



IMAGINE



INVESTIGATE



INNOVATE

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Rethinking High School for the 21st Century Student

INTERACT



NYC iSchool



Located in SoHo in lower Manhattan, NYC iSchool is a small, selective public school dedicated to equipping students with the skills necessary for success and leadership in the 21st century. It does so through the innovative use of technology to advance learning, combined with programs that bridge the divide between the high school experience and the real world. The student body is every bit as diverse as New York City itself, and the students share one thing in common—their readiness and desire to learn.



When you ask students what makes the iSchool special, you'll hear answers like these:

- "The variety of offerings, AP and college-level courses"**
- "Using technology in different ways"**
- "Small classes"**
- "Diverse student body"**
- "Self-paced learning"**
- "Students have a voice — the adults really respect our opinions!"**



IMAGINE



A New High School Model for a New Kind of Student

There's a new kind of student coming of age in the early 21st century. Aware of world events and attuned to cultural diversity, intellectually curious and motivated, these are students who welcome challenges, take initiative and prefer to take responsibility for themselves.

These students have also grown up with technology that barely existed in their parents' day. And they're comfortable using it – to study and learn, but also to connect with each other, with their families, with their teachers and with the world around them.

NYC iSchool represents a whole new model for high school, one in which a self-directed student can thrive. Learning is self-paced and individualized, enhanced by technology, but not driven by it. It is based and focused on the challenges students will encounter in the real world. At the same time, the iSchool provides a safe and supportive environment that is responsive to the developmental needs of adolescents.

The iSchool provides a unique learning experience designed to encourage creative thinking, without compromising rigorous state high school graduation or college entrance requirements. The school's instructional methods channel the students' personal motivation and technological fluency to help them acquire the skills to succeed, not just in high school, but also through college and beyond.

"The online courses help me achieve an unforeseen degree of control. I learned to manage my time and pace myself."

— Angelica



INSPIRE



Different Ways to Learn

The iSchool's curriculum is built around four primary learning strategies. Together they encourage scholarly risk-taking, help students develop new ways of thinking and create opportunities for interaction with the world around them.

Problem-Based Learning

In nine-week projects, students work in teams to tackle real-world problems for "client" organizations outside the school, engaging with the big ideas and issues that exist in society. The projects are designed to foster collaboration and interdisciplinary thinking. They expand the classroom by exposing students to outside resources and experts. Success is defined not by an assessment at the end of the project, but by the daily progress of ongoing work. The journey is truly what matters.

Self-Paced, Individualized Instruction

iSchool students have access to a wide array of course offerings, including 37 advanced placement and other college credit courses, available online. They plan their course of study with an advisor, then learn at their own pace, receiving support as they need it. Students perform their assignments through the "i," a Learning Management System built on an online educational software platform known as Moodle. Teachers can also communicate with students and parents and monitor their progress through the "i."



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"I can do my own hands-on learning and I can go back to my classes online anytime I want. I can study anytime I want, anywhere."

— Rashawn

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Field Work

Field work breaks down the often artificial barrier between school and the real world. It gives students the opportunity for meaningful interaction with people, the environment and the community outside the schools confines. By "going deep" into a particular area of interest, students can explore career options and witness the application of 21st century skills firsthand. And they learn that learning is continuous, not departmentalized.



The Advisory Program

The iSchool's advisory program provides students with academic and emotional support, as well as a unique opportunity to play a role in shaping the school's future. Each student is assigned to a single teacher-advisor and advisory group for the entire four years at the iSchool. While the advisor monitors and counsels each student on his or her academic progress, the advisory group takes on an assignment for the school. Examples of group activity include planning events, documenting the school's history or writing up a code of ethics for students. It's a two-way avenue of communication, ensuring not only that students' needs are met, but also that their voices are heard.



"Adolescents want to do work that's important and that has relevance to the world, not just something that gets finished and turned in on a piece of paper to a teacher."

— Mary Moss, Co-Principal

Harnessing the Power of Technology

At NYC iSchool, technology is the means, not the end: the means to collaboration and interaction; the means to monitor and assess student participation and performance; the means to anytime, anywhere learning; the means to better communication – student to student, student to teacher, school to home.

The iSchool takes advantage of technology and the Internet to balance powerful individualized learning experiences with subject-specific content and standards requirements. Being a small school by design, the iSchool takes advantage of technology to offer a much wider range of courses and resources than its physical space and staff size would normally allow.

Technology Resources

- The “i,” the Moodle Learning Management System and portal, on which all online courses are delivered and all collaborative work performed.
- A virtual desktop interface to all school resources for each student, accessible via any computer with an Internet connection.
- An IP telephony environment and wireless network
- A one-to-one ratio of available computing devices, including mobile devices, to students. Students can also work from computers in their homes, public libraries and community centers.
- Onsite tech support as well as technical instruction.
- Video Conferencing is used to connect students with field experts from around the world who help students develop a deeper, and applied, understanding of what they are studying.

“We are the future. We are going to be using more technology than we are going to be using textbooks, so this prepares us for the future.”

— Majla

Thought Partner

Cisco Systems has played a critical thought partnership role with NYC iSchool in the development of the school’s technology infrastructure. A leading provider of networking solutions and expertise, Cisco has helped define the architecture required to support the school’s objectives of self-paced, individual instruction combined with community connectivity. The firm continues to provide valuable guidance to the school in its technology decisions and investments.

“The students’ comfort with technology, their inclination to use it in very natural ways to solve their problems, is a resource that we’re wasting if we don’t bring it into the classroom.”

—Alisa Berger, Co-Principal



INTERACT

Developing the Whole Student

Creative Arts

The iSchool strives to deliver a balanced educational experience, and recognizes that creative arts play an integral part in the development of the whole student. That is why all students have a chance to discover their artistic gifts through classes such as art, music or dance. Through the arts, students learn to think beyond conventional boundaries and look at the world around them from new points of view. A student with a particular interest or talent in any of these areas will have the opportunity to pursue it in depth.



Athletics

The iSchool encourages fitness and healthy competition. As part of the Chelsea Educational Complex, the school offers student athletes the opportunity to participate on men’s and women’s teams across a wide range of interscholastic sports: volleyball, basketball, baseball, handball, bowling, track and cheerleading.

Transforming High School, Transforming Lives

NYC iSchool offers a whole new vision of what high school students learn, as well as how, where and when they learn. It’s a unique education and socialization experience geared to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, where motivated students use modern tools to solve problems collectively and individually. They graduate not only with the skills for success, but also with the sense of purpose to make a valuable contribution in the world around them.





For more information:

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