

BROOKLYN TECH ALUMNI FOUNDATION AND BROOKLYN TECH

School-based Programs and Outreach Efforts

Middle School STEM Pipeline Program – In collaboration with National Grid, the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation launched the STEM Pipeline program in July 2013 to introduce middle school students to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to prepare students for the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test. Students in this two year program, participate in a variety of project-based learning experiences including design and modeling, automation and robotics, energy and the environment, and the science of technology. The classes are taught by Brooklyn Tech faculty and current Brooklyn Tech students serve as assistants. There is a test-prep component incorporated into the program. Information sessions on the specialized high schools and high school admissions are provided for students in the program and their parents.

Middle School Outreach Working Group – This group is comprised of alumni who attend sessions at Tech and volunteer for HS Admissions events in order to reach out to underrepresented students. The alumni are able to relate their stories to underrepresented students to motivate them and engage them in dialogue around taking the test and choosing Brooklyn Tech. This group has a special interest in speaking at Community Board meetings and faith-based organizations.

Guidance Counselor Outreach – Information sessions are held for counselors from schools where there is an under-representation of students attending the specialized high schools. We show them Brooklyn Tech, discuss the opportunities available to students who attend, and encourage them to reach out to their children to excite them about the specialized high schools. We consistently focus on the schools in Brooklyn districts, where we do not have large number of students coming to the Specialized High Schools. Up to 20 guidance counselors have attended these sessions.

Specialized High Schools Forum – We host forums targeting middle schools/districts that have underrepresented minority students in the specialized high schools. We discuss the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test, the changes to the exam, how students can best prepare for the exam and ways in which parents/guardians can support their children. This year we have logged over 5000 attendees for our sessions.

Tech in the Middle – We create special tours for 6th and 7th grade students from underrepresented districts in Brooklyn. This event takes place in the fall and again in late spring. Students tour the building, attend classes, meet current Tech students and are presented with information about the specialized high schools admissions test.

Superintendents' Initiative – We have invited all Superintendents from Brooklyn and all Executive Directors from Borough Field Support centers to showcase Brooklyn Tech, with the notion that each leader would reach out to a cohort of principals to spend a day at Tech. By having more of our colleagues learn about Brooklyn Tech, they will be better positioned to discuss the offerings of the school and the opportunities available. We also discussed the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test. This will be an ongoing annual strategy.

School Tours – Eighth grade parents are invited to sign up for school tours, which in the fall are conducted three days per week leading up to the test. On average, we hold 15-20 fall tours with a cap of 300 people each. Parents are notified through circulars sent to middle schools and information posted on the Brooklyn Tech website. Parents are put into small groups and two Brooklyn Tech students, who are trained to give tours, serve as the tour guides. An opening session is held in the auditorium to provide parents with an overview of the test and the school. Special outreach is conducted to those districts where we have under-representation in our school.

Brooklyn Tech Visits Middle Schools – Designated students and staff participate in High School Information Nights at different middle schools, with a particular emphasis on those that do not send many students to the specialized high schools.

Middle Schools Principals' Meetings – We host district-wide principals' meetings. During the time the principals are here, we conduct a 30-minute tour of the building so that they can see what we do here at Tech, become motivated, and create/strengthen programs at their own schools that will get students interested in the specialized high schools. We have invited all Superintendents to join this initiative and look forward to hosting all districts at least once yearly.

Family Event Participation – The DOE sponsored 16 different sessions at 20 different middle schools regarding to share info about the specialized high schools. We had a group of 20 teachers who volunteered to participate on panels at each one of the schools.