



Spring is Here at UNHS!

I am so excited to share all of the things that are happening at University Neighborhood High School (UNHS) through Grand Street Settlement's programs. Although we had a mild winter, spring brings fun trips, engaging activities, and exciting events. Throughout this newsletter you will learn about some of our past events, as well as what we are planning for the final months of the school year. The articles in this newsletter were written by both Grand Street Settlement staff as well as our students at UNHS. Through the Advantage After School Program, the College and Career Discovery Program, and Graduate, Prepare, Succeed we are able to offer our students the opportunity to experience new things and to be rewarded for all of their hard work. Some highlights in this newsletter include an article about the history of UNHS and our building, an update about the

seniors and where they are planning to attend college, an article about the importance of community based organizations, a peek into the 4th Annual College and Career Fair, a lot of great pictures, and much more.

I would like to note that none of the things that are happening at UNHS could be accomplished without the unwavering support of Ms. Elizabeth Collins, our principal, our vice principals Ms. Patricia Catania, and Mr. Joseph Anderson, and the staff of UNHS. I also want to acknowledge my amazing Grand Street Settlement staff. Without them none of this would be possible.

I hope everyone enjoys this newsletter and comes to check out our upcoming events, as well as stops by our offices in rooms 201 and 202 to say, "Hi."

-Jason DeMarchi,
Site Director



**"Be not afraid of
greatness."**

-William Shakespeare

Inside this issue:

<i>The History of UNHS</i>	2
<i>College and Career Discovery Program</i>	3-5
<i>UNHS College Acceptances</i>	4
<i>Graduate, Prepare, Succeed (GPS)</i>	6-8
<i>Advantage After School Program</i>	9-11
<i>AmeriCorps Partnership</i>	10
<i>4th Annual College and Career Fair</i>	12

Winter Wishes

In September, not many of us are thinking about the holidays, however students at University Neighborhood High School were writing letters with special gift requests. For a number of years, Grand Street Settlement has participated in a wonderful gift giving event for our students. Grand Street Settlement students wrote letters asking for various items that they would love for the holidays. These requests often include books, clothing, art supplies, gift sets, and more. Students write letters talking about themselves and what they would like. These letters are then distributed to generous donors who spend the next couple months finding each student their own specific gift. In

December, Jessica Williamson, Grand Street Settlement's Communications and Community Relations Coordinator organizes the generous donations which are then distributed to each site.

This past year, UNHS had over 25 students participate in the program. Their letters were from the heart and filled with gratitude. Jamie Sumpter, the College Advisor at UNHS says, "I love that students forgot what they asked for, and are then surprised when they receive their gift months later. It's a really special day, and the students are so grateful." It is truly a special time when all of us get to see deserving students



Students who participated in this year's Winter Wishes.

receive special gifts for the holidays. The generosity of the donors is very much appreciated. I can't wait till next year when we start the process all over again.

-Jason DeMarchi,
Site Director

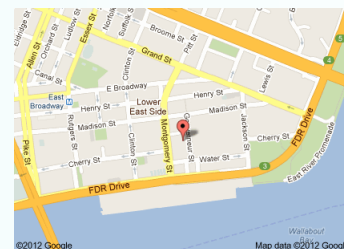
Student Spotlight



Congratulations to Stephanie Read, Posse Scholar who is receiving a four year, full tuition scholarship to Dickinson College.

A Look Back In Time: A History of UNHS

There has been a school at 200 Monroe Street for 169 years, and it has transformed drastically since then. It began by teaching all ages in 1843 (from infants to age 19). Then it transformed into an elementary school, and then a middle school, and eventually a high school in 1967. In 1998 it became University Neighborhood High School, a New York University partnership school. In 1843, the school was called the 7th Ward School, No. 16, and the Lower East Side of Manhattan was a very different neighborhood. It was residential, commercial, and industrial. Just two blocks away from the school there was an oil factory and an ink factory. Gouverneur Slip was a wide road that extended all the way to the river, and at it's end you could catch a ferry to Brooklyn. This is incredibly different from today because Gouverneur Slip ends at a historic hospital, and the FDR Drive kisses the East River. In New York City, almost every schoolhouse looked the same – all the classrooms were one floor, and were designed to accommodate 250 students at one time who were taught by four teachers. In the 1850s, the school was separated into 27 classrooms because the one-room model proved to be a difficult teaching and learning environment, and it would remain that way until 1902.



The lower east side of Manhattan highlighting 200 Monroe Street.

In the 1890s, the school had fallen into disrepair. One parent wrote in to the *New York Times* saying that her student came home every night with a terrible headache because the ventilation in the building was so poor. One teacher complained that the gas lights in her room did not provide enough illumination, and that no natural light shone through the windows, so that student needed to squint to finish their assignments. As a result, most of her students needed to get glasses. In 1902, the famous Superintendent of Schools, CBJ Snyder, recognized these problems, and designed the current schoolhouse which would alleviate these pains. It was designed to accommodate 2,400 students, and it included many innovative spaces meant for dual purposes. For example, the main floor and the current “gymnasium” was always supposed to be a gymnasium. It was designed as a place for students to play during the day, and then in the evening chairs were set up so that adults could come and attend evening school. On the second floor, the walls of the classrooms were movable partitions that could be drawn back to create an assembly room. On this floor there were two dozen chandelier-like lighting fixtures that swung down from the ceiling. On the roof of the schoolhouse, there was even a rooftop playground covered in glass-like tiles.

