HORIZONS ACADEMY
A program of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Inc.
Funded (in part) by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
of Greater Coney Island

Funded (in part) by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development,
Office of Children and Family Services, and Con Edison
Horizons Academy is an initiative that was spawned by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island in 2007. The program was designed to encourage 10th, 11th and 12th grade high school students develop high-reaching, long-term aspirations focusing on successfully transitioning to college and careers following graduation.

Originally focusing solely on career counseling and academic coaching, with the support of funding, Horizons Academy has expanded its program to also include S.A.T. preparation, college counseling, tutoring, Leadership classes, job readiness workshops and internship placement assistance, computer studies and Meditation, Acting and Financial Literacy training.

- Hosted by Abraham Lincoln High School located in South Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Funded by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Department (DYCD), the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and Con Edison.
Horizons Academy's main mission is to inspire high school students to remain in school, graduate with a high-school diploma and remain engaged in a post-secondary education, career training, the military or paid employment for one full year (monitored by Horizons staff) following graduation.

Horizons Academy encourages students to develop long-term goals through academic support, career counseling and leadership development services for successful transition to adulthood.

The program staff is trained to provide one-on-one support to students, enabling them to apply their previous professional training towards a successful future employment and/or college career.

103 students made up of Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors are eligible for enrollment for the September 2017 – August 2018 contract.

35 Students are receiving follow-up services during their first year of college (2017-18)

To date 905 non duplicated students have been served.
Over 425 Jobs have been created for 325 students.
1. **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):** Summer Jobs for Juniors and Seniors are developed and supervised by Horizons Academy staff.

2. **After-School Activities:** Students are given the opportunity to use after-school time in a constructive manner through Horizons Academy activities including:
   - Small Group SAT Prep
   - Minimum of 9 one on one Guidance and Academic Counseling Sessions per year
   - Job Readiness – including Resume Creation and Interview Preparation
   - Job Placement – Summer Jobs and Spring Internships ***NEW
   - Financial Literacy Training ***NEW
   - Homework Assistance
   - Leadership building classes
   - College Counseling (small group and one on one)
   - Specialty classes including Acting, Meditation
   - Math and Science Subject Tutoring
In 2009, with the support from our funding sources, Horizons Academy achieved a major milestone in the creation of a state-of-the-art Technology Lab at Abraham Lincoln High School. The lab is instrumental in providing economically disadvantaged high school students with college and career preparation resources they would otherwise not have access to.

• 8 printers, some of which have color printing, scanning, fax and copy capabilities
• Accessible to students from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday-Thursday
Statistics

Students who are exposed to the Horizons Academy programs are achieving their goals with increasing success with each subsequent year:

- More likely to attain a high school diploma than the average NYC student
  - 87% attained a diploma in 2011
  - 85% attained a diploma in 2012
  - **100% attained a diploma in 2013**
  - 100% attained a diploma in 2014
  - 100% attained a diploma in 2015
  - 92% attained a diploma in 2016

- Engage in post-secondary education, career training, military or employment following high school graduation
  - 78% of students in 2012 remained engaged
  - 95% of the students in 2013 remained engaged
  - 90% of the students in 2014 remained engaged.
  - 90% of the students in 2015 remained engaged.

In a recent study, Horizons Academy students performed on average 7 points higher on the English regents and over 5 points higher on the Math regents than the rest of the student body.

While the Board of Education Touted High School Graduation Rates Rising Above 65 Percent in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, Horizon Academy Graduates Exceeded that Rate by at least 20%. 
Faces of Horizons Academy

Alumni Visit December 2015

Summer Internship at Maimonides Hospital.
Faces Horizons

Classroom discussions.

Trip to Off Broadway Show. Meet and greet with cast.
Testimonials

“If it weren’t for the Summer Youth Program, I’d be doing nothing. It helped me with my job skills. Now, I’d like to give back by working to help the community one day.”
- Shenelle Thames, Student

“Through Horizons Academy, I was able to go to SAT Prep courses every day. I credit that to the 200-point rise in my SAT score.”
- Javlon Usmanov, Student

“The graduates overcame tremendous obstacles. They got turned around and now many are going to college.”
- Principal April Leong, Liberation Diploma Plus High School

“Each week, I attend the Empowerment Program session, which allows me to clear my head and talk about things I never had an outlet to discuss. I love it.”
- Beatrice Eseku, Student

“I didn’t even know that I could get job experience while in high school. I’ve learned so much and now I can’t wait to move on from high school into college.”
- Sonia Isaac, Student

“If it weren’t for the Summer Youth Program, I’d be doing nothing. It helped me with my job skills. Now, I’d like to give back by working to help the community one day.”
- Shenelle Thames, Student
Horizon Academy’s Impact on the Community is Receiving Widespread Media Attention

In the News

April 2001

The Coney Island Generation Gap and Horizons Academy Co-Host 1st Annual Coney Island Hip Hop College and Career Fair

February 2008

JCCGCI’s New Horizons Academy Places High School Students On the Path to Career Success

by Bernard Stabler

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