



Winter Recap: Making a Difference

Bronx Better Learning Annual Fundraiser

On Thursday, May 11th, The Bronx Charter Schools for Better Learning will be having a special event to benefit our children's education. This event will be held at the esteemed Italian Academy at Columbia University, located on 1161 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

We will be serving cocktails and hors d'oeuvres during the event.

\$2,500 - Sponsor (Table for Six)
 \$250 - Reserved Seating
 \$150 - General Admission

To purchase tickets, please [click here](#).

Share with Friends & Family

BBL + Partner Schools + iCountBetter + iPads = Better Math!

A \$500,000 Charter School Dissemination Grant has opened the door for two neighborhood elementary schools to share Bronx Better Learning's proven approach to improved mathematics instruction.

Thanks to a generous \$500,000 federal grant, Bronx Better Learning is able to share its highly successful approach to mathematics instruction with two nearby, regular public schools: PS 111, with whom we share a campus, and PS 112, just four blocks away. We have already begun a series of in-service sessions with their Kindergarten, first and second grade teachers and have provided them with a total of 110 iPads for their classrooms at those grade levels.

Our grant application allots a substantial amount of the funding to complete what is presently a prototype version of iCountBetter, an iPad app that replicates crucial elements of the challenges we provide our students at BBL, through an approach called Gattegno mathematics. The school owns the rights to the app, the final shape of which will be influenced by feedback we solicit from our partner schools' teachers, as they try out segments of the current prototype and implement use of other, fully completed and commercially available iPad apps that mirror some of the design elements currently planned for iCountBetter.

The teachers and administrators at both schools have welcomed us and expressed a readiness to work closely with us to produce a tool that will support the learning of primary mathematics, including numeration, counting and

number sense. We aim to create an experience that connects with children's deep intelligence and natural curiosity. We will avoid external and often distracting motivational elements used by almost all educational app developers to couch their essentially boring exercises in an artificial, gaming environment. Our in-app challenges will be inherently motivating and game-like, whereby substantial learning opens doors to more advanced challenges.

It is a three-year project, with many challenges of its own. We look forward in the end to providing the entire educational community with an example of what is possible when the learning powers of children are matched properly with the power of modern technology.

BBL Archery Team Hits Bullseye at the 12th Annual Battle of the Boroughs

Bronx Better Learning won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the boys elementary division competition, while also finishing 1st and 2nd place in the girls elementary division in the 12th Annual Battle of the Boroughs Tournament.

Although this afterschool enrichment program is fairly new to BBL, our students have come a long way. Our students went from not being able to pull the bow string, to hitting their intended targets. Archery has demonstrated a special discipline in many areas of concentration: hand/eye coordination, muscle memory, and breathing techniques. The teams were led by Mr. Antwan Knox.



Bronx Better Learning Mentorship Program

This year, The Bronx Charter Schools for Better Learning began a school-based mentoring program for our students. The project has two goals: we are tutoring our children in academic subjects to improve the quality of their class work, and we are working with them to expand their understanding of the community they live in.

The tutors are adults from all parts of the BBL staff: Administrators, Teachers and Assistant Teachers. Together, we strive to provide more than the "usual" for our mentees. Simple gestures, such as daily greetings, conversations in the hallways, and special lunches, all boost our mentees' morale. Students feel encouraged just by knowing that an adult on staff is interested in them and their success. We are confident that this will lead to our students focusing better in class and achieving more academically - which speaks directly to our mission.



About The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning is listed as a Substantial Progress School by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), recognizing our students' consistent improvement for the past three years on state assessments. Additionally, NYSED designated us as a Reward School for the 2015-2016 school year, in recognition of the school's achievement in "leading New York State toward the accomplishment of educational excellence through an increase in student achievement and closing the gap in student performance."

BBL currently has two elementary school locations in the Northeast Bronx, and serves nearly 700 students in the community.

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