In 1967, the school would change again and become an annex that would host the 9th and 10th graders of Seward Park High School. This change was a result of the Small School Movement, where low-performing schools in New York were closed and transformed into new, smaller schools. Often several fully autonomous schools were operated within one schoolhouse. The Small School Movement was again revitalized in the 1990s, and as a result Seward Park Annex was closed in 1998. It re-opened the following fall as University Neighborhood High School.

Over 169 years, the school has undergone a great deal of change, but the interesting aspect of these changes is that there are remnants and clues of UNHS's rich past all over the building. Pipes emerge from the walls and lead to nothing – this is a clue which points us the large gas-lit, glass lanterns that used to illuminate the building. Pipes and electrical wires crawling up the walls and the ceiling connect to nothing, but reveal the places where enormous chandeliers used to hang in years past. Layers and layers of history can be revealed if we just take the time to look closely at the things that surround us everyday. If we do a little research about this past, we can reveal patterns. By locating ourselves within these patterns, we can go forth in our futures and make well-informed decisions about our futures as teachers, staff members, and students at UNHS.

-Chelsea Trembly, Administrative Assistant



Chelsea Trembly, Whitney Garcia, and Dorothy Rebecca Fleishman at UNHS.



Dorothy Rebecca Fleishman

An Excerpt of “An Encounter with the Past” from the *University Neighborhood Voice*

On March 8, 2012 a mystery woman was wandering all by herself without a visitor's pass in the cafeteria. Mr. Hadden found her. Once Mr. Hadden found out who this old woman with white, fluffy hair was, he immediately called Ms. Trembly, our College Advisor, and I for an interview. We soon found out that this mystery woman was Dorothy Rebecca Fleishman; an alumna that went to kindergarten in P.S. 31 in 1937.

Obviously P.S. 31 is not University Neighborhood High School, but it was an elementary school inside the UNHS building (this explains why there is a sign in the entrance saying P.S. 31).

Dorothy was born July 4, 1932,

which makes her 80 years old. We found out a great deal about Dorothy's life. She was born into a Jewish family, lived in New York her whole childhood, and even got married on St. Patrick's Day. Additionally, Dorothy told us about her childhood memories; one that stood out was her memory of her beloved principal...

...Twice Dorothy said, “Whenever you're ready I'll tell you about Mrs. Douglas.” Since she was incredibly eager to tell us about her principal, we told her we would love to hear about Mrs. Douglas. “I loved her,” she said, “...we knew her as Mrs. Laura V. Douglas. I'm emphasizing the V for Victory.”...

...Then Dorothy began to

tell us about Mrs. Douglas's personal life. “I don't know if you're familiar with the classic ‘Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus’ article” she said. I had never heard of the story, so Dorothy told us a wonderful story about a girl named Virginia...Dorothy did not find out after many years that that same Virginia was her principal. “This was our principal because the ‘V’ in her name is Virginia! It was her! It was outstanding!”...

...When Virginia O'Hanlon got older, she changed her name to Laura V. Douglas and became a school principal in New York.

-Whitney Garcia, Student

University Neighborhood High School Peer Leaders are the Leaders of Tomorrow

For the 2011-2012 school term, College Summit partnered with University Neighborhood in the quest to increase the college driven atmosphere at the high school. Teachers and counselors use a managed curriculum and technology tools to help all students create postsecondary plans and apply to college. Through College Summit, all students see high school graduation as not the end, but rather the beginning; the establishment of a path to a successful future.

A vital component of College Summit is the trained student peer leaders who build the college going culture. University Neighborhood High School was lucky to have the opportunity to send 22 rising seniors to Yale University and Amherst College for four days in the summer of July 2011 for a camp that would train them to be peer leaders for their academic cohort. These students did not take their summer for granted and signed up for this opportunity aware that they were getting a head start on their senior year tasks. With the assistance of a College Summit Writing Coach, they drafted, edited and finalized their college personal statements. Students individually met with a College Coach, with whom they discussed their aspirations, goals, and the type of college they would like to attend. Based on the dialogue, the College Coach provided them with a list of colleges that were their best fit. Participants also attended financial aid, scholarship workshops, and intense group counseling sessions.

Throughout the four days, themes of how to be a successful peer leader were incorporated into all aspects of every workshop and event. These students had the experience of a lifetime. One peer leader said, "I boarded the bus one way, and I returned to New York and departed the bus as a different person. Four days changed my life... it changed me."

This was University Neighborhood's first year having peer leaders, who were essentially the Student Ambassadors of the building. Each peer leader was assigned a caseload of seniors who they monitored and made sure they met their important deadlines for college applications, scholarships and the FAFSA. In addition, peer leaders created a college schedule and tabled in the cafeteria during the senior lunch period with important documents, college related advertisements, and reminders for their peers. The majority of senior assemblies at University Neighborhood this year were facilitated by the peer leaders, and they centered on topics such as financial aid, interviewing skills, and the importance of a college education.

