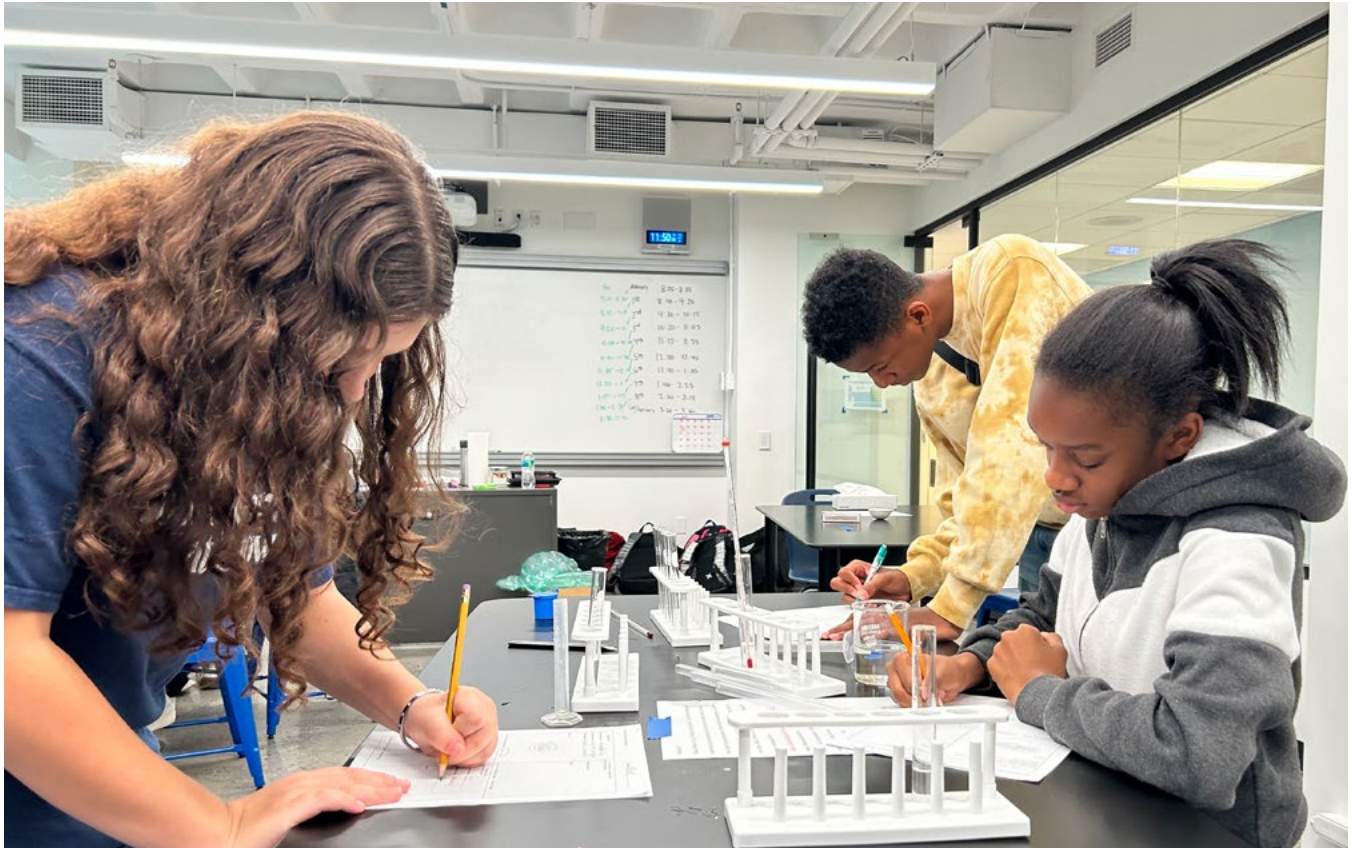
The arts are at the heart of IDEAL's mission, and essential to our inclusive pedagogy, which fosters confidence, creativity, and respect for all perspectives. IDEAL at 5 Hanover Square has both a Lower and Upper School art studio. Both spaces are large and east-facing to maximize natural light. The Upper School art studio has glass walls and space for a kiln, easels, sewing machines, and other specialized equipment to support our arts program and electives.

### Dance and Drama Studio

Your donation will allow us to outfit one classroom with dense vinyl flooring, a mirrored wall, barres, and other equipment so that this multiple-purpose room



Naming an arts classroom in visual art, music, drama, or dance will leave your name on these iconic spaces for generations.



Imagine your name on our state-of-the-art science lab.

can be used for dance and drama classes.

### **Lower and Upper School Music Studios**

Our inclusive approach to teaching music encourages students at all levels to strengthen their voices, develop their skills, and gain confidence. In Upper School, students learn to play guitar, bass, drums, or keyboards, and they perform in bands and in the spring musical. Music performances are a centerpiece of IDEAL's assemblies and annual Peace and Light and Moving Up Ceremonies.

