

(BROOKLYN, NEW YORK)

Public Charter School

AT A GLANCE

Brooklyn Laboratory High School will start with 117 freshmen in fall 2017 and add a new class each year as it expands to reach full enrollment. The new high school builds on a model developed by the successful Brooklyn Laboratory Middle School, which serves 6th-8th graders. The high school is located in downtown Brooklyn in a facility a few blocks from the middle school.

Co-founder, Executive Director, and

Principal: Eric Tucker

Co-founder and Senior Advisor: Erin Mote

Founding High School Director - Brooklyn

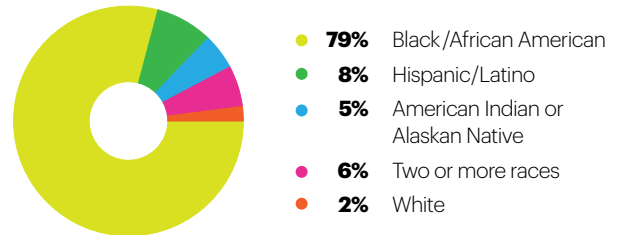
Laboratory High School: Ryan McCabe

Deputy Director of Applied

Sciences: Jamica Craig

Projected Student Demographics (at Full Enrollment)

Student Enrollment: 880 Students (Grades 9-12)



81%
QUALIFY FOR
FREE OR REDUCED
PRICE LUNCH

35%
QUALIFY FOR
SPECIAL EDUCATION
SERVICES

7%
ARE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
LEARNERS

A DEEPER DIVE

Brooklyn Laboratory High School is located in the heart of Brooklyn, the largest and fastest-growing borough in New York City. With more than 2.6 million residents in 70 neighborhoods, Brooklyn is the 4th largest "city" in the U.S. It's a vital place, full of complexities and contradictions—a hub for technology, entrepreneurship, art, and design, but also a place where one in four residents lives in poverty. It has more public housing units than any other borough in the city, as well as the largest number of children living in poverty. Over one-third of Brooklyn residents were born outside the U.S., and nearly 50 percent of households speak a language other than English at home. An influx of young, well-educated, and largely white newcomers has forced out many residents who have lived in Brooklyn for generations—earning Brooklyn the moniker "The Mecca of Gentrification."

At its core, Brooklyn Laboratory High School is designed to confront this dual reality. Brooklyn Lab's leaders hope to break through the invisible wall that separates many kids who live in Brooklyn from opportunities in their own backyards. The school will accomplish this through rigorous college-preparatory academics, high academic

expectations for all students, extended learning time, and frequent opportunities for both enrichment and remediation, all buttressed by a school culture that stresses positive youth development and increasing independence.

For Co-founder Eric Tucker, it was a deeply personal mission that helped form the vision for Brooklyn Lab. "My experience in the classroom was that it was lifeless and dull," Tucker explains. His passion for learning eventually became numb, resulting in poor reading and writing skills for much of his elementary career. He asked himself, "What would it mean to build a school that unlocked the potential of students like me?"

The Brooklyn Laboratory team has embraced a mastery-based approach. Teachers have developed a system by which every standard is associated with a set of questions or performance tasks. In accordance with that framework, all students are assigned tasks to demonstrate their understanding of the standard and their performance is scored in a Mastery Progress Report. Students "master" a standard when they complete 80 percent of the tasks correctly for that

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standard, enabling them to move on to the next level. The Mastery Progress Report — a narrative that identifies what competencies, skills, and content each student has mastered — replaces the traditional A-F grading system. A robust online system for collecting, tracking, and visualizing student data, called Cortex, allows students, teachers, and families to track progress across goals and subjects.

Brooklyn Laboratory's mastery-based system is also intended to make sure no student "slips through the cracks"—including students whom the school's leaders call "complex learners." These include students with learning disabilities, students who don't believe they can learn, and students who come from challenging home and family situations. Knowing that many young people with complex learning needs face an equally complex range of issues, the school will help meet those needs with mental health, behavioral, physical, medical, social services, and other supports.

At Brooklyn Laboratory, most classrooms have two teachers working together to offer both whole group and small group instruction, as well as individual support to students working independently on personalized lists of activities. Teaching in a highly personalized learning environment requires educators to take on new roles and acquire new competencies. Borrowing from special education practice and based on successful efforts in their middle school, the high school will include teacher residents in the classroom through a special in-house three-year development program.

The high school embraces an "AP-for-all" philosophy and will ensure all students earn AP credits in all the main content areas. Through specially designed "pre-AP" courses, students will develop the content knowledge they need, along with essential academic skills such as research, reasoning and argumentation, use of data and evidence, and clear communication in a variety of media. By the end of their second year of high school, students will choose an academic specialization in Humanities or Applied Sciences.

School staff are actively building a supportive culture that empowers students, encourages their independence, promotes agency, and teaches them about themselves as learners. Brooklyn Lab will cultivate students' agency in two ways: through deep learning in the content areas (including a dedicated "Foundations of Entrepreneurial Learning" course), and through a school culture that reflects a commitment to youth development principles. A restorative justice program will incorporate conflict management and help students address trauma and its effects.

Families will be involved in challenging and supporting students, helping them define their learning goals, and outlining a learning path. The school is enabling continuous communication and support through a Parent Leadership Council, "Coffee with the Co-Founders" meetings every month, orientation events, frequent updates about student progress and school happening, as well as an email communication system and digital tools. Families will also be invited to at least three meetings per year to discuss student progress with school administrators, teachers, and tutors.

The Brooklyn Laboratory team is committed to rethinking urban education in a way that opens up the best opportunities to students who have traditionally lacked access to them and expands choices for New York City students and families. Over time, the leaders of Brooklyn Lab hope to see it become a durable public institution that connects students with the many "charging stations" — cultural institutions, employers, universities, and other local resources — that exist in the Brooklyn community.

The borough is home to 3,000 nonprofits, 700 arts and cultural institutions, 204 community gardens, 30 miles of waterfront, and 60 public libraries — not to mention companies like Etsy, Kickstarter, Huge, Makerbot and Amplify, as well as 12 colleges and many new programs including NYU's Media and Games Network and Center for Urban Science and Progress. All offer rich opportunities for partnership for this innovative new high school and the ambitious young learners it serves.