As the College Summit Coordinator, I am so proud and honored that I had the opportunity to witness the first cohort of peer leaders in action. They have created a legacy and set a strong foundation for the next cohort of peer leaders to follow. I have witnessed peer leaders who go above and beyond by giving up their lunch periods to help their peers complete college applications or construct a list of pertinent scholarships. Without any motivational gain, there were various selfless acts that transcended their roles and responsibilities. On behalf of University Neighborhood High School, I would like to say "Thank You." The University Neighborhood High School peer leaders of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

-Jamie Sumpter, College Advisor



Krystal Figueroa, Jackeline Diaz, Kin Keung Lau, Yovanny Williams, and Precious Curtis.



The Peer Leaders for 2011-2012 at Think FAFSA Day along with Gary Linnen, Jamie Sumpter, and Chelsea Trembly.



A group of students with Assistant Principal, Patricia Catania.

Think FAFSA Day!

University Neighborhood High School partnered with College Summit and hosted a senior "THINK FAFSA" day on February 2nd, 2012. The goal of the event was to help students understand the basic components of financial aid, the concept of self advocacy, and the critical role it plays in securing the resources necessary to attend college. The event began with a fun, energetic icebreaker. Following the icebreaker, students discussed the elements of financial aid and self advocacy in securing aid. The event concluded with the completion of the "Tower of Power" activity.

-Jamie Sumpter, College Advisor



Gary Linnen with College Summit and Elizabeth Collins, UNHS Principal.



Students listening to presentations at Think FAFSA Day at UNHS!



Students building their own "Tower of Power" with UNHS Guidance Counselor, Cynthia Bennett.

University Neighborhood High School Seniors Desire One Thing After June 26th....COLLEGE!

If you ask a University Neighborhood High School senior why they want to attend college you will receive a variety of answers. "I want to go to college to increase my job options." "I like money." "I want to be the first in my family to graduate from college." "I have so much more learning to do." Thankfully, it is rare and far apart that I hear the dreaded, "Ms. Sumpter, I do not want to go to college." I am elated to announce that currently over 93% of the University Neighborhood High School Class of 2012 have applied to college. Even more exciting are the smiles and signs of happiness in their eyes as they rush into the College Office to wave their letters of acceptance. Their bliss is so enthralling because it indicates their genuine desire to want to go to college, versus being forced into attendance by mentors, parents, or school staff. The seven percent of students who have not applied are geared towards either the military, vocational school or employment tracks after graduation. Regardless of paths taken, all seniors view graduation as their launching pad to future success. Without hesitation, I am positive that this year I have advised and counseled future lawyers, doctors, nurses, cosmetologists, automotive technicians, social workers, physical therapists, authors, Navy Seals, teachers, accountants, and various other professionals. University Neighborhood is extremely proud of the Class of 2012 and their immense accomplishments. Many of the students have received institution based financial awards due to their academic success. Senior Stephanie Read is a 2012 "Posse Foundation" scholarship victor and will receive a full ride to the prestigious Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. With June 26th quickly approaching, the College Office has been cheerfully busy with students making decisions, signing commitment letters, and securing housing for their new beginning....COLLEGE!

-Jamie Sumpter, College Advisor



"Over 93% of the UNHS Class of 2012 have applied to college."

-Jamie Sumpter, College Advisor

Class of 2012 Acceptances:

- Apex Technical School
- Barry University
- Borough of Manhattan Community College
- Binghamton State University of New York
- Bryn Athyn College
- City College of New York
- College of Staten Island
- Dickinson College
- Hostos Community College
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Kingsborough Community College
- LaGuardia Community College
- Lehman College
- Medgar Evers College
- Mohawk Valley Community College
- Morehouse College
- New York City College of Technology
- New York Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Old Westbury State University of New York
- Pace University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Queensborough Community College
- State University at Buffalo
- Tompkins Cortland Community College
- The New Community College
- United States Marine Corps
- University of Advancing Technology Arizona
- University of Bridgeport
- University of Tampa
- Wood Tobe- Coburn School
- York College City University of New York

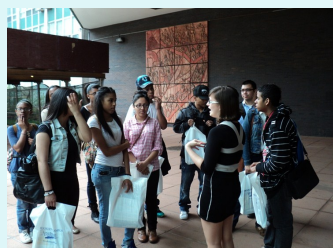
UNHS Goes to Long Island University: Brooklyn Campus

On March 21, 2012, Grand Settlement's College and Career Discovery Program at University Neighborhood High School went on a campus tour of Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus. There was a mix of 10th, 11th, and accepted 12th graders. The tour was given by a current student. She was able to share her own personal insights of LIU as well as show us around the beautiful campus. The trip was fun and informative, and some of the underclassmen that participated are now interested in applying to LIU - Brooklyn.

-Wylie Cheung, College Advisor



UNHS at LIU- Brooklyn



Students listening to the tour guide.



Sumana Akthar and Elizabeth Carrero



Our UNHS students in the lobby of LIU—Brooklyn.

UNHS Takes Over Maryland and Washington DC

On May 3rd- 4th, nine University Neighborhood High School juniors had the opportunity to attend a college tour of Morgan State University in Maryland, George Washington University in Washington D.C., and George Mason University in Virginia. It was a powerful, inspirational, and exciting experience. This tour created a solid foundation upon which students can make the very best college choice. Students attended detailed information sessions and guided tours to main buildings, dorms and special areas on campus.

