



WEEKLY BRIEF

Program Highlight

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Administrative Team

Joan M. Indart-Etienne
Principal

Kate Ames
Yelena Geller
Christina McLeod
Susan Salkin
Assistant Principals

District 79 Team

Glenda Esperance
Superintendent

Jerry Brito
Deputy Superintendent



7 MINDSETS

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

"The only limitation
is self-imposed."

ARMANDO VASQUEZ

The 7 Mindsets create a
common language for all
students, educators, staff,
and families.



ReStart Academy celebrated a successful school opening by welcoming students to the 2026-27 school year at all of our sites serving middle school, high school, and high school equivalency students.

Thank you to all of the site-based staff and main office staff who worked hard to ensure that we were ready to welcome students and meet their academic and social/emotional needs.

Please see the attached First Day of School Collage to print and post at your sites.



Announcements

1. MAP Growth Testing (9/10-10/23)

All middle and high school students must be assessed using the online MAP Growth in both reading and math during the beginning of the year testing window. Attached is a memo outlining the administration procedures for this testing window which runs through October 23. For questions regarding MAP Growth testing procedures, contact your site Assistant Principal.

2. TABE Testing (9/22-10/9, TABE Data Collection Form due 10/14)

All HSE students must be assessed using the online TABE Reading and Math assessments upon intake and once per trimester (dependent upon their admission date). Attached is a memo outlining the administration procedures for the testing window which runs through October 9. The TABE Data Collection Form is due to Josh Horsford via email by October 14. For questions regarding TABE testing procedures, contact your site Assistant Principal.

3. Setting Up Digital Classrooms (By Wednesday, 9/30)

All teachers and mandated related services providers (school counselors, social workers, school psychologists) are required to create a digital classroom for each of their assigned classes. Digital classrooms must be on a DOE approved platform (Google Classroom is recommended), linked to all assigned students, and contain the materials necessary for one day of remote instruction. Digital classrooms will be used for remote parent/teacher conferences and other parent engagement, and in the event of a school or system closure due to a snow day or other closure. All teachers and mandated providers on payroll as of 9/30 who have completed the digital classroom set-up, will receive \$225 via supplemental check on or about 10/30.

REMINDERS

1. ReStart Standard Operation Procedures Manual (SOPM)

The ReStart SOPM outlines key procedures and protocols for staff, with the updated version posted on the Weekly Brief website and the Receipt Form due by September 11.

2. ReStart Intake Documents

All intake documents must be completed and sent to the main office upon admission, with the ReStart Handbook and Planning Interview Packet provided to the parent/guardian.

Connection to
Danielson
Framework

3c: Engaging Students in Learning

When students are engaged, they are actively thinking, participating, and persisting in meaningful learning tasks rather than passively listening or waiting for direction.

Student engagement is shown through structured review activities that keep students actively involved in thinking about and practicing academic content rather than passively reviewing it.

SEPTEMBER 2026						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
OCTOBER 2026						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NOVEMBER 2026						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Access the full NYCDOE Calendar [here](#)



PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

23 Bell Ringers Teachers Love

The bell has rung to start class, but students may still be chatting with friends, thinking about what happened last period, or rummaging through backpacks. A well-chosen bell ringer—like an error to hunt for in a worked problem, or a question about who deserves the most blame in *Romeo and Juliet*, or a historical photograph packed with details to investigate—can help students settle in and give them something engaging to quickly turn their attention to.

The strongest bell ringers, teachers say, do more than just occupy students while they take attendance. Used thoughtfully, bell ringers can reactivate prior knowledge, preview the day's learning, and lay the groundwork for lively discussions."

The following teacher-tested activities vary in length and format and can be adapted across subjects, grade levels, and classroom needs.

- **Which One Doesn't Belong:** Earth science teacher [Emily May](#) gives students four vocabulary terms—such as "evaporation," "condensation," "sublimation," and "freezing"—and asks them to decide which one doesn't belong and explain why. Because there isn't always one correct answer, students must think carefully about how the concepts relate.
- **Flash Philosophy:** Pose a moral or ethical question related to the day's lesson—such as "Should we follow laws we believe are morally wrong?"—and give students a few minutes to write a one- or two-sentence response. Randomly pair students to go over answers together, then close with a brief class discussion, suggests high school teacher [Benjamin Barbour](#).
- **Rankings:** High school English teacher Christina Torres Cawdery taps into the fact that her students "enjoy being a little judgey" by asking them to [rank ideas related to what](#) they're studying. While reading *Romeo and Juliet*, for example, students might use a sticky note to rank characters according to how much responsibility they bear for the tragedy, then defend their choices.
- **Heat Warm-Ups:** High school math teacher Jennifer Feehan gives students four [problems that gradually increase in difficulty](#), from a basic computation to a more rigorous application of a concept. Students spend the first few minutes of class solving them in any order they'd like.
- **Mindful Journaling:** Give students a few quiet minutes to write or draw freely in their notebooks. Elementary teacher Donna Paul uses [gentle sentence starters](#) like "One thing I'm noticing this morning..." or "Today, I'm feeling..." to help students settle into class and check in with themselves.

"23 Bell Ringers Teachers Love" by [Andrea Tamayo](#) in *Edutopia*, September 11, 2026. For the full article, click [here](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

MAP Growth Assessment Window.....	September 10- October 23
No School- Yom Kippur.....	September 21
TABE Administration Window.....	September 22- October 9
No School- Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples' Day.....	October 12
TABE Turnaround Report Due.....	October 14
Last Day of T1/MP1.....	October 22
Report Cards Distributed to Students.....	October 29
Regents Practice Exam #1	November 2-6
Election Day- School in Session Remotely.....	November 3
No School- Veterans Day.....	November 11
Parent Conferences (Evening).....	November 19
Parent Conferences (Afternoon)	November 20
TABE Administration Window	December 7-18
Last Day of T1/MP2	December 8
Regents Practice #2.....	December 12-14