### **Culinary Lab**

Adjacent to IDEAL's multipurpose room is a culinary

lab that will not only provide space for lunch service but also serve as an area for teachers to incorporate lessons that foster cooking and other daily living skills. Teachers can bring in small groups to make pies as they learn about fractions, and follow recipes to prepare meals for their friends and families, or organize snacks to sell at a Lower School movie night or pickleball match in the gym.

### **High School Science Lab**

Your gift will allow us to build out IDEAL's first High School-level science lab. This specialized classroom is a hub of experiential learning for our students, starting in Grade 4. All IDEAL High School students





IDEAL's College and Postsecondary Counseling Program is led by a faculty member who works closely with students and their families to develop an individualized plan for life after High School.

study biology, chemistry, and physics, differentiated and tied to essential life skills. Your gift will support everything from science tables and fume hoods to Bunsen burners, scales, pulleys, and pipettes.

### Conference Room

IDEAL's first level includes a conference room where the admissions team meets with visitors, teachers hold round-table discussions, and the Board and Parents Association hold committee meetings. Clubs and Student Council are also able to sign up to use this space. Your gift will help to outfit this room with technology to facilitate collaboration and conversation among all constituencies of the community.

### College and Postsecondary Counseling

IDEAL's new building has a dedicated space for college and postsecondary counseling activities. Our school's matriculation list reflects the range of paths our students take, each as unique as they are. The IDEAL college and postsecondary program includes a class for juniors to guide the students in their

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The new health suite allows students to visit the school nurses, have a rest, and learn from our healthcare experts.

selection process, help them identify their interests, and equip them with the life skills required for a successful transition to dorm living. The program also includes SAT prep for interested students, as well as visits to local schools. Students and their families meet with IDEAL's counselor in the counseling room to consider and prepare for their next steps.

### Health Suite

Support the development of our new health suite. Students and staff can visit IDEAL's nurses if they are not feeling well or if they want to discuss a health-related issue. The health suite allows the nurses to safely store medication and files while still presenting a safe and comfortable space. IDEAL's nurses are trusted resources who use the new space to see students and consult with families.

### Kindergarten Room

Name this cutting-edge space designed by our kindergarten team for our youngest students. It incorporates elements including a community reading area, a play area, an arts and crafts area, and modular



Our nurturing kindergarten room is where our youngest IDEAL students play and learn, and your name could be one of the first they learn to read!

furniture that facilitates flexible groups and collaborative learning.

### **Sponsor a Room or Program of Your Choice**

Your gift of \$50,000 will sponsor a classroom or program of your choice, allowing the school to upgrade furnishings and materials or build upon our collaborative, inclusive, and differentiated pedagogy.

### **\$25,000 Naming Opportunities**

#### **American Sign Language Program**

IDEAL continues to develop its American Sign Language program, incorporating project-based learning and readiness-based lessons in both the Lower and Upper School divisions. Your gift will bring guest experts to campus and help to fund interdisciplinary projects and field trips, where students not only practice their language skills but also learn life skills.

#### **APEX Athletics**

Your donation will allow the school to continue



Name and help expand the program where students learn and practice ASL.

building its High School APEX (Academic and Physical Excellence) athletics program. As the High School APEX program grows, we will expand girls' and boys' basketball teams and develop and strengthen our golf, pickleball, cross country, and volleyball programs to ensure activities for all. Your contribution will also help fund the rental of a space for home basketball games, transportation, and uniforms, as well as provide resources for visiting expert coaches and field trips to local training facilities.

#### **Chess Program**

Your gift will support IDEAL's chess program. IDEAL students participate in chess during elective blocks



Upper School students play chess in one of their clubs. Your gift could fund a class.



in Lower School. We would like to expand this program into Upper School. Students develop patience and concentration, reading and math skills, creativity, and strategic thinking by playing chess.

### **Eighth Grade Leadership Series**

At IDEAL, eighth grade is a capstone year focused on the development of leadership skills. IDEAL's eighth grade class travels annually to an outdoor education center in the fall to engage in activities that strengthen their leadership and collaboration skills and help to solidify lifelong friendships among classmates. We plan to add two additional leadership retreats over the course of the year that will bring speakers and activities to campus. Help us to develop the Eighth Grade Leadership Series and be a part of the conversation with administrators about the speakers we will bring to the school.

### **Fifth Grade Leadership Experience**

Fifth graders are the leaders of the Lower School. They help to lead assemblies, assist younger students during family-style lunch, and more. As a part of their fifth grade experience, they participate in special activities during Community Time, plan local trips focused on leadership development, and share time with speakers in their classroom. Your gift will support our fifth graders as they look ahead to IDEAL's Middle School.