Additionally, students had the awesome opportunity to enjoy tours of the memorials in Washington, D.C. The memorial tours included The National World War II Memorial, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial, The Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the new Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial. The students enjoyed the grandeur of the monuments and were moved and inspired.

- Jamie Sumpter, College Advisor



Morgan State University



Students at the World War II Memorial



Jamie Sumpter and Pamela Gonzalez



Students at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial



Students at the Washington Monument



Students at the MLK Jr. Memorial



Pamela Gonzalez, Parvina Rakimova, Alba De La Cruz, and Claudette Carmona



Leonard Sharp, Joquay Saintil, Jaime Roman, Latique Dixon, and Jacob Finney

A Trip to Barclays Capital

On Thursday, May 3, 2012, students from University Neighborhood High School participated on Grand Street Settlement's trip to Barclays Capital. Barclays Capital is an international investment bank with a presence in all major finance markets around the world. When students

arrived, they each got an identification card to enter the building. The event was held in the cafeteria. After introductions by Michael Crowl and Dianne Bruning of Barclays Capital, students were introduced to a number of Barclay's employees who volunteered their time to conduct mock interviews and offer advice in regards to college and future careers. Students went through two rounds of mock interviews. There were 1-2 interviewers per student. The interviewers asked questions that explored further into what interested the students as well as questions that helped the students learn more about themselves. At the end of the interview, the interviewer filled out an evaluation form to rate and comment the student's interviewing skills. The student was able to get this evaluation form to reflect on it. After the interviews, the students were served a variety of gourmet sandwiches and a mass amount of desserts. They were even allowed to bring home the leftovers. The students enjoyed this trip a great deal. When they informed their friends about the experience they had, their friends were eager to possibly participate in the future. This trip was a collaboration with the College and Career Discovery Programs of Marta Valle High School and Lower East Side Prep High School.

-Wylie Cheung, College Advisor



All of the students who attended the trip standing outside the Barclays Capital office building.



Anthony Rodriguez, Luis Martinez, Wylie Cheung, Chloe Moore, Jason DeMarchi, and Nicole Rodriguez.



UNHS students sitting with their Barclays Capital volunteers for the mock interview portion of the afternoon.



The Importance of GPS

GPS, also known as the Graduate, Prepare, Succeed Program, has had a presence at University Neighborhood High School for the past two years through a partnership with Grand Street Settlement. On the local level, Grand Street Settlement serves as a bridge between the community, schools, businesses, and other non profits, identifying and mobilizing local resources to provide a range of services such as mentoring, tutoring, senior services, summer, after school programs, family counseling, and connections with public assistance. The organization identifies and mobilizes existing community resources and fosters cooperative partnerships for the benefit of students and their families. It is our mission to champion the connection of needed community resources within UNHS to help young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life.

GPS works to address the dropout epidemic by improving attendance and academics. We have two Master's level social workers who split a caseload and provide counseling to a cohort of students. We address their academics, attendance, and social-emotional needs. We have an academic case manager who provides academic advisement to each student within the program who reviews reports, transcripts and Jupiter Grades with students to assess their strengths and areas of improvement. In addition, we have a Family Outreach Specialist who calls parents on a daily basis to address their student's absence or lateness and works to increase parent



Members of the GPS Family at UNHS.

support and involvement through his involvement with the PTA and parent focused workshops.

GPS believes that caring, one-on-one relationships between adults and young people makes a crucial difference. This philosophy is based on the notion that programs don't change kids – relationships do. In order to help kids, we try to build positive, influential connections with students, create a safe place for them to learn and grow via both our day and afterschool programs, provide students with marketable skills to use upon graduation and give students an opportunity to give back to their community which in turn enriches their lives exponentially. We believe the aforementioned efforts are critical to keep kids in school and helping them prepare for life. The opportunity to be a productive, contributing member of their schools and communities can be a transformational experience for any student.

-Sylvia Hooper, Social Worker



A sign from United Way of New York's Bridge Walk on October 1, 2011.

GPS Visits...



GPS students at Ripley's.

On Wednesday March 14th Grand Street Settlement's GPS staff took students on a trip to Ripley's Believe It or Not! in Times Square on 42nd Street. Students who were invited to go on the trip were required to have perfect attendance and passing grades. This trip was a reward for students who did well in school. The students had fun, learned so much, and interacted with staff and other students.

Iriz Ortiz, a senior who went on the trip said, "I enjoyed going on Ripley's Believe It or Not! trip because it has interesting artifacts and information. I had a lot of fun and I would go again with my family."

Tatiana Padimore, a sophomore who went on the trip said, "It was really nice for GPS to invite me to go on this trip because it made me feel special. I was rewarded for passing all of my classes and that was so cool!"

My advice for students who want to attend upcoming trips with Graduate, Prepare, Succeed from Grand Street Settlement should make sure they are coming to school on time and passing all of their classes. Good job to the students who attended this trip! I hope that each and everyone of you will continue doing well in school.

-Rafeena Sheriff, Case Manager



A GPS group shot.



The Year in Review: Academics!

