SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE

Reimagining education in Washington Heights + Inwood



School in the Square (S2) draws its name from the concept of the public square, a place where our students, families, and educators gather to learn from, support, and celebrate one another. We educate children in grades Pre-K through 8, with a high school opening in the fall of 2024.

ENGAGE

S2 is a public charter school with no tuition fees.
Our students reflect the local community in all its diversity. We serve students with the highest need, regardless of their academic achievement or English language proficiency.

EDUCATE

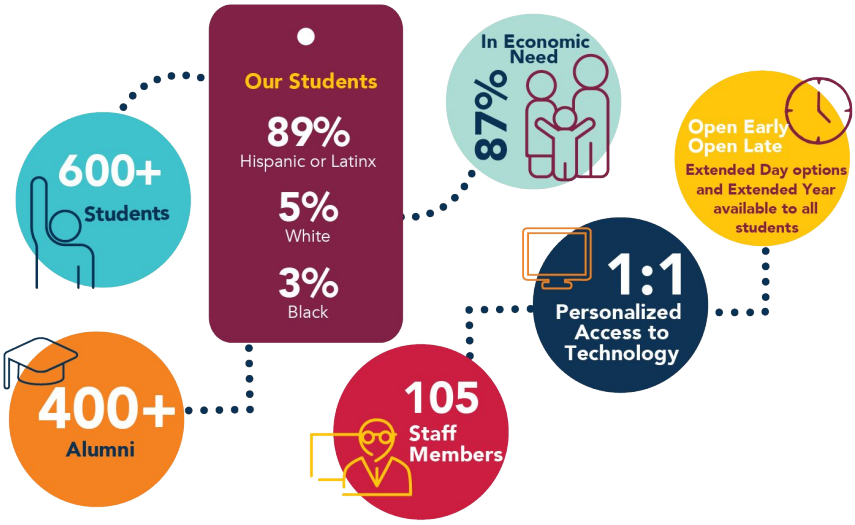
Academic achievement is our key focus.
We meet students where they are, providing all students with the resources they need to reach their highest potential and the skills to excel in college and the modern work world.

EMPOWER

We know, see, and celebrate every student.
We earnestly believe that along with educating students, we are preparing them to thrive as leaders and change-makers. Students know their voices are important and their opinions matter.

ELEVATE

Caring for students extends to their entire family.
Our Family Support Team provides resources to help elevate our community and address urgent needs such as hunger and housing instability, services we extend to alumni families as well.



Our Mission

School in the Square engages, educates, and empowers adolescents to respond mindfully and creatively to life's opportunities and challenges.

Our Vision

To be able to walk alongside our students and families through their academic journey from early childhood to college.

Our Commitment

- Addressing early childhood school readiness
- Preparing our students for the real world as thoughtful, biliterate, and civically-engaged citizens
- Improving quality of life and outcomes for our students and their families

Dos Amigos Elementary
108 Cooper Street
New York, NY 10034

S2 Middle School
120 Wadsworth Avenue
New York, NY 10033

S2 High School
4650 Broadway
New York, NY 10040

schoolinthesquare.org

SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE

2023-24 Volunteer Opportunities



Thank you for your interest in volunteering at School in the Square. We are honored that you're willing to devote your time and energy in service to our students.

Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerfully positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. **You will make a difference.**

We currently have two volunteer opportunities, one at each of our schools (with new opportunities in the 2024-25 school year, when our high school will open):

Reading Buddy

Thursdays, noon-1pm (in-person)
Dos Amigos Elementary School
108 Cooper Street, NY, NY 10034

Beginning readers build their skills through practice and repetition; they build their confidence through reading with a patient, attentive adult. With the support of our Literacy Specialist, you will read selected books to and with a consistent set of students in 1st and 2nd grades.

1-to-1 Mentor

Approximately 45 minutes each week, outside of school hours
Initial meeting at School in the Square Middle School
120 Wadsworth Ave, NY, NY 10033

Connecting with a caring adult – someone they are not related to – is enormously beneficial for middle school students. After the initial in-person meeting, you and your mentee will decide together how best to schedule and structure your weekly sessions (in-person, virtual, or hybrid). Depending on need and interest, you may provide homework help, serve as a sounding board, or offer college or career advice.

The Commitment

Both opportunities require:
→ Consistent participation
→ A desire to build a relationship with the student(s) you work with
→ A willingness to share your life experiences and knowledge in service to their aspirations
→ The ability to listen attentively, without judgment

Our Promise to You

After attending a one-hour orientation – mandatory for all volunteers – you will be carefully matched with a student (or students) based on mutually shared interests, spoken language, and whose needs align with your skillset.
Additionally, we will:
→ Connect you with members of the school-based team who will introduce you to your student and facilitate scheduling
→ Organize regular check-ins to ensure you have the information and tools you need to succeed
→ Offer personalized support

Learn more by contacting:
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