### **Senior Civil Rights Journey**

Each year, the senior class travels to a new destination to walk in the footsteps of civil rights leaders, dive deeper into questions of social justice, and explore

THE IDEAL SCHOOL OF MANHATTAN



The annual Senior Civil Rights Journey allows students and faculty members to explore the places where history was made.

their own interest in and definition of advocacy. In prior years, students have traveled to Alabama and Washington, DC. IDEAL's Class of 2023 traveled to Atlanta to visit sites including the Jimmy Carter Library, the Martin Luther King Center, and Spelman and Morehouse Colleges. This trip also included a visit to the High Museum and the Georgia Aquarium and Mercedes-Benz Stadium, where students who are interested in working on professional sports were able to make connections. This annual trip serves to build teamwork and relationships among senior class members. Your gift will ensure that the IDEAL capstone experience continues for years to come.

### **Civil Rights Community Day**

IDEAL held its first Civil Rights Community Day in May of 2022. The day provided time for students to



Middle School students enjoy a workout during PE class in the new IDEAL gym.

display and discuss their own civil rights research projects and brought leaders in different areas of social justice work to our school to meet with students. Speakers in 2022 were criminal justice professor Katheryn Russell-Brown, internationally recognized disability advocate Judith Heumann, and New York Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez, as well as Charles Imohiosen and Robert Masters of the Andrew Goodman Foundation. In the second year, the speakers were Jelani Fenton, founder and CEO of Safari, which creates career opportunities for a diverse pool of job seekers, plus Ben Holtzman and Sammy Lopez, two of the producers of the inclusive Broadway

musical, *How to Dance in Ohio*. Your donation will allow us to build on and broaden the reach of this program.

### **Graphic Design and FIRST LEGO League Robotics Program**

Your donation will outfit an IDEAL classroom with MacBook Pros, graphic design software, and LEGO robotics equipment. This equipment, along with essential software, will allow us to integrate digital photography and graphic design into our curriculum, preparing students for internships and careers in high-demand fields. In this space, younger students





The multipurpose room can be used separately, as it is for family-style lunch, or opened into the gym for all-school assemblies and special events.

will practice and prepare for FIRST LEGO League competitions, while older students will learn exciting skills and assist in the production of school materials, like event programs, the yearbook, and *The Buzz*.

### Poet In Residence

With your gift, the school will bring a poet to IDEAL each year to lead writing workshops with students of various ages, concluding with an annual poetry reading by the poet-in-residence and our students.

### Next Steps Personal Fitness Program

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Support our Next Steps students' development of lifelong fitness habits.

Your donation will allow students in the Next Steps Transition Program to work with specialized trainers in an adaptive gym to learn skills related to lifelong health and fitness, developing their own personal fitness plan.

### Lower School Assembly Speaker Series

As a result of your gift, the school will be able to design a speaker series on an annual theme to add new perspectives to Lower School assemblies.

### Sponsor an IDEAL Program or Space of Your Choice

With your gift of \$25,000, you may also choose to



**\$5,000 Building Blocks  
of 5 Hanover Square**

Every donor who contributes \$5,000 or more will be acknowledged in a prominent display in the lobby of 5 Hanover Square.







## **How to Join IDEAL's Building for Our Future Campaign**

There are various naming opportunities and ways to support IDEAL's move to 5 Hanover Square. We look forward to discussing how your family can have a longstanding impact on the school's new home with you.

The members of the IDEAL Capital Campaign Committee are happy to meet with you to discuss your choice of naming opportunities and funding options. Please reach out to any of the individuals listed below to make a gift to the capital campaign.

**Jay Eisenhofer**, President of the Board of Trustees, [jeisenhofer@gelaw.com](mailto:jeisenhofer@gelaw.com)

**Hector Guinness**, Capital Campaign Committee member, [hectorguinness@gmail.com](mailto:hectorguinness@gmail.com)

**Dan Kesten**, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Capital Campaign Chair, [dankesten@gmail.com](mailto:dankesten@gmail.com)

**Rob McQueen**, Capital Campaign Committee member, [rob.mcqueen56@gmail.com](mailto:rob.mcqueen56@gmail.com)

**Tracy Nixon**, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, [Tracy@nixonnyc.com](mailto:Tracy@nixonnyc.com)

**Alyssa Picchini Schaffer**, Capital Campaign Committee member, [apicchinischaffer@gmail.com](mailto:apicchinischaffer@gmail.com)

**Janet Wolfe**, Head of School, [jwolfe@theidealschool.org](mailto:jwolfe@theidealschool.org)

**Audra Zuckerman**, Founder and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, [azuckerman@theidealschool.org](mailto:azuckerman@theidealschool.org)

## **Thank you!**



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at 5 Hanover Square**