Students of UNHS are patiently waiting for their summer vacations and are already making plans, but for next 6 weeks students still have important goals to accomplish. Freshmen are completing their first year in high school, sophomores are moving on to their junior year where they will focus on colleges, and seniors are anxiously waiting for their graduation and moving on to the next endeavors in their lives.

Let's start with 9th the graders. This is the grade where students start to figure out their interests, weaknesses and strengths and start to work towards their ultimate goal of graduating high school. Studies show that students who are successful in 9th grade will be successful for the rest of their high school years. High school is like climbing a ladder and completing 9th grade is the first rung of that ladder.

Next are the 10th graders. This is also an important grade because students are half way to the top of the ladder. It is the grade where you become more familiar with UNHS; you are comfortable and start to participate in more activities and events.

Almost to the top of the ladder are the 11th graders. These students are thinking about college, college, college...from looking up colleges that they are interested in, visiting colleges, taking SAT and ACT prep classes, and working for high averages in their classes.

Finally at the top of the ladder and those who can't wait for graduation are the 12th graders. Students will move on to another step in their lives and wherever they go they will always be a high school graduate.

Students climbing the ladder in high school and achieving their goals can only be successful if they are working hard and taking their education seriously. Anything is possible and any challenge can be accomplished if students try their best and seek help.

Credit Recovery Schedule:

Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

2:35pm—4:30pm

Science with Ms. Blatt

English with Mr. Frizzell

Math with Mr. Yung

History with Ms. Gully

Student should utilize all the help UNHS offers from AIS tutoring every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 2:35pm-3:15pm, Credit Recovery after school every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2:35-4:30pm and on Saturdays from 8:30am-3pm, and a variety of after school activities.

Congratulations to Alyssa Devore for earning excellent grades in her classes and congratulations to Pamela Gonzalez, Yomary Del Valle, Anthony Carrier, and Jaquay Saintil for being recognized as our most improved students.
-Rafeena Sheriff, Social Worker



The GPS Office.

GPS Welcomes Caron Reilly to Our Family!

I would just like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Ms. Caron A Reilly and I am the new social worker with Grand Street Settlement GPS program. I was previously employed as a Supervisor/ Social Worker with St. Mary's Hospital for children in Bayside, Queens. I provided group and individual therapy as well as treatment coordination for all medical needs. I have worked at several elementary schools located on Long Island and in Brooklyn. I also have worked with the Kings County District Attorney's Office Truancy/Crime Prevention Bureau providing counseling and support to troubled youth who were not motivated to attend school or have any motivation to better themselves. I provided counseling and support to the families through monthly parent meetings and informational workshops. Working with kids and their families has always been a passion of mine, and I look forward to working with the staff and students at UNHS and the Grand Street Settlement GPS Program. I will be located in room 201, so please feel free to stop in and say hello.



Caron Reilly

-Caron Reilly, LMSW

Student Spotlight: Pamela Gonzalez



For those that know her, it is easy to see why Pamela Gonzalez was chosen as student of the week. 17 year old Pamela is currently a junior here at University Neighborhood High

School. This is the first year that Pamela is a part of the Grand Street GPS program. She is a true role model and has dedicated herself to her academics and has shown tremendous improvement over the last few months. Pamela has had good attendance and has made an effort to make it to school on time everyday. She has taken on a leadership role and has provided support and motivation for other members of the GPS program. Pamela has a warm, welcoming personality and dazzling smile and has put in extra effort to achieve her goals towards graduation. The GPS staff would like to congratulate Pamela on being selected as one of our star students!

The Importance of Family Involvement

I am the Attendance Outreach and Family Involvement Specialist for the GPS Program at University Neighborhood High School through Grand Street Settlement. I am also an Activity Specialist running the Film Club and Video Game Club for the Advantage After School Program. I am a local area resident of the Lower East Side. It is my job to engage with parents of students, striving to get families involved with their child's education and the University Neighborhood High School community. Communication is extremely important, so I make phone calls home to keep parents informed on their child's performance at school and feedback from teachers and staff.

Grand Street Settlement and the GPS Program offers numerous trips and opportunities for students, but I want to strongly encourage all of our University Neighborhood High School parents to attend these events as well. The school has Parent Teacher Conference Night twice a year. This is an excellent opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers. The school also has two organizations in which parents can become involved with. These organizations are the UNHS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) which meets the first Thursday of every month, as well as the School Leadership Team (SLT), which meets every third Thursday of the month. Both of these are excellent opportunities for you to become more involved in UNHS and your child's future. If you have any questions about the PTA, SLT, or your child's academic performance in school, please feel free to contact me at (212) 962-4341 ext. 2010. -Tyson Grant, Attendance Outreach and Family Involvement Specialist

PTA Meetings:

5:30pm-7:00pm
Every first
Thursday of each
month

SLT Meetings:

5:30pm-7:00pm
Every third
Thursday of each
month

GPS Visits Chelsea Piers and has a Celebrity Sighting

On May 9th, GPS took students who improved their attendance and academics on a trip to the Chelsea Piers Field House. During their visit students were able to utilize many aspects of the facility including their gymnastics equipment, foam pits, trampolines, batting cages, soccer fields, and basketball courts. The trip helped students conquer fears, learn communication skills, team build, try new things, and even meet a celebrity. After he was finished playing soccer, actor Gerard Butler (known for his roles in *300*, *Law Abiding Citizen*, and *How to Train Your Dragon*) took a minute to meet some of our students and staff.



