

Our Mission

IS 429 provides our students with a rigorous and joyful learning environment focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. We foster a culture of innovation, problem-solving, and intellectual risk-taking. Our students change the world using their academic and character skills.



Our Values

Our core values resonate in who we are, what we do, and how we do it. All students and staff at our school will **R.I.S.E**:

Respect: We let our light shine by being kind and encouraging to others. We show compassion and help others who need help.

Innovate: We use our imagination to come up with new solutions. We share our ideas and seek feedback from others. We take responsible risks and challenge the status quo to achieve meaningful impact.

Scholarship: We bring our best selves to school daily and strive to achieve the highest standards

Excellence: We set goals and pursue them tirelessly; we bring an A+ attitude to school.

Meet the Project Director



Ms. Marisa Castello is the Project Director at IS 429. Previously, Ms. Castello served as the Principal for PS 176Q, The Cambria Heights School in Queens, New York. Under Ms. Castello's leadership, PS 176Q outperformed the city average on the Math and ELA state examinations.

Marisa received her B.A. in Communication Sciences from the University of Vermont, her M.S. in Childhood Education and Special Education from St. John's University, and Ed. M. in Educational and Building Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University.



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Marisa Castello
PROJECT DIRECTOR

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School's Approach

All students at IS 429 learn through a STEAM-focused curriculum. Students pursue their aspirations, investigate problems, collaborate on solutions, and transfer their learning to create performances/products. Our school's design allows students to solve real-world issues sparking creativity and igniting imagination. Each student at our school is exposed to the required subjects. These subjects include English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education, Health Education, World Language, and Art. In addition, each student selects a STEAM academy that matches their interests. **STEAM academies include the following:**

Young Explorers Academy

A cohort of passionate students working together to create a better world. The four cornerstone skills in the Young Explorers Academy are:

- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration

While enrolled in this academy, students are charged with finding creative solutions to authentic, real-world problems. Students use primary and secondary resources, research selected topics, and apply their knowledge and ideas to the problem-solving model. In this academy, students learn to create solutions to complex problems, evaluate them, and turn them into a workable plan of action.



Opportunities for students include:

- Participate in Project Soapbox and Future Problem Solvers
- Field experiences to governmental buildings and landmarks
- Opportunity to become a member of the Principal Advisory Board and the School Leadership Team
- Opportunity to meet elected officials and district decision makers

Design & Engineering Academy

Utilizing the Engineering Design process, students utilize tools to create projects and applications.



This academy aims to teach students transferable practical engineering skills, along with a framework for innovation. Projects may include interactive technology, complex machines, and stunning installations.

Opportunities for students include:

- Participate in the First Lego Team Robotics League
- Field experiences to the Genovesi Environmental Study Center & DNA Learning Center
- Support with the school's social media accounts – creating, videotaping, and broadcasting school-wide events
- Meet established professionals in this field

Arts Academy

The Arts Academy at IS 429 encourages innovative thinking, creative problem-solving, intellectual and social development. We consider every student an artist; therefore, we hone students' creativity and curiosity through hands-on exploration of art materials. Our scholars use various materials, tools, and techniques to develop individual expressions and products.



Opportunities for students include:

- Participate in local competitions and community meetings
- Field experiences to theater performances at competitive high schools along with on and off Broadway shows
- Opportunity to showcase their work on the school and district level
- Opportunity to be mentored by an American Academy High School Art scholar