GPS students and staff with actor Gerard Butler.



The UNHS GPS crew outside at Chelsea Piers.

Rafeena Sheriff said that Gerard Butler was "personable, enthusiastic and interested about the students and Grand Street Settlement." Everyone who attended had such a great time and really enjoyed their experiences at Chelsea Piers and their celebrity sighting.

-Jason DeMarchi,
Site Director

GPS Visits...



The Ride in Times Square, interactive bus tour.

A couple of months ago I went on a trip with Grand Street Settlement GPS staff. The trip was for students who passed all of their classes. We went to 42nd street and we went on a tour on a party bus named "The Ride," with stadium-style, sideways seating and massive windows. I had a front row seat and got to see the big city. This was an amazing experience because it was extremely fun. We danced, laughed and we also learned some things about New York that we didn't know. Also, famous NYC landmarks turned into backdrops as a live show played out right in front of us. There was a host on the bus with us that kept us laughing, there were actors and actresses that performed a funny skits. They were also dancers, rappers, and singers too. I was there with my friends, and I had such a great time. This was something I will not forget.

- Alexandra Sanchez, Student



A view of the bus.



After School at It's Best!

While the end of the school year means our after school clubs and activities are coming to an end, it also means that each of these activities have a year's worth of materials created, routines choreographed, film edited, competitions played, and experiences to share. The Advantage After School

Program is wrapping up it's third year at UNHS. This year many new staff members have joined our team helping to make the Advantage Program a success. Ms. Jean Ho Wright served as the Education Coordinator this year, and provided valuable academic services to the students of UNHS both before and after school. Will Muller, a second year student with New York University's America Reads Program, also worked with our students helping them to improve their English and writing skills. These academic support services are vital to help us achieve the goals of the Advantage Program.

This year also brought a first when it came to the Advantage staff. Many of our Grand Street Settlement and College Office staff played two roles at our school this year. While Ms. Jamie Sumpter is our College Advisor during the day, around 2:30pm, she would switch her shoes from high heels to sneakers in order to be the coach of the UNHS Double Dutch Team. Tyson Grant serves as the GPS Attendance Outreach and Family Involvement Specialist in the mornings, but then trades in his shirt and tie for either his gym shorts or a video camera after school facilitating basketball, Video Gaming Club, and Film Club after school. Chelsea Trembly, our Administrative Assistant also is the staff advisor for *University Neighborhood Voice*, the first student magazine to be published at UNHS. Even Mr. Wylie Cheung transitions from being our NYU College Advising Corp College Advisor to facilitating volleyball and badminton after school. These dual roles help staff to monitor student's academic achievements during the day while building strong relationships outside of the classroom after school.

Finally, we welcomed two other new staff members this year and one familiar face to the Advantage After School Program roster. Frankys Tejeda runs our basketball program after school, while Ste-Aira Hatchett became our UNHS Step Team coach. Chen Hui (Richie) Zheng returned this year after graduating from UNHS in 2010 to run the Advantage Hip Hop Dance Club and choreograph routines with our students.

I could not be more proud of my team this year as well as all of the exciting things that they each accomplished with their clubs and activities. I am also extremely proud of all of the students who participated in the Advantage After School Program this year. I have watched some amazing dance moves, exciting basketball plays, and creative film pieces, and look forward to all of the fantastic things that each club has planned for the end of the year. -Jason DeMarchi, Site Director



Members of the Advantage After School Program Staff



The UNHS Film Club - "And the Oscar Goes To..."

I would like to introduce the cast of the UNHS Film Club. Our cast consists of students from UNHS who are extremely interested in film production. They take their creative ideas and bring them to life. They are walked through the film making process and are currently working on a project. These students range from 10th grade to 12th grade and are both male and female students. Their names are Yafen Huang, Joyce Chen, Cristina Lien, Antoinette Walker, Luis Martinez, Tatiana Padmore, Krislim Duran, Diana Rodriguez, Latique Dixon, Daisy Rivera, and Jamie Roman.

The first short we are working on is a comedy/thriller which deals with a fictional student in the school (Antoinette Walker) being chased by a crazy and deranged being (Jamie Roman). The story is a bit goofy but we just wanted a good laugh and to have fun.

The second short we are working on is an anti-bullying movie. It is about a girl who is bullied and then commits suicide. She then haunts the ones who bullied her and eventually the tables turn. We have been working on this one for a while, and we are almost done with filming.

-Tyson Grant, Activity Specialist



"The film I am working on is a funny horror movie like the *Scream* movies. Film Club is a place where you show your funny side, and be creative, and let loose. It's fun to be a different character and play someone else that is not like myself."

-Antoinette Walker, Student

Basketball at UNHS

The NBA playoffs have begun and with it a growing excitement for all things basketball. The Advantage After School Program basketball program at UNHS is thriving as much as ever, and there are still many things to look forward to.

Although the Advantage After School Program basketball program appears to be mostly casual competitive pick-up games amongst friends, there is much more that goes on beneath the surface. Much time is spent with students discussing their favorite players, upcoming NBA stars and teams, and who they think is going to win it all. This type of excitement towards the game of basketball can act as a facilitator for an educational experience and an avenue to discussions about personal future plans that may lead to the type of success their “on the court” heroes enjoy.

One very exciting event that will fuel the competitive fire and open up growth opportunities is the upcoming three on three tournaments. This event will feature two levels of competitive play to ensure everyone has a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. This type of competitive team play is sure to demonstrate the kind of teamwork, communication, and trust it takes to be successful, not only on the basketball court, but in all aspects of life.

Finally, although the NBA season much like the school year is ending there are things to look forward to next year. The addition of a fantasy basketball league will take the lively debates that students have over their favorite players and turn it into a fun game of calculations, analysis, predictions, and crunch time decision making which makes for a very exciting addition to an already vibrant program. —Frankys Tejeda, *Tutor*



Students in the Advantage After School Program playing basketball in the UNHS “gymnasium.”

The UNHS Step Team

It brings me joy to be able to work with the young ladies at University Neighborhood High School and teach them something I am so passionate about. I’ve been stepping for 6 years. I began stepping as a child as a member of my church drill team. Later on when attending John Carroll University I joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated in which I participated in step shows on competition levels and for volunteer services.

UNHS students have been enjoying the step program in the Advantage After School Program. Stepping is a fun, but competitive sport. It derived from African cultures and military drills. It wasn’t until the late 1980’s college sorority and fraternity organizations adopted stepping with an urban twist and added a competitive edge. Now stepping is known worldwide and has branched out beyond its beginnings at fraternity and sorority organizations.

Here at UNHS we focus on having fun during practice! The team has learned three steps, one of which is a difficult competition step. Through step practice the students have been able to not only be unified in their steps, but be unified in being a support system for each other. They have worked hard, been dedicated, and have overcome adversity when learning the steps. Stepping is a difficult sport, but I am proud of the young ladies who have continuously kept up the great work!

– Ste-Aira Hatchett, *Activity Specialist*

Dance: A Student Becomes the Teacher

I am a former student of University Neighborhood High School who was extremely active in the UNHS dance program while I was in school. Currently, I am a Grand Street Settlement staff here at UNHS teaching dance with the Advantage After School Program. Actually, UNHS is where I started my dancing career, so I am glad to be back teaching students that share the same kind of dream as me. Since graduating, I have been assisting Ms. Valerie Rochon, the dance teacher here at UNHS.

Every year since 2008 UNHS has had an annual “Dance Informance” usually held in May or June in the dance studio. In previous years, the “Dance Informance” had different dance forms and styles such as modern, ballet, hip-hop, choreo-poem, bachata, tango, salsa, and African. These sessions included short dance videos.

For the past couple of years, Valerie Rochon has invited Zach Morris, a guest filmmaker, to work with students on filming their dances to create a short dance film. This year Battery Dance Company has invited the dance classes and Advantage After School Program Dance Club to performances. Dancewave will also be conducting a hip-hop master class for the school this spring. I know that these different dance experiences will help the students better prepare for the 2012 “Dance Informance” which the after school program will play a huge part.

– Chen Hui (Richie) Zheng, *Tutor*



Getting to Know Navarre Mason-Williams and the AmeriCorps Program

I am a 22-year-old college student who, in looking for an internship/part-time job, stumbled upon AmeriCorps. I must admit that I was unsure of what to expect because I was unfamiliar with the organization, but I was pleasantly surprised to learn about all the wonderful things that its employees do, especially with regard to the young people in the community.

I was fortunate enough to get placed in University Neighborhood High School, a public school located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan in New York City. Some of my duties include mentoring the students, chaperoning students on trips, engaging in Advantage After School Program activities, and helping with the College and Career Discovery Program and GPS. It is awesome being part of the day to day lives of these teens; they are so lively and curious. At first I was a bit intimidated, but it didn’t take long for me to become comfortable with my surroundings and the people involved in my daily activity. Today, I can truthfully say that I love my job!

– Navarre Mason-Williams, *AmeriCorps Member*



Navarre Mason-Williams








Advantage After School Program



Our Spring 2012 Weekly Schedule








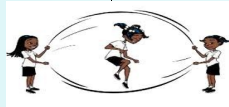

Academic Help

Monday 2:35-5:30 PM	Tuesday 2:35-4:15 PM	Wednesday 12:15-3:00 PM	Thursday 2:35-4:15 PM	Friday 2:35-4:15 PM
College Advising Room 202 Mr. Cheung	 <u>Credit Recovery</u> Math Room 510 With Mr. Yung	Homework Help Room 201 Ms. Rafeena	 <u>Credit Recovery</u> Math Room 510 With Mr. Yung	<u>Credit Recovery</u> Math Room 510 With Mr. Yung
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Homework Help is also available in the mornings from 7:45-8:15am in the Library (room 409) with Ms. Wright.</p> </div>	<u>Credit Recovery</u> English Room 406	College Advisement Room 202	<u>Credit Recovery</u> English Room 406	<u>Credit Recovery</u> English Room 406
	<u>Credit Recovery</u> Science Room 308 With Ms. Blatt	SAT / ACT Prep Room 202 Mr. Cheung	 <u>Credit Recovery</u> Science Room 308 With Ms. Blatt	<u>Credit Recovery</u> Science Room 308 With Ms. Blatt
	<u>Credit Recovery</u> History Room 309 With Ms. Gully		 <u>Credit Recovery</u> History Room 309 With Ms. Gully	<u>Credit Recovery</u> History Room 309 With Ms. Gully
	Math Tutoring Room 306 Ms. Wright		Math Tutoring Room 306 Ms. Wright	Math Tutoring Room 306 Ms. Wright
	SAT / ACT Prep Room 202 Mr. Cheung		SAT / ACT Prep Room 202 Mr. Cheung	College Advisement Room 202 Ms. Sumpter



Clubs and Activities



Monday 2:35-5:30 PM	Tuesday 2:35-5:30 PM	Wednesday 12:15-3:00 PM	Thursday 2:35-5:30 PM	Friday 2:35-5:30 PM
Basketball Gym with Frankys	 Basketball Gym with Frankys	Basketball Gym with Frankys	Basketball Gym with Frankys	Basketball Gym with Frankys
 Step Team Cafeteria with Ste-Aira	Step Team Cafeteria with Ste-Aira	Step Team Cafeteria with Ste-Aira	 Step Team Cafeteria with Ste-Aira	Step Team Cafeteria with Ste-Aira
Hip Hop Dance Dance Studio with Richie	Hip Hop Dance Dance Studio with Richie	Hip Hop Dance Dance Studio with Richie	Hip Hop Dance Dance Studio with Richie	Hip Hop Dance Dance Studio with Richie
 Video Gaming Room 203 with Tyson	Video Gaming Room 203 with Tyson	Film Club Cafeteria with Tyson	 Film Club Cafeteria with Tyson	Film Club Cafeteria with Tyson
Double Dutch Cafeteria with Ms. Sumpter	 Double Dutch Cafeteria with Ms. Sumpter	UNHS Magazine Write articles, take pictures, do interviews, and much more. Room 203 Ms. Chelsea	Double Dutch Cafeteria with Ms. Sumpter	Volleyball and Badminton Outside with Mr. Cheung
		"Just Us Girls" Come talk about school, relationships, friendships, life, etc... Room 201 with Ms. Sylvia		



Grand Street Settlement at University Neighborhood High School

Our 4th Annual College and Career Fair

For a former UNHS college advisor, when the weather starts getting nice, the sun is out a little longer, and everyone starts to get over the winter blues it can only mean one thing... it's time for the UNHS Spring College and Career Fair! On May 17th, UNHS will be celebrating our 4th Annual College and Career Fair. The event will take place from 11:30am-2:00pm in the Lillian D. Wald Playground on Monroe Street. The first UNHS college fair was organized by myself and Cynthia Bennett, our Guidance Counselor, and took place in May of 2009. During the event, every grade is brought down to the playground during their leadership classes to experience the fair and meet the representatives. It is an excellent opportunity for our students to be exposed to colleges located all over the in the Northeast.

Every year we have hosted between 25 and 30 colleges and universities, as well as various career and community service organizations. This year we are anticipating the same turn out. Schools who have reserved a table at this year's fair include Bloomfield College, Hofstra University, City University of New York (CUNY), New York University, NYU – Polytech, Pace University, St. Peter's College, St. Francis College, St. Joseph's College, State Universities of New York (SUNY), SUNY Purchase, University of Bridgeport, Vaughn College of Aeronautics, and many more. There will also be a number of other activities happening throughout the fair including a scavenger hunt, raffles, and many more fun engaging activities. Come check it out. – Jason DeMarchi, Site Director



Pictures from last year's College and Career Fair at UNHS



Our programs would not be possible without the following partnerships:



Contact Information:

University Neighborhood High School
200 Monroe Street
New York, NY 10002
212-962-4341
www.universityneighborhoodhs.com

College and Career Discovery Program—Room 202
Graduate, Prepare, Succeed—Room 201
Advantage After School Program—Room 202

Jason DeMarchi, Site Director
jdemarchi@grandsettlement.org
212-962-4341 ext. 2020

Grand Street Settlement
80 Pitt Street
New York, NY 10002
212-674-1740
www.grandstreet.org

Staff: University Neighborhood High School

Elizabeth Collins, Principal
Patricia Catania, Assistant Principal
Joseph Anderson, Assistant Principal

Grand Street Settlement

Margarita Rosa, Executive Director
Pablo Tejada, Assistant Executive Director
Johanna DeJesus, Chief Program Officer

Grand Street Settlement Staff at University Neighborhood High School

Jason DeMarchi, Site Director
Jamie Sumpter, College Advisor and Tutor
Sylvia Hooper, Social Worker
Caron Reilly, Social Worker
Rafeena Sheriff, Case Manager
Tyson Grant, Attendance Outreach and Family Involvement Specialist and Activity Specialist
Jean Ho Wright, Education Coordinator
Frankys Tejeda, Tutor
Chen Hui (Richie) Zheng, Tutor
Ste-Aira Hatchett, Activity Specialist
Chelsea Trembly, Administrative Assistant
Navarre Mason-Williams, AmeriCorps Member
Wylie Cheung, NYU College Advising Corps
Will Muller, NYU America Reads Tutor